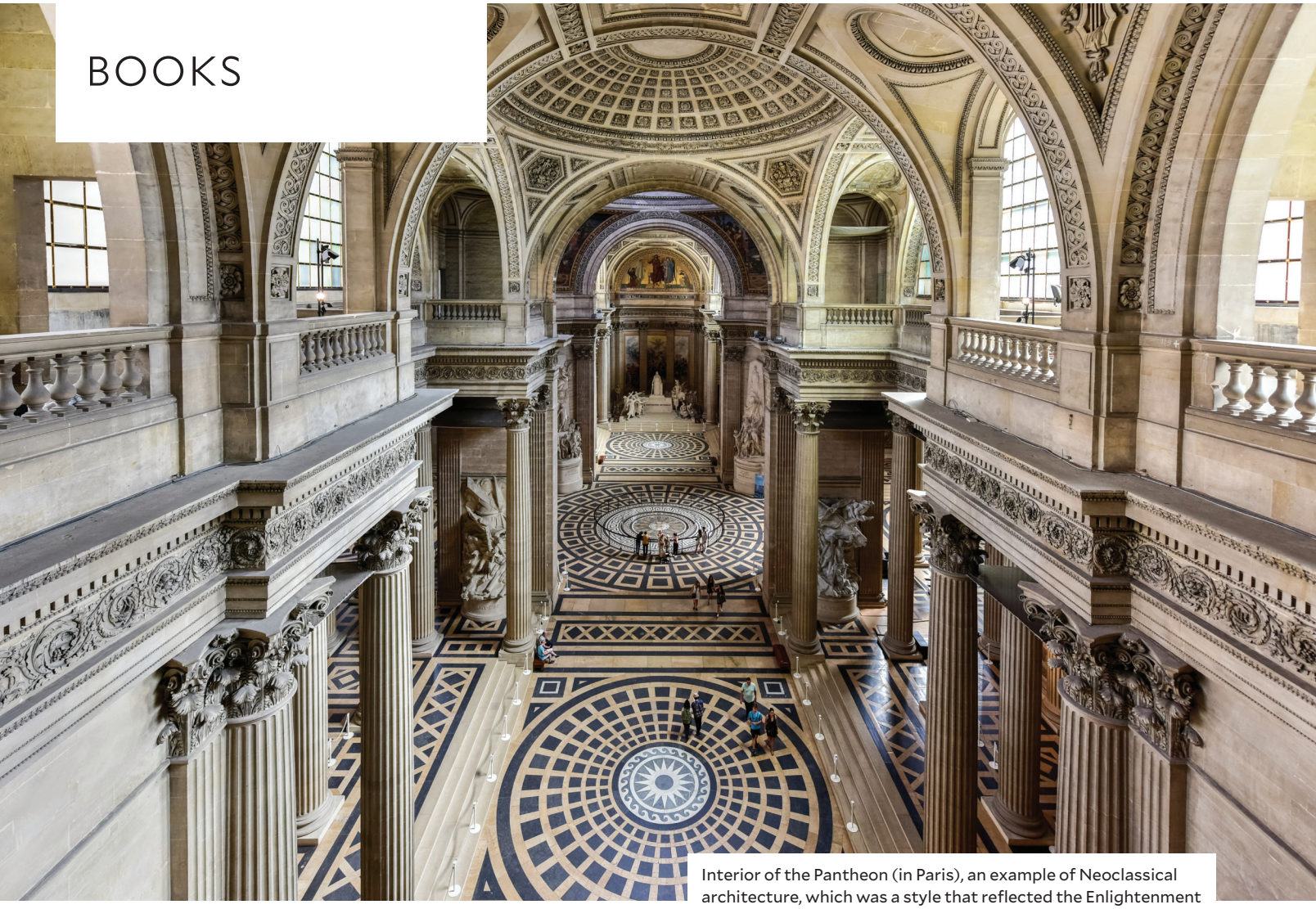
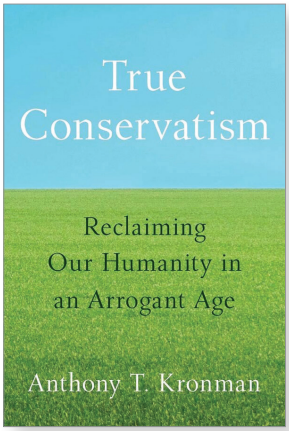


Interior of the Pantheon (in Paris), an example of Neoclassical architecture, which was a style that reflected the Enlightenment ideals of reason, order, and beauty



Anthony Kronman
"True Conservatism: Reclaiming Our Humanity in an Arrogant Age"
Yale University Press, 2025

"The Splendor of What Is Excellent and Rare"

A treatise on a new conservatism

"The rich and enlightened societies of the modern West are the most prosperous, tolerant, and democratic the world has ever known," writes Sterling Professor of Law Anthony Kronman '75 at the beginning of his book, "True Conservatism: Reclaiming Our Humanity in an Arrogant Age." All people have reason, he says, to subscribe to the leading ideals of our enlightened civilization — those of political equality, religious toleration, and scientific reason. But these ideals harbor three prejudices, Kronman argues, that do great damage to the human spirit and the possibility of human fulfillment. One is the belief that equality is not only an important value, but the highest one of all, dictating the terms on which every other value is to be given its appropriate weight. A second is that the past is merely a storehouse of useful experiments on which

Pantheon photo by Felix Lipov/Shutterstock

Kronman proposes "the conservatism of a child of the enlightenment, grateful to have been born when he was yet not entirely at home in his enlightened world."

people are free to draw as our present needs require. A third prejudice is that the existence of God is a belief to which one may or may not subscribe — and not the truth about the world. In his book, Kronman diagnoses each of these prejudices and shows how it cuts us off from what people need to live lives of a fully human kind: an appreciation of the worth of custom and inheritance; an openness to the splendor of what is excellent and rare; a feeling for the expansive solidarity of our friendship for the dead; and a recognition of the dignity, indeed necessity, of the human longing for a connection to the eternal and divine.

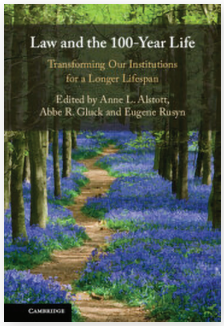
In Kronman's view, the true conservative is the one who seeks to protect these human values in an enlightened age that puts all of them at risk, without repudiating the ideals of equality, reason, and toleration that ought to continue to inspire our loyalty and commitment. His is a humanistic conservatism based on "many years reading and teaching old books of great power and beauty in an undergraduate program devoted to the study of literary, philosophical, and historical works of lasting value." It is, he says, "the conservatism of a child of the enlightenment, grateful to have been born when he was yet not entirely at home in his enlightened world." The aim of his book, Kronman writes, is "to show that humanism is conservatism, not at all times and places, perhaps, but under the aegis of the prejudices that surreptitiously accompany our enlightened ideals and, drawing false authority from them, do so much harm" to the human spirit.

Reimagining Law and Policy for the 100-Year Life

How longer lives will transform America's institutions

Over the last 75 years, public health innovations, medical advancements, and improved living standards helped increase life expectancy in the United States from an average of 60–70 years towards the "100-year life"—with the number of centenarians expected to more than quadruple by 2054.

Anne L. Alstott '87, Abbe R. Gluck '00, and Eugene Rusyn '17 anticipate the major transformations this demographic shift will have throughout society in their co-edited volume, "Law and the 100-Year Life: Transforming Our Institutions for a Longer Lifespan." The book gathers nearly three dozen leading legal experts across a wide range of fields for an interdisciplinary exploration of how law will be influenced by and need to adapt to this new longevity.



Anne L. Alstott, Abbe R. Gluck, and Eugene Rusyn, eds.
Law and the 100-Year Life: Transforming Our Institutions for a Longer Lifespan
Cambridge University Press, 2025

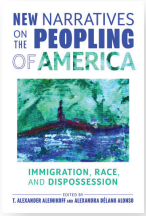
Core institutions touching nearly every aspect of life will be impacted by Americans living longer. Challenges already include accommodating new family structures, aging-friendly housing, and employment arrangements, as well as addressing age-related inequalities in education, retirement, health care and caregiving, immigration, and criminal justice. "Law and the 100-Year Life" diagnoses how current frameworks fall short of these growing societal needs, warns of the potential for worsening disparities and discrimination, and proposes policy reforms for ensuring greater opportunity and quality of life.

"Law, thus broadly conceived," the authors write, "has an essential role to play in who will age, how they age, where they age, and more. The chapters in this book are meant to provoke creative and ambitious thinking about the law's potential as a tool, rather than an obstacle, to a better 100-year-life." The contributors set the stage for academics, policymakers, and practitioners to tackle the sweeping challenges associated with more Americans living longer than ever before.

The volume is co-edited by Jacquin D. Bierman Professor in Taxation Anne L. Alstott, Alfred M. Rankin Professor of Law Abbe R. Gluck, and Eugene Rusyn, associate research scholar at the Law School's Solomon Center for Health Law and Policy. The book's 28 contributors include Law School faculty members Joseph M. Field '55 Professor of Law Douglas Kysar, Augustus E. Lines Professor of Law John Morley '06, and Professor of Law Taisu Zhang '08.

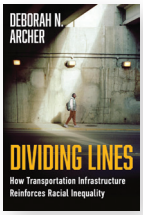
SURVEY OF BOOKS

Here's a sampling of the many other books recently written or edited by our alumni, faculty, staff, and students. We welcome your submissions. Please contact us: *lawreport@yale.edu*.



T. Alexander Aleinikoff and Aleandra Délano Alonso, eds.
New Narratives of the Peopling of America: Immigration, Race, and Dispossession
Johns Hopkins University Press, 2024

In this collection of essays, editors Aleinikoff '77 and Alonso reexamine immigration narratives as part of a larger story of forced displacement. The authors range from academics to activists and emphasize the voices of indigenous, enslaved, and migrant people.

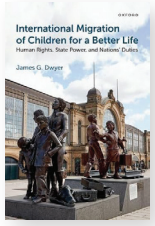


Deborah N. Archer
Dividing Lines: How Transportation Infrastructure Reinforces Racial Inequality
W.W. Norton, 2025

Archer '96 describes how transportation infrastructure perpetuated segregation and inequality after the fall of Jim Crow. When the Civil Rights movement ended state-sanctioned racism, wealthy whites used decisions about zoning, roads, sidewalks, and highways to keep Blacks separated.

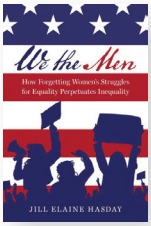
Bernadette Atuahene
Plundered: How Racist Policies Undermine Black Homeownership in America
Little, Brown and Company, 2025

Atuahene '02 unveils the thinly hidden world of predatory governance in property law that drove entire Black neighborhoods to vacancy in Detroit. She operates in both story and scholarship, tracing the narrative of two multigenerational families who moved to Detroit in the early 20th century to investigate how public officials widened racial wealth gaps through targeted property tax foreclosures in the city.



James G. Dwyer
International Migration of Children for a Better Life: Human Rights, State Power, and Nations' Duties
Oxford University Press, 2025

Dwyer '87 takes to task extant international law for its limited ability to address the needs of children in emergencies such as war, famine, and natural disasters. Current response and development policies prioritize the transformation of local conditions so people can quickly return or stay in place. He argues that these strategies are inadequate for children upon whom adverse environments have outsized impacts. Dwyer raises novel recommendations such as eliminating citizenship for children altogether, disallowing state inhibition of children's departure, prioritizing children over adults in immigration policy, and mass evacuating children from nations that cannot protect them.

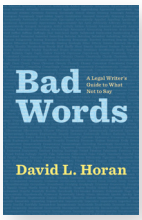


Jill Elaine Hasday
We the Men: How Forgetting Women's Struggles for Equality Perpetuates Inequality
Oxford University Press, 2025

Hasday '97 powerfully argues that despite a Constitutional commitment to representing "We the People," America has fixated upon stories about law and society only featuring We the Men. A national amnesia regarding women's struggles for equality and a hiatus upon its agendas, such as passing the Equal Rights Amendment, perpetuates injustice, promotes complacency, and denies how generations of women have had to come together to fight for reform and against regression. In remembering women's stories, Hasday points out the persistence of sex discrimination in this country and asserts that real progress has always required women to disrupt the status quo, demand change, and duel with powerful opponents.

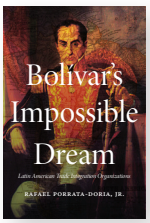
Robert E. Hawkins
She Won the Vote for Women: The Life and Times of Lillian Beynon Thomas
Great Plains Press, 2024

Through this in-depth biography, Hawkins '79 LLM traces the story of Lillian Beynon Thomas, a pioneer in Canada's first-wave suffragist movement. Her work saw early-on gains for women's equality when Manitoba, a Prairie province, became the first Canadian jurisdiction to enfranchise some women. Alongside her victories for suffrage, the account unearths Beynon Thomas's humble agrarian roots, her tireless work in the "votes for women" campaign, and her groundbreaking use of grassroots activism and new strategies that would deeply influence Canadian democracy.



David L. Horan
Bad Words: A Legal Writer's Guide to What Not to Say
Carolina Academic Press, 2024

In this legal writing guide, Horan '00 provides an account of words and phrases that should be invoked sparingly, or not at all. The chief way for law students and practitioners to improve their legal writing and communication with readers, according to the book, is to limit the use of unhelpful adjectives and adverbs. Replete with a "Top 50 to Avoid" list, Horan catalogues and explains why certain overused phrases should be skipped.



Rafael A. Porrata-Doria
Bolivar's Impossible Dream: Latin American Trade Integration Organizations
Carolina Academic Press, 2024

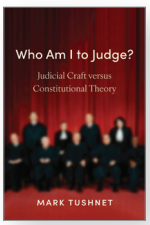
Porrata-Doria '77 asks what has hindered the four major Latin American trade integration organizations — the Andean Community, MERCOSUR, the Alianza Bolivariana de las Américas ("ALBA"), and the Unión Suramericana ("UNASUR"). All have failed to thrive or, as in the case of ALBA and UNASUR, become defunct. The author analyzes and diagnoses by exploring the contexts in which each regional economic group arose, as well as their disparate mission statements, structures, and dispute resolution systems.

Daniel J. Solove
On Privacy and Technology
Oxford University Press, 2025

In this succinct and accessible primer, Solove '97 tackles the debate on whether the law can protect privacy in an accelerating world of digital technologies and AI proliferation. Solove contends that technology can be effectively regulated when Big Tech is reined in and companies are held accountable. He also provides incisive examinations of key concepts in the digital sphere, including control, manipulation, harm, automation, reputation, consent, prediction, inference, and many others.

Miranda S. Spivack
Backroom Deals in Our Backyards: How Government Secrecy Harms Our Communities and the Local Heroes Fighting Back
The New Press, 2025

Spivack '78 MSL brings the secretive world of local government corruption to stark light through investigative reporting. The narrative nonfiction work compiles the journeys of several "accidental activists" across the country, as each begins questioning the failures of their governments to fulfill their duties and safeguard their communities. The neglect of their neighborhoods, Spivack discloses, is propped up by a realm of furtive, closed-door political decisions — prompting astonishment as well as advocacy for more honest change.



Mark Tushnet
Who Am I to Judge?: Judicial Craft versus Constitutional Theory
Yale University Press, 2024

Tushnet '71 asks a fundamental question: Do we need a theory of constitutional interpretation? Constitutional theories such as originalism are currently referenced as systematic, consistent, and thus necessary modes of legal analysis. The book delves into Supreme Court history to show that such theories have rarely determined the operating framework for the highest court in the land. Rather than adjudication by strict theory, Tushnet argues that citizens should pay attention to other characteristics of their judges: such as experience, intellectual curiosity, and demonstrated good judgment.

ALSO OF NOTE

Reginald Dwayne Betts '16
Doggerel: Poems
W. W. Norton & Company, 2025

James T. Carney '67
Catiline, Rebel of the Roman Republic: The Life and Conspiracy of Lucius Sergius Catilina
Pen and Sword, 2023

Christi Harlan '95 MSL
Normal Lives: President Jimmy Carter and His Church
Christi Harlan Media LLC, 2024

Adam Haslett '03
Mothers and Sons
Little, Brown and Company, 2025

John B. King Jr. '07
Teacher by Teacher: The People Who Change Our Lives
Legacy Lit, 2025

Henry A. Kissinger, Craig Mundie, and Eric Schmidt with Eleanor Runde '23
Genesis: Artificial Intelligence, Hope, and the Human Spirit
Little, Brown and Company, 2025

Mary Marantz '06
Underestimated: The Surprisingly Simple Shift to Quit Playing Small, Name the Fear, and Move Forward Anyway
Revell, 2025

John Henry Merryman, Stephen K. Urice, Simon J. Frankel '91, eds.
Law, Ethics, and the Visual Arts, 6th ed.
Cambridge University Press, 2025

Ursula Werner '91
Magda Revealed
She Writes Press, 2025