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## Letter from the Editors

Berkeley La Raza Law Journal

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May 2019

Dear Reader:

In 1981, during a time Latinx professors were largely shut out of flagship law journals, Berkeley Law students founded *Berkeley La Raza Law Journal* to uplift the voices of Latinx scholars by providing a platform for publication. Throughout the last three decades, the *Journal's* scholarship has shed light on and promoted analysis of critical legal issues impacting the greater Latinx community.

Now, Latinx scholars and allies have a platform not only in Latinx and other affinity law journals, but also in flagship law reviews around the country. This gave us an opportunity to expand the focus of the *Journal* to elevate the scholarship and stories of Latinx law students and our allies.

For the first time ever, a majority of the works published in the *Journal* were written by Berkeley Law students. In this Volume, you'll find students' academic work, family narratives, and pieces that exist at the intersection of personal reflection and the law. We are honored that so many students chose *Berkeley La Raza Law Journal* Volume 29 as a platform to publish their work.

We hope this Volume represents the start of a new era for the *Journal*, where analysis of Latinx issues is driven by both professors and students.

The robust publication of student works in Volume 29 would not have been possible without the help of many others. We would like to thank Professor Ian Haney Lopez, who encouraged us to reimagine the boundaries of a traditional law journal. This bold vision would not have become a reality this year without the tireless work of Kiki Tapiero, who developed and managed the infrastructure and the people that made editing student works possible. We would also like to recognize James Gaeta, Karla Maradiaga, Clarissa Olivares, and Tom Rivera, who each edited student work in addition to their existing roles on the *Journal*.

We hope reading this volume inspires and excites you.

In solidarity,

Camila Gonzalez & Lexi Heller  
Editors-in-Chief, Volume 29  
*Berkeley La Raza Law Journal*