



JOLLY GOOD FELLOWS At the Hays anniversary gathering, faculty directors Helen Hershkoff, Norman Dorsen and Sylvia Law; Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg; Anna Deavere Smith

Hays Celebrates 50th; Ginsburg Gives Keynote

"WE ARE JUST ENTERING HEAVY duty time at the Court, with decisions in over half of the term's cases still to be released before the summer recess," said U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, beginning her keynote address at the Arthur Garfield Hays Civil Liberties Program's 50th anniversary celebration dinner in May. Even so, she said, she "could hardly resist" the invitation to speak. "I applaud the efforts of [Hays] Fellows past and present to play a meaningful part in repairing tears in our communities, country and world."

It made sense that Ginsburg—first in her class at Columbia Law, first woman to serve on both the *Harvard Law Review* and the *Columbia Law Review*, first director of the American Civil Liberties Union Women's Rights Project, and first Jewish woman on the Supreme Court—would speak at a dinner celebrating the Hays Program. After all, the Hays, founded at the Law School in 1958 in honor of pioneering civil liberties lawyer Arthur Garfield Hays, was the first program focused on training law students for public service, and remains the foremost one. The program has taken the lead in addressing pressing constitutional issues, whether those were free speech and church-and-state issues in the 1950s and 1960s; gender discrimination cases and the Vietnam War's implications in the 1960s and 1970s;

gay, lesbian and transgendered rights in the 1980s and 1990s, and, most recently, immigration and executive-power issues.

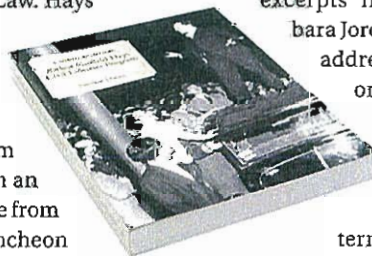
Each year, the Hays Program awards fellowships to a select group of 3Ls to pursue civil liberties work, either with outside organizations or through research and special projects guided by one of the program's faculty directors. The current directors are Norman Dorsen, Frederick I. and Grace A. Stokes Professor of Law and director since 1961; Sylvia Law '68, Elizabeth K. Dollard Professor of Law, Medicine and Psychiatry, herself a Hays Fellow, and Helen Hershkoff, Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz Professor of Law. Hays directors and fellows also work on litigation, produce scholarship and hold conferences.

The Hays Program marked its milestone with an all-day program that, aside from the dinner, included a luncheon and two panels, one on issues arising from challenging clients and the other concerning shifting positions on civil liberties issues. In a testament to the Hays Fellows' ongoing dedication, about 45 percent of the program's 263 living alumni participated. Honored at the dinner were Professors Donald Wollett (now 89) and the late Paul Oberst, the first Hays directors from 1958 to

1960, and Evelyn Palmquist, longtime assistant to the program.

In her keynote, Ginsburg discussed important civil liberties cases in the current Supreme Court term, including *Baze v. Rees*, which upheld the constitutionality of Kentucky's method of lethal injection in death penalty cases; *Riegel v. Medtronic, Inc.*, which held that Food and Drug Administration approval of a medical device exempted manufacturers from common-law tort claims, and *Crawford v. Marion County Election Board*, which left in place a law requiring Indiana voters to show photo identification. Ginsburg explained the reasoning of her dissents in all those cases.

University Professor and playwright Anna Deavere Smith ended the evening on a powerful note, performing several pieces on human dignity. These included excerpts from Representative Barbara Jordan's 1974 commencement address at Howard University on the erosion of civil liberties, and the words of a doctor at a New Orleans hospital in Hurricane Katrina's aftermath. Smith's final piece came from an interview she conducted with Studs Terkel, whose observations on the loss of "the human touch" in public life, combined with Smith's delivery, prompted a resounding ovation. "In celebrating you," Smith said, "I wanted to celebrate the language of law and those of you who uphold that language and the law." □ *Atticus Gannaway*



DOCUMENTING 50 YEARS
A 400-page book by Norman Dorsen chronicles the Hays Program's history.