

*Building Community,  
Forging Friendships,  
AND  
Sustaining One Another*

PHOTOS BY HAROLD SHAPIRO AND MARA LAVITT



Neal Katyal '95



Guido Calabresi '58

*To see more photos and  
a video of the ceremony, visit  
[law.yale.edu/commencement](http://law.yale.edu/commencement).*



**During Commencement ceremonies on May 20, 2019,** more than 200 graduates of Yale Law School were urged to build community and find a fulfilling balance between career aspirations and family when they head out into the world.

The day began with a lively processional headed by the Mattatuck Drum Band, the oldest fife and drum band in the United States, which led graduates around the outside of the Law School and onto Yale's Cross Campus. This new tradition made for a striking entrance as the students joined with the rest of the Yale community for the university-wide ceremony.

That afternoon, at Yale's Lanman Center, Dean Heather Gerken's remarks to the Class of 2019 referred to the power of working together and for one another: "The daily rhythms of law school and the legal profession can easily make us forget that our individual achievements—remarkable as they are—depend on other people," she said.

"I hope that you'll remember that your greatest accomplishments have been the things you have done together. I don't just mean the fancy achievements that I know we like to tout, like the nationwide injunctions and class actions, or the new issues of prestigious journals. I also mean the quieter but no less impressive work of building community, forging friendships, and sustaining one another."



Dean Heather Gerken

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DEAN HEATHER GERKEN

Judge Guido Calabresi ’58, Sterling Professor Emeritus of Law and Senior Circuit Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, was the faculty speaker elected by the graduating class. Calabresi reminded graduates that no matter their background, after law school they are entering the world as leaders:

“Remember who you are and where you came from. Never forget that. But remember also that now you bear the burden of making decisions,” he said.

Neal Katyal ’95, former Acting Solicitor General of the United States, spoke about the recent loss of a close friend and the twists and turns one’s career can take in the pursuit of happiness.

“I can’t give you the recipe to legal success, but I can give you the recipe to a happy life,” he said. “Doing what you love, family, empathy, humility, and friendship. That’s what makes this place so special. Take a moment, look around. Some of these people are going to be with you your whole life — when you get married, have children, when your parents die. These aren’t your competitors or marking sticks. These are your supporters and allies for the rest of your lives.”

Katyal currently serves as the Paul and Patricia Saunders Professor of National Security Law at Georgetown Law, and is a Litigation Partner at Hogan Lovells.

More than 200 degree candidates were honored at the ceremonies Monday, including 212 J.D., 28 LL.M., and 2 J.S.D. 🍷

*Yale Law School 2019 Commencement*

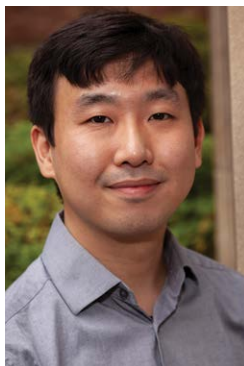


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The *Yale Law Report* asked some 2019 graduates what issue they were passionate about pursuing. See below for their answers, which we predict will both touch and impress.



### Adam Pan '19

While cutting-edge research has many benefits, it also has the potential for harm. I want to help bridge the gap between researchers and lawyers to find ways in which law and technology can work in concert to improve public health.



### Louise Willocx '19 LLM

I find the challenges that are polarizing my society frightening and fascinating at the same time. I devoted much of my time at YLS to understanding them from all angles of the philosophical spectrum. I can't wait to share these insights via teaching or writing to help the different strands of my society find each other again.



### Carolyn O'Connor '19

I am passionate about changing the way that governments across the world discriminate against people who flee from persecution, conflict, and disaster. In the next year, I will work to stop the anti-immigrant policies that fall most heavily on low-income communities and people of color at the U.S.-Mexico border.



### Gabriella Capone '19

Ambitious efforts in the U.S. and abroad suggest that citizen engagement can help governments to improve data collection, decision-making, and service delivery. New technologies can help with engagement, potentially transforming how communities govern. I want to promote promising technology and methods to make use of community expertise, thereby improving governance quality.



### Taonga Leslie '19

I plan to use the lessons I've learned here to empower social movements and mentor and teach the next generation.



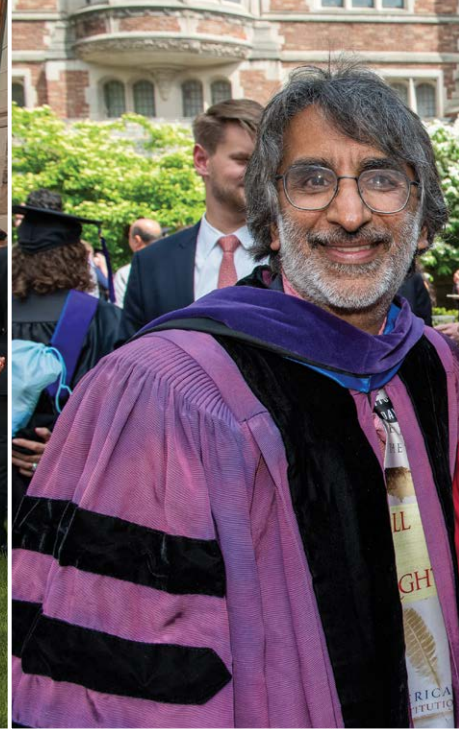
### Sanjayan Rajasingham '19 LLM

YLS has made me passionate about answering the question: "What is the distinctive role of a legal academic in the Global South — in research, pedagogy or public engagement?" I think Yale has given me a foil to think about the answers. Some things will be similar to how Yale does them, some things will be adaptations, and some will be completely different.





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NEAL KATYAL '95



## Diana Lee '19

My experiences at YLS have inspired me to pursue a career at the intersection of law, technology, and civil liberties, particularly by helping to strengthen and defend the rights to privacy and free speech online.



## Dylan Kolhoff '19

I am passionate about supporting and strengthening the institutions underpinning the liberal international order. Through them, I hope to help solve international issues and mediate shifts in global balances of power. I am also passionate about resolving the shortage of board game bars in D.C.



## Amber Qureshi '19

During my time at YLS, it has been a privilege to work on behalf of immigrants; Muslim, Arab, and South Asian community members; and those, like me, who lie at the intersection of these identities. As someone personally affected by the Islamophobic laws and policies in this country, I want to be on the frontlines in the fight to dismantle them.

