Harvard Law School Dean Martha Minow to Step Down at the Conclusion of the Academic Year

Martha Minow—the legal scholar and human rights expert who has served as dean of Harvard Law School since 2009 and has led the diversification of its faculty, staff, and student body, significant growth in its clinics and research programs, and record fundraising—announced in January that she will step down as dean at the end of the 2016-17 academic year. She will remain on the faculty and return to active participation in public dialogue and legal policy.

Minow, the Morgan and Helen Chu Dean and Professor of Law, took the helm of the Law School in the wake of the global financial crisis and has steered the school through the resulting economic challenges to a period of program and faculty growth, a strengthened commitment to public service, and campus renewal with the construction of the WCC building and creation of the campus courtyard. She has continued to teach, write, and advise students throughout her tenure as dean.

“I have had the remarkable fortune to ‘grow up’ in the law over the past 36 years since joining the School as an assistant professor in 1981, and yet not until I became dean did I come fully to understand the scope, depth, and constant creativity of this wondrous place,” Minow said in a letter to the Law School community. “Committed to rigorous analysis, open discussion, building knowledge, and advancing justice, Harvard Law School supports phenomenal students en route to lives of leadership across private and public institutions of law, business, government, nonprofits and NGOs, and the arts. Coming to the deanship at a time of significant challenge and change in the global economy, the legal profession, and the world, I have been privileged to work with so many of you to move forward on all fronts nonetheless — transforming our campus, launching new clinics and expanding our public service commitments, developing new research programs, and recruiting and supporting incredibly strong faculty, staff, and students who are more diverse on many dimensions than in any time in our history.”

“Throughout her long and distinguished career, and especially during the past eight years as Dean, Martha Minow has devoted herself to making Harvard Law School stronger and better, more inclusive and more intently focused on the quest for fairness, equality, opportunity, and respect for the rule of law,” said President Drew Faust. “She

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has embraced her life’s work with a generative mind
and a generous heart, personifying the power of legal
education, scholarship, and practice to bend the arc
toward justice. She has affirmed Harvard Law School as
an institution and a community firm in its dedication
to free inquiry and reasoned debate, open to people
remarkably diverse in their backgrounds and points of
view but joined in recognizing the centrality of law to
free and just societies. Her impact reaches across the
University as a whole, through an animating curiosity
and a powerful intellect that point all of us toward new
connections and possibilities.”

In January, President Faust launched a search for a new
dean and appointed an advisory committee of senior law
school faculty to help with the search. Alumni interested
in sharing their thoughts about the search can write to
Faust, in confidence, at hlsdeansearch@harvard.edu or
by letter to Massachusetts Hall.

Under Minow’s leadership, Harvard Law School
has further developed and strengthened one of the
most wide-ranging, interdisciplinary, and innovative
teaching programs in legal education. Pursuing stronger
connections and envisioning new synergies with other
parts of the university and with the broader profession,
Dean Minow created new opportunities to better
prepare law students to understand the perspectives and
needs of their clients and communities around the world,
with special attention to improving access to justice
and to entrepreneurial enterprise. She has supported
new clinics and educational programs in such areas as
criminal law and policy, immigration, and the needs
of military veterans, and expanded business-related
offerings with a focus on experiential learning, financial
literacy, and entrepreneurship.

In tandem with curricular and clinical program
development, Minow has overseen the development of
a wide range of research and academic programs, many
of them cross-disciplinary, to address aspects of law
and policy, legal theory, or emergent social issues with
important legal dimensions.

With a devotion to public service and a close eye on
emerging changes in the profession, Minow has increased
financial aid, dramatically expanded the loan repayment
program for students seeking lower-paying public service
jobs, and established new fellowship programs such as the
innovative Public Service Venture Fund, which provides
seed funding or salary support to graduating students who
aim to pursue public service careers in start-up ventures,
in government, or in the nonprofit sector.

“Working with President Faust, Provost Garber, and
fellow Harvard deans has been a gift; working with
exceptional colleagues across the School has been a daily
joy,” Minow said. “With the rest of this community, I will
welcome with delight our upcoming bicentennial year as
a time for celebration and also a time to envision anew the
commitments and opportunities of law, justice, scholarship,
and legal education in and beyond Harvard Law School.”

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Morgan Chu ’76, Partner, Irell & Manella LLP, with Dean Martha Minow at the Law School’s Fall 2016 Reunion Celebration.
Campaign for the Third Century

Benefits of Life Income Gifts—Charitable Gift Annuities, Charitable Remainder Trusts

Life income gifts provide many benefits to you and to your beneficiaries, including a lifetime income or income for a term of years, an immediate income tax deduction for a portion of the value of your gift, as well as savings on income and capital gains taxes. These gifts provide the opportunity to convert low or non-income producing assets into a gift with a larger income stream, all while helping Harvard Law School carry out its important mission of advancing the education, research, and practice of law. They are also a perfect opportunity to make a gift to the Law School’s Campaign for the Third Century.

Charitable Gift Annuity
The Charitable Gift Annuity, the simplest life income gift to establish and the most frequently chosen option, is a contract between you and Harvard, in which Harvard agrees to pay you a fixed dollar amount annually for life in exchange for your gift. Part of the income paid to you and to a second beneficiary, if you name one, may be tax-free or taxed at more favorable capital gains tax rates, depending on the asset you use to fund the annuity.

Payments can begin immediately or can be deferred. At the end of the last income beneficiary’s lifetime, the Law School will use the principal in accordance with the terms of your gift. Annuities can be established with a minimum gift of $25,000.

Charitable Remainder Trust
Charitable Remainder Trusts can reduce taxes by converting highly appreciated assets into a lifetime income stream. By transferring assets to a trust, you remove the assets from your estate and receive an immediate income tax deduction. You can fund your charitable remainder trust with cash, securities, real property, or other marketable assets such as artwork and collectibles. The trust can be structured in one of two ways: a charitable remainder annuity trust pays a fixed amount; a charitable remainder unitrust pays a variable amount. At the end of the last income beneficiary’s lifetime or the end of the trust’s term, the principal is transferred to Harvard Law School to be used in accordance with your wishes. Possible remainder designations include general purposes, financial aid, and scholarships. Charitable remainder trusts can be established with gift of $150,000 or more.

For more information on either a Charitable Gift Annuity or on a Charitable Remainder Trust, please contact HLS Director of Planned Giving Charles Gordy at 617-496-9265 or cgordy@law.harvard.edu.
Tax-Free Charitable Gifts From IRAs Made Permanent

The ability to make tax-free gifts from IRAs has been made permanent. If you are 70½ or older, federal legislation enables you to make a gift directly from your IRA to Harvard Law School. The withdrawal will not be included in your taxable income and can be applied toward your annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

The entire amount transferred supports Harvard Law School because we are not required to pay income tax on the IRA distribution. Funds from your IRA may be distributed directly to the Law School and directed to the Annual Fund, to financial aid, or to any other purpose you would like to support.

Qualifications:

• You must be 70½ or older when the gift is made.
• You can make IRA gifts up to a total of $100,000 per year.
• The transfer must be made directly from the IRA administrator (e.g., Vanguard, Fidelity, or Merrill Lynch) to Harvard Law School.
• Transfers cannot be made to gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, donor advised funds, or private foundations.

INCREASE YOUR TAX SAVINGS WITH GIFTS OF APPRECIATED SECURITIES

When you make a gift of appreciated stock held for more than one year, you pay no capital gains on the appreciation, so there is an increased tax savings—an income tax deduction based on the value of the stock when the gift is made, and avoidance of capital gains tax that would be due had you sold the stock. If you have cash on hand equal to your gift, you can purchase shares in the same company, effectively stepping up your basis for even more tax benefits.

A gift of appreciated stock must be a direct transfer of the stock to the Law School in order to avoid capital gains tax. Gifts of appreciated securities are an effective way to shape your legacy and support Harvard Law School. To make a gift of securities, please contact the Harvard Management Company at 866-845-6596, or security_gifts@hmc.harvard.edu.

Make a Bequest, Make a Difference

Each year, Harvard Law School receives important financial support from testamentary gifts made by alumni in their wills, trusts, and retirement plans. Through their thoughtful planning and generosity, these donors make a lasting impact on the Law School by providing invaluable support for financial aid, professorships, clinical programs, and unrestricted purposes. These gifts help us continue to enhance our mission of educating world leaders and of raising the standards for legal education, research, and practice.

Testamentary provisions may be for a specific dollar amount or a percentage of your residuary estate. If you are including the Law School in your testamentary plans, we recommend you use the following language:

I give (______ dollars/____ percent of the residue of my estate) to the President and Fellows of Harvard College, a Massachusetts educational, charitable corporation, for the benefit of Harvard Law School to be used for its general purposes (or for a specified purpose, e.g. financial aid, clinical education, library, etc.).

Alumni and friends who include the Law School in their estate plans are recognized with membership in the Oliver Wendell Holmes Society, which carries the name of one of our most distinguished graduates. Holmes Society members pay tribute to the great legacy of Justice Holmes through their vision and farsightedness, and their gifts solidify their legacy with the Law School and provide great benefit for students and faculty.

Bequests supported by a pledge can also be included in the Campaign for the Third Century.

IRAs, bequests, and other testamentary gifts can be tailored to your interests. For information, please contact HLS Director of Planned Giving Charles Gordy at 617-496-9265, or cgordy@law.harvard.edu.
Celebration of Black Alumni

On September 16–18, 2016, more than 800 alumni returned to Harvard Law School for the fourth Celebration of Black Alumni (CBA), “Turning Vision into Action.” The event brought together generations of black alumni to reconnect with old friends, network with new ones, and take part in discussions about challenges and opportunities in local, national and global communities.

The weekend kicked off with a mentoring event hosted by the Black Law Students Association (BLSA). Former U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch ’84 was the keynote speaker at Saturday’s luncheon, where judges and justices were also honored. Bryan Stevenson ’85, founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative, gave a stirring keynote talk at Friday’s luncheon, which also featured recognition of the founding members of BLSA and the Harvard BlackLetter Law Journal. After a gala dinner on Saturday, the weekend concluded with a farewell brunch on Sunday morning.

It was a weekend of engagement, reconnection, and excitement that crossed generations.

Fall 2016 Reunion Celebration


The program featured keynote speaker David Gergen ’67, a professor of public service at Harvard Kennedy School and an Emmy Award-winning journalist on elections and politics; Supreme Court Associate Justice continued on page 6
Celebration of Latino Alumni

The third Celebration of Latino Alumni, “Latino Leadership: Embracing the Challenge,” was held on campus March 2-5, 2017. Generations of Latino alumni returned to the Law School for a purpose-driven call to engagement. Participants enjoyed opportunities to share experiences, learn from one another, and network.

Over 200 alumni and friends attended panel discussions and presentations, as well as a mentoring event organized by the student group La Alianza. Friday’s luncheon featured a conversation with Representative Joaquin Castro ’00, U.S. Congressman, Texas’ 20th District, and The Honorable Julián Castro ’00, former Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. There were several keynote presentations by alumni, and Latino judges and justices were honored at Saturday’s luncheon. The weekend concluded with a gala dinner and salsa party on Saturday evening followed by a farewell brunch on Sunday.

In all, alumni enjoyed four days of engagement and reconnection with HLS.

For more information about the HLS programs or initiatives discussed in this newsletter, please visit the HLS website at: http://www.law.harvard.edu. For more information about Planned Giving, contact Charles Gordy, Director of Planned Giving.

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