

OPENING STATEMENT



(top) New students pose outside the Law School during Orientation in August 2021; (bottom) Professor James Forman Jr. holds class outside during the fall term.

Full Return to Campus Energizes Community

In-person classes, social gatherings, and a lively Courtyard were features of the fall term

After a year of hybrid classes, Yale Law School welcomed its students back to campus for the fall 2021 term, returning entirely to in-person learning.

With Yale's focus squarely on the health and safety of its students, faculty, and staff, the Law School's administration built upon the safety protocols, facilities transformation, and planning of the previous year to allow the term to proceed in person. Thanks to the availability of vaccines and the University's robust public health measures, the Law School community returned to downtown New Haven, and life on campus resumed a semblance of normalcy.

The academic year brought a new group of students to New Haven. The Class of 2024 includes 201 J.D. students from seven countries, 36 states, and 73 undergraduate institutions. The newest class is the most diverse in Yale Law School history and comes to the Law School with a record of academic excellence and exceptional accomplishments. Of the incoming students, more than 54 percent are students of color and just over half are women. More than a quarter of the class are the first in their families to attend graduate or professional school and roughly one in six are the first in their families to graduate from college. Additionally, the community welcomed 40 LL.M. students, six J.S.D. students, three M.S.L. students, and one Ph.D. student.

Despite the uncertainty from the ongoing pandemic, campus life and learning transitioned quickly from a hybrid model to the spirited engagement of in-person interactions that have always been the hallmark of the Law School's intellectual community. The significance of the Sol Goldman Courtyard was underscored this term providing an invaluable, open-air gathering space. From classes and clinic sessions to movie nights and happy hours, the YLS community enjoyed many beautiful fall days filled with events, activities, and the day-to-day joys of being back together in the Courtyard.

"I am so happy to be back on campus this year," said Rynne Bamieh '23. "In many ways, it felt like being a first-year student because it allowed me to meet so many people and try so many new things. One morning, I hosted a croissant tasting and met some new students and started my day eating croissants in the sunshine!"

Professor Zachary Liscow '15 convened his class in the Courtyard whenever possible during the fall term and found many benefits in the return to campus. "There's no replacement for being in-person when we want to have a good discussion — we can communicate with each other more easily, and it allows discussions to continue in the break and after class," he said.

The Courtyard was not the only space to see renewed energy. Quiet study at the Lillian Goldman Law Library once again became a part of daily life. Students could be heard playing the grand piano in Ruttenberg Dining Hall. Baker Hall was bustling with classes and student activities, too. And the significant impact of being together again was on display throughout the classrooms, centers, and clinics.

Professor Anika Singh Lemar, who teaches the Community and Economic Development Clinic, said, "Having everyone back together is a pleasure. People participate much more freely, and the conversation is so much more lively in person. I also really missed the blackboard — the electronic substitutes just didn't cut it!"

Student Teddy Brokaw '23 felt an increased sense of community since returning. "There's just something about being back in the classroom that makes the law school experience all the more vibrant," he said. "It's so nice to walk out into the Courtyard after class and muse with your friends about whatever you've been learning."

New students get acquainted during Orientation in the Courtyard.



SCHOOL NEWS



Hannah Abelow '21 posted flyers in New Haven to spread the word about the Community and Economic Development Clinic's services.

Students Mobilize to Provide Assistance During the Pandemic

When the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) nationwide eviction moratorium in August — in the midst of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic — the ruling was a blow for public health and housing rights advocates, including members of Yale Law School’s Housing Clinic, which had filed an amicus brief in support of the moratorium before the high court and several others.

But the clinic didn’t waste any time wallowing in the loss. By September, students were strategizing how to best prepare for a potential onslaught of evictions in Connecticut, including by representing as many vulnerable tenants as possible in court. And they were in a better position to do that in part because of another prong of their multifaceted advocacy: Last spring, the clinic provided testimony in support of Connecticut’s H.B. No. 6531 — An Act Concerning the Right to Counsel in Eviction Proceedings — which was signed into law in June and provides free legal representation to low-income tenants.

The briefs and testimony represent just a fraction of the work Yale Law School students and faculty in the Housing and Community and Economic Development clinics have done to ameliorate some of the risks to renters and small business owners over nearly two years. The students also defended tenants facing eviction, lobbied the state government on how to craft its own eviction moratorium, counseled local business owners on eligibility for relief under the CARES Act and other statutes, and negotiated rent reductions for people who lost their jobs.

When the pandemic’s impacts first became apparent in March of 2020, several students quickly stepped up to adapt existing clinical resources and strategies to better serve the needs of the New Haven community. Hannah Abelow ’21, now a Liman Fellow at Queens Legal Services, and other students got up to speed on the CARES Act and then trained nonclinic students on the law’s eligibility requirements so they could assist in providing information to community members. Next, they distributed flyers throughout the city and staffed a hotline to answer questions from local businesses — yoga studios, dry cleaning stores, and Chinese restaurants among them — that called in.

“From that point forward, it was basically full steam ahead,” recalled Clinical Professor of Law Anika Singh Lemar, who added that the Community and Economic Development Clinic is designed to be responsive to the needs of residents. “It’s an intentionally wide-ranging and flexible practice.”

Evan Walker-Wells ’22, student director of the Housing Clinic’s Evictions Track, had the opportunity to work on cases from a variety of angles. He helped handle a commercial eviction case — a first for the clinic. Under the direction of Nathan Baker Clinical

“The Supreme Court ruled against us, but they ruled against us at the end of August 2021, not September 2020. ... There was a whole year in which the moratorium and public health were protected while these cases were being litigated across the country.”

J.L. POTTENGER JR. ’75

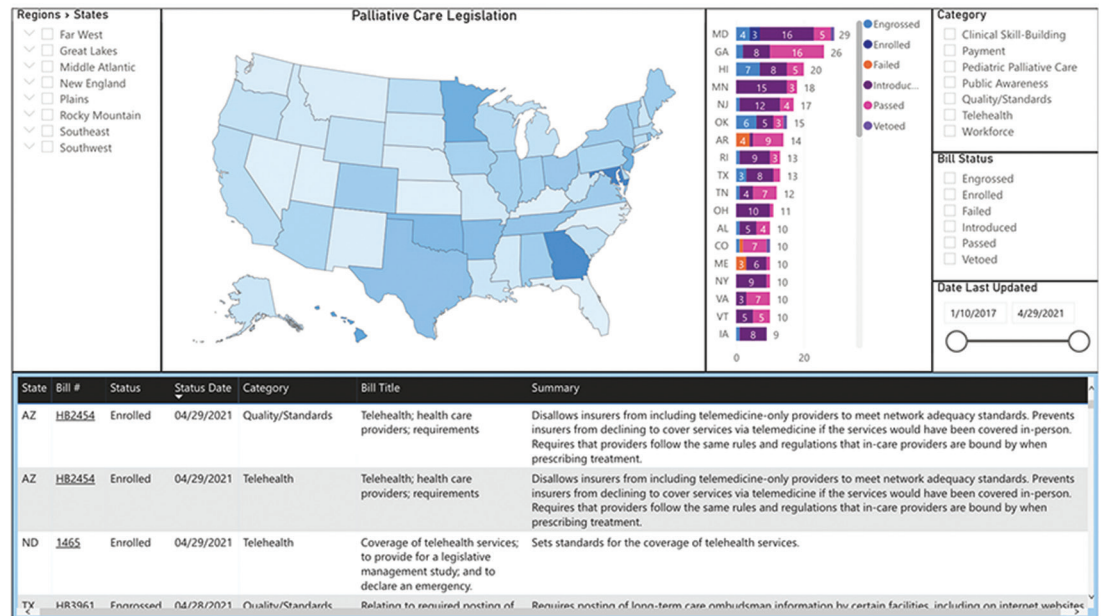
Professor of Law and Housing Clinic Director J.L. Pottenger Jr. ’75 and former visiting scholar Emily Benfer (now a senior policy advisor in the White House), Walker-Wells helped lead the Housing Clinic’s support of the eviction moratorium in courts across the country. In eight briefs filed in six cases, he coordinated nearly two dozen amici from national and local organizations focused on health and housing as well as experts from the Yale community and beyond.

Although the Supreme Court ultimately struck down the CDC’s moratorium, Pottenger said he is “extremely proud” of the work Walker-Wells and other students put into the briefs.

“The Supreme Court ruled against us, but they ruled against us at the end of August 2021, not September 2020,” Pottenger said. “There was a whole year in which the moratorium and public health were protected while these cases were being litigated across the country.”

A New Deal for Cancer

A book co-edited by Professor Abbe R. Gluck '00 and Dr. Charles Fuchs provides a tapestry of the politics, policy, regulation, and science of cancer. Born from a 2018 conference co-sponsored by the Solomon Center and the Yale Cancer Center, *A New Deal for Cancer* was released in November 2021. Read more about the book on page 15.



Palliative Care Policy GPS tracks state policies on palliative care and related services.

Innovative Palliative Care Policy Database Provides Centralized Information

Palliative care is getting more attention from policy-makers in many states, but tracking policy changes across the country has been difficult without a centralized platform for information.

Enter the Palliative Care Policy GPS, an initiative of the Solomon Center for Health Law and Policy and the Center to Advance Palliative Care. The project is an online database that tracks policies on palliative care and related services throughout the United States. The Indian Health Service and the Department of Veterans Affairs are included in the database, along with all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

“I’m glad my work has helped create a centralized location where people can learn about state palliative care policies in one place.”

STEPHANIE RICE '23

Yale Law School students have been central to creating and maintaining the GPS. They conducted initial surveys of states and other entities, submitted articles and abstracts, and researched bills across the country.

“The experience gave me a glimpse into the legislative workings of different states,” said Stephanie Rice ’23. “Some had constructed sophisticated programs to support the delivery of palliative care, while others had no legislation for it at all. ... I’m glad my work has helped create a centralized location where people can learn about state palliative care policies in one place.”

This project is the most recent expansion of the Solomon Center’s palliative care initiative, which includes the Palliative Medical Legal Partnership, the Palliative Care Working Group, and the Elder Law Project. In fall 2020, the Solomon Center convened a working group comprising palliative care scholars, practitioners, and advocates. The group provides advice on the function and future of the GPS and supports research and writing from studies on palliative care to work that will translate findings into policy recommendations.

In the coming months, the GPS will expand to include state regulations and federal legislation. The database will also be used to address innovative research questions and develop tools to support effective advocacy. With data on hundreds of bills, the GPS will highlight the power of state-level policymaking. By making all of this information available, the GPS aims to empower users and encourage policy innovation during a transformative time for palliative care.

READING GROUPS

Student-Led Group Takes a Broad View of National Security



The (Re)Defining National Security reading group meets in the Sol Goldman Courtyard.

During fall term each Tuesday some 20 students critiqued approaches to national security and scrutinized how they relate to topics like antitrust, public health, race, and technology. The meetup was not just lunchtime conversation, though there was food. Nor was it a conventional class, though students did earn credit. The gathering was an example of a Yale Law School learning option that lets students explore topics not part of the regular curriculum: the reading group.

“(Re)Defining National Security” was co-sponsored by the Center for Global Legal Challenges and the National Security Group and supervised by Gerard C. and Bernice Latrobe Smith Professor of International Law Oona A. Hathaway ’97. The group’s aim was to examine the intersection of national security and social, political, and economic issues once considered outside its realm.

“Reading groups are one of the special joys of Yale Law School,” Hathaway said. “Students come to us with diverse experiences and expertise. Reading groups allow them to share their knowledge with one another and dig deep into topics of shared interest.”

Ten reading groups were offered this fall. Titles included “Law and Theology,” “Intersectional Anti-Racism,” and “Energy Law and Policy.” The one on national security grew out of a discussion Lorand Laskai ’22 had with friends after reading an article by Hathaway. After a year of mostly Zoom classes, they relished the chance for in-person discussion.

“Reading groups put students in the driver’s seat,” Laskai said. “Many of us in the reading group will end up working together in national security and related fields and will remember the conversations we had here.”

SOCIAL MEDIA

ISP Panels Tackle the Facebook Files and Democracy

The Facebook Files, a massive document leak by the whistleblower Frances Haugen and a resulting series of reports by *The Wall Street Journal*, reinvigorated public debate about one of the world’s most powerful — and largely unregulated — platforms this fall.

Within weeks, the Information Society Project (ISP) at Yale Law School organized two panels to discuss the new revelations about Facebook, one featuring Haugen herself.

“The publication of the files has laid bare Facebook’s ill effects in the world and its systemic avoidance in addressing them,” said Nikolas Guggenberger, Executive Director of ISP.

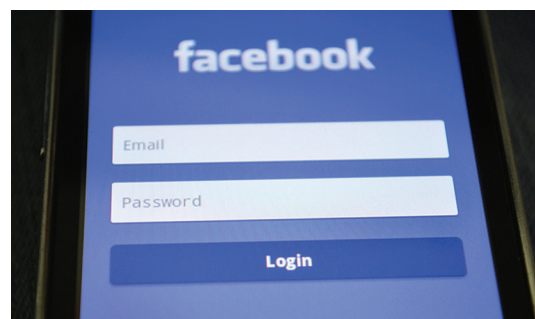
In the first panel, Haugen was joined by activists to discuss how people inside and outside technology companies can participate in shaping the platforms that are shaping them. She described how she started working to combat misinformation there but soon realized the problem could not be solved internally.

The second panel, moderated by Guggenberger, turned to three questions: What went wrong with Facebook? What is wrong with the social and legal framework in which Facebook is operating? And what should we do about it? The panelists discussed legal approaches to Big Tech platforms ranging from anti-trust and privacy law to criminal law and intermediary liability.

Panelists said that there is a deep conflict of interest between the current business models of companies like Facebook and the health of the digital public sphere.

Jack Balkin, ISP Director and Knight Professor of Constitutional Law and the First Amendment at Yale Law School, argued that the harms to democracy are only one potential concern.

“We’re worried about public health. We’re worried about bodily security ... ethnic violence and genocide. We’re worried about privacy. We’re worried about consumer protection and above all worried about manipulation,” he said, adding that reforms “have to consider all of these values, as well as democracy.”



Symposium Honors Professor and Civil Rights Lawyer Lani Guinier ’74

The October 30, 2021, virtual symposium “Lift Every Voice: The Life and Legacy of Professor Lani Guinier ’74” highlighted Guinier’s importance to the Yale Law School community, the intersectional barriers she faced and shattered, and the paths of those shaped by the trail she blazed. Senior Research Scholar in Law Sherrie L. Russell-Brown and Professor of Law Gerald Torres ’77 organized the conference. Keynote speaker Sherrilyn Ifill, President and Director-Counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., called Guinier “easily the most intellectually powerful, towering figure I had ever met.”

Additional Yale Law School faculty members who participated in the symposium were Monica Bell ’09, Guido Calabresi ’58, Dean Heather Gerken, Tracey Meares, Douglas NeJaime, Robert Post ’77, Judith Resnik, and Reva Siegel.

THE CARCERAL SYSTEM

Honor for Librarian Dan Wade

In May 2021, Daniel L. Wade was named a posthumous recipient of the Gallagher Award from the American Association of Law Libraries. Wade was a member of the Yale Law School library staff from 1987 to 2020.



Elizabeth Hinton and Doug Liman were part of an online panel discussion on the Attica prison uprising on September 14, 2021.



Attica at 50: Repression, Resistance, Resilience

Fifty years ago, the men incarcerated at the Attica Correctional Facility in New York state pushed back against inhumane conditions. By the end of the five-day uprising, 43 people were dead and scores were wounded. The event, still the deadliest prison uprising

in U.S. history, is shorthand for prisoners' rights movements. Arthur Liman '57, general counsel of the commission formed to investigate the incident, summed it up: "Attica is every prison, and every prison is Attica."

To probe Attica's legacy and understand the challenges of people in detention today, the Arthur Liman Center for Public Interest Law convened a virtual panel discussion on September 14, 2021: "Then and Now: 50 Years after Attica." Joining were Heather Ann Thompson, author of the 2016 book *Blood in the Water: The Attica Prison Uprising of 1971 and Its Legacy*; Elizabeth Hinton, Associate Professor of History and African American Studies at Yale and Professor of Law at Yale Law School and author of *America on Fire: The Untold History of Police Violence and Black Rebellion Since the 1960s*; Reginald Dwayne Betts '16, poet, lawyer, and founder of Freedom Reads, which provides incarcerated people with access to literature; filmmaker Doug Liman (son of Arthur Liman), who plans to tell the story of Attica; and Judith Resnik, the Arthur Liman Professor of Law and Founding Director of the Liman Center.

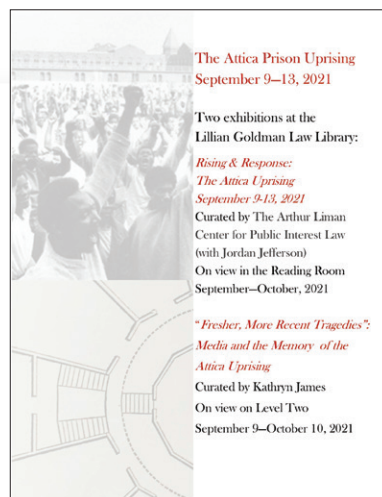
Thompson said the uprising is fundamentally about "individual incarcerated folks who were shouting out from the beginning that if you live in this country, the Constitution should apply to you, even if you are behind bars."

Hinton put Attica in the context of protests happening across the country during the period. As with uprisings in the streets, "it's state-sanctioned forces that are precipitating the violence," she said. "A cycle of police violence and Black rebellion."

Library Exhibit on Attica Uprising

A new exhibit at the Lillian Goldman Law Library chronicles some of the responses to the Attica prison uprising of 1971, prompted by its 50th anniversary. "Fresher, More Recent Tragedies: Media and the Memory of the Attica Prison Uprising" gets its start from philosopher Michel Foucault's visit to the Attica Correctional Facility in 1972. A few months prior, audiences across the U.S. and the world watched and read about the violent series of events that unfolded at the western New York state prison from September 9–13, 1971.

The exhibit is a companion to the display in the Library's main reading room on the Attica uprising, curated by Associate Director for Research and Instructional Services and Lecturer in Legal Research Jordan Jefferson with Arthur Liman Professor of Law Judith Resnik and the Arthur Liman Center for Public Interest Law.



A poster for the Library exhibit about the Attica prison uprising

Spreading Joy

Dean Heather K. Gerken launched the Joy Fund at the beginning of the fall term as part of her effort to build upon the joy of being back together again in person and ease weariness from the pandemic.

Gerken invited students and staff to present ideas for gatherings that inspire happiness.

The new initiative instantly engaged the community, as students and staff produced thoughtful event plans for activities that cultivated a sense of community.

On Monday mornings, people were welcomed to campus with a “Cup of Joy” in the form of a free cup of coffee in the

Ruttenberg Dining Hall. The fund also brought much activity to the Courtyard, where students Ryanne Bamieh '23 and Sarah Nealon '23 hosted a “Croissant Tasting in Connecticut.” Their search for the best croissant in New Haven was playfully titled “CT/CT.”



“We picked up croissants from four local bakeries, tasted them all on a sunny Tuesday morning in the Courtyard, and crowned a winner,” Bamieh explained.

Nina Oishi '22 and Angie Liao '22 organized an outdoor book club. “We had over 60 people sign up for the event,” Oishi exclaimed. “We had authentic Neapolitan pizza and discussed Stanley Tucci’s new memoir, *Taste*, thanks to the many purchased copies courtesy of the Joy Fund. With all the lights and the heat lamps in the Courtyard, it was a warm and comforting night—and a welcome break from studying and exams.”

The Joy Fund also sponsored a student roller skating party, a hike to the top of New Haven’s East Rock Park, and a wine and cheese discussion of the latest Sally Rooney book.

During the fall term there were also several occasions that recognized the hard work of the Yale Law School staff, including a “Staff Appreciation Sundae Afternoon” with the Ben and Jerry’s ice cream truck, a visit from the locally famous Waffle Cabin Waffle Truck, and relaxing chair massages.

“After a year and a half apart, it has been glorious to have our entire community living, learning, and working under the same roof,” said Dean Heather Gerken. “The Joy Fund has given staff and students a chance for whimsy, camaraderie, and community, just when we need it most. It’s been wonderful to see the creativity and energy that this new initiative has generated.”

ADMINISTRATION

New Leaders for Library and Alumni Engagement & Development

Two new administrators arrived at the Law School this term. In July, Femi Cadmus became Law Librarian and Professor of Law. In October, Kristen B. Rozansky began as Associate Dean of Alumni Engagement and Development.

Cadmus’s career spans three decades in academic and law firm libraries, where she has taught legal research, analysis, and technology in law practice to students and attorneys. Her research covers law and technology, the evolving role of the modern-day law library, open access to legal information, and law library management and administration. Cadmus becomes the head of the Lillian Goldman Library after directing the library at Duke Law School, where she

was also the Archibald C. and Frances Fulk Ruffy Distinguished Research Professor of Law and Associate Dean of Information Services and Technology. She was last at Yale Law from 2008 to 2011.

Rozansky has more than 25 years of experience in fundraising, alumni relations, and communications with a career that spans higher education, academic medicine, biomedical research, and public health at institutions that include the University of Pennsylvania, Penn State University, and Harvard University. Most recently, she was the Vice Dean for External Relations at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, where she provided oversight for all philanthropic functions as well as alumni affairs.



**Femi
Cadmus**



**Kristen
Rozansky**

Experts Release Report on Human Migration Due to Climate Change

As climate change intensifies, the people of Central America will disproportionately feel its effects and experience displacement as a result. Immigration and human rights experts from the Yale Immigrant Justice Project, the Yale Environmental Law Association, the Harvard Law School Immigration Project, and the University Network for Human Rights have published a 90-page report charting a path for immigration reform and calling on the Biden administration to revise immigration and climate policy to afford protections to those fleeing devastating climate change impacts.

The white paper, “Shelter from the Storm: Policy Options to Address Climate Induced Displacement from the Northern Triangle,” examines the large-scale migration of residents from the Northern Triangle, the geographic formation made up of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. Experts project that by 2050, climate change will displace nearly 4 million people across Mexico and Central America.

“*[The United States] must improve its current policies to ensure that those who are forced to migrate due to climate change may do so with dignity and respect.*” CAMILA BUSTOS ’21

“The United States has played a leading role both in causing climate change and in contributing to the long history of political instability in Latin America. To right these wrongs, the United States must now be a leader in immigration reform. It must improve its current policies to ensure that those who are forced to migrate due to climate change may do so with dignity and respect,” said Camila Bustos ’21 of the University Network for Human Rights, another co-author of the white paper.

The experts’ report documents the deteriorating environmental conditions causing people to flee toward the United States from Central America. The Northern Triangle has already seen both increased severe weather events and long-term climate change. In 2020, Hurricanes Eta and Iota ravaged Central America, marking the most active storm season on record. The convergence of the hurricanes’ impact, the COVID-19 pandemic, and preexisting socioeconomic vulnerabilities in the region will continue to push people from their homes into urban centers and ultimately into the United States.

Vivek Maru ’01 Delivers Gruber Lecture

Vivek Maru ’01, a human rights advocate and Founder and CEO of the grassroots legal empowerment group Namati, delivered the 2021 Gruber Distinguished Lecture in Global Justice.



Vivek Maru

In 2011, Maru established Namati, an organization that trains and supports local public-interest advocates, popularly known as “community paralegals” or “barefoot lawyers,” in 10 countries. Namati’s efforts have yielded, among other outcomes, legal safeguards for women under Sierra

Leonean law, enhanced anti-corruption measures in Mozambique’s health industry, and regulation of sand-mining in Indian environmental law. Namati also houses the Legal Empowerment Network, which comprises more than 2,000 legal advocacy groups from more than 160 countries. In 2017, Maru delivered a TED Talk, “How to Put the Power of Law in People’s Hands,” which has been viewed more than 1 million times.

Maru’s October 25 talk, “Stop a Land Grab, Change the System: A Pathway to Climate and Environmental Justice,” was followed by a panel discussion the next day. The panel brought Maru into conversation with fellow practitioners of legal empowerment. Eileen Wakesho, an expert on women’s land rights, serves as Namati’s Community Land Protection Advisor in Kenya and previously worked with Oxfam, the Kenya Land Alliance, the Development Policy Management Forum, and the Kenya Institute for Public Policy. Gabriela Burdiles is Project Director at Fiscalía del Medio Ambiente (FISA), a Chilean organization that helps communities fight for environmental justice. Binger Clinical Professor of Human Rights James J. Silk ’89 moderated the discussion.



Vivek Maru delivered the 2021 Gruber Distinguished Lecture in Global Justice.

CLINIC ROUNDUP



“We want to produce policy materials that can be enacted and change how these institutions actually operate.”

PROFESSOR TRACEY MEARES

The Policing, Law, and Policy Clinic during the fall term

Policing Clinic Works to Put Theory into Practice

The **Policing, Law, and Policy Clinic** seeks to translate leading theory and empirical evidence on policing reform into actionable policies aimed at transforming policing and public safety.

The new clinic co-taught by Walton Hale Hamilton Professor Tracey Meares and Clinical Lecturer in Law Jorge X. Camacho '10 provides Yale Law School students with an opportunity to work on real-world policy projects related to policing and public safety.

The clinic maintains a close affiliation with the Law School's Justice Collaboratory (JC), of which Meares is a founding director and Camacho is the Policing, Law, and Policy Director.

“Our goal in the clinic is to teach students how to apply both classic and cutting-edge scholarship to real-world problems and to give them opportunities to bring these ideas to ground by working with policymakers,” Meares said, who described the relationship between the clinic and the JC as symbiotic. “We want to produce policy materials that can be enacted and change how these institutions actually operate.”

Through a partnership with the nonprofit Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center, headed by Megan Quattlebaum '10, clinic students work close-

ly with policy experts around the country and have opportunities to brief policymakers on pressing issues and potential solutions.

Working in small teams, clinic students tackle projects that assist state officials with effective ideas for policy reform.

“Though we often focus on national politics, some of the most exciting changes are happening at the state level,” added Callie Bruzzone '23. “The clinic's partnership with CSG allows us to help states with the technical and research assistance they need to carry forward this mission.”

According to Meares, this research-backed focus, coupled with giving clinic students the opportunity to engage in policy development work, sets the clinic apart in the conversation to reimagine policing, where the focus has largely been on more prescriptive responses.

“The clinic has been a remarkable opportunity to attempt to think about these problems in novel ways and see these conversations translated into substantive policies,” said Bruzzone, who is in her second year of working with the clinic. “This important work is ongoing, and there is still so much to be done.”

Justice Collaboratory and Partner Select Pilot Agency for New Project

Yale Law School's Justice Collaboratory and its partner have selected the District Attorney's office of Salt Lake County, Utah, as the pilot agency for their Elevating Trust and Legitimacy for Prosecutors Project. Salt Lake County was one of 27 applicants from prosecutors' offices nationwide for the program, a partnership between the Justice Collaboratory and the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys. Over 15 months, the pilot project will assess how the Salt Lake County District Attorney's office lawyers and staff interact with the public. Project staff help the agency implement evidence-based practices to increase trust between the office and the community. As the program got underway, two more sites were selected: Columbus, Ohio, and St. Paul, Minnesota. Site visits and intervention design have begun for all agencies.

CLINIC ROUNDUP

Free Exercise Clinic's Amicus Briefs Garner Attention

The Yale Law School Free Exercise Clinic co-authored an amici curiae brief in support of a historically Black Pentecostal community seeking the right to build a new facility on its land. On November 3, 2021, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit ruled for Victory Temple and cited the clinic's brief on behalf of the Sikh Coalition and General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Victory Temple brought suit in federal court under the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA), which protects religious assemblies from government-imposed burdens on religious use of land where the burden is not necessary to protect a compelling government interest.

Joseph Simmons '22, Eshan Dabak '23, and Ezra Husney '21 prepared the brief under the supervision of attorneys at Sidley Austin LLP and Clinical Lecturer in Law Chris Pagliarella '16.

"Helping to write the Sikh Coalition and General Conference amicus brief in Victory Temple was both an honor and a valuable learning experience," said Simmons. "For the Fourth Circuit to appreciatively cite our brief's analysis of RLUIPA was an unexpected bonus."

Pagliarella noted that the outcome in the case built on the clinic's prior success. The clinic filed the sole amicus brief at the U.S. Supreme Court supporting a petition by Amish plaintiffs whose religious way of life was threatened by a water-use regulation. The Supreme Court vacated that decision last July and directed further review, with statements from Associate Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. '75 and Associate Justice Neil M. Gorsuch echoing the clinic's brief.

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JOSEPH SIMMONS '22

MFIA Clinic Fights for Public Access in Puerto Rico

In October, the Media Freedom and Information Access (MFIA) clinic petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn a ruling by the Puerto Rico Supreme Court that cuts off public access to judicial proceedings involving domestic violence. Filed on behalf of the Asociación de Periodistas de Puerto Rico (the Puerto Rico Journalists Association), the petition seeks review of a high-profile case that has caused public outrage in Puerto Rico.

"By failing to consider the First Amendment right of access to judicial proceedings, the court broke the laws of Puerto Rico and the Constitution of the United States and took a major step against open government," said clinic student Emile Shehada '22.

In a separate case, the clinic won a ruling on the scope of the public's right to inspect law enforcement records of unsolved crimes. The victory affirmed a ruling MFIA won in 2020 requiring disclosure of police files related to the unsolved murder of Barbara Hamburg over a decade ago. MFIA represents two filmmakers in the case as part of its Local News Initiative.

Former clinic member Sara Sampoli '21 wrote the briefs and argued the appeal.

Her work on the case, along with that of Jake van Leer '20, was highlighted in the documentary miniseries *Murder on Middle Beach*, televised by HBO in 2020.

The MFIA Clinic is also working with Protect Democracy and law firms in Georgia and Missouri on a lawsuit against the website The Gateway Pundit on behalf of two women who served as election workers in Fulton County, Georgia, during the 2020 election. The suit charges the website with knowingly fabricating and disseminating false stories about the vote counting conduct of Ruby Freeman and her daughter, Shaye Moss.



CLINIC ROUNDUP



Veterans Clinic Sees Progress in Cases

The Veterans Legal Services Clinic (VLSC) saw a busy fall term as it continued its work on behalf of veterans affected by post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), military sexual trauma, and other behavioral or mental health conditions.

In a victory, the Department of the Navy has agreed to reconsider the “bad paper” discharges of thousands of veterans affected by these conditions made by the Naval Discharge Review Board. The agreement follows a settlement reached in a nationwide class action lawsuit preliminarily approved on October 12, 2021.

“This settlement, if finally approved by the court, will give thousands of wrongfully discharged veterans... the dignity, respect, and benefits they deserve,” said Brandon Baum ’23, a student in the clinic.

The lawsuit was first filed in March 2018; nearly a dozen Yale Law School students have worked on the case.

“This settlement comes after over three years of litigation,” said Baum. “It’s really exciting to see all that effort lead to meaningful change for so many veterans.”

In September, the clinic filed a federal class action lawsuit against the U.S. Air Force on behalf of Air Force veterans in similar circumstances to those in the Navy case.

The clinic also continued its work on behalf of veterans exposed to radiation while cleaning up after a 1966 nuclear accident in Palomares, Spain.

In a new federal suit, the clinic represents Edward P. Feeley, a U.S. Air Force veteran who participated at Palomares. The lawsuit asks the court to order the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) to expedite Feeley’s administrative appeal and to allow it to proceed as the

first-ever agency class action before the Board of Veterans’ Appeals.

“The Board can, and must, resolve the claims of this class of veterans. Feeley and other Palomares veterans are in their ’70s and ’80s, and many have life-threatening illnesses,” said clinic student Sarah Purtill ’22. “They do not have years to wait while the VA individually delays, denies, and appeals their claims.”

In another case, the clinic represents a U.S. Army veteran Ivan Ocon, who filed a petition for military naturalization. Ocon served six years in the U.S. Army but was deported to Mexico in 2016 due to a criminal conviction that, according to the clinic, no longer bars his naturalization under current law. Since his deportation, Ocon has served his community in Mexico as a leader of the Deported Veterans Support House.

Nate Urban ’21 and Casey Smith ’22 are part of the Veterans Legal Services Clinic team representing Ivan Ocon, a U.S. Army veteran who is petitioning for military naturalization.

