

ALUMNI NEWS

Dear Friends,

Our alumni community welcomed 2020 in our tradition of togetherness and celebration. In January, we enjoyed connecting in Los Angeles and San Francisco at events hosted by Dean Heather Gerken as we announced the launch of our new online community, The Courtyard.



Later that month, Professor **Daniel Markovits** '00 shared his thoughts at a New York City alumni event highlighting his book *The Meritocracy Trap*. February and early March brought gatherings of our newly revived Chicago and Miami Regional Steering Committees and an event featuring Professor **John Witt** '99 in Miami.

Sadly, the momentum of this new decade came to a halt in March as we all faced the challenges created

by the spread of COVID-19. The cancelation and postponement of our anticipated events has been a great disappointment to us all. Together we have quickly shifted to a digital environment, and I hope that you have participated in some of the virtual offerings from the Law School. Many of you joined us for a virtual State of the School Address by Dean Gerken. (If you missed it, you can find the recording on The Courtyard.) I also encourage you to take advantage of our new community platform and connect with each other and current Yale Law School students through The Courtyard.

While we are not able to be together in person in October for Alumni Weekend 2020, we will convene for a virtual celebration including a lineup of collective and class-specific events. Our Virtual Alumni Weekend will be held October 16–18, 2020. You can find details and answers to questions about the event at law.yale.edu/AW.

It has been a great joy to witness the solidarity of this community throughout this unexpected season of separation. Thank you for the kindness and support that you have shared with our students, faculty, staff, administrators, and your fellow alumni. We look forward to the moment we are able to be together again soon. Until then, be safe and well.

Warmly,



Eleiah Catherine Sexton
Director of Alumni Engagement

NEW YORK



Amanda Weingarten '16 and
Daniel Markovits '00



Reception and Talk with Daniel Markovits

On January 22, alumni congregated at an event hosted by **Jackie Carter Klaber** '12 and **Robert Gray** '12. Professor **Daniel Markovits** '00 discussed his new book, *The Meritocracy Trap*.

Throughout the year and in cities across the country, alumni gather for events organized by Yale Law School's Office of Alumni Engagement and Development. Here is a sampling of the events that have taken place over the past six months. Events details are posted on our website law.yale.edu/alumni. Please contact the Office of Alumni Engagement and Development if you want to update your contact information, by phone at (203) 432-1690 or by email at alumni.law@yale.edu.

LOS ANGELES

Dean's Reception for the YLSA of Southern California

On January 6, more than 100 alumni and their guests attended a reception at Latham & Watkins. In addition to the promotion of The Courtyard, the School's online community and directory, guests heard opening remarks by **Manuel Abascal '92**, Partner, Latham & Watkins, and an update on the Law School from Dean Heather K. Gerken.



Heather Gerken addresses attendees; (right) Associate Dean Mike Thompson, Carel Ale '11, John Langford '14, and Jennifer Jones '11



BAY AREA



(clockwise, from above left) V O Prentice '15, Valerie Comenencia Ortiz '18, Felicia Medina '06, and Kevin Love Hubbard '12; Damali Taylor '02 and Heather Gerken; Stephanie Safdi '13, Rose Carmen Goldberg '15, Julie Wilensky '07, and Julia Spiegel '13



Dean's Reception for the YLSA of the Bay Area

On January 8, about 100 alumni and their guests gathered for a reception at O'Melveny & Myers. The evening included introductory remarks by **Damali A. Taylor '02**, Partner, O'Melveny & Myers LLP, and an overview by Dean Gerken on The Courtyard, as well as the latest news from the Law School.

MIAMI

Dinner and Talk with John F. Witt

On March 6, the YLSA of Miami hosted a talk titled "The Radicals' Fund: Experimenting with Philanthropy and Democracy in America's First Age of Fake News" by Professor **John Fabian Witt '99** at White & Case LLP with reception and dinner. Witt discussed his research-in-progress on the unusual 1920s philanthropic foundation that financed the litigation that ultimately became *Brown v. Board of Education*.



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