

## Editors' Note

Founded in 1992 by a group of law students at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law, the *Berkeley Journal of African-American Law & Policy* has since steadily developed a reputation for excellence in producing scholarship that addresses legal and policy issues affecting the African-American community. As one of the select few law journals focusing its attention fully on legal issues facing the African-American community—especially in an era in which race and color are profoundly significant, arguably both legally and culturally—a journal devoted to the examination of such significance is undeniably invaluable. In our Fourteenth Volume, we are proud to carry forward BJALP's vision for cutting edge scholarship by offering three articles that find themselves at the forefront of socio-legal thought.

Professor Shiv Persaud explores issues of cultural competency within the criminal justice system. Professor Persaud argues that cultural competence can help ensure that the justice system avoids the imposition of the dominant cultural values and morals on cross-cultural defendants.

Alexandra Harwin explores the history and prospects of using Title VII to protect minority men from employment discrimination based on prior arrests, convictions, or incarcerations.

Finally, Professor Julian Heilig, along with Meredith Richards, Kori Stroub, and Michael Volonnino, examine the Berkeley Unified School District's geographic-based integration strategy in lieu of *Parents Involved*, which placed significant restrictions on how race and ethnicity may be used in school assignments. These scholars provide an in-depth statistical analysis on how geographic-based integration strategies may be implemented in other major metropolitan areas across the United States, leading them to the conclusion that such strategies offer an effective and legally viable means of preserving and increasing racial diversity in American schools.

We are acutely aware that the scholarship presented in this volume merely touches the surface of the countless issues in need of exploration within our community. We further realize that in order to bring these issues to light we must continue to expand our participation in legal and policy discourse. We are confident this Journal will continue to examine and present solutions to some of the most difficult challenges affecting the African-American community, and we are honored to have had the opportunity to carry the Journal's torch forward.