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Yale Daily News

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Yale legal spending rose by 46 percent

BY LEO NYBERG
STAFF REPORTER

Yale spent $26.2 million on outside legal fees — a 46 percent increase from the previous period — in the fiscal year ending June 2025, which includes the first five months of the second Trump administration.

The approximate $8.3 million jump from the $17.9 million spent in fiscal year 2024 is the largest increase on record for Yale, according to publicly available tax filings dating back to 2001 — though the University's spending on legal fees has trended upward over the last five years. The $26.2 million figure corresponds to the period from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025, the most recent one with public disclosures available, and comes from Form 990 disclosures filed in May 2026.

In the early months of President Donald Trump's current term, which began in January 2025, federal agencies launched a slew of investigations into Yale and other top universities. In March 2025, the Department of Education opened an inquiry into Yale stemming from an antisemitism complaint, as well as a separate investigation into the School of Management for ties with a diversity program for doctoral students.

In April 2025, the Department of Justice began a yearlong investigation into the Yale School of Medicine for alleged discrimination against white and Asian applicants. The investigation culminated in a May 2026 letter of findings accusing the school of illegal discrimination. The Justice Department's inquiry has since expanded to Yale College and the Law School, and the University is in talks with the Trump administration to resolve

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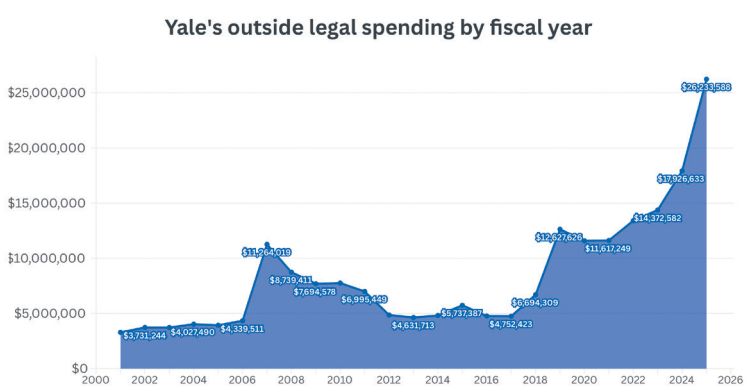

Adriana Petrizzo / Data Editor

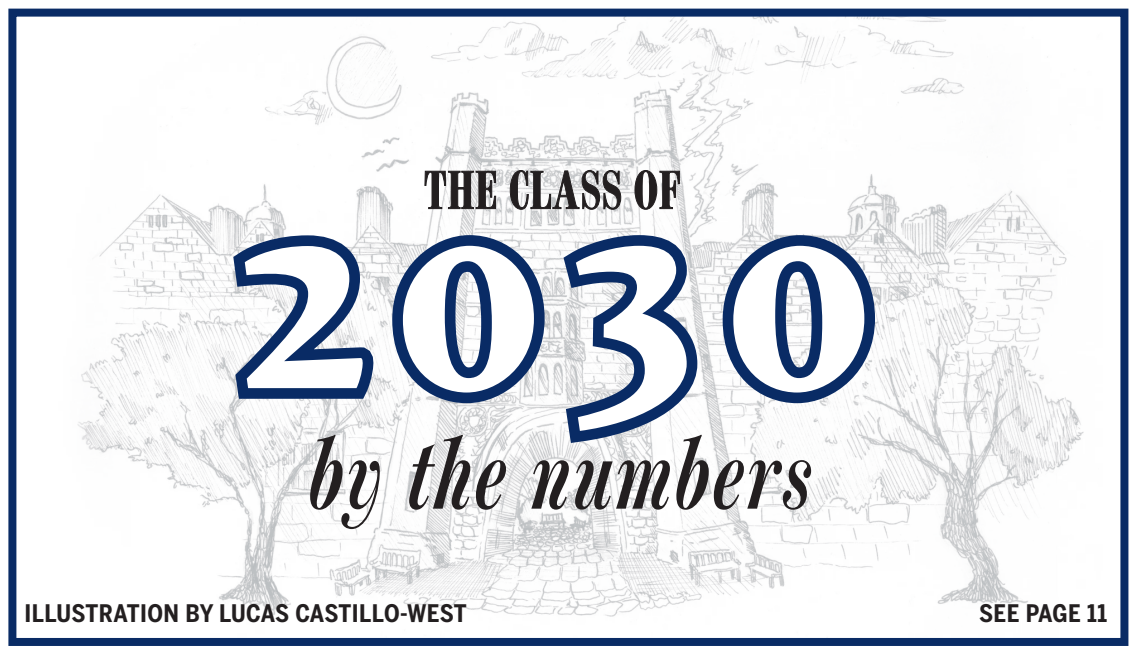

ILLUSTRATION BY LUCAS CASTILLO-WEST

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UMich investigated now-Yale VP

BY SARA AGRAWAL
STAFF REPORTER

Geoff Chatas, Yale's senior vice president for operations, was investigated in 2025 by the University of Michigan, his then-workplace, after "allegations of financial mismanagement," according to a report earlier this month.

An agreement between Patterson Belknap, a New York law firm, and the University of Michigan, where Chatas served as chief financial officer until he resigned in October 2025, revealed that the firm conducted an investigation around "allegations of financial mismanagement," MLive reported on Sept. 1, citing open records.

The investigation began on July 12, 2025, and invoices between the law firm and the university span at least between September and December 2025, according to the report.

Michigan paid the law firm almost $1.3 million to conduct the investigation, The Detroit News also reported on Monday.

Chatas resigned from Michigan in October 2025 and joined Yale a month later. As senior vice president of operations and chief financial officer, Chatas "oversees finance, human resources, facilities, hospitality, public safety, information technology, and other administrative func-

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Yale News

Science 'gut' rises in course sign-ups

BY JOLYNDA WANG
STAFF REPORTER

Economics courses are once again leading the ranking for the most popular classes this semester, while a "gut" earth science course climbed up the leaderboard, following the end of this fall's add/drop period on Friday.

The three most popular courses are "Introductory Microeconomics," "Game Theory" and "Natural Disasters," with 518, 458 and 422 students enrolled respectively. "Natural Disasters," in particular, saw a drastic increase in enrollment from 259 students in fall 2024, when it was last taught, and from 70 students in fall 2022.

"I am surprised by the level of enrollment this year, but it's certainly a happy surprise!" earth and planetary sciences professor Maureen Long, who teaches "Natural Disasters," wrote in

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Ximena Solorzano / Staff Photographer

Trust report authors laud Yale for listening



Zoe Berg / Staff Photographer

BY LEO NYBERG AND ARIA LYNN-SKOV
STAFF REPORTERS

Four of the authors behind the April report on declining trust in higher education said they believe the University is taking their recommendations seriously.

The Committee on Trust in Higher Education, composed of 10 professors commissioned by University President Maurie McInnis in spring 2025, published a sweeping report this year that asked Yale to take responsibility for the decline in public trust in higher education and proposed wide-ranging changes to its policy. Yale has since refocused its mission statement, reinstated test-mandatory undergraduate admissions and implemented an orientation program focused on civics — policies which were all addressed by the faculty committee.

When its report was released earlier this year, McInnis said she did not have any disagreements with the committee's recommendations and accepted Yale's responsibility for flagging public trust.

"I think the Yale administration has been taking them very seriously," history professor and committee co-chair Beverly Gage '94 said, referring to the report's recommendations. She said some prompted immediate action — citing the mission statement change that occurred two

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Trustee election debate transcends politics

BY ANAYAH ACCILIEN AND SARA AGRAWAL
STAFF REPORTERS

The resistance to Yale's 2021 change to the process of electing alumni to the board of trustees has brought together unlikely bedfellows.

Both the Buckley Institute, a self-described conservative organization dedicated to free speech and intellectual diversity, and the Endowment Justice Collective, which has advocated for traditionally left-aligned causes like divestment from fossil fuels and weapons manufacturers, have recently protested the elimination of the petitioning process by which alumni could earn nominations for alumni fellow trustee elections.

Within the past month, Buckley sent a petition to University President Maurie McInnis and other members of the Yale Corporation, while the Endowment Justice Collective helped mobilize students and faculty against what they called anti-democratic practices from the governing body of the University.

"It does not require a particular political orientation to recognize that Yale's own governance structure contradicts its ideals and its commitment to democracy," Violet Chin '30, an organizer with the Endowment Justice Collective, wrote in a text message to the News.

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Kalina Sabala Montes / Staff Photographer

Inside The News

More than 30 runners completed a 90-mile relay to Ground Zero on the 25th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks.

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SHIRLEY Yale's chapter of Turning Point USA hosted its first public event with Nick Shirley, a conservative influencer.

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OCEAN On Thursday, members of the New Haven Climate Movement celebrated the ocean's birthday.

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