

# OPENING STATEMENT



(top) Professor Michael J. Wishnie '93; (bottom) Dean Gerken with student veterans after a Veterans Day brunch on Nov. 11, 2024

# Yale Law School's Growing Veteran Community

Service members enrich the student body

**Yale Law School's military community** continues to grow. Since 2017, the number of veterans and service members has expanded from just 1% of the incoming class to nearly 10% of the new J.D. class of 2027. In the first-year class alone, there are 19 veterans and service members representing various branches of the military. Approximately 45 students across the J.D. population this year are receiving Veterans Affairs benefits.

"We could not be more thrilled to see our veteran community grow and flourish at Yale Law School," said Dean Heather K. Gerken, who has made supporting veterans a core priority of her deanship. "Our student veterans and service members have made enormous sacrifices for our country, and their presence makes Yale Law School a far better place."

The boost in veterans on campus is a result of recruiting efforts and participation in the Yellow Ribbon Program, which helps veterans pay for tuition and fees not covered by the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Veterans and service members on campus have served in every branch of the military and bring that wide range of experiences and expertise to the legal field. The Law School has also worked to build community among the veteran population and ensure students have the resources and support they need while on campus and in their future careers.

Several events on campus in the fall spotlighted veterans. On Nov. 8, The Tsai Leadership Program welcomed four alumni who are veterans back to campus for a discussion on leadership and service. Matt Blumenthal '15 is a veteran of the Marine Corps Reserve, while Phil Kaplan '20, Zoe Kreitenberg '24, and Tian Tian Xin '19 served in the U.S. Army. The event was moderated by Luke Bronin '06, Senior Distinguished Fellow in Residence of The Tsai Leadership Program, a veteran who served in the U.S. Navy Reserve, and former mayor of Hartford, Connecticut.

On Veterans Day, Yale University honored Michael J. Wishnie '93, the William O. Douglas Clinical Professor of Law and founding director of the Law School's Veterans Legal Services Clinic.

"The clinic is tiny by comparison to most legal service organizations," said Gerken, who introduced Wishnie at the Veterans Day event on Beinecke Plaza. "And yet Mike and his students set out to do things that no legal organization in the country had even thought to do."

The clinic's cases included the ruling in 2017 by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit that a lower veteran-specific appellate court could certify a class action or adopt another mechanism for hearing aggregate claims, reversing decades of precedent and paving the way for veterans who have been denied benefits to pursue their cases collectively. The clinic's work led to the landmark ruling that the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC) could hear class claims and that court's subsequent 2018 decision — which the then-chief judge called a "seismic shift" — that it would.

"The stakes are too high, the odds too long, the causes too noble...," said Gerken of Wishnie. "And for three decades, I've watched him choose the right path, the hard path, the change-the-world path. He chooses service because it's his creed."

**Read about four first-year students, their military careers, their goals for their time in New Haven, and the mottos that inspire their approach to service at [law.yale.edu/student-vets-2024](http://law.yale.edu/student-vets-2024)**



(left to right) Alumni veterans Phil Kaplan '20, Matt Blumenthal '15, Tian Tian Xin '19, Zoe Kreitenberg '24, and Luke Bronin '06

# SCHOOL NEWS



(top) Alex Johnson '24 speaks at a 2023 press conference held by the Veterans Legal Services Clinic; (bottom) Professor Jay Pottenger Jr. '75 and lecturer Frank Dineen with clinic students in 2006

# Service Matters: How Yale Law School Clinics Change the World

**Clinics are rooted in a tradition of public service, bolstered by passion and intellectual insight, and tackle issues at the local, national, and international level**

**From modest beginnings**, the clinical program at the Law School has grown into one of the School's crown jewels. Unlike most law schools, Yale Law School students can join a clinic during the spring of their first year and stay for up to five semesters, allowing clinic students to take on cases with a longer time horizon and stick with them. Today, some 90% of students participate in one of the School's more than 30 clinics; for some, the opportunity to do so is why they come to Yale.

"The breadth of clinical opportunities and experiences was certainly amongst the most, if not the most, significant factor in my decision about where to go to law school," said Aaron Scherzer '10. He now directs the Policing Project at the New York University School of Law, a position he was drawn to in part because it reminded him of his "fantastic experiences with the clinics."

"Public service is built into the bones of the place," Dean Heather K. Gerken reflected. "It is astonishing to see the extraordinarily robust commitment to this work, both by clinical faculty but also by nonclinical faculty. It is an expectation that you will serve your community in one fashion or another."

Below are some highlights from a feature on Yale Law School's clinics. For the full text, visit [law.yale.edu/200th-clinics](http://law.yale.edu/200th-clinics).

"As early as the late 1920s, Yale students were committed to legal aid services in New Haven as a means of serving the surrounding community and gaining practical skills," Laura (Holland) Hoey '01 wrote in "Invading the Ivory Tower," a history of clinical education at Yale.

Among their many contributions, the trio of Daniel Freed '51, Dennis E. Curtis '66, and Stephen Wizner were instrumental in the passage of Connecticut's Student Practice Rule, which was (and remains) unusual in allowing even first-year students to represent clients and participate in clinics.

Michael J. Wishnie '93, William O. Douglas Clinical Professor of Law (and himself a former clinic student), said the involvement of first-year students "set in motion a clinical world where 1Ls could come in and 2Ls

and 3Ls could take seriously their ideals" — and tackle more ambitious issues and cases.

Today, clinics range widely, and students often participate in several during their time in law school. The diversity of subject matter has also given rise to a diversity of approaches. Sometimes, students and faculty are working with individual clients on short-term issues; clinics have also become involved in complex, multiyear cases.

Among those long and challenging cases is a 1992 action involving Haitian refugees detained at Guantánamo Bay; their cause was taken up by the Lowenstein International Human Rights Clinic. More than 100 students — Wishnie among them — would work on the case, which took nearly two years and eventually went before the Supreme Court. The saga later became the subject of a book, "Storming the Court: How a Band of Law Students Sued the President — and Won" by Brandt Goldstein '92.

Cases involving single clients have been no less impactful. The Challenging Mass Incarceration Clinic, for instance, obtained a significant sentence modification for Clyde Meikle, a client who spent more than 25 years in prison. Thanks to that change, Meikle was released in 2021 and now works with the Vera Institute of Justice as an advocate for incarcerated people.

Today, the influence of Yale's clinical program is felt far beyond New Haven, thanks to the generations of alumni who have gone on to teach in or create clinics elsewhere. For Wizner, the American Association of Law Schools Conference on Clinical Legal Education has become a family reunion of sorts. "We always would see 30, 40, 50 graduates of ours who are now clinical teachers," he said.

Scherzer is among that group. Most of his time in law school outside of class was spent in the clinic basement. "I remember many late nights there discussing legal issues or helping each other on filings or doing things like gathering exhibits, and just everyone pitching in together to help out," he said. "Basically, the clinics are where I found my real home in law school."

## CENTERS

## Center for Jewish and Israeli Law Offers New Approach to Interdisciplinary Study

The **Howard Wexler Brodie '93 Center for Jewish and Israeli Law** launched at the start of the academic year, led by Shibley Family Fund Professor of Law Yair Listokin '05. The center aims to be an interdisciplinary hub for the Law School's offerings related to Jewish and Israeli law, including scholarship, research projects, events, and student reading groups.



Yair Listokin

Listokin, a scholar of law and economics, has studied trends in Jewish law spanning more than 1,200 years.

"The study of both Jewish and Israeli law has a long tradition at Yale Law School," Listokin said, citing as an example Professor Robert Cover's path-breaking 1983 article

"Nomos and Narrative." "This new center will reestablish the Law School as an intellectual leader in these fields while pioneering new research."

In keeping with the Law School's tradition of fostering new ideas in legal theory, the center will apply novel thinking to age-old questions in each field. By using a social science methodology — as opposed to a law and humanities orientation that is the norm in studying Jewish and Israeli law — Listokin seeks to facilitate innovative ideas when considering trends in Jewish law and ancient legal questions in particular.

One project already underway in collaboration with computer scientists from Tel Aviv and Bar-Ilan Universities uses machine learning techniques. Listokin hopes to classify a dataset of hundreds of thousands of "responsa" — published rabbinical answers to questions of Jewish law — spanning more than 1,200 years. The project aims to identify trends in the evolution of Jewish Law over the millennia.

The center's launch is made possible thanks to the philanthropic commitment from Howard Wexler Brodie.

"This gift is a tribute to the rich tradition of Jewish and Israeli law scholarship at Yale," Brodie said. "My hope is that the center will inspire future generations to engage deeply with these important issues, driving forward both legal scholarship and the fight against intolerance."



Keith E. Whittington

## New Center Seeks to Safeguard and Promote Academic Freedom and Free Speech

The **Center for Academic Freedom and Free Speech (CAFFS)** launched at the start of the 2024–25 academic year. As a leading hub for academic freedom and free speech, it aims to safeguard these values for future generations.

CAFFS is led by David Boies Professor of Law Keith E. Whittington, who recently joined Yale Law School from Princeton University.

"The issues that the center will tackle are in the headlines every day, and they are vital to the functioning of universities and ultimately to American democracy," Whittington said.

"I'm excited to help the Law School play an important role in leading these critical debates."

The center's work will provide thoughtful scholarly commentary on difficult questions at the core of academic life, raise public awareness of issues surrounding academic and free speech, and generate discussions to guide policymakers and higher education leaders in how best to protect the values of universities.

Whittington is a scholar of academic freedom and free speech and has written extensively on both topics.

With a focus on rigorous research, scholarship, and discourse, CAFFS is well-positioned to become a leading voice in this critical area of inquiry. Workshops and public events will feature scholars, university leaders, advocates, and policymakers. Further programming will provide training and resources on how to engage in civil discourse, promote diversity of thought, and challenge one's own preconceptions.

The center is supported by the Stanton Foundation.

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

200 YEARS

## Rosenkranz Originalism Conference Examines 14th Amendment

The **Rosenkranz Originalism Conference** in October brought together prominent jurists and scholars to reflect on aspects of originalism in constitutional thought and practice.

The daylong event focused on the theme “the Original Meaning of the Privileges or Immunities Clause” of the 14th Amendment and featured a keynote address by Judge Neomi Rao of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

“As we often remind our students, the habits of mind that make for great scholars are the same habits that make for great lawyers — the ability to listen, to evaluate, and to change one’s mind. That spirit of intellectual growth and discovery is at the heart of what we’re here to do today,” Dean and Sol & Lillian Goldman Professor of Law Heather K. Gerken said in her welcoming remarks.

Speakers included John Harrison ’80, James Madison Distinguished Professor of Law and Joseph C. Carter Research Professor at the University of Virginia School of Law, and Rebecca Zietlow ’90, Distinguished University and Charles W. Fornoff Professor of Law and Values at the University of Toledo College of Law, who each participated in “crossfire”-style panels with Doyle-Winter Distinguished Visiting Professor in Law Steven G. Calabresi ’83 and Sterling Professor of Law and Political Science Akhil Reed Amar ’84.

**The 2024 Global Constitutionalism Seminar** was held on Sept. 5 and 6 and brought together judges and scholars from around the world. Session topics included **Judging in Times of Crisis; Climate Change and Indigenous Perspectives; Migration and Border; and Conflicts, Human Rights, and International Law.**

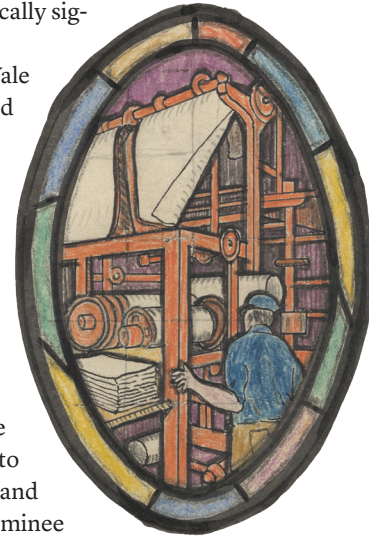
## Library Exhibit Celebrates Law School Bicentennial

In honor of Yale Law School’s 200th anniversary, the Lillian Goldman Law Library highlighted some of the School’s most historically significant artifacts.

“One Sound, Tested Method’: Yale Law School at 200,” curated and designed by Rare Book Librarian Kathryn James, ran until Jan. 13, 2025.

Some highlights included a photo of Arthur Corbin, Class of 1899, during the Yale Law Journal-Faculty baseball game in the early 1940s; the only extant copy of the earliest version of the Bluebook; early drawings of the stained glass that would come to adorn the Sterling Law Building; and a letter from then-presidential nominee Bill Clinton ’73 detailing his first encounter with Hillary Rodham ’73 at the Law Library.

Other notable items in the exhibit were newspaper clippings highlighting trailblazing alumni such as Alice Rufie Jordan Blake, Class of 1886, and Warner T. McGuinn, Class of 1887.



## Launchpad Scholars Program Begins Second Year of Breaking Down Barriers to Law School



Launchpad Scholars at the Welcome Summit in New York in August (left); James Forman Jr. '92 speaks with Launchpad Scholars at Yale Law School (right)

**Dipita Das knew she wanted to go to law school** but found it difficult to study for the LSAT during college. She worked several jobs to help support her family while attending Fordham University.

“I was never in a single place ... for more than a few hours a day,” she said. “Until Launchpad, no one sat me down and helped me visualize LSAT prep.”

Now, Das is receiving the support she needs through Yale Law School’s Launchpad Scholars Program. Since it was announced in 2022, the program has already

*“There are a lot of prohibitive barriers to entry to law school, especially as a first-generation American. I knew I could go to law school, but I didn’t know how.”*

LUCY CHEN, 2023–24 LAUNCHPAD SCHOLAR

*“My life has been saved by the cohort model, having people in my corner who are unconditionally supporting me.”*

ANDY FLORES, 2024–25 LAUNCHPAD SCHOLAR

*“I expected to gain resources that would help my application, and though I did that, I got more—I’ve gained lifelong friends.”*

KIRA BURNS, 2023–24 LAUNCHPAD SCHOLAR

touched the lives of 50 future lawyers from around the country, setting them on a course for success.

Last June 2024, the first cohort of Scholars concluded their year of the program with a weeklong residential institute at Yale Law School. The second cohort began their journey in August at a welcome summit at the New York City office of Latham & Watkins, which supports the program along with the Law School.

During the yearlong program, Scholars receive intensive LSAT preparation, step-by-step guidance

through the law school application process, and mentorship from Law School students and attorneys from Latham & Watkins. The program aims to break down barriers to law school and the legal profession for students from underrepresented backgrounds.

Getúlio González-Mulattieri, a Scholar in the first cohort, said the program left him feeling confident he has the knowledge and skills to prepare his law school applications.

“Most people from the program are first-generation Americans, low-income, or first in their families to graduate from college. I view this as part of the larger mission Launchpad has — to make sure you have the same tools as your wealthier peers,” he said.

So far, the LSAT metrics from the first cohort are impressive. Scholars who took an official LSAT saw a median score improvement of more than 15 points from their diagnostic exams, with some improving their scores by as much as 30 points. Five Scholars scored over 170.

“Applying to law school is hard, and applicants with familial and financial resources have a significant advantage over those without,” said Associate Dean of Admissions Miriam Ingber ’04. “Programs like Launchpad Scholars help ensure that applicants from all backgrounds can maximize their opportunities. Working with our incredible first cohort of Scholars has only underscored for me how much they have to contribute to the legal profession.”

Launchpad is the second pipeline-to-law-school program at Yale Law School, joining the Access to Law School program run by James Forman Jr. ’92, the J. Skelly Wright Professor of Law, which mentors students from the New Haven area.

EVENTS

## Tsai Leadership Program Hosts Vibrant Array of Fall Programming

**During the fall term**, The Tsai Leadership Program hosted a panoply of workshops, speaker series, and lectures aimed at preparing students for nontraditional career trajectories in the private and public sectors.



**The Crossing Divides Speaker Series** brought together faculty members Robert Post '77 and Keith E. Whittington for a Constitution Day event in September, moderated by Dean Heather K. Gerken on recent Supreme Court cases dealing with the First Amendment.



**The Ludwig Program in Public Sector Leadership** hosted conversations with Judge David Tatel on Oct. 9 (top); Shalanda Young, director of the Office of Management and Budget, on Oct. 23 (right); and Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. of the Cherokee Nation on Nov. 14.



**The Chae Initiative** hosted Daniel Pink '91, the author of several books on science, business, and creativity, to discuss his latest book and his varied career.



**For its Leadership in Business Speaker Series in October**, the Chae Initiative in Private Sector Leadership hosted Bryan Leach '05 (above); Morgan Stanley executive chairman James Gorman, moderated by Tom Glocer '84 (above right); and Nick Gulino '19 (right).



**In November**, the Crossing Divides series welcomed Steve Inskeep, host of NPR's "Morning Edition," moderated by Senior Distinguished Fellow in Residence Luke Bronin '06. Inskeep discussed his book "Differ We Must: How Lincoln Succeeded in a Divided America" and the lessons citizens today can take from past divisive moments in American history.





## FTC Chair Lina Khan '17 Speaks about Competition Policy in Health Care

As competition policy becomes more essential to the future of American health care, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has ramped up its efforts to protect consumers and competition in health care markets.

During a Sept. 16 event hosted by the Solomon Center and moderated by Abbe R. Gluck '00, Alfred M. Rankin Professor of Law and founding Faculty Director of the Solomon Center, FTC Chair Lina Khan '17 discussed the FTC's recent pathbreaking work in health care, with commentary from Martin R. Flug Visiting Professor of Law Eric A. Posner, a leading expert in antitrust law. The event took place before a capacity crowd of students in Yale Law School's Levinson Auditorium.

Khan began by addressing the importance of health care competition and the potential for unchecked market power wielded by platform-like intermediaries to create conflicts of interest, as in the tech industry.

Khan explained that the FTC enforces laws to protect consumers from fraudulent practices and ensure data security, with a particular focus on privacy concerns. The FTC has actively prosecuted privacy breaches cases, including those involving health care data. Khan noted that the lack of a national privacy law has left gaps in consumer data protection — especially sensitive health care data from commonly used mobile apps. Khan stressed the FTC's role in ensuring that companies handling health data do not exploit it for advertising or sale without consumer consent.

Khan discussed the FTC's proposed ban on non-compete clauses in employer contracts, which was issued in April 2024 but remains blocked following a federal court order. Khan described the process that led to the ban, including the FTC's empirical research that noncompete clauses harm labor markets by limiting health care providers' employment opportunities, which raises health care costs.

Khan also addressed the growing role of private equity in health care. She expressed concern about how private equity firms' strategies, such as selling off hospital buildings or other assets, could negatively impact health care quality and access. She pointed to empirical research suggesting that private equity ownership of nursing homes, for example, has led to declines in care quality.

### Solomon Center Fall Events

An Oct. 2 conversation hosted by the Solomon Center for Health Law and Policy brought Roselyn Tso, a citizen of the Navajo Nation who serves as Director of the Indian Health Service (IHS), to the Law School to discuss the challenges and opportunities of health care in Indian Country. Another Solomon Center event this fall brought together scholars, practitioners, and advocates to discuss new strategies for litigants and amici in firearms litigation on Nov. 7. A Sept. 26 panel on the future of the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA) was moderated by Priscilla Smith '91, Director and Senior Fellow of the Program for the Study of Reproductive Justice at the Law School.



FTC Chair Lina Khan '17 spoke in the Levinson Auditorium on Sept. 16.

## LAW OF FAME

## Taylor's Version (of the Law) Rules in Student-Led Reading Group



A new reading group made its debut during the spring 2024 term. Its theme: Taylor Swift.

Titled “The Law and Management of Global Fame,” the group parsed the legal issues raised by Swift’s career and life. They covered copyright infringement and song lyrics, children and contracts in the recording industry, ticket scalping, sexual assault, and defamation, among other topics.

“Everything should give you an opportunity to learn about law,” said Sterling Professor of International Law Harold Hongju Koh, the group’s faculty sponsor. “And studying law should be fun, not a chore. So my pedagogical approach has always been that if students are excited about something, that creates a learning opportunity.”

*“Everything should give you an opportunity to learn about law.”*

PROFESSOR HAROLD HONGJU KOH

The idea for the group was conceived by students Grace Kier ’25 and Briana Thompson ’25, who both saw connections to Swift in their legal interests and the law at large. The two thought the phenomenon surrounding her music and fame merited further examination.

“The Beatles, Muhammad Ali, Michael Jordan come along maybe once in a decade,” Koh said. “When they explode into our consciousness, we need to study and understand how they achieved it, not simply ignore or mock it. But if this kind of course gets mocked, well, shake it off.”

## ANNIVERSARIES

## Animal and Environmental Law Program Celebrates Five Years

The Law, Ethics & Animals Program at Yale Law School (LEAP) marked its fifth anniversary this fall by announcing a new name and affirming its vision.

LEAP is now known as the Law, Environment & Animals Program at Yale Law School. The name reflects a program that situates all animals — human and nonhuman alike — within the environments on which they depend, according to the program. The program’s central conviction — that humanity’s relationship with nonhuman animals is fundamentally a matter of ethics — remains the same, LEAP leaders noted.

“Over the last five years, we’ve seen firsthand the value of leveraging the talent, expertise, convening power, and resources of Yale University students and faculty to help protect animals and our shared planet,” LEAP Faculty Director and Joseph M. Field ’55 Professor of Law Doug Kysar said.

The program has a strong focus on the climate, animal welfare, and environmental impacts of animal agriculture and other industrial activities impacting animals and ecosystems at large scales. So far, LEAP has launched a litigation initiative, offered classes, created a fellowship program, started a program to advance bird-safe building design on Yale’s campus and beyond, convened workshops, produced a podcast, and hosted public events that have brought more than 40 leading thinkers — including lawmakers, scholars, artists, scientists, advocates, and journalists — to Yale.

In its fifth year, LEAP also sees changes to its team. Clinical Lecturer in Law Daina Bray, the program manager of LEAP’s Climate Change and Animal Agriculture Litigation Initiative since 2021, will now serve as the program’s legal director. LEAP co-founder Jonathan Lovvorn is stepping back from LEAP to focus on his work with the Humane Society of the United States, where he is the chief counsel for animal protection litigation.



### Two YLS Students Named 2024 Tillman Scholars

Hillary Browning ’25 (above left) and Zachariah Cobb ’27 (above right) are among the five Yale students named 2024 Tillman Scholars, recognizing their military service and commitment to improving people’s lives. Browning, a U.S. Navy veteran, and Cobb, a U.S. Air Force veteran, are part of the 2024 cohort of 60 Tillman Scholars, who were chosen from a nationwide pool of 1,600 applicants.

LEAP Executive Director Viveca Morris (back row, right) and Yale students and research collaborators involved in the Yale Bird-Friendly Building Initiative.



Ph.D. students in 2013

## Symposium Celebrates First Decade of Ph.D. in Law Program

**Students and alumni of Yale Law School's Ph.D. in Law program** came together this fall for a symposium marking the program's 10-year anniversary.

The two-day event opened with a roundtable discussion led by Dean and Sol & Lillian Goldman Professor of Law Heather K. Gerken and Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs Gordon Silverstein. Sterling Professor of Law Robert Post '77 also gave remarks.

Professional development sessions included "Getting Tenure," "Building a Post-Tenure Agenda," and

"Lateral Moves and How to Make the Most of Teaching."

Graduates and students spoke about their current academic projects. Presentations included Ph.D. in Law student Beau Baumann on "Resurrecting the Trinity of Legislative Constitutionalism," Luke Herrine '22 PHD on "The Student Debt Reset," and Molly Brady '11 JD, '16 PHD on "The Private-Law Origins of Single-Family Zoning."

The Ph.D. in Law program prepares J.D. graduates for careers as legal scholars and teachers.

## Initiative Produces New Scholarship on Online Propaganda and Social Media

**The first scholars** in the Information Society Project's (ISP) Majority World Initiative have produced publications revealing new ways global social media platforms can be weaponized through online propaganda.

Started in 2022, the Majority World Initiative supports social media governance scholars from the region of the same name by amplifying their work and drawing them into the global community of scholars.

In 2023–24, the initiative focused on online propaganda and social media, eliciting academic perspectives from Majority World nations where western social media companies have a significant, but understudied, influence.

The initiative's first scholars work at institutions in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Indonesia, and South Africa, among other countries, and hail from countries including Ethiopia, Vietnam, Kenya, and India. The publications cover topics such as rethinking regulating disinformation by focusing on the role of sources, the role of regulators within the majority world, disinformation and election integrity in Brazil, decentralizing social media in Africa, and online propaganda and weaponization of hate speech in India.

Salwa Hoque, the initiative's inaugural director, executed work leading to these eight new publications, which are available online from the project. The initiative furthers one of the ISP's core purposes, fostering a network of law and technology scholars around the globe.

GHJP

## Report Examines Interpersonal Violence in Elite Sports



**In advance of the 2024 Summer Olympics and Paralympics**, a group of researchers including Yale Law School faculty published a report on preventing interpersonal violence in elite sports.

The report, “Policy and Legal Frameworks for Preventing Interpersonal Violence in Elite Sport,” released in June 2024, explores the range of abusive practices directed against elite athletes and asks hard questions about the systemic failure to prevent, respond to, and reform the policies that give rise to abuse.

The report includes the voices of athletes, academics, lawyers, advocates, activists, medical doctors, and officers from a range of sporting bodies.

“Unlike many previous interventions, this report focuses not on one bad actor or one single site to fix. Instead, we explore the historical legacies of key institutions and the present conditions that give rise to abuse,” said co-author Alice M. Miller, co-director of the Global Health Justice Partnership (GHJP) at Yale Law School and the Yale School of Public Health.

An important part of the report links interventions to prevent and redress interpersonal abuse to conditions that enable abuse — including the structures and policies that privilege or deny privileges to athletes based on their gender, race, ability, and place of origin.

Miller noted that while the report focuses on elite sports, the authors hope it will have more expansive effects, especially because of the way elite sports practices trickle down to recreational and school-based sports.

In addition to GHJP, the report was published by The Sports Equity Lab, the Orville H. Schell Jr. Center for International Human Rights at Yale Law School, and Sports Law Solutions.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

## Justice Book Club Sparks Discussion on Mass Incarceration

The **Justice Collaboratory (JC)** at Yale Law School and The Law & Racial Justice Center (RJC) partnered in the fall to launch their first-ever Justice Book Club with the goal of sparking thoughtful ideas and conversation — a fundamental step toward meaningful change, according to the organizers. The centers organized volunteer facilitators from across Connecticut who in turn formed 11 reading groups, comprising more than 80 people.

Participants read sections of “Dismantling Mass Incarceration: A Handbook for Change,” a book of essays co-edited by J. Skelly Wright Professor of Law James Forman Jr. ’92, founder of the RJC and a JC member. Reading group members agreed to read a section of the book and come together for dinner and discussion.

The Justice Book Club event was held on Oct. 23 at the Afro-American Cultural Center at Yale. Participants included justice-impacted individuals, victims’ rights advocates, social workers, local high school teachers, college and high school students, prosecutors, public defenders, clergy, public administrators, former corrections officers, and health care workers.

Contributors to the book were also in attendance, including Forman; Raj Jayadev, co-founder of Silicone Valley De-Bug and author of the book “Protect Your People”; and Senior Research Scholar in Law Emily Bazelon ’00, a staff writer for The New York Times Magazine and co-host of the Slate podcast “Political Gabfest.”

Readers had the opportunity to ask questions of the authors, and attendees continued their conversations well beyond the scheduled end. One book club facilitator said that his entire group walked away not only more informed but deeply moved.

Forman remarked on the energy in the room: “Wow, I’ve done hundreds of book events, but none like that!”

The success of the book club discussion format could be a model for future community engagement and mobilization around critical justice issues, according to the organizers.



Professor James Forman Jr., Raj Jayadev, Emily Bazelon, and Caroline Nobo.

## HUMAN RIGHTS

## Schell Center Holds Events on Lebanon and *Dobbs*

The Orville H. Schell Jr. Center for International Human Rights hosted speakers who described a growing humanitarian crisis in Lebanon at an event on Oct. 16.

Lebanese international lawyer and legal scholar Chibli Mallat joined international human rights advocate and lawyer Kristine Beckerle '15 for the conversation, moderated by Robert W. Winner Professor of Law and the Humanities Paul Kahn '80, co-director of the Schell Center. The panelists, both based in Lebanon, discussed present conditions there, how they relate to the ongoing crisis in Gaza and the West Bank, and the implications for law and policy.

An Oct. 22 panel titled “Conscientious Objectors, Reproductive Rights, and the International System Post-*Dobbs*” explored the evolving tensions between reproductive rights, individual beliefs, and international legal norms since the Supreme Court’s decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*.

International law and public health experts included Clinical Professor of Law Claudia Flores; Associate Professor (Adjunct) of Law Alice Miller, co-director of the Global Health Justice Partnership at the Law School; and Mindy Roseman, director of international law programs and director of the Gruber Program for Global Justice and Women’s Rights.

Panelists discussed how the *Dobbs* decision reverberates in international law and the balance between respecting the rights of conscientious objectors — health care professionals who choose not to provide contraceptives, abortions, or related care due to conscience or religious beliefs — while ensuring access to reproductive rights.

## DIGITAL PUBLIC SPHERE

## ISP Essay Collection Explores AI’s Impact



The Information Society Project (ISP) at Yale Law School launched “Artificial Intelligence and the Digital Public Sphere,” a collection of five essays that explore how the advent of AI stands to impact the digital public sphere. Edited by Elisabeth Paar and Gilad Abiri, it is the fourth collection in the ISP’s Digital Public Sphere white paper series, which is published in collaboration with the Yale Journal of Law and Technology.

“These essays help to illuminate the complexity of this (re)shaping process, focusing on implications of AI on the digital public sphere,” said Paar.

The collection brings together essays by leading scholars to demonstrate how AI systems are imbued with the power to shape social identities, legal frameworks, labor relations, and the very fabric of shared digital space.

“We hope that this collection will not only contribute to scholarly debates but also inform policymakers, technologists, and citizens as we collectively navigate the challenges of ensuring that AI enhances rather than erodes our shared digital spaces,” said Abiri.

## SELA Holds Annual Conference

The Seminar in Latin America on Constitutional and Political Theory (SELA) held its annual gathering this year in Miami in June.

Michelle Bachelet, former twice-elected president of Chile and former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, gave the keynote address and joined several Saturday sessions.

Pictured are Ximena Benavides '06 LLM, '22 JSD; Eleonora Lozana; Nancy Yañez; Laura Saldivia '06 LLM, '15 JSD; Sebastian Guidi '17 LLM, '22 JSD; Michelle Bachelet; Francisca Pou '99 LLM, '05 JSD; Aida Torres '02 LLM; Pomeu Fabra; Natalia Angel-Cabo; María Paula Saffón; and Leticia Vita.

Each year the gathering brings together scholars to discuss a selection of papers written for the seminar. In 2025, SELA will celebrate 30 years of annual conferences.



## TECHNOLOGY

## Workshop Takes on Philosophical Questions of AI



**How should artificial intelligence** and related technologies be used and who gets to decide? Those questions are giving rise to a new subfield of philosophy that was the focus of a workshop at the Law School this fall.

The MINT-Yale Workshop on Normative Philosophy of Computing was a collaboration between Yale Law School's Charles F. Southmayd Professor of Law and Professor of Philosophy Scott Shapiro '90 and Associate Professor of Law Ketan Ramakrishnan '21, and Seth Lazar, professor of philosophy at Australia National University and the head of the Machine Intelligence and Normative Theory (MINT) Lab.

The event featured work by early career scholars, opening with a talk from Stanford's Jacqueline Harding, on "Defining Artificial Agency: Are Frontier AI Systems Agents?" Speakers also included Megan Hyska of Northwestern University on whether large language models are responsive to the semantic properties of their prompts and Valena Marie Caroline Reich of the University of Cambridge, who explored whether we should morally defer to AI assistants.

The conference addressed social epistemology, social philosophy of language, aesthetics, and normative approaches to philosophy of science and philosophy of the mind. M.K. Crockett of Princeton gave a talk titled "AI Surrogates as Agents of Epistemic Oppression," while Jenny Yi-Chen Wu (UCLA) delivered "What Is Social System Hacking?"

Other presentations included "Representative Algorithms," by Isaac Taylor of Stockholm University, "Opacity and Operative Reasons," by Samuel Dishaw of Université Catholique de Louvain, and "Efficient Information Storage as an Epistemic Norm," by James Hernández McIntyre of Rutgers.

The conference was sponsored by the Oscar M. Ruebhausen Fund at Yale Law School and Schmidt Sciences AI 2050.



Deja Morehead



Sharon Nunn



Jeremy Thomas



Ruth Tomlin

## Four Students Receive 2024 Susman Godfrey Prize

**Students Deja Morehead '25, Sharon Nunn '25, Jeremy Thomas '26, and Ruth Tomlin '26** received the 2024 Susman Godfrey Prize, the firm announced last spring. The prize is awarded annually to students of color who have demonstrated academic excellence and overall achievement. The four students are among 20 winners who each receive a prize of \$3,500 and ongoing mentorship from Susman Godfrey's partners and associates.

## POLITICS

## Vance Elected U.S. Vice President

**Sen. JD Vance '13** was elected vice president of the United States in November 2024 and was sworn in on Inauguration Day on Jan. 20, 2025. He is one of the youngest people to hold the office.

Born in Middletown, Ohio, Vance joined the United States Marine Corps and served in the Iraq War as a military journalist. After his military service, he attended Ohio State University and Yale Law School.

At Yale Law School, Vance was an editor for the Yale Law Journal and a member of the Veterans Legal Services Clinic.

After law school, he worked for Sen. John Cornyn and clerked for Judge David Bunning of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky. He later worked as a venture capitalist, before being elected to the U.S. Senate in 2022.

Vance's book "Hillbilly Elogy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis" was published in 2016. The book, which became a New York Times bestseller, explored the struggles of the Rust Belt town of his childhood. It was adapted into a film in 2020.



JD Vance

## CLINIC ROUNDUP

## Clinic Sues Seafood Factory, Saying Company Exploited Migrant Teens

**The Worker and Immigrant Rights** and Advocacy Clinic is suing a Massachusetts seafood processing plant in federal court, alleging the company forced three 15-year-old immigrants to work perilous overnight shifts in violation of child labor and other laws.

Legal nonprofit Justice at Work jointly filed the suit against Raw Seafoods in September. The company touts having practices based on “trust, reliability, [and] transparency.” But the lawsuit tells a different story of what went on in the New Bedford plant.

The teens worked under harrowing conditions, according to the complaint. As fish cutters, the three 15-year-olds used knives and machinery with sharp blades, ran a dangerous fish-sorting machine, cleaned machinery with toxic chemicals, moved heavy boxes, and spent most of their shifts in freezing cold, often risking severe injury, the lawsuit details.

“I had rashes all over my body all the time because of the work with the cleaning chemicals,” one of the plaintiffs said. “In school, I couldn’t write the next day because my hands were freezer-burned from work.”

The suit alleges that teens were made to work nine- to 11-hour shifts, leaving them only two to three hours of sleep a night. Those long shifts either

interfered with their ability to attend school or kept them from attending at all, according to the suit.

The teens no longer work at the plant but came forward to prevent abuse of other children, according to the clinic, which estimates that eight to 10 minors worked at the plant at the time.

The lawsuit alleges violations of the plaintiffs’ rights under state and federal labor law, federal civil rights law, and international human rights law. According to the suit, the defendants subjected the teens to coercion, psychological abuse, hazardous workplace conditions, and a discriminatory work environment.

The U.S. Department of Labor has previously investigated Raw Seafoods for workplace safety and labor violations, according to the clinic.

“Raw Seafoods is among countless other companies that exploit the vulnerable community of immigrant children with impunity,” said clinic member Mari Perales Sánchez ’25. “This country cannot allow powerful companies to use and abuse children as a business model.”

## Supreme Court Agrees with Clinics’ Amicus Brief

**The U.S. Supreme Court rejected** a challenge to funding of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, agreeing with an amicus brief by students in two Yale Law School clinics.

In a 7-2 decision issued in May, the court ruled in favor of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau in *CFPB v. Community Financial Services Association*. The decision sides with an amicus brief filed last year by students from the Housing and Community and Economic Development clinics of the Jerome N. Frank Legal Services Organization. The brief urged the court to consider what it described as grave racial justice implications that would come with dismantling the CFPB.

In its opinion, the court held that the CFPB’s funding structure, which allows the Bureau to request money directly from the Federal Reserve subject to a statutory cap rather than through annual Congressional appropriations acts, does not violate the Appropriations Clause of the Constitution.

The clinics’ brief, written alongside the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, emphasized the CFPB’s centrality to creating just financial markets for communities of color and low-income people. The brief argued that the unique nature of the Bureau’s financing is a response to power imbalances and a fear of regulatory capture by financial institutions.

This opinion allows the CFPB to continue to receive funding and preserves its status as a financial regulator. The decision marks a significant win in the fight to end discriminatory and predatory lending practices.



## VISITING THE LAW SCHOOL



**Melissa Dell**, the Andrew E. Furer Professor of Economics at Harvard University, delivered the John R. Raben/Sullivan & Cromwell Fellowship Lecture, titled “The Dynamics of Economic Organization: Persistence and Change,” on Oct. 7.



Feminist writer and activist **Jessica Valenti** gave the fall 2024 Gruber Distinguished Lecture in Women’s Rights, titled “The Post-Roe Fight for Freedom,” on Nov. 11.

## CLINIC ROUNDUP

## Coalition Works to Pass Historic Bill for Domestic Violence Survivors



(top) Rep. Jon Echols of Oklahoma spoke to attendees at the kick-off event; (bottom) Professor Miriam Gohara, director of the Criminal Justice Advocacy Clinic, welcomed attendees.



**Yale Law School's** Criminal Justice Advocacy Clinic (CJAC) is spearheading efforts to pass a Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act (DVSJA) in Connecticut in the 2025 legislative session.

A DVSJA bill will provide pathways for trauma-informed sentencing and commutation relief for those who can prove their criminal conduct arose from their personal experience of abuse and domestic violence, according to the clinic.

The CJAC has spent the past year working to build a coalition of partners to generate support for the legislation, which if passed would be the first of its kind in New England.

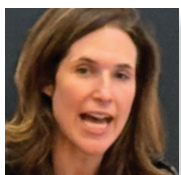
"One in four women are domestic violence survivors, and 75% of women in prison have experienced domestic violence," said Clinical Professor of Law Miriam Gohara, the director of CJAC. "Legislation like the Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act is a much-needed step toward supporting system-involved survivors."

The clinic hosted a kick-off event in September 2024 featuring Oklahoma Majority Floor Leader Rep. Jon Echols, who led successful efforts to pass a similar bill in his home state.

During the event, Echols spoke about his experience leading the near-unanimous passage of the Oklahoma Survivors' Act earlier in 2024.

Echols was joined by Alexandra Bailey, a senior campaign strategist at The Sentencing Project, who spoke about importing the lessons from Oklahoma to Connecticut's fight to pass a DVSJA bill.

"The evening was a testament to the bipartisan and universal desire for systemic change around our justice system and extreme sentencing," Bailey said.



On Oct. 1, the Center for Global Legal Challenges hosted **Kate Heinzelman '09**, general counsel of the CIA.



At an Oct. 8 event, the Center for Global Legal Challenges hosted author **Patrick Quinton-Brown** in a discussion with Howard M. Holtzmann Professor of Law Aslı Bâli '99 about his book, "Intervention before Interventionism: A Global Genealogy."