

Editor's Note

The number ten often represents a significant milestone. The ten-year anniversary of an organization, marriage, or other significant endeavor is indicative of success and staying power. For the *Berkeley Journal of African-American Law & Policy*, publishing our tenth volume carries with it similar significance. For the past nine volumes, the Editorial Board has worked to carry out the vision of its founding members who sought to create a forum of legal scholarship addressing issues that predominantly affect African-American communities and the African Diaspora. As those members aptly observed, "...if the [work] of minority scholars were widely accepted and published in majority law journals, if the problems strangling minority communities were often the focus of scholarly discourse, then we probably would not need this journal."¹ The previous nine volumes were born from that vision and were made possible by the strong need for such a journal and by the dedication and tenacity of the student editors. The same holds true for Volume X.

In presenting Volume X, we also reach an additional milestone. Volume X is the first volume of our journal that will include two independent editions. This edition (Volume X, No. 1) is our annual publication of pieces that the Editorial Board chose as unique contributions of legal scholarship. The second edition (Volume X, No. 2) is comprised entirely of the papers presented at our recent symposium titled *Setting the Agenda: Examining the Critical Legal Issues Facing African-Americans and Minority Communities in the 2008 Elections*.

Although we have successfully reached this milestone now, it has not been without challenges. The Editorial Board of Volume V (at the time when our journal was named the *African-American Law & Policy Report*) described these challenges appropriately:

Boalt Hall has undergone quite a transformation through the effects of Proposition 209 banning affirmative action. We are a shadow of the diversity that existed as recent as a decade ago when the *African-American Law & Policy Report* was created. Ever since the passage of this 1997 legislation, Boalt has struggled to realize the diversity that had previously marked this institution.

1. Mario L. Barnes & Angela N. Watkins, *Editors' Note*, 1 AFR.-AM. L. & POL'Y REP. ix (1994).

Although it has been a difficult task to keep the *Report* afloat for the past several years, it is a pleasure to be able to present this finished product despite the significant effects of a post-209 world. It has taken the hard work and support of several dedicated members to ensure that the *Report* remains a vessel to promote scholarship for and by the African-American community. While the *Report* has watched its membership drastically decrease, there was still a pressing drive to continue the legacy that a once thriving African-American community at Boalt created.²

These statements ring true even today. Despite these challenges, our commitment to our founders' vision of providing a forum for issues affecting African-Americans allows us now to present Volume X, No. 1. In this edition you will find three compelling pieces of legal scholarship. First is *Abstinence-Only Education and Minority Teenagers: A Question of Constitutionality* by Risha K. Foulkes. Second is *From Color Line to Color Chart?: Race and Colorism in the New Century* by Angela P. Harris. Third is *The Tuskegee Syphilis Experiments: A Restorative Justice Approach* by Abigail Perkiss. It is our hope that these pieces will not only provide meaningful contributions to academia, but that they will also provide an impetus for meaningful change in the lives of the individuals affected by these subject areas.

- Darius Graham
Editor-in-Chief

2. Khari Tillery, Courtni Burleson & Nikki Radford, *Editors' Note*, 5 AFR.-AM. L. & POL'Y REP. vii (2002).