

**Remarks to the Yale Law School 2010 Commencement  
Exercises Upon the Occasion of My Retirement  
May 24, 2010  
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*(This is a longer, unexpurgated version of the remarks  
delivered by Professor Schuck)*

What has Yale Law meant to me?  
At first not much, I foolishly  
Rejected it for Harvard Law  
Yale, I felt, had one main flaw  
My college years at fair Cornell  
Made me abjure small town hell  
In '79, I made amends  
And joined a feast that never ends  
Intellectual repartee  
Students ripening day by day  
Deans and staff that e'er say "yes"  
Book collections Holmes would bless  
Ideals soaring ever higher  
Excellence the sole desire  
Thirst for knowledge is what drives  
Our scholarship, indeed our lives  
Justice is Yale's noblest prey  
We sternly stalk it every day  
Much of it eludes our ken

But we search where'er we can  
Some in markets, some in state,  
Some in treaties – strait's that gate  
Some stress law, some its constraints  
Some look to culture, some to saints  
Logomachy at Yale ne'er ceases  
New facts, old norms are the greases  
Provocative – it's always that  
At times, some even bell a cat  
We take ourselves so seriously  
We oft behave imperiously  
But stubborn truth mocks our pretense  
Our theories humbled by events.  
Owen Fiss, 60s "repawter,"  
May learn that robes don't walk on water  
Judith, civ pro dynamo,  
May find some process moves too slow  
Our mystery writer, glamorous Jed  
May decode Freud's disciples' dread  
Ian, dean of default rules  
May find some fall between two stools  
Roberta, queen of corporations,  
May bless efficient deprivations  
Property maven Robert E.  
May find a market that's not free  
Bill E., whom this Court gives a fright  
May find Nino occasionally right

Alan Schwartz, scourge of the left  
May find Obama has some heft  
Jules, defining justice corrective  
May from Ron learn it's defective  
Studying blacks on Martha's Vineyard,  
Brooks may find they tilt to windward  
Rose (and Rick) span time and spatial  
Finding deeds with covenants racial  
Chua, seer of worlds on fire  
May find that even haters tire  
Clinicians serving clients poor  
May find court victories insecure  
Donohue, econohead  
May find most data's best unread  
Dan Esty green as green can be  
May soil his suit while hugging tree  
Henry's organizational forms  
May bend to more informal norms  
Rob and Noah, bards of brief  
May find redlines bring students' grief  
Culturally cognitive Dan Kahan  
May find he's helpless without Don  
The other Kahn, with one less "a"  
May find philosophy's lost its way  
Deputy Dawg, the patient Tracey  
May wish she'd left the job to Macey  
Tony Kronman, most abstruse

May one day commit Greek abuse  
Paul Gewirtz, Hu's heart to win  
May have to learn some Mandarin  
Jerry, friend of welfare state  
May find its taxes ne'er abate  
John Langbein, whose muse is Clio  
May leave her for ERISA, Keogh  
Jack B., our shining armored Knight  
May find his blog tilt to the right  
Susan Ackerman nee Rose  
May find corruption never slows  
Comparativists Jim, Damaska  
May discern links 'twixt Spain, Nebraska  
Bruce, Akhil, two Sterling guys  
Their claims so strong may yet revise  
George still thinks that L and E  
Drives torts, insurance, warranty  
Will we see the end of Days?  
No, thank goodness, here he stays  
Ageless John, nonprofit guru  
Your 501(c)(3) will do  
A Ripley's entry for our Stone Sweet-y  
Who's memorized each EU treaty  
Then there's Harold Hongju Koh  
Whose jus cogens is realists' foe  
Erstwhile Acting Dean Kate Stith  
One "out whom we could not do with"

Guido, Duce's best export  
Here reshaped the law of tort  
Students love Steve Duke because  
He'd repeal even hard drug laws  
Reva, history's feminist  
19th Amendment gave novel twist  
Robert threw Yale Law a bone  
Bestowing a new Postal zone  
John Fabian Witt, apt eponym  
Yale's tort law future rides on him  
Robert Gordon lives in dread  
Of finding books he hasn't read  
Let's not forget the Harvard twins  
Jolls and Gerken, paladins  
Workplace bias irks Christine  
Our law-and-economics queen  
Democracy's in Heather's sights  
With indices on voting rights  
Lea Brilmayer's placed her bet  
As Eritrea's Lafayette  
Stephen Carter, you've got mail  
You're surely somewhere, just not at Yale  
Anglophilic Markovits  
Subtle brain that never quits  
Our newbies – Nick, Yair, and Claire  
May find that here, there's no there there  
Friends, I could go on all day

Revealing colleagues' feet of clay  
Just one more – and then I'll stop  
My own clay goes from feet to top  
Some days when I am out of sorts  
I fantasize intentional torts  
Now, Yale Law class of two-aught-ten  
Wondrous women, mighty men  
Go ye forth to live full lives  
Not just things on which fame thrives  
Lawyers, yes, but also souls  
Distill the essence of your roles  
Do what counts, the rest is dross  
Know the lines you must not cross  
Keep on learning, always doubt,  
Your teachers' claims feel free to flout  
Values are the easy part  
We cherish them with mind and heart  
The facts of things the harder prong  
Too oft assumed, too oft proved wrong  
Remember why you came to Yale  
But change your minds when theories fail  
We hope we've given you the tools  
To disembark from ships of fools  
Ne'er forget the luckless ones  
Against whom history's strong tide runs  
There but for God's grace go we  
Our DNA we got for free

Most lavished love we did not earn  
So we must love the world in turn  
Thanks for opportunity  
To lecture you with rhymes from me  
Yale Law profs e'er pontificate  
Now sermon ends – let's celebrate!  
Congratulations, class of 2010