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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 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.

With last year's symposium about Hurricane Katrina and the intersection of race and class in mind, this year the JCRSJ held its second annual service trip to New Orleans to assist victims of Hurricane Katrina. The experience continues to remind us that legal issues translate into social injustices on the ground. This insight is key to groundbreaking scholarship that endeavors to challenge the traditional social and legal systems that perpetuate inequality.

This spring the JCRSJ held a symposium about sexual orientation law and major issues that impact the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered (LGBT) community. This symposium focused on various issues such as same-sex marriage and its economic implications, AIDS and health care law, and the repeal of the "Don't Ask Don't Tell" policy. More broadly this symposium focused on the legal inequities people face because of their sexual orientation and gender identity, and the social issues that follow. For Washington and Lee University School of Law, this was the first major event to address the legal status of the LGBT community. As the fight for LGBT equality becomes more heated, and pushed further into the forefront of modern politics, it becomes increasingly important to distance ourselves from generalities, and to truly understand how laws affect social reality, economics, and one's civil rights. Only by promoting such an understanding of the issues the LGBT community now faces will scholarship capably effect legislative and real world change.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire editorial board of the JCRSJ, especially Kristen L. Depowski, who contributed more than just her editing skills, but also a rich spirit and vitality to the Journal. The JCRSJ is indebted to the administration of Washington and Lee, specifically Dean Rodney A. Smolla and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Robert T.

Danforth, for their support. The JCRSJ would also like to thank the Francis Lewis Law Center for co-sponsoring this Spring's symposium. Finally, a warm thanks to Professor Louise Halper, for all her support in planning this year's symposium, her wisdom, and thoughtful encouragement.

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