

Announcement of the Yale Law School Tomorrow Campaign
Dean Harold Hongju Koh
Alumni Weekend
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Welcome home, and welcome to Alumni Weekend.

Some cultures consider Friday the 13th to be an unlucky day, but here at Yale Law School, tonight is a lucky night: a night to celebrate the Law School we love and to honor the community that nurtures us still. Some of us first came to this place more than sixty years ago; some of us first came just weeks ago. But for each of us, the impact of our time here has been deep and lasting.

Tonight we ponder just what it takes to keep such a great institution alive.

In this, the sixth year of the 21st century, we are fast approaching the 200th anniversary of legal education here at Yale University. History records that formal legal education began here around 1814. That was at least three years before a law school was founded somewhat north of here on the Charles River, and 32 years before a law school was founded at Princeton, which closed its doors forever only six years later.

But from the beginning, ours was a different kind of school, built not on size or wealth, but on excellence and intimacy. Over the course of two centuries, through the work of many hands, our School emerged as a national and global treasure, as Guido Calabresi likes to say, an institution that is “more unique than rare.”

Just what is it that makes Yale Law School unique, a place that stands out even among the world’s most special law schools? One could point to many things. But let me single out three: our people, our values, and our community.

What defines Yale Law School most are its people: both those assembled here and thousands not here whom you represent. Yale Law School lives in today’s students, faculty and staff who are working, even as we speak, in the Law School building and library across the street.

Every year, we welcome a class of the world’s most talented and ambitious students, students who represent the finest and most promising legal minds of their generation. To teach them, we assemble the world’s most accomplished law faculty, a group that leads legal scholarship with its originality and daring. Our School’s academic programs now touch the entire globe. No law school offers its students and faculty more, or asks more of them in return.

What makes us special, secondly, are our values, bred in the traditions of the past. This School has always run on the belief that if we pursue the right values—humanity and excellence, theory and practice, inquiry and discovery --the results will take care of themselves. What matters not is what we achieve, or how we are ranked, but who we are and what we value.

Third and most important, we are a community. Yale Law School is a community. Many law schools are professional training centers, but they do not feel like communities. But our school is different

From century to century, from graduating class to graduating class, this School has remained a community of commitment to the values we share. Many committed individuals belong to no community. Many communities share no commitments. But what has made Yale Law School so special is that we are a community of commitment:

commitment to the highest excellence in our work as lawyers and scholars, commitment to the greatest humanity in our dealings with others, and commitment to the deepest devotion to careers not of selfishness, but of service.

With this strong foundation—in people, values, and community—tonight, we set our sights on tomorrow. As our forebears recognized, the education of great lawyers shapes the future of the nation. Our mission has never been just to supply lawyers to the profession. Our broader mission has always been to sustain the very integrity of constitutional democracy and the rule of law. Yale Law School is not just another professional school; we are an intellectual center of high moral purpose. And tomorrow, we must train our students to adapt to new global challenges, and to use the tools of law to make a better world.

And so our mission tomorrow is to train not just Connecticut's lawyers, not just America's lawyers, but to train the world's lawyers and to shape the future's leaders.

To ensure that Yale Law School fulfills that distinctive mission, we must build a school that is changeless in spirit, while always changing to face the future. We do this as part of an effort that has gripped all of Yale University. Two weeks ago, in this place, Yale University formally launched a five-year capital campaign to secure Yale Tomorrow, a \$3 billion campaign under the inspired leadership of President Levin.

Tonight, with your help, we are proud to enter the public phase of our campaign to secure the future of our School. The Campaign for Yale Law School Tomorrow will be an ambitious, five-year initiative to secure forever the School's leading position. To do that, we seek \$200 million to support students, faculty, academic programs, and renewal of our residential experience. The Campaign book that you have at your table outlines the elements of that Campaign. The support we seek will be committed in four ways:

- First, a commitment to *Students*: We seek \$50 million to support our students with increased financial aid, loan repayment assistance and research and travel funds. By attracting resources to ensure that our students can choose their careers without regard to the income they will earn, we also serve our longstanding commitment to Public Service.
- Second: a Commitment to *Faculty*: At the core of our great law school is its peerless faculty. But our faculty must change with the generations. In this campaign, we seek \$50 million to support existing faculty chairs and to create new ones. Yale Law School cannot continue as the leading center for legal learning unless we have the resources to recruit, retain, support and motivate a faculty that is, person for person, the best in the world.
- Third: a commitment to *Community*. The strength of our community rests not just in our students and faculty, but also in our programs and our facilities.
 - In this campaign, we seek \$25 million to support emerging programs in law and globalization, clinical offerings, and programs that link law to other professions, such as business and corporate law, public health, journalism, and the environment.
 - The character of our community depends, in part, on the fact that for centuries, our students have not just studied together, they have lived and worked alongside one another. Over the years, the inevitable expansion of faculty and student activities and academic

programs had cut into our community's residential space. We are now the only law school in America that stands on the same footprint on which we sat in 1930. And so tonight, I am pleased to announce that President Levin has agreed to support the revival of our residential life by allocating to us, by the year 2012, the University's Swing Dormitory, a 125,000 square foot facility just across the street from the law school and adjacent to the Payne Whitney gymnasium. As part of our campaign for community, we will seek \$25 million to renovate this facility, and to make it a welcoming home for future generations of Yale law students.

- Fourth and finally: a commitment to *change*. We seek \$50 million in unrestricted support over the course of the campaign to respond to our emerging needs. Ten years ago, we did not fully appreciate the significance of globalization, avian flu, the internet, or international terrorism for the way in which we think, write, and study about law. Over the course of the next decade, we need to prepare our students, faculty, curriculum and programs for a set of challenges whose precise contours are only just emerging. With such a small student body, we cannot meet those challenges entirely through tuition. By building our endowment, and helping to cover our annual costs, our campaign will go a long way toward helping to secure our financial future.

In sum, we seek your support for our students, our faculty, our community, and our future. You may be asking: Why does an institution as rich as Yale Law School need more money? The answer is simple: because the excellence and intimacy you remember has its price. Because your education was paid for, in large part, not by you, but by those who came before you, and now it is your turn. Because in a rapidly globalizing world, we simply have to change, if we are to stay the same. And because of all the law schools in all the towns in all the world, only we have a unique aspiration. They all want to be more like the Yale Law School of today. But our goal is to shape the future of law, by building the Yale Law School of tomorrow.

Securing Yale Law School's future will not be easy, but it will be necessary. And consider this: if we strengthen our endowment, if we replenish our faculty, if we solve our space needs, and if we plan for continued change, we will have, in the first years of this millennium, secured the future of this great institution.

We cannot do this without great leadership. You have all received a copy of our Campaign Launch book, which lists the members of our Campaign Committee. This committee represents the depth and breadth of our matchless alumni body, who have taken the first steps to lead this ambitious effort. Each of these individuals have put our campaign on a path to success by making a leadership commitment. To each and every one of our committee members, let me say how very deeply grateful I am.

Thanks to their extraordinary generosity, tonight I am pleased to announce that we have closed our campaign nucleus fund after the first two years—the quiet phase of our Campaign—with a total raised toward our \$200 million goal of: \$101 million. After just two years, we are already more than halfway to our goal. That is a remarkable result, but the hardest work is just beginning.

There are many here tonight who must be thanked for these efforts, but let me single out just two leaders of our school and their colleagues: our Associate Dean for Development Mark LaFontaine and his wonderful staff, and our brilliant Associate Dean for Alumni and Public Affairs Toni Davis and her tireless staff, who have made this marvelous Alumni Weekend possible.

Let me say, in closing, that Yale Law School has always been a little bit different. For nearly two centuries, we have welcomed extraordinary people and trained them to do extraordinary things. Our great accomplishments have been possible because of our great aspirations, our great expectations, and our devoted graduates and friends. Your generosity has sustained this school for two centuries, and has given the resources to make constant innovation possible.

For the next five years, we will work together to shape Yale Law School Tomorrow. In support of this noble goal, I pledge to you tonight every ounce of my energy, my passion, and my sacred honor.

My friends, this is our calling: To Secure Yale Law School's future: To build a school that preserves the people, values and community of today and that prepares them for the challenges of tomorrow.

Thank you so much for being here tonight. Thank you for your friendship and your generosity.

If we dream together, we can imagine a school that is even greater than Yale Law School of today. Let us work together so that we can build Yale Law School Tomorrow.

Thank you all so very much.