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EDITOR'S NOTE

Shellie L. Sewell

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Ten years ago, after attending a symposium focusing on race and the criminal law system sponsored by the Washington & Lee's Francis Lewis Law Center, students sought to keep alive the dialogue that ensued after that event by creating a scholarly publication that provided a forum for issues about race and ethnic ancestry. The *Race and Ethnic Ancestry Digest* was born. Throughout the past ten years, the *Digest* has grown into a full journal featuring articles discussing race, ethnicity, and gender from prominent and diverse individuals such as Justice Clarence Thomas, Peggy Cooper Davis, Pamela Bridgewater, Cynthia Mabry, and Barbara Bernier.

In year ten of the *Journal*, recent changes in the legal landscape give us much to reflect upon. The Supreme Court decided several major cases that impact the status of race, gender, and sexuality in our country. From *Lawrence v. Texas* to the University of Michigan affirmative action cases, the Supreme Court brought the law closer toward inclusiveness and acceptance of difference. Our case notes track the important Supreme Court and U.S. Court of Appeals cases from the past year. These notes serve as markers of how far our courts have come in ten years, but also remind us of how far we still have to go.

Volume 10 features articles that pay homage to our past and raise challenges for the future. Thomas J. Davis's article explores the carefully constructed challenge to binary racial categories that culminated in the landmark case of *Plessy v. Ferguson*. Bernie D. Jones then discusses issues surrounding international and transracial adoption. Reinforcing our mission to keep dialogue about race active, Veryl Miles challenges the legal academy to continue recruiting and retaining faculty of color in her article adapted from the Mid-Atlantic People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference held here at Washington & Lee University School of Law in 2003.

Keeping with tradition, we also offer two student articles that explore the issue of reparations for descendants of former slaves and the role of cognitive dissonance in *Loving v. Virginia*, *Bowers v. Hardwick*, and *Lawrence v. Texas*.

I would like to thank all of the past editorial boards and case note writers for contributing to the vision embodied by the *R.E.A.L. Journal*. On behalf of the Board, I would like to express our gratitude to Professor Louise Halper for her continued encouragement and guidance and to Dean David Partlett for his respect and support of the *Journal*.

Shellie L. Sewell

