

# Dean Martha Minow: "A Year Of Innovation, Ideas, And Teamwork!"

A letter from Dean Martha Minow, of Harvard Law School, who likes to accentuate the positive, and just loves her exclamation points!

Greetings from Cambridge!

I write with New Year's regards and news from Harvard Law School as 2015 gets under way. I am proud to report that our students and faculty are involved in a wide array of endeavors – through innovative scholarship, lawyering, and civic engagement – to promote justice locally, nationally, and globally.

## ***Important Clinical Achievements***

The Law School's 26 clinics are providing critically needed legal representation and advancing the rights of underserved populations locally and around the globe — while offering students extraordinary opportunities to develop practical legal skills. Highlights this year include:

- The [Education Law Clinic](#) successfully lobbied the Massachusetts Legislature to pass a law that fosters safe and supportive environments for all students, including those who have endured traumatic experiences — so all can learn and succeed. This important work has been led by Clinical Director Susan Cole and also the terrific Mike Gregory '04, who has just been promoted from assistant clinical professor to clinical professor of law.
- The [International Human Rights Clinic](#) found that the Myanmar military committed war crimes and crimes against humanity in 2005-2006. The

clinic garnered international attention with its detailed report that the perpetrators were still serving at the highest levels of the country's government.

### ***Convening Leaders to Define the Future***

As in years past, this year we have taken advantage of the Law School's extraordinary convening power to bring leaders together to explore issues of law and justice, and to lead the search for solutions to a broad variety of complex problems. Notable highlights include:

- We enlarged our world-class Program on the Legal Profession — now renamed the [The Practice](#), a digital magazine highlighting the most critical topics and issues facing the global legal profession. As the leading think tank conducting empirical research on the global profession, the Center is currently studying global pro bono, changes in the legal profession in India, Latin America, Africa, and Asia, and new models for delivering legal services to low-income individuals.
- We marked the 50th anniversary of the [Human Rights Program](#) celebrated its 30th anniversary with a conference anchored by a dynamic address from former Legal Adviser of the State Department and former Yale Law School Dean Harold Hongju Koh '80.
- HLS launched a new collaboration with UCLA School of Law with the inaugural [Deans' Food System Challenge](#) to students across the entire University to spur development of fresh ideas for solving complex problems facing our food system. I am delighted to be joined by Julio Frenk, dean of the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and the University's Innovation Lab, on whose board I sit. The challenge invites student across the University to form interdisciplinary teams and develop projects that address one of four topics: food production, distribution and markets, improving diet, and reducing food waste. With mentors and a distinguished panel of judges helping the students, finalists will be announced in April, and we eagerly anticipate terrific and imaginative work.

Dozens of intriguing and memorable speakers have participated in exciting and informative HLS events in recent months. We were especially honored to welcome

U.S. Supreme Court Justice **Antonin Scalia '60** to campus for the Inaugural Justice Antonin Scalia Lecture, given in the fall by Judge **Frank Easterbrook** of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit; U.S. Supreme Court Justices **Stephen Breyer '64** and **Elena Kagan '86** events to draw upon the special expertise of lawyers in reducing risk of erroneous harms and building trust between law enforcement personnel and members of communities most affected. The persistence of harms and mistrust 50 years after the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prompts many here to expand and deepen research and teaching exploring criminal justice and race relations, and to focus on patterns of unconscious bias throughout society, including at the Law School.