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EDITOR'S NOTE

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RACE AND ETHNIC ANCESTRY LAW DIGEST

Washington and Lee University School of Law

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EDITOR'S NOTE

My friends and I, with the support of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Shepherd, Professor Louise Halper and Deans Randall Bezanson and Barry Sullivan, founded the *Race and Ethnic Ancestry Law Digest* after attending a symposium on *Race, Crime, and the Criminal Justice System*. The symposium, sponsored by the Francis Lewis Law Center, discussed the correlation between being black in America and the likelihood of arrest, criminal prosecution, conviction, and punishment. It was a revealing exposé on the peculiar impact of the criminal law upon the lives of American minorities. For once, the entire law school was bristling with concern and debate on legal issues that affect black people. But when the symposium ended, so did the discussion of these issues. We had to find a way to keep the debate alive. *R.E.A.L. Digest* is the result of our efforts.

Our inaugural issue celebrated *Brown v. Board of Education* as the pinnacle of the civil rights movement and racial justice. Our second issue remembers the abyss of *Plessy v. Ferguson*, and queries whether America is returning to a darker day in its history. Under a theme as omnibus as "*Money, Power, and Politics- Where Does It Leave Minorities*," this issue reviews the long hot summer of 1995 in the area of civil rights.

The Supreme Court in *Adarand Constructors, Inc. v. Peña* curtailed the federal government's ability to offer financial incentives to contractors hiring minority subcontractors on highway construction projects. In *Missouri v. Jenkins*, the Court circumscribed a federal district court's efforts to integrate a segregated public school system. In *Miller v. Johnson*, the Court curbed attempts to maximize minority voting power through the creation of minority-majority voting districts. The articles of this issue of *R.E.A.L. Digest* were presented during a symposium entitled *Civil Rights: Has The Dream of the 1960s Turned Into the Nightmare of the 1990s?* The symposium held on February 16, 1996, at Washington and Lee University School of Law, asked whether the results of *Adarand*, *Jenkins*, and *Miller* take the nation a step back toward *Plessy* in creating an era of less opportunity, less education, and less political access for minorities? We do not imagine that the questions posed can be definitively answered in a single issue, but we invite you to our discussion.

DAVID KIRKPATRICK