

SCHOOL  
NEWS



# Flipping a Centuries-Old Teaching Model on Its Head

Adapting to the Challenges of COVID-19

As the COVID-19 pandemic reached the United States, the Yale Law School administration moved quickly to make a number of pressing decisions and logistical changes to ensure the continuity of the spring semester. First and foremost, the administration strove to protect the health and safety of the community. In March, the administration extended spring break by a week so that students could avoid unnecessary travel. When it became clear that students could not return to campus, the administration began a comprehensive and rapid transition to distance learning, with online classes beginning on March 23 and lasting through the remainder of the term. The IT Department worked around the clock to prepare the new systems needed for remote learning. And faculty flipped a centuries-old teaching model on its head, all while providing critical expertise on pressing topics of the day and working with students in clinics, centers, and programs to serve clients and provide assistance to vulnerable populations around the country.

“Nothing about this has been easy,” wrote Dean Heather Gerken in a message to the community a month after making the shift online. “Yet as hard as things have been in recent weeks, I take enormous pride in how our community has met this unparalleled challenge.”

The faculty found ways to turn remote teaching into more than a substitute, finding silver linings in the middle of a difficult situation. Students went on Zoom field trips to the National Resources Defense Council and the *New York Times*, joined webinars and coffee chats with legal experts from around the world, and even managed to host book club meetings and movie nights while stretched across time zones.

“The heart of the Yale Law School experience is touching the brain, the heart, and the soul at the same time,” said Sterling Professor of International Law Harold Hongju Koh. “Doing all three is much harder in a two-dimensional setting where so many cues are missing and you don’t have the capacity to follow up a tough classroom grilling with a quick pat on the back as the student heads out the classroom door. But there were unexpected surprises, like the guest who could now pop in from Geneva for 20 minutes, the student presentation and powerpoint that could be generated from three different locations across the continent, and

the desire for connection that brought clinic students to virtual happy hours after circuit court oral arguments practiced over the telephone.”

“As different as it felt, it felt so much the same, maybe the sign of a different future than our past, but one in which our shared devotion to a community of commitment continues,” added Koh.

Once the switch to online learning took place, faculty voted unanimously to adopt a credit/fail grading system for the spring semester — one that would reward hard work while acknowledging that the students were uprooted from their lives and coping with their own personal challenges academically and at home.

While the School worked to move operations online, the Law School’s Office of Student Affairs went to great lengths to make sure students had the resources they needed. They helped displaced students get into temporary housing and tried to ensure that all students would receive baseline health coverage while out of state, including mental health and counseling services wherever possible. The Career Development Office kept in regular contact with employers in the public and private sector, and with other law schools, to help students adapt to the changing professional landscape. The academic affairs team provided important resources and counseling regarding changes to the bar exam around the country. The Graduate Programs staff worked to help its students with a variety of unique and complex issues that they faced around the globe. All of this work continues, as the Law School monitors the evolving situation to provide students with the tools and information they need to succeed.

“This has been a trying time for our students who are experiencing this pandemic in very different ways,” said Associate Dean of Student Affairs Ellen Cosgrove. “The Office of Student Affairs team has checked in with every student. We are triaging problems as they arise, and trying to ensure our students know we are here to support them as we navigate these challenges together.”

Dean Gerken also recently created a Safety Net Fund to provide financial assistance to students facing unexpected hardships. The fund, along with other forms of support, helped the Law School meet the pressing needs of students dealing with the pandemic.



*“The heart of the Yale Law School experience is touching the brain, the heart, and the soul at the same time.” — HAROLD HONGJU KOH*

Faculty members in the video created to celebrate the Class of 2020

“I am enormously grateful to the Executive Committee, the Fund Board, and individual alumni for helping us create the Safety Net fund. If we ever needed proof of its importance, COVID-19 made clear how much it matters. I have also never been more grateful for annual giving. The generous support from our alumni gave us the flexibility we needed to deal with a crisis that no one anticipated.”

After classes concluded and exams were finished, the Law School devised a creative way to celebrate the remarkable graduates of the Class of 2020, since an in-person commencement ceremony was not possible. In an online tribute video, faculty and staff spoke to the accomplishments and strengths of the graduates and their impact on the Law School and the world.

“[The Class of 2020] will be the people, who in town and country and world, will be the ones who come up with the ideas and with the work to make this very sad and difficult and yet wonderful world a better place,” Sterling Professor Emeritus of Law Guido Calabresi ’58 said in the video.

The video concluded with a touching moment of members of the community applauding graduates from their homes. Students also received a personal note from

a faculty member and a call from Student Affairs or the Graduate Programs office. As a final send off, faculty also held virtual office hours during which graduates and their families could drop in to celebrate the happy occasion. Watch the video at [law.yale.edu/2020](http://law.yale.edu/2020). An in-person celebration will be scheduled for a later date.

Looking ahead, the Law School is preparing for a range of scenarios that could occur during the new academic year, prioritizing the health and safety of the community while aiming to implement in-person learning whenever possible. While the future in the era of COVID-19 is unpredictable, the Law School is prepared for whatever comes next and will steer through the uncertainty guided by the mission of this institution — to provide an outstanding legal education, develop the leaders of tomorrow, and make a positive impact on the world at large.

“In the face of an unprecedented pandemic, our entire way of life and learning changed in an instant,” said Dean Gerken, reflecting on the spring semester. “But true to form, this community has faced it all with tenacity and resilience. This has always been a community marked by its graciousness and decency, but never more so than during this crisis.” ❤️



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# Rising to Meet the Needs of a Pandemic

Yale Law Community Shares Expertise on COVID-19

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**Law School clinics, faculty, and centers** immediately emerged as central players in critical debates over public health, economic change, national security, and immigration this spring as the coronavirus pandemic rapidly changed the country and the world. Often collaborating across time zones and via countless Zoom meeting rooms, clinics filed new lawsuits addressing the vital need for equity and justice for vulnerable populations. Faculty explained the legal impact of the pandemic as sought-after experts in the media and worked to advance pressing research on current societal challenges. And centers were at the forefront of national and international efforts concerning issues posed by the crisis.

“I’m proud that Yale Law School stands out as a voice of reasoned, principled leadership in this time,” said Dean Heather Gerken. “We have a responsibility to apply our knowledge and expertise to the pressing challenges unleashed by COVID-19. I have been so heartened to watch our community rise to the occasion.”

## CENTERS

**Professor of Law Amy Kapczynski ’03** and epidemiologist Gregg Gonsalves, the faculty codirectors of the Global Health Justice Partnership (GHJP), led the charge in offering concrete policy solutions that would protect vulnerable individuals; address current economic, social, legal, and political failures; and help the nation rebuild.

In March, they joined a panel of Yale University experts at a virtual town hall to answer the public’s questions about the pandemic. There, they shared a fact sheet for Connecticut residents on protecting their rights during the COVID-19 response.

An expert letter drafted by GHJP outlined evidence- and rights-based considerations for federal, state, and local policymakers and leaders. Signed by more than 800 experts and organizations with experience in pandemic response, the letter stressed the need to protect health-care workers, those with chronic health conditions, incarcerated individuals, and the elderly. The letter received widespread attention with the endorsement of *The New York Times* editorial board on March 6, 2020.

In a major three-part series for the *Boston Review*, Kapczynski and Gonsalves also explored the decades

of policy decisions that helped create conditions that exacerbated the pandemic’s devastation in the U.S.

“This crisis should serve as a warning that the struggle we face is not only political, but existential — with pandemics and plagues, global warming and climate disaster waiting just around the bend, coming whether we learn their lessons in time, or not,” they wrote.

Faculty, staff, and students from the Solomon Center for Health Law & Policy tackled urgent health care-related legal issues, from easing restrictions on telehealth to ensuring health care access for students home from colleges and universities. Solomon Center faculty director and Professor of Law Abbe R. Gluck ’00 joined a team of experts that issued a set of detailed policy recommendations to legislators for a comprehensive COVID-19 stimulus response bill. Through its innovative Medical Legal Partnerships, the Center also worked locally to deliver on-the-ground assistance to the populations they serve in New Haven, including incarcerated individuals and immigrant detainees.

Professor of Law David Schleicher and Gluck also organized a weekly faculty workshop that explored the ways — from tax law implications to health law, federalism, immigration law, and criminal justice — that COVID-19 intersects with virtually every legal area.

Under the leadership of Potter Stewart Professor of Constitutional Law Paul Gewirtz and Executive Director Robert Williams, the Paul Tsai China Center led public calls for global pandemic response cooperation. Working with the state of Connecticut and nationwide volunteer organizations and hospitals, including Yale New Haven Hospital, the Center aimed to secure reliable ongoing supplies of urgently needed personal protective equipment (PPE) from China for delivery to frontline health-care professionals in the United States. Center faculty and fellows organized and participated in bilateral strategic dialogues and medical professional exchanges, engaged with U.S. and Chinese counterparts on pressing legal and regulatory issues, and maintained a database of translated and Chinese-language materials that provided unique insight into China’s response to the pandemic as well as practical references for other nations.

The Arthur Liman Center for Public Interest Law led efforts that responded to incarcerated individuals,

“Protecting prisoners from pandemics is not just a ‘should’ or an ‘ought’ but a ‘must’—as a matter of U.S. constitutional law.”

JUDITH RESNIK

renters, and immigrants. Led by founding director and Arthur Liman Professor of Law Judith Resnik, the Center filed motions and declarations in court cases across the country to decrease the number of people in detention, halt evictions, and advocate for incarcerated individuals at risk of contracting COVID-19. Resnik contributed to critical dialogue in the press through several op-eds, including a commentary for Bloomberg Law that outlined why protecting prisoners from the pandemic is a Constitutional imperative.

“Protecting prisoners from pandemics is not just a ‘should’ or an ‘ought’ but a ‘must’—as a matter of U.S. constitutional law,” wrote Resnik.

## CLINICS

As soon as the scope of the crisis became clear, students in Law School clinics quickly began work on the leading edge of the law and strove to protect the vulnerable during the pandemic.

In March, the Worker & Immigrant Rights Advocacy Clinic (WIRAC) filed a class action that sought the release of ICE detainees who were at imminent risk of COVID-19 infection due to conditions at the Bristol County House of Corrections in Massachusetts.

WIRAC also urged the Supreme Court to consider COVID-19’s impact on DACA recipients in a letter it submitted in March in *Wolf v. Batalla Vidal*, the Clinic’s case challenging the 2017 termination of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy. Tens of thousands of DACA recipients are on the frontlines of the pandemic through their role in the U.S. health care sector, and the Clinic urged the court to take full account of the consequences of terminating DACA in the case, which has garnered extensive coverage in the national press.

In April, the newly created Criminal Justice Advocacy Clinic and partners filed a class action lawsuit against the Bureau of Prisons to require federal



Photo by Mara Lavitt

officials to provide emergency measures to protect the more than 1,000 women and men at the low security federal prison in Danbury, Connecticut from the virus. In a ruling that made national headlines in May, the District of Connecticut ordered the prison to immediately take steps to ensure the safe release of individuals imprisoned at FCI Danbury to home confinement. Clinical Associate Professor of Law Marisol Orihuela '08, who codirects the Clinic, called the ruling a necessary step toward ensuring the basic safety of those imprisoned at FCI Danbury.

The Veterans Legal Services Clinic (VLSC), representing nearly a dozen veterans groups and advocacy organizations, called on the state of Connecticut to release certain incarcerated veterans and other at-risk individuals. The clinic and its partners drafted an FAQ for Veterans surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. The VLSC also represents David Terwilliger, an 80-year-old disabled former Marine and Navy sailor incarcerated in Connecticut who sought release due to the risks posed by COVID-19. The same week the Clinic filed its lawsuit, the Connecticut Department of Correction responded by releasing the man to a halfway house.

In conjunction with the ACLU of Connecticut, the Allard K. Lowenstein International Human Rights Clinic and the Advanced Sentencing Clinic filed a lawsuit in April that sought an immediate reduction of the prison population in Connecticut Department of Corrections prisons due to the severe impact the spread of COVID-19 may have on these facilities. The Clinic also released a set of national recommendations to help solve the crisis of COVID-19 in prisons, jails, and immigration detention centers across the United States.

In a separate matter, the Lowenstein Clinic argued in a letter to the United Nations that isolating sick prisoners at Connecticut's Northern Correctional Institution, a facility the Clinic called "punitive by design," violated international law. The letter contended that inflicting solitary confinement on incarcerated COVID-19 patients amounted to cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment of prisoners, which international law prohibits. The April 22, 2020 letter was the second submission that the Clinic made to the U.N. regarding inhumane practices at Northern, Connecticut's only supermax prison.

#### IN NEW HAVEN

**To assist New Haven-area** small businesses and nonprofit organizations, several dozen students united to develop educational materials and access to legal services for the local small business community.

In the days prior to passage of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Jeff Schroeder '21, a student in the Housing Clinic, orga-

nized the COVID Student Small Business Support Project along with several other second-year law students.

On April 1, 2020, Adam Kinkley '21, Michael Pelle '21, and Schroeder presented information on the new CARES Act to a group of about 20 New Haven nonprofits and continued educational outreach in the weeks that followed.

Simultaneously, Clinical Associate Professor of Law Anika Singh Lemar and Hannah Abelow '21, a student in the Ludwig Center for Community & Economic Development (CED), connected the Clinic's efforts to ameliorate economic inequality in greater New Haven by building capacity to provide legal representation to affected businesses and nonprofits. *The Connecticut Law Tribune* spotlighted the initiative, which also offered informational conversations with business owners and free legal services to those who showed a deeper need.

"This pandemic is revealing so many of the ways that our economic resources, including small business financing and legal services, are made inaccessible to the poor and the precarious middle class," said Lemar. "We hope to do our small part to address those inequities."

#### LEGAL HISTORY

**On the academic side,** Allen H. Duffy Class of 1960 Professor of Law John Fabian Witt '99 used the pandemic as an opportunity to produce series of short Zoom lectures on the legal history of epidemics and infectious diseases in the U.S. that are accessible to the public online. (*See more on page 22.*)

"This is a first draft on a subject in which we're all suddenly and tragically and unavoidably immersed," Witt said. "We're already reproducing patterns laid down in past epidemics. We're doomed to repeat the worst parts of our past if we don't understand them. Studying the history helps us see what's new about this coronavirus."

*For a full roundup of all of the remarkable legal work, advocacy, and expertise being produced by the Yale Law community, visit [law.yale.edu/covid19news](http://law.yale.edu/covid19news).*

**“This pandemic is revealing so many of the ways that our economic resources, including small business financing and legal services, are made inaccessible to the poor and the precarious middle class.”**

ANIKA SINGH LEMAR



## Police Reform and Procedural Justice

**In January 2015**, Yale Law School faculty cofounders Tracey Meares and Tom Tyler began the Justice Collaboratory (the JC) as part of the U.S. Justice Department's National Initiative for Building Community Trust and Justice. The JC's primary aim has been to lead fundamental criminal justice reform that is evidence-based. Following the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, *YLR* spoke to Professor Meares, Professor Tyler, and Executive Director of the Justice Collaboratory Caroline Nobo Sarnoff. Read more of this conversation at [ylaw.us/3gX0aVr](http://ylaw.us/3gX0aVr).

**Yale Law Report: The mantra of the Justice Collaboratory is “Serious Science, Serious Impact.” What does the data tell us about where we are right now?**

**Meares:** American policing has largely been shaped by improvisation, with leaders engaging in a recurrent pattern of reacting to immediate perceived crises and public panics with quick fixes. These efforts are often guided by guesses and intuitions, many of which are found to be erroneous at best and counterproductive at worst. History tells us we need a deep dive into developing evidence-informed policies and practices before doing anything drastic, like dismantling the police.

There are glimmers of hope. For example, the images of police chiefs kneeling with protesters — we feel strongly this wouldn't have happened 10 years ago or even before President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing. These actions are not idiosyncratic: The leaders of major national police organizations, like the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), have also issued statements of support for policing changes.

**YLR: What are the biggest obstacles that get in the way of creating a fairer and more effective justice system?**

**Tyler:** Federal support, in terms of both significant financial and policy investments. To make transformation possible there must be substantial buy-in from the federal government. For perspective, the NYPD's annual budget is around \$5.5 billion, but the last federal initiative to reform policing was funded at a mere pittance of \$5 million, across three years, in six cities.

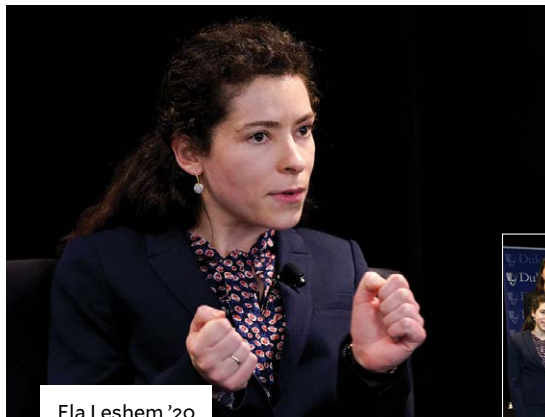
Beyond the fundamental hurdle of support, there has never been a conscious articulation of what Americans believe the connection between the police and the community ought to look like. And, large segments of those impacted by policing have been, and continue to be, excluded from any influence over how policing in their communities has occurred. If America is to move beyond its troubled and conflict-laden relationship with its police, it is necessary to have a broader serious discussion about what democratic policing can and should look like.

**YLR: What is the best first step to take to implement meaningful change?**

**Sarnoff:** We need to think about how we can immediately reduce harm while investing in a long-term strategy of change. For example, eliminating certain “use of force” policies — like chokeholds and neck pressure that inhibit the carotid artery is a must. There are no reasons why police departments cannot simultaneously start a historical accounting of all the transgressions and violence against people of color in their communities. It is necessary that communities of color see police departments acknowledging the pain and fear they are inflicting.

## Liman Center Cited in Federal Report

**On February 26, 2020**, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights released its report, *Women in Prison: Seeking Justice Behind Bars*, which documents the challenges incarcerated women face and calls for reforms to respond to female prisoners' “specific needs.” This encyclopedic overview draws from testimony and submissions from last year's briefing, at which Judith Resnik, Arthur Liman Professor of Law, spoke and submitted a statement from The Arthur Liman Center for Public Interest Law, coauthored by Alexandra Harrington '14, Senior Liman Fellow in Residence, and Molly Petchenik '21.



Ela Leshem '20

**For the first time**, the editors in chief of the top 16 law reviews in the U.S. are all women, including Ela Leshem '20 of *Yale Law Journal*. They met in Washington, D.C. in the winter for a conference titled “Honoring the Advancement of Women in Law.”



## SOLOMON CENTER

## New Elder Law Project Launches

**Over the 2019–2020 academic year**, the Solomon Center for Health Law and Policy at Yale Law School launched The Adrienne C. Drell and Franklin W. Nitikman Elder Law Project to explore aging and the law through multiple prongs — academic, experiential, and theoretical. This exciting new project is inspired and supported by Adrienne Drell '92 MSL and Frank Nitikman '66.



Adrienne Drell '92 MSL (left) and Frank Nitikman '66

As part of the launch, the Solomon Center offered a pathbreaking seminar on “Aging and the Law,” during the Spring 2020 semester. The course was co-taught by Visiting Professor of Law Nina Kohn, a leading elder law expert from Syracuse University College of

Law, and Kevin Cremin '00, Director of Litigation for Disability and Aging Rights at Mobilization for Justice. It included an innovative experiential component in which students worked on a variety of real-world projects ranging from a project for the Center for Medicare Advocacy on home healthcare to an AARP project focusing on health disparities in later life.

The project also expands the Center's clinical offering — the Medical Legal Partnership (MLP) program — to include a Geriatric MLP that will target legal services to the elderly.

A series of important academic initiatives are also underway through the Elder Law Project, including a groundbreaking new book coedited by Professor of Law Abbe R. Gluck '00 and Jacquin D. Bierman Professor in Taxation Anne Alstott '87. The book aims to reconceive the entire U.S. legal and regulatory system — from education to housing to reproductive rights — in light of the 100-year-old American.

Finally, the Center is also launching a first-of-its kind collaboration on palliative care policy with the Center to Advance Palliative Care (CAPC). The new partnership involves developing a unique state

palliative care policy database to educate practitioners and families about options available while also providing an essential tool for policymakers seeking to address significant gaps in palliative care treatment and access. To launch the collaboration, in February 2020, the Center hosted a standing room-only event with Dr. Diane Meier — a pioneer in the field of palliative care who is Director of CAPC.

## Students and Alumni Receive Public Interest Fellowships

Yale Law School community members received more than 50 public interest fellowships this year. These fellowships support one or two years of work in the public interest, jumpstarting careers while serving the legal needs of underserved members of society.

### Bernstein Fellows

Laith Aqel '20  
Patricia Cruz Marin '20 LLM  
Paul Rink '19

### Cochran Fellow

Katie Haas '17

### CBF Singer Public Service Fellow

Alden Pinkham '20

### Curtis-Liman Clinical Fellow

Alexander Wang '19

### Equal Justice Works Fellows

Faith Barksdale '20  
Dana Bolger '19  
Rita Gilles '20

### Gruber Fellows

Hannah Hussey '20  
Carolyn Lipp '18

### Heyman Fellows

Samuel Marullo '20  
Alexander Mechanick '20

### Justice Catalyst Fellows

James Campbell '20  
David Chen '18  
John Giammatteo '17  
Sarah Levine '20  
Joseph Meyers '18  
Scott Stern '20  
Zoe Tucker '20

### Liman Fellows

Colin Antaya '19  
Josh Blecher-Cohen '20  
Samuel Frizell '20  
Elise Grifka Wander '19  
Nathan Leys '20  
Kelley Schiffman '18  
Joseph Schottenfeld '19  
Mary Ella Simmons '20  
Megan Yan '20

### Reporters Committee Fellow

Mailyn Fidler '20

### Robina Fellows

Talya Lockman-Fine '20  
Abigail Pershing '20  
Louise Willocx '19 LLM

### Skadden Fellows

Esther Araya '20  
Eric Baudry '19  
D'Laney Gielow '18  
Iva Velickovic '19  
Jesse Williams '20  
Kath Xu '20

### Soros Fellows

Saúl Ramírez '19

### YLS International Court of Justice Fellowship

Idriss Fofana '18

### YLS Permanent Court of Arbitration Fellowship

Reddy Kethireddy '19

### YLS Public Interest Fellows

Rafael Bezerra Nunes '18 LLM  
Jade Ford '20  
Leanne Gale '20  
Rebecca Loomis '18  
Samantha Peltz '20  
Rebecca Steinberg '20

### YLJ Fellows

Alexandra Gutierrez '18  
Patrick Hulin '20  
Emily Villano '19

## VISITING THE LAW SCHOOL



**Trevor W. Morrison**, the Dean of New York University School of Law, gave the 2019–2020 Brennan Center Jorde Symposium Lecture on February 27, 2020, titled, “Constitution by Convention.”



**Edward Glaeser**, the Fred and Eleanor Glimp Professor of Economics at Harvard University, delivered the Storrs Lectures on March 2 and 3. The lectures, titled “The Law and the City,” examined the positive and negative social interactions of urban density and how laws can make an impact.



## CAFE LAB

## Students Tackle Industrial Agriculture Exploitation

**The Climate, Animal, Food and Environment (CAFE) Law and Policy Lab**, a course offered by the Law, Ethics & Animals Program (LEAP) at Yale Law School, was designed to provide hands-on skills training to teach students how to apply systems thinking and build durable interventions in policy, legislation and litigation. Throughout the semester, the course challenged six interdisciplinary teams to develop new strategies to address patterns of exploitation and abuse that jointly affect animals, people, the environment,

and related causes, such as consumer safety, worker safety, fair markets, rural economies, and public health. The industrial-scale practices that dominate U.S. meat production are leading contributors to animal suffering, worker exploitation, and environmental degradation worldwide.

In their final presentations, teams presented novel solutions to a variety of the most systemic and urgent industrial animal agriculture issues. Based on extensive research, interviews with experts, and an iterative feedback process during the semester, teams laid out diverse proposals for novel litigation strategies, private-sector incentives, advocacy movements, institutional transformation, and academic research.

The CAFE Lab included 27 graduate and professional students from across Yale's campus, including the Law School, the School of the Environment, the School of Public Health, the School of Management, and the Jackson Institute for Global Affairs.

"The CAFE Lab embodies the wide diversity of backgrounds and specialties of the students enrolled. Students have distinct expertise, but are united in their understanding of the tremendous and neglected consequences stemming from animal agriculture," said Manny Rutinel, Law '21.



## Legislative Advocacy Clinic

**Through the Legislative Advocacy Clinic**, and with support from the Solomon Center, Sam Marullo '20 and Patrick Hulin '20 secured funding for an opioid treatment program in Connecticut prisons. In 2018, Marullo, Hulin, and others from the Clinic worked with Connecticut state legislators to introduce a bill that requires Connecticut to provide prisoners with access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT).

## MFIA CLINIC

## MFIA Clinic Launches Local News Initiative

**The Media Freedom and Information Access (MFIA) Clinic** is providing journalists at small and nonprofit news sites in New England with pro bono legal services to support their newsgathering and defend their publications through this new program.

The Local News Initiative is being launched to address an unmet need. "While society today increasingly obtains its news and information online, journalists working locally and for online publishers often have limited access to legal assistance," said MFIA Clinic Co-Director David A. Schulz '78.

The project's mission is twofold: to assist investigative journalists who do not otherwise have access to legal resources, and to train the next generation of

media lawyers. MFIA Clinic lawyers and law students work with journalists with varying degrees of experience in developing strategies to reduce potential liability from newsgathering activities — including source protection, trespass, intrusion and other privacy concerns.

The MFIA Clinic is further defending journalists in their case on behalf of PEN America. In the case, PEN America accuses the President of violating the First Amendment by using his official powers to punish journalists whose work he dislikes. In April, U.S. District Court Judge Lorna Schofield ordered that the lawsuit proceed into discovery.

In February, MFIA scored a victory in another case when a Massachusetts district judge ordered the unsealing of a batch of documents from grand juries convened during the Pentagon Papers case.

## VISITING THE LAW SCHOOL



The Rev. Dr. **William J. Barber II** gave the Gruber Distinguished Lecture in Global Justice on February 24, 2020. Barber is pastor of Greenleaf Christian Church in Goldsboro, North Carolina.



**Randal K. Quarles '84**, the Vice Chair for Supervision, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, gave a Dean's Lecture on February 11, 2020. The talk was co-sponsored by the Yale Law School Center for the Study of Corporate Law.

## CLINIC ROUNDUP

## SFALP Clinic



**In May, the SFALP Clinic** helped the San Francisco City Attorney's Office to take leading rideshare companies to task for misclassifying workers and denying them their legal rights as employees. San Francisco joined Los Angeles, San Diego, and the California Attorney General's Office to sue Uber and Lyft for misclassifying their drivers as independent contractors in violation of a state law known as AB 5.

The complaint alleges that Uber and Lyft made the calculated business decision to misclassify their on-demand drivers as independent contractors rather than employees, depriving workers of critical workplace protections such as the right to minimum wage and overtime, and access to paid sick leave, disability insurance, and unemployment insurance.

For more work by the SFALP Clinic, see the online feature "SFALP Clinic Takes the Fight Beyond the Courtroom" at [ylaw.us/2YPzkYP](http://ylaw.us/2YPzkYP).

## Veterans Legal Services Clinic

**According to a new** white paper released on May 8, 2020 by the Vets Clinic and the National Veterans Legal Services Program, veterans who served on Guam from 1962 to 1975 satisfy the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs legal standard for exposure to Agent Orange and other dioxin-containing herbicides.

"Official government accounts of herbicide mishandling, improper hazardous waste disposal, and high concentrations of dioxin across Guam establish exposure pathways to support claims of service connection based on herbicide exposure," said James Campbell '20, a law student in the Clinic. "We hope that veterans advocates and lawmakers will build on this report to address unremediated health risks and military pollution in Guam."

## Peter Gruber Rule of Law Clinic (ROLC)

**In April, the ROLC** filed Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests on April 22, 2020 with the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) seeking accurate numbers for U.S. troops serving in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria since December 2017 on behalf of Just Security and the Project On Government Oversight.

"These numbers have been publicly available for years, and there is no reason why they should now be hidden from public view," said Nicole Ng '22, a law student intern with Yale Law School's Peter Gruber Rule of Law Clinic. "It is up to DoD to do the right thing in response to these requests."

**In March, students and faculty** delivered testimony at the Connecticut House of Representatives in support of the Connecticut Parentage Act, a bill currently before the state legislature that will help ensure that all CT children — regardless of the circumstances of their birth or the marital status, gender, or sexual orientation of their parents — have equal access to the security of a legal parent-child relationship.



(above, from left) Josh Blecher-Cohen '20, Will Poff-Webster '22, Cara Newlon '21, CT State Rep. Jeff Currey, Shannon Manley '20, Professor Doug NeJaime, and Soren Schmidt '20.

SFALP Clinic Photo by Harold Shapiro



**Dwayne Betts '16** delivered a Dean's Lecture on his latest book of poetry, *Felon*, on February 17, 2020.



**Ray Dalio** of Bridgewater Associates delivered the 2019-2020 Judge Ralph K. Winter Lecture titled "Principles for Navigating Big Debt Crises" on January 27, 2020.