

FOREWORD

From the outside, UCLA Law is a public institution located in the most diverse city in the nation, Los Angeles, that appears to have it all; a world-class faculty, global reputation, and a public-minded mission, making it a dream for any student, particularly students of color. Yet the 2013-2014 academic year shattered this image and brought the realities many students face to forefront of a national debate around diversity and climate in legal education once again. Igniting this debate were the intimidation and racist tactics of a few, which resulted in the mobilizing and organizing of students of color, allies, and the greater legal community.¹ Through this work, we at the UCLA Law School demanded for institutional changes to address issues that so many students of color face including, direct racism, harassment, implicit bias, and stereotype threat, to mention a few.

At the same time the rallying calls to reform the law school were being made and heard, a cadre of dedicated students decided to bring back a strong tradition of intellectual activism through legal scholarship. The National Black Law Journal (NBLJ), established in 1970, two years prior to the Chicana/o-Latina/o Law Review (CLLR), was the first journal in the nation committed to scholarship that explored the intersection of race and the law. Unfortunately, due to the lack of institutional support and decline of students of color and thus student manpower to run the journal, it ultimately became defunct. In the spring of 2014 these committed students, including then 1L Daniel Sturm, and CLLR decided to engage in a partnership to resurrect NBLJ.² Since then, CLLR and NBLJ have worked as a unified staff, sharing resources, institutional knowledge, and decision-making responsibilities. This volume is the product of our union; and as a testament to our dedication, perseverance, and purpose, we are delighted to re-introduce NBLJ to the publishing world.³

¹ See *Racism Abounds at UCLA School of Law*, ABOVE THE LAW (Feb. 24, 2014, 6:18 PM), <http://abovethelaw.com/2014/02/racism-abounds-at-ucla-school-of-law/> for an overview of the events that took place during the 2013-2014 academic year.

² Among the students that approached CLLR were Daniel Sturm, Shyrisa Dobbins, and Markia Bonner, Kealan Santistevan, Byron Stevens, Jasmine Phillips, and Nisha Vida. They approached then CLLR editors-in-chief, Daniel Borca and Arifa Raza.

³ We would like to say to the staff of the journals that we have enjoyed working with you during each step of the publication process. To the NBLJ staff, CLLR has greatly benefited

Much like the student response to events leading up to this volume, the union of CLLR and NBLJ was a result of creating community around engaging and developing solutions to the difficult realities students of color, and first generation students, face while in law school. Recognizing these issues are not limited to UCLA Law, CLLR and NBLJ has partnered with the student-run legal journals at Berkeley Law: the Berkeley La Raza Journal and the Journal of African American Law and Policy in publishing what we think is a significant step in addressing exclusionary learning environments.⁴ In, *Creating Wise Classrooms*, authors Sean Darling-Hammond and Professor Kristen Holmquist provide a roadmap for law professors in developing pedagogical tools that take into account the challenges underrepresented groups experience in law school, in the hopes of creating safe learning environments.⁵ This joint-manuscript is the first time in history that the four UC law journals have come together to co-publish an article, and we hope it becomes part of the culture of legal scholarship.

Acknowledging that obstacles encountered in higher education are not limited to legal education, we offer Professor Lindsay Pérez Huber's article which focuses on the experiences undocumented Latina students face in attaining higher education, and how it is structured and influenced by federal and state legislation. As her article points out, while the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), preceded by the California DREAM Act, creates opportunities for undocumented students, it is limited given the precarious nature of their status. Her article insightfully exposes how undocumented students are left pursuing their dreams within the confines of the *jaula* created by lack of immigration reform.⁶

As a student-run journal, dedicated to publishing student work, we are pleased to complete this volume with the student work of Waleska

from your skills and participation in discussions relevant to the work of CLLR. We thank the co-Editors-in-Chief Daniel Sturm and Nisha Vida for your efforts to revive the journal and continuing a tradition of social justice scholarship.

⁴ CLLR co-Editor-in-Chief 2013-2015 Arifa Raza presented this idea of jointly publishing to the authors after receiving the manuscript. The authors submitted their work to the four journals and all agreed to co-publishing. We thank the authors, Professor Kristen Holmquist and Sean Darling-Hammond for facilitating this collaboration.

⁵ The authors define "safe" as feeling that they are able to speak without judgment.

⁶ Professor Perez Huber titled her article to describe the feeling of living in the United States after DACA and the Dream Act based on her conversations with the female students. *Jaula* in Spanish means a cage.

Suero. Exploring the abusive work environments faced by Latinas, Suero argues for a reformed legal standard for sexual harassment; one that takes into account the cultural complexities and biases faced by Latinas in the workplace.

The issues discussed in this volume, while timely, are not new, and reflect how much further the law has to go in addressing systemic issues faced by marginalized communities. We at CLLR will continue to support scholars and scholarship that exposes these issues, in the hopes that through the transformative power of the law, these *jaulas* can be broken.

In Solidarity,
Arifa Raza & Rocio La Rosa

