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Editor's Note

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Editor's Note

The *Washington and Lee Journal of Civil Rights and Social Justice* is a research and reference publication focusing on the legal aspects of race and ethnicity as they intersect with class, gender, ability, and sexuality. The JCRSJ seeks to educate, empower, and develop a greater understanding of issues that affect minority communities. To that end, the JCRSJ endeavors to provide a space for scholars of all persuasions to expand and develop a theoretical, critical, and socially relevant discourse.

Fall issues of the JCRSJ contain articles memorializing the JCRSJ's annual symposium, in addition to scholarly articles and Notes written by Washington and Lee law students. Spring issues contain scholarly articles and student Notes. Since the Spring 2006 issue, all student Notes published in the JCRSJ have been authored by Washington and Lee law students.

This issue memorializes the *Washington and Lee Journal of Civil Rights and Social Justice's* Symposium: *Race and Class in the 21st Century Through the Lens of Hurricane Katrina*. The scholarly articles within this issue contemplate race and class as intersecting factors that operated conjunctively to shape the opportunities of victims of Hurricane Katrina. Prior to the symposium, a group of Washington and Lee law students traveled to New Orleans to assist those affected by the Hurricanes. The reality on the ground was startling. A year and a half after the Hurricanes, half the city still appeared wet from the flooding and empty FEMA trailers could be seen on the highway for miles. That experience was an opportunity to step out of the shoes of the academic, to see the reality, and to understand what is truly at stake in New Orleans and the surrounding Gulf Coast. That experience will stay with me and as we examine the issues being dealt with as a result of the Hurricanes, it is crucial to remember that legal issues translate into social injustices.

I would like to express my gratitude to the amazing editorial board of the JCRSJ who have all worked tirelessly to see this issue published. A special thanks to Dean Rodney A. Smolla, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Robert T. Danforth, and the administration of Washington and Lee for their support of our work and our mission. The JCRSJ would also like to thank the Francis Lewis Law Center for its assistance in planning this year's symposium, and a special thanks to Professors Louise Halper and Dorothy Brown for their involvement in the symposium and for their guidance throughout the years.

We at the JCRSJ are proud of who we are and what we do. We look forward to any questions and comments.

Diane S. Meier

