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## EDITOR'S NOTE

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

It is my honor to present the seventh volume of the Washington and Lee Race and Ethnic Ancestry Law Journal. The current Editorial Board worked diligently on this issue of the Journal over the past year. I am extremely proud of the skill, excitement and energy the current Editorial Board brought to the Journal. As a result of their hard work and dedication the journal is filled with scholarly articles and case notes that explore the interconnectedness of race and the law.

In this volume, we present five thought provoking articles. We are especially excited about the inclusion of two important voices in the dialogue on the present day effects of the African slave experience in America. Professor Peggy Davis' piece *Neglected Stories* is both legal scholarship and personal narrative. It continues to question the Supreme Court's dismissal of Reconstruction legislation. Reconstruction was the only moment in a American history when its lawmakers bore a strong resemblance to the populace they served. Professor Bridgewater's piece is a thought provoking inquiry into the impact of the unique brand of enslavement endured by African females. The piece explores how reproductive and sexual abuse of female slaves should be understood within the context of Thirteenth Amendment jurisprudence.

The student articles in this year's Journal examine racial discrimination issues furthering our mission to stay on the cutting edge of examining the racial and legal arguments of the future.

This year we celebrated the work done by past editorial boards and honored the Journal's founder David Kirkpatrick and the first Editorial Board. We are thankful for the legacy they created in the Journal and recognize their efforts in shaping its role in legal discourse. It is my hope and that of the Editorial Board that the contents of this Journal will shape discussion of how the law, affects minority communities both nationally and internationally for years to come.

It has been a great honor to serve as the Journal's seventh editor-in-chief, and I am grateful to all those who contributed to this issue. I wish to thank our faculty advisor Professor Louise Halper for her tireless effort, guidance and advice. Finally, I would like to thank Dean David Partlett for his support and sponsorship.

*Melanie M. Lee*

