



**HARVARD LAW SCHOOL
ASSOCIATION OF EUROPE**

More than 220 alumni and friends of HLS meet in Paris to celebrate HLSAE's 50th anniversary!

From May 14 to May 17, 2015, over 220 *alumni*, and their guests, gathered in Paris for this year's annual reunion of the Harvard Law School Association of Europe (HLSAE). Traditionally, the HLSAE meeting takes place on Ascension weekend, with a mix of sightseeing, socializing and academic events. This year was a special event, with Dean Martha Minow and Vice-Dean William P. Alford (J.D. '77) taking part in the reunion, which marked the 50th anniversary of the Association in the city where HLSAE was founded in 1965 by Willem Stevens (LL.M. '63), the first Secretary and (then) driving force of the Association.

Thanks to the tremendous efforts of the local organizing team, composed of Roger Benrubi (LL.M. '50), Jacques Salès (LL.M. '67), Anne-Marijke Morgan de Rivery (LL.M. '80), Felicia Henderson (J.D. '97), Nathalie Younan (LL.M. '99) and Anne-Caroline Urbain (LL.M. '06), participants enjoyed a diverse program with a number of cultural, academic and social highlights.

On Friday (May 15), a day-trip to the magnificent *Chantilly* castle was organized. After this tour, many participants wondered, as did President Richard Nixon: "Why have I been seven times to Versailles and never here?". On Friday evening, participants enjoyed French *cuisine* on a boat floating through the illuminated City of Lights. The cultural activities also included a private visit of the George C. Marshall Center, which is located in the building which was used by the US State Department as headquarters for the administration of the Marshall Plan between 1947 and 1952. The center houses a unique exhibition honoring the European contributions to the success of the Marshall Plan. A fitting place for the European *alumni* of a US law school to meet!

This year's Academic Session was launched by a speech delivered by Dean Martha Minow, who conveyed the greetings of HLS and updated participants on the current state of affairs at our *alma mater*. Vice-Dean William P. Alford then captured the audience with his remarkable presentation on "China's Challenge: Legal Development in the People's Republic of China". Professor Charles Nesson animated an interactive session in the mode of juryX on the fascinating topic of "Should Boston bid for the Olympics?" The Academic Session was rounded off by a panel discussion on "Lawyering in the 21st Century". The panel comprised Prof. Eckart Brödermann (LL.M. '83), Willem Stevens (LL.M. '63) and Professor Dina Waked (S.J.D. '12, LL.M. '06). Vice Dean Alford and Felicia Henderson acted as moderators.

Another highlight of the Paris reunion was the presentation of the Harvard Law School Association (HLSA) Award to Vice Dean Alford in recognition of his services to the legal profession and to the HLS community. Dean Minow presented this award during the Gala Dinner, which was held on Saturday (May 16) at the spectacular *Cercle de l'Union Interalliée*, the exact location at which HLSAE was founded 50 years ago!

All participants were already looking forward to next year's reunion, to be held in Copenhagen, from **May 5 to 8, 2016**.

Another chance to meet before then will be the traditional "breakfast meeting" organized by HLSAE and held during the IBA Annual Conference in Vienna on **Wednesday October 7, 2015**.