Editor's Note

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EDITOR’S NOTE

On March 18, 2011, the Washington and Lee Journal of Civil Rights and Social Justice hosted a Symposium on Traffic and the War on Drugs. Readers can view the Symposium online at our website: law.wlu.edu/crsj. We are proud to publish Articles based on the Symposium presentations in this issue of the Journal.

The panelists focused on the intersection of race and the criminal justice system. Our Symposium Articles discuss disparate enforcement of drug laws, our increasingly criminalized immigration, the systematic disenfranchisement of communities through mass incarceration, and the realities of racial profiling. As this issue goes to print, controversy builds over the killing of Trayvon Martin in Sanford, Florida on February 26, 2012. Martin’s death reveals racial divides and legal discrepancies in our system, highlighting the need to continue the conversations provoked by our authors.

Also in this issue, we proudly continue our tradition of publishing student Notes, each of these written by Washington and Lee law graduates of the class of 2012. These Notes cover deceptive police practices that skirt Fourth Amendment protections, the constitutionality of banning burqas in the United States as compared to the French ban authorized in 2010, and the requirement that counsel advise non-citizen clients about the immigration consequences of pleading guilty. These topics continue to develop.

This term, in United States v. Jones, the Supreme Court refined Fourth Amendment jurisprudence. In 2011 and 2012, anti-Sharia legislation advanced through state legislatures. And the Roberts Court continues to expand the Sixth Amendment right to counsel, as evidenced by the recent decisions in Martinez v. Ryan, Missouri v. Frye, and Lafler v. Cooper.

This year’s editorial board attended the 2011 Symposium as staff writers, and we are honored to publish this issue. I extend my gratitude to the 2010–11 editorial board for developing the Symposium, as well as to this year’s editors for all their hard work in bringing these Articles and Notes to print. I offer particular thanks to Koral Fusselman and Chad Ayers for their cooperation and dedication over the past year.

Many thanks as well to Professor Ann Massie for her advice and guidance during our time as editors. And thank you, Elizabeth Christensen, for the perpetual patience, attention, and diligence that you provide to the Journal. Finally, the Journal would like to express its continual gratitude to the administration of Washington and Lee School of Law for its support. Specifically, we thank Dean Mark Grunewald and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Robert T. Danforth.

Michael Hartley
Lexington, Va.