

EDITOR'S NOTE

Twenty five years ago, in the first issue of the *National Black Law Journal* (then, the *Black Law Journal*), Floyd B. McKissick wrote in his Foreword that the *Journal* is worth the time, money, and effort “[o]nly if it interprets the law from a strictly black point of view, presenting past and current cases in a black perspective—clearly defining the impact and potential for change presented by specific cases or legal concepts.” In an era faced with challenges from the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960’s, McKissick emphasized that the *Journal*

must . . . be a broad and unencumbered journal, unafraid to present all shades of black opinion on every important issue. No ideas should be too radical or too conservative. This journal must be a forum as well as a guide. It must provide the theoretical framework for practical daily application of black legal ideas and concepts.

In the years since the publication of the first issue of the *National Black Law Journal* in Spring 1971, the *Journal* has successfully adhered to these goals and principles. Year after year, African American law students, professors, and practitioners across the country, committed to the struggle for our liberation and progress through legal discourse, continue to ensure that the *National Black Law Journal* remains a vehicle for scholarly discussion of the issues that face our community.

In our 25th Anniversary, we are aware that our struggles continue. We are still fighting oppression and discriminatory treatment from all levels of government, including law enforcement. After years of struggle for affirmative action, educational and occupational programs which guarantee opportunity to those to whom opportunity has been denied, are being challenged across the country. As the articles in this issue prove, these and many other problems have yet to be resolved.

In our lead article, Professor Christo Lassiter presents us with a challenge to consider the benefits of current stop and frisk procedures in law enforcement’s attempt to control criminal street gangs. In the following article, a group of scholars led by Professors Aldon Morris and Walter Allen analyze the “desegregation” of Alabama’s higher educational facilities. Next, Professor James S. Bowen dissects the Organization of African Unity in order to determine its viability in Africa’s struggle for power and control. In our next article, Asher Isaacs argues for permanent adoption placements that will foster positive racial identities in African American children. In our last two pieces, Professor Peter C. Alexander offers us his experiences as a counselor in the Council on Legal Education Opportunities program, and Professor Cynthia R. Mabry reviews J. Clay Smith, Jr.’s *Emancipation: The Making of a Black Lawyer: 1844-1944*.

On behalf of the 1995-1996 National Board of Editors, I thank you for subscribing to and reading the *National Black Law Journal*. I also thank the staff and editors of the *Journal* for their hard work and commitment. I hope you will be with us for the next 25 years of *National Black Law Journal* excellence.

NEDY A. WILLIAMS
Editor-in-Chief

