



ALUMNI WEEKEND 2018

WE GATHER TOGETHER

Photos by Mara Lavitt, Harold Shapiro, and Melanie Stengel





It was a lively weekend in New Haven when more than a thousand Law School alumni and their families gathered during October 19–21 for Alumni Weekend 2018.

The weekend featured engaging panels on clinical education, media and elections, and talking across party lines, as well as an Award of Merit ceremony and State of the School address with Dean Heather Gerken.

During her address to alumni, Dean Gerken welcomed graduates back and talked about some of the recent milestones in the life of the Law School, most notably the addition of Baker Hall, the first physical expansion of the school since 1931.

“So many of you had told deans prior to me how much it mattered to live and learn in the same place in the great tradition of the Sterling Law Building,” said Gerken. “Baker is a wonderful moment for us.”

Focusing on the extraordinary clinic work, Gerken named some cases that have made national impact — like the Worker and Immigrant Rights Advocacy Clinic (WIRAC) helping to reunite children with their families (see page 8) and the Veterans Legal Services Clinic winning the right for veterans to bring class actions, overturning decades of case law (see page 10).

“Eighty percent of our students engage in clinical work of a scope and ambition that is just unknown at any other school,” said Gerken.

Gerken also highlighted how the current three J.D. classes make up the most diverse student body in the School’s history, a change accomplished with more robust recruiting practices.

Carmela Castellano-Garcia ’91, President and CEO of the California Primary Care Association (CPCA) and President of the Castellano Family Foundation, was the recipient of the Award of Merit, which recognizes alumni or longtime faculty of Yale Law School who have made a substantial contribution to public service or to the legal profession.

“A model for using positions of privilege in the service of others, she embodies the very best of this School,” said Gerken. “She has dedicated herself to delivering healthcare to California’s most vulnerable communities.”





Carmela Castellano-Garcia '91



“...For Yale Law School to acknowledge that fighting for the rights of our most marginalized and vulnerable populations has merit in the midst of great national turmoil concerning these very issues and communities, it feels like justice to me.”

CARMELA CASTELLANO-GARCIA '91

Castellano-Garcia has been committed to advancing multicultural health policy issues for more than 25 years, focusing on cultural and linguistic competency in health care delivery, ensuring the viability of safety net providers, health care reform, and access to care for vulnerable populations. The Castellano Family Foundation has donated more than \$5 million in grants to Santa Clara County nonprofits supporting Latino education, arts and culture, leadership, and diversity. The Castellano Family Foundation also continually supports these local organizations guided by the values of community, family, social change, empathy, and integrity.

“Throughout my career, I have had the opportunity to advocate on behalf of those who have no voice in the halls of Sacramento and our nation’s capital,” said Castellano-Garcia. “I have worked on important issues including access to health care, women’s reproductive rights, affirmative action, immigration reform, and language access among others. For Yale Law School to acknowledge that fighting for the rights of our most marginalized and vulnerable populations has merit in the midst of great national turmoil concerning these very issues and communities, it feels like justice to me.”

At the ceremony, Gerken also gave a very special honor to Associate Dean of Alumni and Public Affairs Toni Hahn Davis '92 LLM, who retired at the end of 2018 after decades of service to the Law School. Davis transformed the alumni affairs office and has worked to foster valuable connections between the School and the thousands of alumni around the world.

Speaking about Davis’s warmth and wisdom, Gerken then presented her with the second-ever Dean’s Award for Extraordinary Service for lengthy record of accomplishments.

“Toni’s passion for her work cannot be overstated,” said Gerken. “She has been the glue that has connected members of our alumni community to the School and to each other.” 🍷



Toni Hahn Davis '92 LLM



DiBlasi Room dedication

The Law School Class of 1978 raised nearly \$1.3M for its 40th reunion to honor fellow classmate, Gandolfo “Vince” DiBlasi ’78, naming a classroom, Room 120, at Baker Hall in his memory on Alumni Weekend. There was a short ceremony with opening remarks by Dean Gerken, followed by Harold Hongju Koh, one of DiBlasi’s closest friends, and program speakers David Nierenberg ’78 and Carl Reisner ’78.

DiBlasi was a dedicated alumnus of both Yale College and the Law School, volunteering for and chairing numerous reunion committees. He also served as a member of the Executive Committee and served as the Chair of the Law School Fund Board. In 2013, DiBlasi was honored with the Simeon E. Baldwin Award for distinguished achievement in law and business by the Yale Law School Center for the Study of Corporate Law.





Calabresi Faculty Lounge dedication

The classes of 1958 and 1963 dedicated the Calabresi Faculty Lounge on Saturday afternoon of Alumni Weekend. The naming of the lounge was a gift of the Law School Class of 1958, Class of 1963, and friends and family of Guido Calabresi. Steven Calabresi '83 gave a toast and Guido himself gave remarks.





SAVE THE DATES
Alumni Weekend 2019
October 18–20, 2019
www.law.yale.edu/AW

