

## Law and the Arts Initiative (LAI)

Professor Janet Halley, Royall Professor of Law, Director

### *Executive Committee*

Ms. Amy Gutman, HLS J.D. '93; Assistant Director, Academic Affairs  
Theresa Park, HLS '92, President, The Park Literary Group, LLC

### *Advisory Board*

Professor Bruce Hay  
Simon Stern, Climenko Fellow

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Hundreds of Harvard Law School students and alumni integrate the arts, broadly conceived, into their careers. Our students and graduates have blazed myriad trails already: some have eschewed law practice to become fiction writers, journalists, musicians; others have become leaders of arts institutions across the vast range from museums to literary agencies to symphonies to the *New York Times*; others have distinguished themselves as attorneys, judges, prosecutors and law students while publishing novels, participating in chamber music groups, collecting art; and still others have combined their arts interests with traditional legal practice, forging important careers in literary, media and entertainment law. The depth of the Law School's resources at the intersection of law and the arts is astonishing; to put it another way, our almost limitless horsepower in this wide domain remains unharnessed. Here, as in so many areas, the Law School's real richness is its people: we are uniquely situated to do something special to connect students with graduates and profoundly affect the course not only of individual lives but of law and the arts themselves.

The Law and the Arts Initiative (LAI) will provide a nexus of institutional connections enabling students, the faculty, alumni, and special guests to share their enthusiasm for the arts, their commitment to joining law with the arts in myriad ways, and their accumulated wisdom about how it all gets done. No American law school has attempted to do what we have begun to do through the LAI.

Launched in the Spring of 2006 by Professor Janet Halley (in consultation with Professor Bruce Hay and Climenko Fellow Simon Stern) and Amy Gutman (Assistant Director, Academic Affairs), the Law and the Arts Initiative enjoys the enthusiastic support and participation of Dean Elena Kagan, the Office of Career Services, and Alumni Affairs. It links the faculty, career counseling services, and alumni in order to provide a whole range of special programs. The following already have a well-established place at HLS:

***How-to programs for law students.*** In April 2006 the LAI offered -- to a large and very tuned-in student audience -- its inaugural panel, "How to Launch Your Writing Career *While* in Law School". A current HLS JD student (Lauren Willig, soon to graduate *magna cum*

*laude*), two recent HLS graduates and a Yale JD graduate -- all of them very successfully publishing -- spoke very practically and helpfully about their experiences. Bios of the participants are included as Attachment A. Theresa Park, a HLS graduate who has established a distinguished literary agency in NYC, traveled to Cambridge just to attend and is now a crucial member of the LAI Executive Committee. We are currently planning programs for AY 2006-07 on "Legal Careers in Book Publishing" and "Journalism for Lawyers and Law Students."

***Networking for alumni.*** We think it will be extremely useful to the LAI in its teaching/career counseling functions, and also to our alumni more directly, to provide networking opportunities for alumni who are involved in various ways in the arts. Our first effort in that direction is already on the drawing board: we will work with Alumni Affairs to reconfigure the on-campus "Legal Careers in Book Publishing" panel for an audience of alumni in New York City. We are also getting ready to establish an Advisory Board of alumni to guide us in developing the LAI.

***Creative Writer's Workshop.*** For the last three years the Dean has generously supported a highly successful Creative Writer's Workshop arranged by Professor Halley and guided by prizewinning novelist Rose Moss. Dean Kagan has just funded an additional year, as before out of general funds. The Workshop is open to students doing novels, short fiction, and/or memoir. The work produced has become so consistently good that Halley and Moss are planning to edit and "self-publish" a collection of stories. There is significant demand for additional workshops: poetry, journalism, expository writing (essay, book review, historical writing, etc.) all engage enough of our students to support a really top-flight workshop. Professor Halley is gathering names of people who could guide such workshops.

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***Check back soon for an updated calendar of events for Fall 2006.***