

**HARVARD LAW SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**

**REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

**2006 - 2008**



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It has been an honor to serve as President of the Harvard Law School Association. As I approach the conclusion of my two year term, I am reminded of the HLS family – a circle of friends – and of how much I have enjoyed meeting and interacting with fellow alumni. The HLS Association represents over 35,000 alumni. We are practicing lawyers, indeed. We are also judges and justices sitting on the highest courts of the world. We are academicians, world leaders, and elected officials. We run major league baseball, football, basketball, boxing and golf. We are writers, actors, directors, and producers. We are public servants. We oversee Homeland Security and have served as Secretaries of the Army and Air Force. We are leaders at the SEC, World Bank, and United Nations. We forecast the stock market, provide you with places to shop, eat, and drink, and provide you with the credit cards to pay for it all. We are business leaders and household names. We are a diverse and amazing network of alumni and members of the Harvard Law School Association. Serving this constituency has been a tremendously rewarding experience.

The Harvard Law School Association has enjoyed a very productive two years. My heartfelt thanks and appreciation go to my fellow members of the Executive Committee. They have devoted their time and energies to building and maintaining a strong Association. I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of Local Association Presidents, Committee Chairs, and Council members whose work continues to bring us together by area and special interest. Finally, I would like to recognize those at the School who make our efforts possible. First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere thanks and deep gratitude to our tireless, dedicated, and supportive Dean, who has spent endless hours with alumni – both on the road and at the podium. I would also like to thank those faculty members and administrators who have participated in weekend celebrations and reunions, and who have traveled to events across the globe, and the Alumni Center staff for their support on the development and communications side. Lastly, a special thanks to our staff – the staff of Alumni Relations – that supports Association initiatives and serve as Law School ambassadors to our alumni worldwide. Donna Chiozzi and her crew never cease to amaze me with their commitment, talents and poise. I have greatly enjoyed working closely with each of them.

Allow me to highlight some of our accomplishments over this two-year period.

- Local Associations met with regularity throughout the United States.
- International gatherings were hosted in many major cities worldwide, including Mexico City, Monterrey, London, Dublin, Tokyo, Toronto, Frankfurt, Lisbon, Taormina, and Shanghai
- Summer receptions were held for summer associates and alumni in major cities around the country. The NYC Summer party remains the largest alumni gathering in the history of HLS. It is the most anticipated event of the season!

- We had the pleasure of conferring two Harvard Law School Association awards:
  - Olara Otunnu '78 , Under-Secretary-General, United Nations; President, LBL Foundation for Children
  - Robert B. Zoellick '81, President of The World Bank
- Alumni meetings were held in conjunction with the ABA, AALS, and some State bar gatherings.
- The Native American Alumni held a major reunion in Cambridge.
- The Women's Network, sponsored by the HLSA Alumnae Committee, gathered in New York, Washington, San Francisco, New Jersey, Houston, and a newly formed Massachusetts
- The Recent Graduates Committee held events in Washington, New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Massachusetts
- A renewed effort to cultivate students and include them in programming has been underway. Our work with Class Marshals will continue through the 3-year.
- Four very successful reunions were held during this time. Many classes enjoyed record-breaking attendance. Keynote speakers included Hon. Anthony Kennedy '61, United States Supreme Court; Kenneth Chenault '77, CEO of American Express; Michael Kinsley '77, political journalist and TV commentator; Hon. Paul Clement '92, Solicitor General of the United States; Hon. Deval Patrick '82, Governor of Massachusetts; Juliette Kayyem '95, Under-secretary of Homeland Security, Massachusetts, David Gergen '67, Professor and Political Commentator; and Michael Brown '88, Co-founder of City Year.
- 24 Class Reports were published
- Two Spring Meetings and two fall Leadership Conferences were held.
- Harvard Law School has become a provider of CLE with permanent provider status underway
- Extensive planning for Celebration 55: The Women's Leadership Summit, to be held in September is underway, as is planning for the second Alumni of the Americas gathering scheduled for Miami in March 2009 and the Asian Pacific Weekend in spring of '09.
- The Harvard Law School Association partnered with the School in presenting the first Celebration of Public Interest, held in March 2008. Over 700 attendees enjoyed a weekend of seminars, social events, workshops, and updates. Keynote speakers included Hon. Jennifer Granholm '87, Governor of Michigan; Daniel Mulhern '86, First Gentleman of Michigan; Bryan Stevenson '85, Executive Director, Equal Justice Initiative of Alabama; and Hon. William H. Weld '70, former Governor of Massachusetts and Assistant U.S. Attorney General, Criminal Division.

- Sponsorships supporting special interest celebrations and gatherings have been raised in excess of \$500,000.
- The Harvard Law School sponsored its fourth Worldwide Alumni Congress in June of 2007 in Washington, D.C. Prior Congresses were held in Rome, Paris, and London. It was my proudest moment as President. Approximately 650 attended the four-day event which included timely discussions and keynote addresses by distinguished graduates and members of the Faculty, and outstanding social and cultural events at venues which included the Supreme Court, the Library of Congress, and George Washington's Mount Vernon. In attendance were four Supreme Court Justices, most all Harvard Law School members of Congress, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Governor and former Governor of Virginia, and many international dignitaries. Of particular note was the number of countries represented (31) and the participation of current students and recent graduates.
- As this year comes to a close in little more than one month, we are recommending changes to the HLS Constitution which include term limits for officers, and the formation of a senior advisory group made up of former Executive Committee members

Harvard Law School is not a three-year experience. It is a community – a wonderfully vibrant and talented community of which each of us is fortunate to be a member for life. I have been extremely fortunate to have served the Association during the past few years and to have met many remarkable members of the Harvard Law School community. It is a humbling experience. We have much to be very proud of, but much to do. I hope you will take the opportunity to become an active member of the Association, and to get involved.

With best regards,



Jay H. Hébert '86  
President  
Harvard Law School Association