EDITORS’ NOTE

A journal is the sum of its parts. A quality journal requires dedicated members, authors, and editors. It requires an enthusiasm for novel issues and arguments, as well as, a desire to reexamine the status quo. A quality journal inspires people: those who work on it as authors or editors and those who read it. Fortunate for the journal’s board and membership, the mandate of the Berkeley Journal of African-American Law & Policy promotes both the requisite ideas and inspiration for a quality journal, in addition to making its production an invaluable experience. Founded in 1992 by a group of law students at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law, the Berkeley Journal of African-American Law & Policy (formerly African-American Law & Policy Report) has since steadily developed a reputation for excellence in producing scholarship that addresses legal and policy issues affecting the African-American community. In an era in which race and color are profoundly significant, arguably both legally and culturally, a journal devoted to the examination of such significance is undeniably cutting edge. As such, Volumes I through XIII of the Berkeley Journal of African-American Law & Policy have been cutting edge. We submit to you that Volume IX is no less so.

For example, Ronald Turner’s article Cross Burning and the Harm-Valuation Analytic: A Tale of Two Cases discusses the complex issues involved in deciding when cross-burning is to be considered constitutionally protected speech and when it can be lawfully punished or prohibited. In analyzing this issue, Turner focuses on the United States Supreme Court’s use of harm valuation in one of its prior cross-burning cases and the efficacy of such an approach.

Next, in the article Toward a Sui Generis View of Black Rights in Canada? Overcoming the Difference-Denial Model of Countering Anti-Black Racism by Lolita Buckner Inniss, the author delves into the truth surrounding Canada’s anti-racist image, as well as the different anti-racist models that pervade the discussion of racism in Canada. The article then examines how the adoption of a sui generis concept of Black rights could affect the discussion. A critical look at anti-Black racism in Canada shows the complexity and similarity of the issues surrounding racism world-wide and, in our view, puts the African-American experience in perspective.

Finally, in the book review Reimagining Revolution: A Critical Review of Simon Schama’s Rough Crossings: Britain, the Slaves, and the American Revolution, Spearlt analyzes the cultural and political significance of the Simon Schama book as it discusses the issue of slavery in America and Britain during
the Revolutionary War. According to Spearlt, this book “is an important piece of research that reveals a complex interplay of political strategies and discourses between the American revolutionaries and the British crown, neither of whose ideals about freedom and independence were ultimately achieved.” A poignant review, highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of the work, while at the same time pointing out the lingering questions that the text raises, it is nothing short of excellent.

While our short summary of these articles hopefully conveys the remarkable and cutting-edge quality of the entire volume, it is in no way adequate to capture the full richness of the individual pieces. With that said, we leave you to read them for yourselves. Working on this volume has been an inimitable experience and an immense pleasure. We hope you will enjoy reading it as much as its contributors enjoyed creating it for you.

Hollie L. Sawyers & C'Reda J. Weeden

Co-Editors-in-Chief