

THE POWER OF LAW

COMMENCEMENT
2018



Read more about Horn's
moving story on page 62.

Two hundred thirty-eight degree candidates were honored at the ceremonies on May 21, including 208 JDs, 23 LLMS, 3 JSds, 2 MSLs, and 2 PHDs in Law.



More than 200 graduates of Yale Law School were urged by faculty and alumni during commencement ceremonies to harness the power of law as they leave New Haven and head out into the world.

In her remarks to the graduating class, Dean Heather Gerken spoke about how much the class of 2018 meant to her as it is the first class graduating under her deanship. “You have done the quiet, everyday work of great friends and great lawyers—providing help to individuals in need,” she said.

Dean Gerken told the story of Vernon Horn, who was exonerated after 17 years in prison thanks to the work of Yale Law students and public defender David Keenan ’13, who uncovered exculpatory evidence that freed him last month. “Mr. Horn’s story is a story about the power of law, and that is a power that each and every one of you now possesses,” said Gerken, as Horn was recognized with a standing ovation from the crowd at the William K. Lanman Center at Payne Whitney Gymnasium.

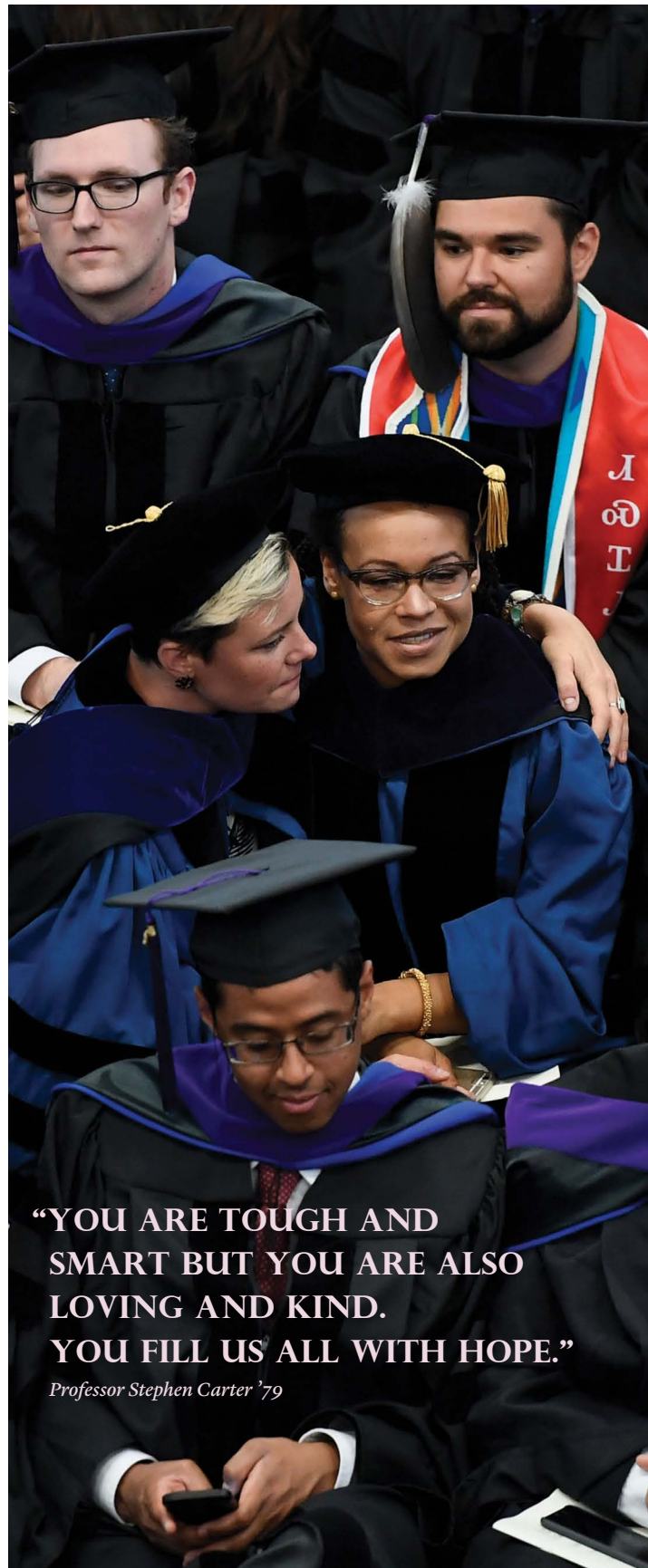
In his remarks, faculty speaker Professor Stephen Carter ’79 noted that 2018 is the 50th anniversary of Justice Thurgood Marshall’s first term on the U.S. Supreme Court, and he related some of Marshall’s wisdom to the graduates.

Drawing a moral from a story that Marshall frequently told, Carter said, “[T]hose who govern or seek to govern must always be prepared to listen, even to the views of those so different that their ideas seem crazy,” explaining that this is not just because it is our democratic duty but because sometimes those people turn out to be right.

Carter had three wishes for the graduates: that they listen to those with different beliefs, see the humanity in opponents, and never forget those who opened doors for them. He was confident that this class was headed for great things: “You are tough and smart but you are also loving and kind. You fill us all with hope.”

Guest speaker Goodwin Liu ’98, Associate Justice of the California Supreme Court, urged graduates to find time to interact with the criminal justice system, emphasizing that this work will give insight into the challenges facing the system today. Liu also encouraged students to make time to address the urgent need in the civil justice system to help people who can’t afford legal services. He encouraged the class of 2018 to help rethink the legal business model, saying “To address the justice gap, we have to ask fundamental questions about how the delivery of legal services is structured.”

“We have a special responsibility to make the justice system work for everyone,” Liu said. ♡



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Professor Stephen Carter ’79



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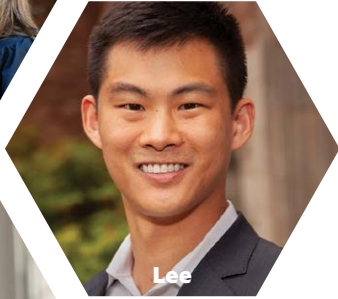




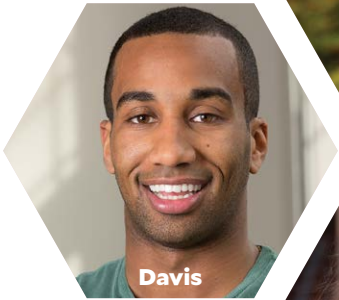
Klos



Brodeala



Lee



Davis



Gutierrez



Haugh



Jain



Hobby

Elena Brodeala

Immediately after graduation, I will spend one month at the Center for Law, Gender and Sexuality at the University of Kent in the UK. I will then have a break with my family in Romania, and in September I am very excited to start clerking at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France.

Khori Davis

It has been extremely humbling to be a part of such an ambitious and inspiring class. As I prepare to begin my professional career at Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, I'd just like to thank everyone who has helped me grow as both a legal scholar and a friend over the past three years. Boola, boola!

Alexandra Gutierrez

I'll be in Miami this summer, studying for the bar and hanging out with my sister. In August, I move to Baltimore for a clerkship with Judge Motz on the Fourth Circuit. The long-term plan is to litigate in Washington, DC, a short drive away from my parents. I'm excited to spend time with my loved ones and start my career in the law but will miss my YLS family tremendously.

Christopher Haugh

Next year, I'll be running my own speechwriting firm out of Berkeley, California, writing a couple of nonfiction books, including one with Jordan Blashek who graduated this year as well, and developing a television series. But first, I'll be spending time on Lake Michigan, hiking in Montana, wandering through Europe, and avoiding all things bar related.

Lauren Hobby

Immediately after graduation, I hope to visit some of my favorite New Haven spots (West Rock, Sally's) while studying for the bar and continuing to work with the Yale Community & Economic Development Clinic. In September I will join the legal counsel's office at the Vera Institute of Justice as a Clifford Chance Foundation Fellow. My time will be split between in-house legal work and assisting with Vera's Expanding Access to Postsecondary Education in Prison project. The following year, I will clerk on the Third Circuit.

Amit Jain

This August, I'll head to Baltimore, where I'll clerk for Judge Diana Motz on the Fourth Circuit. After that, I'll be looking for jobs in New York City. I plan to work in public defense or deportation defense.

Aislinn Klos

I'll study for the bar in New Haven. After that, I'm planning to go with my parents to Ireland. It's an important family trip, and I'm looking forward to seeing where my mother's mother was born. When I return, I'll start work for Morgan, Lewis & Bockius in Washington, DC. In 2019, I will clerk for Judge James A. Wynn, Jr. on the Fourth Circuit.

Ted Lee

My maternal grandfather was a lawyer in Korea but wasn't able to practice after he immigrated to the U.S. He and my grandmother had to fight to provide a better life for the family. I am very grateful for the sacrifices family members, friends, and mentors have made so that I could attend Yale Law School and benefit from the tremendous opportunities here; I hope to use what I've learned to help others in need in the future. After the bar exam, I'm moving to New York City to work at Bain & Company.

Carolyn Lipp

After graduation, I'll be returning to NYC (my hometown) to study for the bar. Starting in September, I'll be working at the Family Defense Practice at Brooklyn Defender Services representing parents.

Maya Menlo

I came to law school so I could represent indigent people facing criminal charges. After graduating, I will return home to Michigan and do just that. I am excited to live close to family back in the Mitten, to adopt a dog, and to support my partner through social work school! Cheers!

Nora Niedzielski-Eichner

I'll be dividing my summer between playing with my daughter and studying for the bar. In the fall I start at Debevoise & Plimpton, a firm I chose for their similar combination of family friendliness and commitment to legal excellence.

Arjun Ramamurti

After graduation, I will be moving to Washington DC to clerk for Chief Judge Merrick Garland and then Judge Nina Pillard of the DC Circuit. After twenty-four years of school in a row, I'm looking forward to getting out into the real world (sort of).

Yishai Schwartz

First, I'm getting married in August. The rest, as they say, is just commentary. But I'll be spending the coming year here in New Haven, clerking for Judge José Cabranes of the Second Circuit. The year after, I'll be clerking for Judge Kenneth Karas in the Southern District of New York. After that, hopefully something adventurous.

Aradhya Sethiya

I will be spending my summer travelling in Europe and India. In August, I will be joining Melbourne Law School as a Yale Fox Fellow. At Melbourne, I will work on a comparative constitutional law project focused on the regulation of political parties and electoral processes. Yale will be sorely missed!

Emma Sokoloff-Rubin

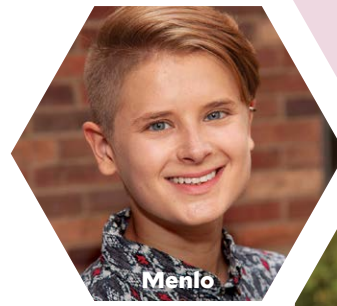
I'm excited to be staying here in New Haven, where I'll clerk for Judge Meyer on the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut. Then, in Fall 2019, I'll be back at YLS as the clinical fellow for the San Francisco Affirmative Litigation Project. Just as I finish law school, my daughter, Miriam, born 3L fall, will start daycare. She's a seasoned student already after attending classes at YLS with me!

Faren Tang

I'll be sticking around New Haven with my baby, Basil, where we'll both be continuing the fight for reproductive justice—me as a Reproductive Justice Fellow here at YLS, and Basil by reminding us all who a better world is for.

Callie Wilson

This summer, after studying for the bar in New Haven, I am finally moving back to the West Coast. I'll be spending some time in my hometown of Seattle and taking a Pacific Northwest road trip before beginning my fellowship year at the Oakland City Attorney's Office.





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