Editors’ Note

We write this forward at an important moment for the Berkeley Journal of Employment and Labor Law. Not only is this the fortieth edition of one of the oldest student-run journals at Berkeley Law, but the scholarship within represents the vibrancy of thought and advocacy that have sustained BJELL as an institution for so many years.

However, we approach this moment with a healthy dose of solemnity. Recent movements in the law and among public discourse have called into question the foundational premises that have protected working people in this country for decades: the right to organize, the right to be free from sexual orientation discrimination, the right to fair wages, and so much more.

We find solace in, and are heartened by, the labor of love that is this journal. Every member of our masthead has made a contribution to pushing back against these worrying trends and several will commit their entire careers to reversing them. We express our deepest appreciation to each and every one of them. And the authors of this volume – as well as its second issue – represent academics and practitioners who are committed to a vision of the law that promotes solidarity, community, and compassion. We thank them as well for their tireless devotion to even the smallest details of their scholarship.

We look forward to seeing this journal evolve and respond to changes in the law over the next forty years. May the work of so many who made this edition possible serve as an enduring beacon for future advocacy, litigation, and policy change on behalf of working people everywhere.

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