

9-1-2012

## Editor's Note

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### Recommended Citation

*Editor's Note*, 19 Wash. & Lee J. Civ. Rts. & Soc. Just. vi (2012).

Available at: <https://scholarlycommons.law.wlu.edu/crsj/vol19/iss1/4>

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### **Editor's Note**

This special edition of the *Journal of Civil Rights and Social Justice* includes articles prompted by a symposium held at Washington and Lee University School of Law on March 16, 2012. Entitled "Racial Disparities in the Disaster Context," the symposium addressed the distinctive impact of natural disasters on minorities in the United States. Although nature itself is blind to its victims, mankind's responses are not. As several of the authors discuss, minorities are often the most displaced and most affected by disease in the wake of natural disasters. The articles in this symposium issue range from the history of the disparate impact of natural disasters on minorities to cultural perspectives on disaster insurance.

Also, the *Journal* is honored to publish student Notes by five Washington and Lee law graduates of the class of 2013. Their Notes discuss the constitutional validity of the controversial Defense of Marriage Act, extending same-sex relationship recognition in the military, the role of judges in Veterans Treatment Courts, the anti-Sharia movement in the United States, and the effect of Virginia's remodel of eminent domain on minorities.

I would like to express my gratitude to the editorial board of 2012-2013 for their invaluable help in publishing this issue, particularly Ross Johnson. A special thank you goes to the *Journal's* administrator, Leigh Walters, for her dedication to the future of the *Journal*.

Lastly, the *Journal* would like to thank our new dean, Nora V. Demleitner, as well as Professor Ann Massie, our faculty advisor, for their support. And finally, the *Journal* would like to express its gratitude to the administration of Washington and Lee School of Law for allowing us not only to publish articles that bring light to problems endured by the underrepresented, but also to include scholars of these important issues to participate in our symposiums.

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