

CHALLENGING THE HIGH COURT'S AUTHORITY

Larry Kramer Advocates for Popular Constitutionalism

In November New York University School of Law Professor Larry Kramer visited Boalt Hall to discuss what he calls the overreaching role of the modern Supreme Court. His talk, "Popular Constitutionalism, Circa 2002," was the keynote address for the Thomas M. Jorde Symposium.

"The Rehnquist Court has acted aggressively to enlarge its authority," Kramer argued, "by claiming that the Court alone can interpret the Constitution authoritatively, while discarding or constricting many of the doctrines and principles that have served to limit its power."

Kramer said this expansion of the Court's judicial authority has resulted in a growing movement that presents a valid, comprehensive argument challenging the Court's preeminence. He positioned this movement as the latest wave in a recurring struggle between advocates of popular constitutionalism and judicial supremacy.

Following Kramer's talk, Professor Erwin Chemerinsky of the University of Southern California Law School offered commentary arguing against many of the tenets outlined in Kramer's talk. Professor Robert Post also offered a critique of the lecture.

The annual Jorde lecture is sponsored by New York University's Brennan Center for Justice. The center holds two symposiums annually—one at Boalt and one at another prominent law school. The program was established in 1996 by Professor Emeritus Thomas Jorde.



University of Michigan Law School Professor Rebecca Eisenberg '79 receives the Berkeley Center for Law & Technology Distinguished Service Award from Professor Peter Menell, executive director of the center. The award, given to Eisenberg in October, recognizes her accomplishments in the fields of intellectual property and bioscience.

NOTHING STOPS A BULLET LIKE A JOB

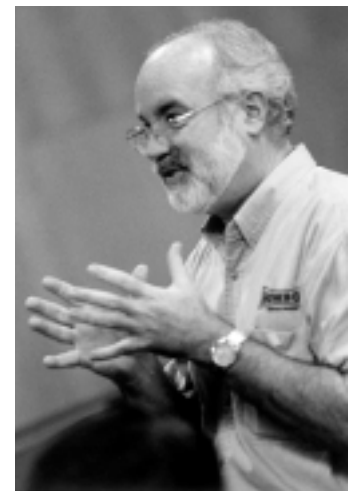
Father Greg Boyle Shares His Success at Curbing Gang Violence

As a priest in Boyle Heights, the area with the highest concentration of gangs in the entire city of Los Angeles, Father Greg Boyle experiences firsthand the climate of hopelessness that causes young people to turn to gangs. Determined to find real solutions to the violence in his community, Boyle developed his own program to reduce gang activity.

"We must have a high degree of reverence for the complexity of the problem in order to do something effective. Gang violence is a symptom of intense poverty, despair, unemployment and racism," said Boyle at Boalt during his November lecture, "Youth Gang Violence: Teenage Suicide for the Urban Poor."

During the talk, which was sponsored by Boalt's Death Penalty Clinic and Center for Social Justice, Boyle explained how his program gives a second chance to young people in the community. Convinced that many gang members would choose to earn an honest living if they had the opportunity, in 1988 Boyle created Jobs for a Future. Guided by the motto, "Nothing stops a bullet like a job," the program provides at-risk youth with a range of employment services, including job placement, counseling, community service opportunities and tattoo removal.

The organization also includes an economic development branch called Homeboy Industries. Designed to teach valuable job skills to those with little or no employment experience, Homeboy Industries brings former enemy gang members together to work side by side in the program's bakery, graffiti removal patrol, and silkscreening and merchandise ventures.



During his fall lecture, Father Greg Boyle describes the ways he has reduced gang violence among urban youth in Los Angeles.