

# OPENING STATEMENT



(top) Professor Douglas NeJaime speaks at a ceremony for the signing of the Connecticut Parentage Act on June 1; (bottom) Gov. Ned Lamont signs the bill.



# Advocating for a Modern Parentage Law

Changing the law to reflect today's families

**In a ceremonial signing** outside the state Capitol in Hartford on June 1, 2021, advocates and state leaders celebrated successfully modernizing Connecticut's parentage laws through the Connecticut Parentage Act (CPA). The CPA, which represents the first comprehensive update to Connecticut's parentage laws in decades, ensures that all children in the state have equal access to the security of a legal parent-child relationship.

Douglas NeJaime, the Anne Urowsky Professor of Law, founded a clinic in 2019 to advocate for the CPA. NeJaime, whose research is on parentage, was the primary drafter of the bill. Dozens of students participated in the clinic over the past three years, working to make the bill a reality for Connecticut families.

"State lawmakers have rightly recognized that, because same-sex couples raising children necessarily include a non-genetic parent, treating LGBTQ people with the respect they deserve requires straightforward pathways to parentage for nonbiological parents," NeJaime said. "Connecticut is now a leader in the law of parental recognition. No longer will LGBTQ parents and other nonbiological parents in Connecticut need to engage in the costly, time-consuming, and insulting process of adopting their own children," he said.

This spring, families and community members testified before the Joint Committee on Judiciary in support of the bill. NeJaime testified along with students Sara Sampoli '21, Calleigh Higgins '23, and Malina Simard-Halm '23.

The bill passed successfully out of committee on March 29. In a historic vote on April 26, the Connecticut House of Representatives passed the CPA 141-1. The Connecticut Senate passed the bill unanimously on May 20.

The CPA provides simple and straightforward paths to legal recognition of the parent-child relationship that do not depend on a parent's sexual orientation, gender, marital status, or biological connection. It secures the legal relationship between intended parents and children born through assisted reproduction and establishes protections for all involved in the surrogacy process.

Students participated in all facets of the CPA effort, interacting with legislators, families impacted by the law, and advocacy groups. Students also worked to publicize the bill and helped draft testimony and other



Members of Professor Douglas NeJaime's Connecticut Parentage Act clinic attended a hearing on the bill at the state Capitol in Hartford in March 2020. (front left to right) Cara Newlon '21 and Shannon Manley '20; (back left to right) Josh Blecher-Cohen '20, Will Poff-Webster '22, Rep. Jeff Currey, Douglas NeJaime, Soren Schmidt '20

legislative advocacy materials. The clinic spearheaded the initiative along with GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD), New England's leading LGBTQ legal organization.

***“Connecticut is now a leader in the law of parental recognition. No longer will LGBTQ parents and other nonbiological parents in Connecticut need to engage in the costly, time-consuming, and insulting process of adopting their own children.”***

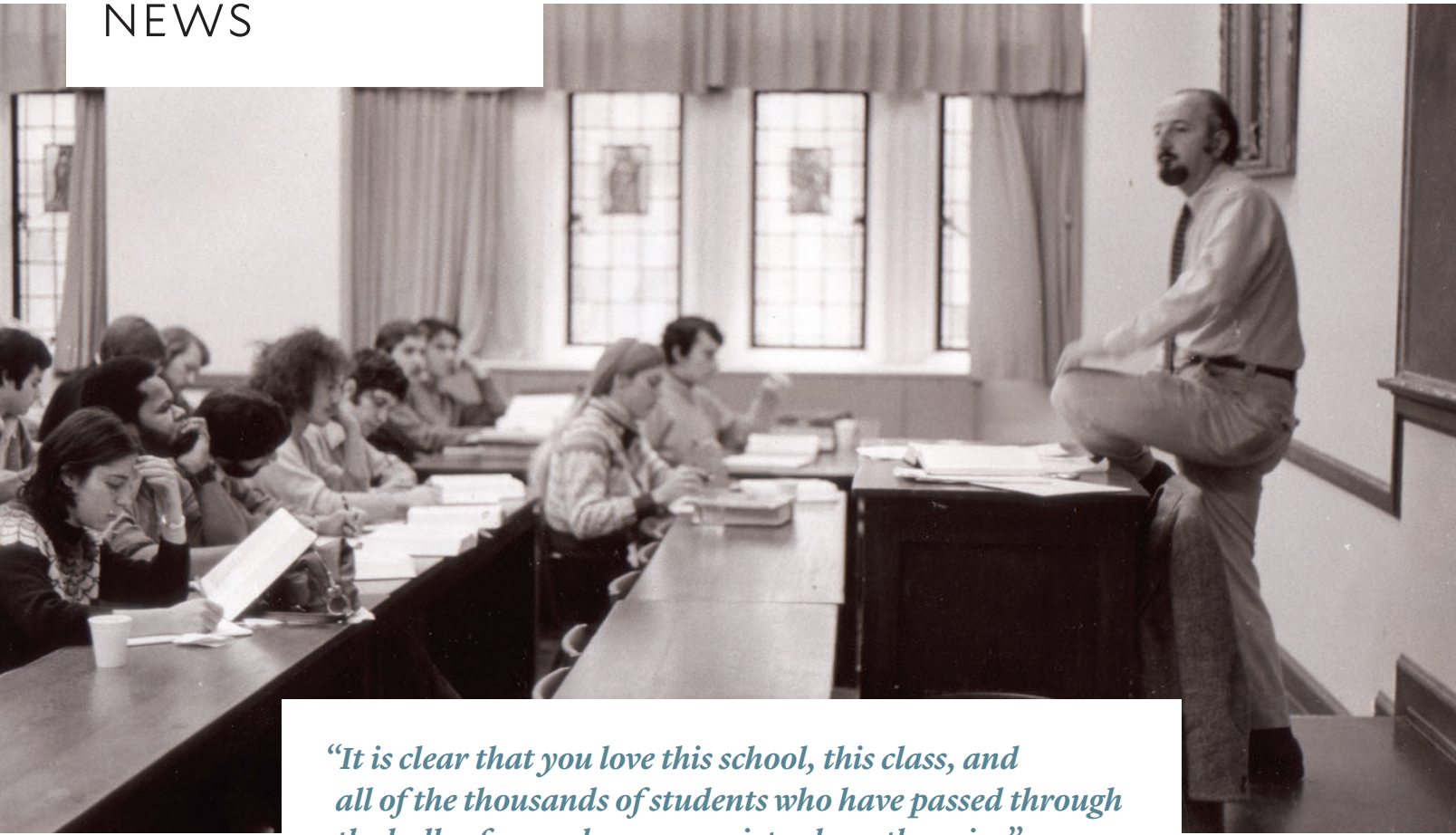
**PROFESSOR DOUGLAS NEJAIME**

"Our work has spanned everything from outreach to faith leaders who support LGBTQ families to legislative drafting to ensure the legal fine print matches the goals of families and meshes with the existing legal system," said clinic student Will Poff-Webster '22.

"The formation of a parent-child relationship does not turn on a biological connection. State law now protects children's relationships with the individuals who are doing the valuable work of parenting," NeJaime said.

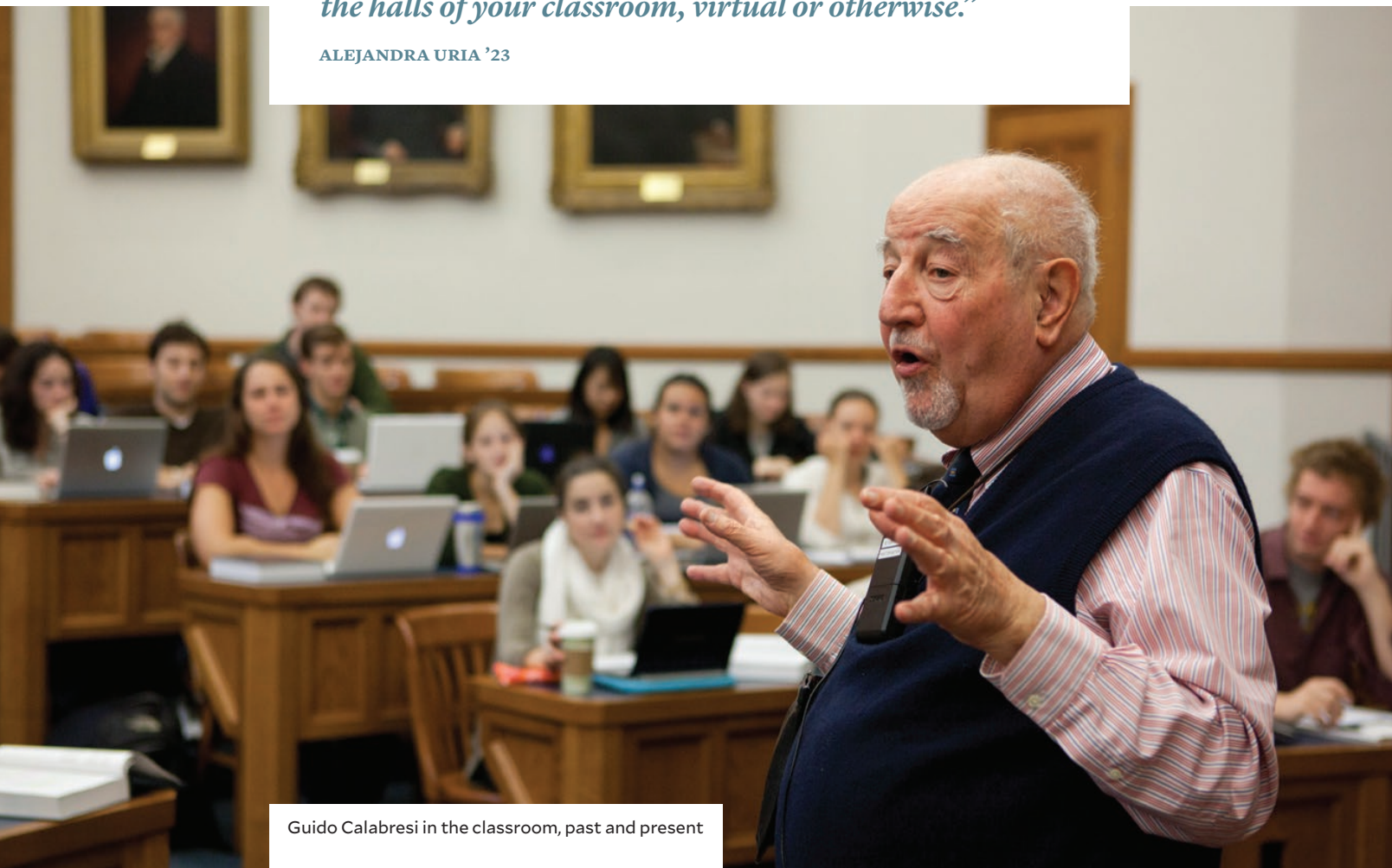
At the signing ceremony, Gov. Lamont said, "I'm incredibly proud that Connecticut has been at the forefront of so many LGBTQ issues, and the legislation I signed today is another step forward in that movement to help break down bureaucratic barriers that families can face simply because of the sexual orientation or gender of the parents." He added, "Any day that we can expand equal protection for all individuals is a good day."

# SCHOOL NEWS



*“It is clear that you love this school, this class, and all of the thousands of students who have passed through the halls of your classroom, virtual or otherwise.”*

ALEJANDRA URIA '23



Guido Calabresi in the classroom, past and present



# Calabresi Lauded at His Final Torts Class

Surprise included more than 160 students, friends, and colleagues



**The last Torts class** of the semester taught by Sterling Professor Emeritus of Law Guido Calabresi '58 didn't end quite as planned. When Guido, as he is known to all, finished the class on April 29, 2021, Dean Heather Gerken appeared on the projection screen in Baker 118 along with more than 160 guests — Guido's former students, numerous Law School faculty, staff, and colleagues past and present from around the country. They had all come to surprise him on the occasion of his final Torts class after a six-decade-long run — an incredible milestone in a long and distinguished career at Yale Law School.

Gerken acknowledged Guido's career as a scholar and former dean of the Law School, but focused on his legacy as a teacher. "For 60 years he has taught students his craft," she said. "He has done so with rigor and intelligence, but also with such wisdom and kindness and generosity of spirit that he is simply beloved across every generation."

Alejandra Uria '23, a student in the Torts class, also spoke about Guido's unmatched legacy of teaching. "There are few people in the world that can say that they have shared one class spanning many decades with some of the greatest luminaries of the legal profession," she said. "You are the common denominator."

"It is clear that you love this school, this class, and all of the thousands of students who have passed through the halls of your classroom, virtual or otherwise."

The class also presented a gift to Guido to show their appreciation. Engraved on it was something Guido has repeatedly told Yale Law School's "brilliant" students: "Being blessed with an incredible mind is only good if it goes along with character, with decency, humanity, and love — with goodness."

While Guido will no longer teach Torts, he will be co-teaching a constitutional litigation seminar in the fall. Guido started teaching at Yale Law School in 1959 and served as Dean from 1985 to 1994. He was appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals in July 1994 and is still actively sitting as a Senior Judge.

Reflecting on his years teaching a core class like Torts, which builds the foundation for every law student's future studies and career, Guido talked about his love for being on the faculty.

"What a joy — what a joy to be able to have done and to do this kind of life," he said. "I have learned so much from my students, 'my kids,' over these many years. And the love and kindness you have shown me will continue to teach me as long as I live."

Screenshot from the Zoom event to celebrate Guido's last Torts class

## Teach-In Participants

### PANEL 1 THE JUSTICE COLLABORATORY

**Heather K. Gerken**, Dean and Sol & Lillian Goldman Professor of Law  
**Tracey Meares**, Walton Hale Hamilton Professor of Law  
**Elizabeth Hinton**, Professor of Law  
**Jennifer Richeson**, Philip R. Allen Professor of Psychology at Yale University

### PANEL 2 THE ARTHUR LIMAN CENTER FOR PUBLIC INTEREST LAW

**Judith Resnik**, Arthur Liman Professor of Law  
**Anna VanCleave**, Director of the Liman Center  
**Emily Bazelon '00**, Lecturer in Law  
**Dwayne Betts '16**, Director of the Million Book Project  
**Melissa Murray '02**, Frederick I. and Grace Stokes Professor of Law at NYU Law

### PANEL 3 JEROME N. FRANK LEGAL SERVICES ORGANIZATION

**Muneer Ahmad**, Sol Goldman Clinical Professor of Law  
**Fiona Doherty '99**, Clinical Professor of Law  
**Chrysanthemum Desir '18**, Maryland Office of the Public Defender  
**Christy Lopez '94**, Professor from Practice at Georgetown Law  
**Cara McLellan '15**, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund  
**Mel Medina**, ACLU

## Yale Teach-In Series Reflects on Chauvin Verdict

A series of three Zoom teach-ins involving Law School faculty, staff, alumni, and affiliates examined the trial of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin, who was convicted in the murder of George Floyd.

The first teach-in on April 22, 2021, featured Dean Heather K. Gerken as moderator and a panel of experts from The Justice Collaboratory at Yale Law School. Justice Collaboratory Founding Director Tracey Meares spoke of the challenges in trying to bring about police reforms in a federalist system. “My immediate reaction was to just feel the enormity of the task in front of us,” she said.

A session hosted by the Arthur Liman Center for Public Interest Law addressed the role of the courts, the role of the police, and how to ensure safe, equitable communities. Anna VanCleave spoke about how heavily society relies on the court system. “We don’t have the other forums for processing this kind of racialized violence,” she said. “And that means that we have to lean on the criminal and adversarial process to do so much more than it is often equipped to do.”



(Clockwise from top left) Jennifer Richeson, Heather K. Gerken, Elizabeth Hinton, and Tracey Meares participate in the teach-in on April 22.

The final teach-in, organized by the Law School’s Jerome N. Frank Legal Services Organization, featured legal and public policy practitioners.

“The Chauvin verdict on the murder of George Floyd brought many of us great relief, but no joy. And even as we were told, ‘This is an inflection point,’ one could be forgiven for feeling pessimistic, in light of the ongoing police violence against Black Americans,” Clinical Professor of Law Muneer Ahmad said.

## IMMIGRATION

### YLS Students Aid in Immigration Policy Tracking Project

**Based on his experience** working in government and as one of the nation’s leading immigration law experts, Martin R. Flug Lecturer in Law and Senior Research Scholar in Law Lucas Guttentag thought it would be critical to keep track of immigration policy changes put into place by the Trump administration.

In 2017, Guttentag gathered a few research assistants from Yale Law School to document all such emerging immigration policies.

Their efforts culminated in the Immigration Policy Tracking Project, which is now the most comprehensive compilation of every known Trump-era immigration policy. Its mission, according to the Project’s website, is to “facilitate a deeper understanding of the scope and impact of Trump-era policies and to help develop a road map for reform.”

Since then, 70 law students have tracked all public sources to build out the project, which is now fully available to the public. Although some policy changes made headlines, many went mostly unnoticed by the general public.

“We spent a lot of time thinking about what would be most useful to practitioners, journalists, and especially the next administration,” said Sam Frizell ’20.

Teams of students at Stanford Law School, where Guttentag is also a Professor of the Practice of Law, worked on the project as well.

The project lists 1,064 immigration policy actions during the four years of the Trump administration, including 57 presidential orders. Of those policy changes, 122 are currently subject to litigation.

Since January, the project turned its attention to the Biden administration. Guttentag and his students monitor the administration’s changes, noting new administration actions “that affect or rescind Trump-era policies,” according to the project’s website.

“Now that the project is public, I hope it will shed light on how much work needs to be done to create a just and anti-racist immigration system in America said Becca Steele ’21, who was involved in the project.

Visit the Immigration Policy Tracking Project at [impolicytracking.org](http://impolicytracking.org).

## ALUMNI

## YLS Faculty and Alumni Join Biden Administration

As the Biden administration has moved to fill open positions in the federal government, a wide array of Yale Law School faculty and alumni have taken positions throughout the government that run the gamut from traditional legal positions to high-profile agency leadership roles.

A March 2021 story in *Bloomberg Law* pointed out that Yale Law School graduates held an impressive 12 positions, or 23 percent of roles among the president's senior staff — more than any other single law school.

Fourteen Yale Law School faculty and alumni have been appointed to a presidential commission to study Supreme Court reform. The commission is co-chaired by Professor Cristina Rodríguez '00 and includes Dean Heather Gerken and Professors Justin Driver and Jack Balkin.

Alfred M. Rankin Professor of Law and Faculty Director of the Solomon Center for Health Law and Policy Abbe R. Gluck '00 joined the administration to serve as Special Counsel with the COVID-19 Response Team at the White House. Sam Berger '10 also joined the COVID-19 Response Team as Director of Strategic Operations and Policy.

In the president's Cabinet, Gina Raimondo '97 was appointed Secretary of Commerce.

Within the White House, three YLS alumni serve in high-ranking positions on the National Economic Council (NEC), which advises the president on U.S. and global economic policy. Brian Deese '09 directs the NEC, and Bharat Ramamurti '07 and Sameera Fazili '06 serve as deputy directors.

Dana Remus '02 was appointed White House counsel. Paige Herwig '06, Megan Ceronsky '07, Larry Schwartzol '05, and Reema Shah '15 also have joined the White House Counsel's office.

Alumni are also taking on leadership roles at the top levels of national security. Jake Sullivan '03 was appointed national security adviser and Jonathan Finer '09 serves as deputy national security adviser.

At the Treasury Department, Adewale “Wally” Adeyemo '09 was sworn in by Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen in March after receiving Senate confirmation as deputy secretary of the Treasury.

Charlotte Burrows '96 was designated as Chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Many Law School alumni have joined the administration in more traditional legal roles. Pamela Karlan '84 currently serves as Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice (DOJ). Elsewhere at the Justice Department, Matt Klapper '11 has joined as Chief of Staff to Attorney General Merrick Garland.

## SCHOLARSHIP

## ISP Launches Two White Paper Series

The Information Society Project (ISP) and the Wikimedia/Yale Law School Initiative on Intermediaries and Information (WIII) both launched white paper series during this academic year.

ISP's Digital Future White Paper Series highlights novel challenges for regulation. White papers in the series bring both legal analysis and ethical frameworks to bear on the emerging problems of the digital world. The first white paper, “Nowhere to Hide: Data, Cyberspace, and the Dangers of the Digital World” by Andrew Burt '14, addresses the many challenges that cyberspace and digital technologies now pose for traditional legal and ethical standards.

WIII's series explores novel regulatory responses to misinformation. The series was created in response to a growing global trend of governments passing repressive content restrictions targeting false information, measures which are often subverted to target journalists, civil society watchdogs, or opposition figures.



(left) Professor Samuel Moyn;  
(below) Professor Cristina Rodríguez



### Lecture Series Features Ideas from a Century in Law

This spring, the Foundations Lecture Series featured lectures given by members of the Yale Law School faculty covering some of the central problems, methods, and ideas that have shaped the theory and study of the law over the course of the last hundred years.

This year's lecture series was run by Allen H. Duffy Class of 1960 Professor of Law John Fabian Witt '99, Leighton Homer Surbeck Professor of Law Cristina Rodríguez '00, Professor of Law Gerald Torres '77, and Henry R. Luce Professor of Jurisprudence Samuel Moyn.

“The Foundations lectures let us hear from some of the world's leading scholars right here at the Law School. They connected students to the buzzy excitement of ideas about the law,” Witt said.

The 13-week lecture series was a freestanding, virtual component of the Law School's Foundations of American Legal Thought course. As part of the course, students studied the roles of fairness, morality, and efficiency in the law; how legal decision-makers legitimate their actions; whether and how law exists apart from politics and other social relations; and the relationship between the law and other disciplines.



## Justice Collaboratory Partners with Connecticut Department of Correction

The **Justice Collaboratory** started a promising new partnership with the Connecticut State Department of Correction, supported by the Tow Foundation and the Herbert and Nell Singer Foundation. The project will begin by training correctional officers in procedural justice and will subsequently test the impact of the training and associated practices through a rigorous evaluation.

“In most correctional settings, staff rely heavily on their power and authority to generate compliance among incarcerated persons,” said Tom R. Tyler, the Macklin Fleming Professor of Law and Professor of Psychology and a Founding Director of The Justice Collaboratory. “Procedural justice, on the other hand, speaks to the idea of compliance and cooperation through trust and legitimacy.”

In this project, Justice Collaboratory researchers aim to leverage procedural justice and legitimacy research to incentivize practices that improve human dignity in prisons, namely by giving incarcerated persons a voice, demonstrating to them respect, being transparent about decision-making, and conveying that correction officers have trustworthy motives.

*“Procedural justice ... speaks to the idea of compliance and cooperation through trust and legitimacy.”*

**PROFESSOR TOM R. TYLER**

Moreover, the overall goal is to improve communications and trust-building interactions between correctional staff and incarcerated persons, decreasing the number of conflicts and incidents, while also improving correction officers’ wellness, safety, and job satisfaction.

To this end, the principal investigators — Tyler and Arielle Baskin-Sommers, Associate Professor of Psychology and of Psychiatry at Yale University — have partnered with Emily LaGratta of LaGratta Consulting, another national subject matter expert and trainer on procedural justice, to develop, pilot, and evaluate a new procedural justice training program for correction officers.



## Rep. DeLauro Opens Liman Colloquium

**Rep. Rosa DeLauro** gave Liman Fellows guidance on bringing about a fairer world when she launched the 24th Annual Liman Public Interest Colloquium with a wide-ranging conversation on April 8, 2021.

DeLauro, who has represented Connecticut’s 3rd Congressional District since 1990 and currently chairs the House Appropriations Committee, spoke via Zoom. Leading the discussion from Yale Law School was Judith Resnik, Arthur Liman Professor of Law and the Center’s Founding Director. Some 20 Liman Fellows around the country joined them. Fellows asked DeLauro questions on housing insecurity, discrimination, environmental law, immigration, and criminal justice.



Professor Vicki Schultz

## Race and the Pandemic in the Workplace

**This spring**, Ford Foundation Professor of Law and Social Sciences Vicki Schultz chaired a Workplace Theory and Policy Workshop, Reimagining Work After 2020.

This timely seminar brought in prominent scholars, policymakers, and activists from a variety of disciplines to analyze and discuss recent transformations in society — most notably, the COVID-19 pandemic and the uprising against structural racism — in relation to work.

“The pandemic exposed and exacerbated the profound race, class, and gender inequalities in our society in a way that’s impossible to ignore,” said Schultz. “The higher rates of death and disease among Black and Latino people, together with the shocking police killings of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, revealed to everyone how far we still have to go to overcome the legacy of slavery.”

COVID-19 and race/gender injustice remain deeply connected to labor and work issues, a legacy of the forced labor of slavery, in which wealthy whites benefited from exploiting the unpaid work of enslaved people. Today, Schultz said, the pandemic has put Black and other people of color at greater risk, for example, partly because they still work in lower-paid but essential jobs that do not afford them the luxury of working from home. Women of color suffer among the highest unemployment rates, statistics show, because the jobs they hold in a still-segregated labor market leave them more vulnerable to displacement. And, with the rise of the gig economy, with its insecure jobs and lack of benefits, many Americans still lack the health care that other wealthy nations treat as a right, not a privilege, according to Schultz.

## PUBLIC INTEREST

## Liman Center Fights for the Incarcerated and the Unhoused

**Clarissa Kimmey '22 testified** in March on behalf of the Arthur Liman Center for Public Interest Law before a Connecticut General Assembly committee in support of a voting reform bill that would restore voting rights to people with felony convictions who are released on parole.

The Liman Center was able to help 200 people cast their votes during the 2020 election, but Liman Center research of public records showed that 3,000 to 4,000 people in Connecticut jails and prisons were eligible to vote. The problem is that in Connecticut, which makes voting a legal right for many incarcerated people, it is practically impossible to do so. To ensure that everyone who is eligible to vote can, the Liman Center has recommended several key changes to state law, including requiring the Department of Correction provide voter registration forms when someone first enters a correctional facility and providing for absentee ballots to be automatically sent to eligible incarcerated voters.

Also in March, the Liman Center submitted written testimony in support of the PROTECT Act, a measure

that would substantially curtail solitary confinement in Connecticut. If passed, the law would generally ban extreme isolation of prisoners, which the bill defines as leaving a person in a cell for more than 16 hours a day.

“The use of solitary confinement that we documented represents thousands of hours, days, months, and years of unnecessary human suffering,” the Center’s testimony noted.

In other work, two former Liman fellows, Tiffany Bailey '17 and Adrienna Wong '10, of the ACLU of Southern California filed a lawsuit against the city of Lancaster in Los Angeles County in February for allegedly treating unhoused people like criminals by charging them steep fines. The lawsuit contends that such a system is unlawful under the California Constitution and that it discriminates on the basis of poverty and race. A report written by Bailey and colleagues found that authorities use the threat of citations to force unhoused people out of town and into the high desert, where they face potentially life-threatening conditions.

## Yale Law School Public Interest Fellowship Recipients

Yale Law School congratulates the following law students and alumni who were awarded fellowships for 2021–2022 and 2021–2023.

### FELLOWSHIPS SPONSORED BY YALE LAW SCHOOL

#### Arthur Liman Public Interest Fellowship

Hannah Abelow '21  
Sophie Angelis '21  
Jonathan Cohen '20  
Allison Durkin '21  
Eli Feasley '21  
Duncan Hosie '21  
Sophie Laing '21  
James Mooney '19  
Isadora Ruyter-Harcourt '21  
Kshithij Shrinath '21

#### Gruber Fellowship in Global Justice and Women's Rights

Mollie Berkowitz '21  
Kyla Eastling '21  
Rhoda Hassan '19  
Cara Newlon '21

#### Heyman Federal Public Service Fellowship

Karen Anderson '21  
Jeff Gordon '21  
Lisa Hansmann '21  
Daniel Ki '21  
Kelly McClure '21  
Alan Mitchell '21  
Xander Nabavi-Noori '21  
Keshav Poddar '20

#### The David Nierenberg '78 International Refugee Assistance Project Fellowship

Ary Hansen '21  
(UCLA School of Law)

#### Robert L. Bernstein Fellowship in International Human Rights

Aydan Figaroa '21 LLM  
Megan Pearson '21  
Anna Wherry '21

#### Robina Foundation Human Rights Fellowship

Ben Dearden '21  
Sofea Dil '21  
Alexandra Francis '18  
Jessica Tueller '21  
Alyssa Yamamoto '18

#### YLS Permanent Court of Arbitration Fellowship

Soheila Ebrahimi Louyeh '21 LLM

#### YLS Public Interest Fellowship

Tony Binder Derron '18  
Sarah Eppler-Epstein '21  
Julia Geiger '21  
Sarah Huttenlocher '21  
Laura Kokotailo '20  
Ela Leshem '20  
Jesse Tripathi '21

#### Yale Law Journal Fellowship

Matt Kellner '21  
Dana Khabbaz '21  
Becca Steele '21

#### NON-YLS FUNDED FELLOWSHIPS

#### Animal Welfare Legal Fellowship — Richman Law Group, New York, NY

Brooke Dekolf '21

#### Equal Justice Works Fellowship

Leila Blatt '21  
Allie Frankel '17  
Dan Stein '21

#### Hueston Hennigan Social Justice Fellowship, San Francisco, CA

Hannah Schoen '19

#### Justice Catalyst Fellowship

Sam Kuhn '21  
TJ Grayson '21  
Jordan Brewington '21  
Jenny Choi '21  
Sarah Camiscoli '21

#### NYU Tax Law Center Tax Law and Policy Fellowship, New York, NY

Taylor Cranor '21

#### Skadden Fellowship

Ramis Wadood '21



## Innovative Gun Violence Course Generates Novel Journal Issue



To examine the deleterious effects of the growing gun violence crisis, Yale Law School faculty and students convened collaborators from Yale University and across the country to publish a groundbreaking special issue of *The Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics* (JLME) devoted to the epidemic. The issue, created through a partnership between two innovative Law School centers, the Solomon Center for Health Law & Policy and The Justice Collaboratory, features 26 articles by students, professors, scholars, physicians, advocates, and other experts who seek to address the problem through interdisciplinary conversation and research. The authors tackled the issue from four angles — criminal justice, medicine and public health, the roles of regulation and litigation, and data and empirics.

The JLME issue also marks the culmination of a special course taught at Yale Law School in the spring of 2020 titled “The Law, Policy, and Guns.” The course was taught by Abbe R. Gluck ’00, the Alfred M. Rankin Professor of Law and the founding Faculty Director of the Solomon Center; Tracey L. Meares, the Walton Hale Hamilton Professor of Law and a Founding Director of The Justice Collaboratory; and Ian Ayres ’86, the Oscar M. Reubhausen Professor of Law and a Deputy Dean at Yale Law School.

Journal articles can be viewed at [jlaw.us/2QQvXPL](http://jlaw.us/2QQvXPL).

## Solomon Center Hosts Panel on Access to Insulin

On March 9, 2021, the Solomon Center for Health Law and Policy hosted a virtual panel on the 100th anniversary of the discovery of insulin exploring its history, the price of insulin and its consequences, and solutions for access.



## Cecile Richards Delivers Gruber Lecture

Cecile Richards, a national leader for women’s rights and social and economic justice, delivered the 2021 Gruber Distinguished Lecture in Women’s Rights, titled “Women and the Workforce — How A Pandemic Demands Systemic Change” on March 8, 2021.

## New Foundation to Help Graduates Pursue Social Justice

Yale Law School graduates will be able to pursue cutting-edge social justice work through a fellowship created in collaboration with the Social Justice Legal Foundation to mentor and develop a new generation of trial lawyers in the public sector.

Launched on January 28, 2021, with a \$10 million pledge from Hueston Hennigan LLP, the Foundation will work with Columbia, Northwestern, Stanford, UCLA, and Yale law schools to serve as an incubator for the next generation of leading trial lawyers in the public sector through the sponsorship of two-year fully funded fellowships.

“I look forward to working with our advisors, fellows, staff, and pro bono attorneys to take to trial some of the most important cases affecting social justice,” said John Hueston ’91, Chairman of the Foundation’s Board.



## Breaking Up Big Agriculture

On January 16, 2021, hundreds of academics, policymakers, lawyers, farmers, journalists, advocates, and students participated in the Big Ag & Antitrust Conference, a daylong virtual event dedicated to addressing how competition law and policy can combat corporate concentration in America’s food system. The conference was cohosted by the Law, Ethics & Animals Program (LEAP) at Yale Law School and the Thurman Arnold Project (TAP) at the Yale School of Management, and co-chaired by Yale Law School students Manny Rutinel ’22, Melody Wang ’21, and Alexander Weiss ’22. Keynote speaker Christopher Leonard spoke about his reporting on the meat industry and his 2014 book *The Meat Racket: The Secret Takeover of America’s Food Business*.

## CLINIC ROUNDUP

## Lowenstein Clinic and Partners Celebrate Supermax Prison Closure



**In February**, Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont announced the closure of Northern Correctional Institution, the state's only supermax prison. For the past decade, the Lowenstein International Human Rights Clinic has supported the efforts of local activists organizing against the prison and against the state's use of solitary confinement more broadly.

Northern was opened in 1995 to house the state's highest-security prisoners. Since the clinic began investigating the prison, more than 50 Law School students have worked in partnership with the local movement that is now celebrating the closure the facility. The prison closed officially on June 11, 2021, three weeks ahead of schedule.

Beginning in 2010, Lowenstein Clinic students collaborated closely with the American Civil Liberties

Union of Connecticut to investigate conditions at Northern.

"With a team of eight students, we spoke with dozens of men at Northern and gathered documents via public records requests," said Hope Metcalf, Executive Director of the Schell Center for International Human Rights, who co-teaches the clinic. "Our findings were extremely disturbing," she said.

"Northern warehoused many people with mental illness, whose mental health deteriorated due to the lack of care and the harsh conditions," said clinic member Luke Connell '22. "In response to mental health crises, Department of Corrections staff—often with the blessing of medical staff—would use in-cell shackling, keeping people chained inside a cell with little range of movement for up to 72 hours. In recent years, those abusive practices have continued to be used routinely at Northern."

The clinic has also supported efforts by Stop Solitary CT to pass anti-solitary legislation and joined Disability Rights Connecticut and others in filing a recent lawsuit that challenges the prolonged isolation and in-cell shackling of prisoners with mental illness on isolative statuses. Northern's closure was announced less than a week after the filing of the lawsuit.

"The successes...are a powerful reminder that the years of work that have gone into Connecticut's anti-solitary movement are bringing important and meaningful change," said Zoe Rubin '22, a member of the clinic.

### Veterans Exposed to Radiation Win Nationwide Class Action

**In a nationwide class decision** in December, the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC) ordered the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to reexamine how it evaluates disability claims of veterans exposed to ionizing radiation in a 1966 nuclear cleanup operation at Palomares, Spain. The class is represented by the Veterans Legal Services Clinic at Yale Law School and the New York Legal Assistance Group.

The CAVC found that the VA had not fulfilled its legal responsibility to determine whether the method it uses to assess Palomares veterans' radiation exposure is scientifically sound. The VA has relied on this unsound science to deny disability benefits for radiation illnesses to veterans who responded to the nuclear disaster, according to the Clinic. The latest decision comes one year after the Court's historic decision in the same case to certify the first-ever class of veteran claimants in a direct appeal from the VA benefits system.

"This historic decision by the Court will pave the way for Palomares veterans to finally receive compensation and respect for the sacrifices they made at the cleanup," said Lara Markey '22, a law student intern with the clinic. "It is time for the VA to finally recognize the service and wounds of those who responded at Palomares."



### Report Details COVID-19-Related Threats to Indigenous Peoples and Environments

**The Lowenstein International Human Rights Clinic** and the Forest Peoples Programme (FPP) released a February report documenting the erosion of Indigenous Peoples' rights, damage to forest environments, and violence resulting from government responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing global recession in Brazil, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia, and Peru.



## Federal Court Approves Major Nationwide Settlement for Post-9/11 Army Veterans

**In a historic settlement**, the U.S. Army will review the discharges of thousands of veterans affected by post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), military sexual trauma (MST), or other behavioral health conditions, and implement administrative reforms for individuals who apply to have their discharge statuses upgraded in the future. These reforms follow a settlement reached in the nationwide class action lawsuit *Kennedy v. Whitley*. A federal court granted final approval of the settlement on April 26, 2021.

The Veterans Legal Services Clinic represents the plaintiffs with co-counsel Jenner & Block LLP. The clinic is litigating a separate class action lawsuit on behalf of thousands of Iraq and Afghanistan Navy and Marine Corps veterans who received less-than-fully-honorable discharges. These “bad paper” discharges can impose a lifetime of stigma, impair employment prospects, and deny veterans access to critical government services including disability benefits, mental health treatment, and the GI Bill.

Under the settlement, the Army will automatically reconsider certain discharge-status-upgrade decisions made by the Army Discharge Review Board (ADRB) between April 17, 2011, and April 26, 2021, that denied relief to Iraq- and Afghanistan-era veterans with less-than-fully-honorable discharges. The settlement also expands reapplication rights for eligible applicants who were discharged and received an adverse ADRB decision between October 7, 2001 and April 16, 2011.

The settlement also ensures that veterans who submit applications for discharge upgrades in the future will benefit from procedural reforms and new protocols for decision-making in cases involving symptoms or diagnoses of conditions including PTSD, TBI, and MST.

“For many veterans, this could mean the difference between struggling with PTSD symptoms without adequate health care and finally receiving the benefits guaranteed by law,” said Adam Henderson ’23, a law student intern in the clinic.

The full text of the settlement can be found at [kennedysettlement.com](http://kennedysettlement.com).

## Housing Clinic Files SCOTUS Amicus Brief

**The Foreclosure Track** of the Housing Clinic filed an amicus brief in a class action before the Supreme Court. The brief argues that mismarking individuals as terrorists or drug dealers on their credit reports is a particularized injury to class members under Article III of the Constitution and the Fair Credit Reporting Act.



Clyde Meikle and Clinical Associate Professor of Law Miriam Gohara at a hearing in December 2020

## Clinic Secures a Historic Sentence Modification and Advocates for Parole Reform

**With the help of** the Challenging Mass Incarceration Clinic (CMIC), one of the mentors of Connecticut’s innovative, rehabilitation-focused TRUE Unit at the Cheshire Correctional Institution won an unprecedented sentence modification in January. Judge David Gold of Hartford Superior Court resented CMIC client Clyde Meikle to 28 years from the 50 to which he was originally sentenced for fatally shooting his cousin.

Meikle and his legal team, led by Clinical Associate Professor of Law Miriam Gohara and five students from the clinic, appeared at a hearing last December seeking to modify Meikle’s sentence to reflect his record of rehabilitation. Meikle has been incarcerated for

26 years on a sentence for murder. Clinic members Felisha Miles ’21 and Kate Levien ’21 presented the case before Judge Gold.

“Mr. Meikle has taken advantage of every single opportunity for rehabilitation and growth during his decades-long incarceration,” said clinic member Frankie Hedgepeth ’22, “and when there were no further opportunities or programs, he created them and led them for others.”

In other recent work, the CMIC has worked to urge members of Connecticut’s Joint Committee on Judiciary to support a bill that would give incarcerated people serving long sentences for crimes committed before the age of 25 the chance to seek parole. Brendan Bernicker ’22 testified at the committee hearing on behalf of the clinic and fellow clinic members Sarah Medina Camiscoli ’21, Marnie Lowe ’22, and Alexandra Ricks ’22.

The proposed legislation provides people sentenced for crimes they committed as young adults the chance to demonstrate their rehabilitation, like those a few years younger when they committed crimes, according to the clinic.

## CLINIC ROUNDUP

## WIRAC Class Action Reaches Settlement, Advocates for Latino Workers

**The parties in** a landmark class action lawsuit challenging unsafe conditions during the pandemic at the Bristol County House of Correction (BCHOC) asked the federal judge hearing the case to approve a settlement agreement in April. If approved, the settlement would resolve one of the most successful class actions filed on behalf of detained individuals during the COVID-19 pandemic. The plaintiff class is represented by the Worker and Immigrant Rights Advocacy Clinic (WIRAC) at Yale Law School, Lawyers for Civil Rights, the law firm of WilmerHale, and Rights Behind Bars.

The case dramatically reduced the number of people held in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention at BCHOC — from 148 to seven — allowing dozens of civil immigration detainees to return to their families and safely quarantine at home.

First filed in March 2020, the class action is believed to be the first lawsuit brought during the pandemic on behalf of all individuals in ICE detention at a facility, as opposed to only individuals with certain medical risk factors.

In a separate case, WIRAC and Justice at Work represent 24 Latino workers alleging failure to pay overtime and seeking an end to racial discrimination and harassment. The lawsuit builds on a year of worker organizing to demand just wages and better working conditions at Industrial Pallet, LLC in Eastford, Connecticut.

The complaint alleges Industrial Pallet and its owners systematically deprived the workers of overtime pay and subjected the pallet workers to a hostile and degrading workplace environment. According to the complaint, white supervisors routinely hurled racially charged insults at the Latino pallet workers and denied workers the benefits and working conditions that white workers enjoy, including sanitary indoor bathroom facilities, a place to sit while eating lunch, and a sink to wash their hands.

“State and federal law is clear. Employers cannot discriminate against workers because they are Latino, and employers must pay overtime to employees who work more than 40 hours in a week,” said Isabelle Barnard ’23, a law student intern in WIRAC. “These 24 workers had the courage to stand up for their rights and demand that the abuses stop, and we are proud to represent them.”

## ROLC Celebrates Abolition of Prison Gerrymandering in CT

**With Gov. Ned Lamont’s** signature of S.B. 753 on May 26, 2021, Connecticut abolished prison gerrymandering after more than a decade of attempts at similar legislation. Effective immediately, and in time for the state’s once-a-decade redistricting process, Connecticut will count incarcerated people at their home communities, rather than their place of incarceration, for purposes of redistricting.

The Peter Gruber Rule of Law Clinic (ROLC) worked for months representing the Connecticut State Conference of the NAACP and the ACLU of Connecticut in efforts to end the practice through the passage of new legislation.

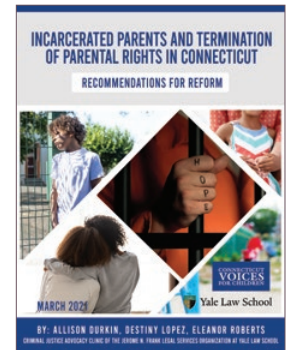
“This is long overdue, but we couldn’t be prouder to see Connecticut finally take this important step to right a gross racial injustice and restore fair representation to so many people,” said Helia Bidad ’22, a law student intern with the ROLC.

Advocates argued that by counting incarcerated people where they are imprisoned for the purpose of redistricting, Connecticut denied incarcerated people meaningful representation. Prison gerrymandering inflates the power of the districts where prisons are located, which are predominantly white and rural, at the expense of districts where incarcerated people reside, which are predominantly Black, Latinx, and urban. States including New York, California, and New Jersey have already enacted legislation to end the practice.

Due to the once-per-decade timing of the state’s redistricting process, 2021 is the last year for legislators to decide whether to change state law before legislative districts are drawn for the next decade.

“After years of litigation and advocacy, Connecticut has chosen fairness, equality, and justice. We simply could not be more thrilled,” said Alex Boudreau ’21, a student from the clinic.

**“This is long overdue, but we couldn’t be prouder to see Connecticut finally take this important step to right a gross racial injustice and restore fair representation to so many people.”** HELIA BIDAD ’22, ON THE ABOLITION OF PRISON GERRYMANDERING



### Helping Incarcerated Individuals During the Pandemic

**A March report** from the Law School’s Criminal Justice Advocacy Clinic and Connecticut Voices for Children examines the unintended impacts of the 1997 Adoption and Safe Families Act and outlines 18 recommendations to protect parental rights and promote the welfare of children with incarcerated parents.

Read the full report at [ylaw.us/3uN4P2U](http://ylaw.us/3uN4P2U).



## Workshop Series Unites Free Exercise Clinics

**An interactive workshop** from the Law School's Free Exercise Clinic brought together students and faculty in the religious liberty clinics at Harvard, Stanford, and Texas for an opportunity to engage and debate timeless and pressing questions implicating the free exercise of religion.

Professor Kate Stith, the Lafayette S. Foster Professor of Law and founder of the clinic, and Visiting Professor of Law Michael Helfand '07 taught the workshop. Stith first developed the clinic in 2019.

"A variety of students every year had been seeking a clinic that engages with the religion clauses of the First Amendment and related state and federal legislation," Stith explained.

The speakers and articles read as part of the series represent some of the most important voices in the field of law and religion.

"As our country grows more diverse, it's imperative that we maintain a robust religious liberty doctrine that serves people of all faiths," said Rishabh Bhandari '21.

Under the supervision of Visiting Clinical Lecturer of Law Chris Pagliarella '16 and attorneys at Sidley Austin LLP, clinic students write amicus briefs in a variety of cases. Stith said that the technological breakthroughs created by remote teaching made the multi-law school, multi-guest, interactive workshop possible.

She predicted that such novel initiatives would continue even when all students and professors return to the classroom because of the value of interrogating new and competing voices and ideas, as well as the ease and efficiency of esteemed guests speaking with several small groups of students at the same time. "These students are excited that

they will be engaging directly with the authors of classic articles that broke new ground on several contested dimensions of religious liberty law, as well as with authors who are exploring new ideas and approaches," said Stith. "There really is no replacing the opportunity to personally connect with some of the very best in the field, learning how they've developed their research and theories, and debating the substance of these varied contributions to the discipline."

The students involved agreed that the speaker series was a tremendous opportunity for advanced learning in an area of the law they are passionate about.

"One of the unique features of Yale's Free Exercise Clinic is that it involves a semester of rigorous analysis of free exercise doctrine, alongside first-rate clinical practice and pedagogy, now followed by a semester of deep engagement with theory," said Ezra Husney '21. "The Clinic's first semester does an excellent job teaching students the doctrine and practice

**“As our country grows more diverse, it's imperative that we maintain a robust religious liberty doctrine that serves people of all faiths.”** RISHABH BHANDARI '21

of free exercise law. I think that work has well prepared us to dive into academic scholarship. We're all very excited to engage with leading scholars because it's the conversations with teachers and peers that lead to critical thinking and real learning."

"It's an awesome privilege to learn about religious liberty from leading scholars and litigators at YLS, exploring the practical implications of free exercise doctrine while sharpening our lawyering skills through mentored written advocacy," said Patrick E. Reidy '21. "But our Free Exercise Clinic benefits from more than exemplary faculty and generous mentors at Sidley Austin. Clinical students bring their own stories into dialogue with client experience and case-law, underscoring for their classmates the real-world implications of religious liberty. As an ordained Roman Catholic priest hoping to teach law, I've taken notes on how our professors nurture this honest, thoughtful, human conversation. It makes all the difference."

### Clinics Lay Groundwork for Affordable Housing Redevelopment

**The Branford Housing Authority (BHA) in Branford, Connecticut, received an award of federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credits to provide the town with new and rejuvenated affordable housing. The award paves the way for the BHA, which is represented by the Law School's Ludwig Center for Community & Economic Development and the Housing Clinic, to redevelop Parkside, a 67-unit apartment building.**

## LIBRARY

## Q&A Mike Widener Reflects on 15 Years as YLS Rare Book Librarian

Mike Widener retired as Rare Book Librarian at the Lillian Goldman Law Library at Yale Law School on April 30, 2021. Widener has “made the Law Library a model of creativity and service,” said Interim Director of the Lillian Goldman Law Library Jason Eiseman. During Widener’s tenure, The New York Times covered the Law Library’s rare collections and exhibitions six separate times. His exhibition of illustrated law books from the collection was exhibited at the Grolier Club in New York City. On the occasion of his retirement, Widener shared some highlights from and reflected on his career at the Law School.

### Yale Law Report What have been some unique and interesting parts of your job?

**Mike Widener** My work is fairly typical of most special collections librarians, but among law librarians there are very few who have had the opportunity and privilege to work with such a wide and deep range of materials: everything from medieval manuscripts to early printed books, children’s books, and even bobblehead dolls.

The most gratifying part of my work has been the opportunity to share our extraordinary collections with students, faculty, researchers, and visitors. Professor John Langbein regularly invited me and our books to his History of the Common Law class. Tours for entering LL.M. students and the Linkages program are among my favorites.

### What are some of your favorite exhibitions over the years?

Perhaps the most successful was “Reused, Rebound, Recovered: Medieval Manuscript Fragments in Law Book Bindings.” Our exhibition coincided with the 2010 annual meeting of the Medieval Academy of America at Yale. At an open house for conferees, we brought out dozens of volumes that couldn’t fit in the exhibition and invited the medievalists to help identify the fragments. They were like kids on Christmas morning, snapping photos and talking excitedly. One of the world’s leading experts took [co-curator Benjamin Yousey-Hindes] aside and told him, “A week from now I won’t remember any of the conference papers, but this I’ll remember.”

### What are a few of your favorite items in the YLS collection?

I’ve become particularly fond of illustrated books and Italian books, and a book that checks all my boxes is



(above) Mike Widener with one of the library’s rare volumes; (below) Widener and Robert Freilich ’57 at Alumni Weekend 2017

Francesco Maria Pecchio’s *Tractatus de aquaeductu*, a four-volume treatise on the law of aqueducts published in Pavia between 1700 and 1713. The illustrations of watercourses are rendered in vigorous, almost abstract woodcuts. The text itself is an early example of intersections between law, technology, and engineering.

### What makes the YLS Rare Book Collection special for you?

For me, it is the human element that pervades every aspect of the collection. It is a collection I have had the privilege of enhancing and sharing with students, faculty, and scholars, with the support and encouragement of past library directors Blair Kauffman and Teresa Miguel-Stearns; my supervisor, the incomparable Fred Shapiro; and the finest academic law library staff in existence.

*This Q&A has been condensed. For more, visit [ylaw.us/3ez9foz](http://ylaw.us/3ez9foz)*

