

WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW

SOCIAL JUSTICE & EQUITY  
LAW JOURNAL



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VOLUME 4  
ISSUE 2  
JUNE 2021

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# THE SOCIAL JUSTICE & EQUITY LAW JOURNAL OF WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW

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June 2021

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Reader,

It is my distinct privilege to introduce Issue Two of Volume Four of Willamette University College of Law's Social Justice & Equity Law Journal (the *Journal*). The *Journal* was formed with one mission: to create an interdisciplinary academic forum in Oregon for scholars, practitioners, policy makers, and students to contribute to society's understanding of legal and policy issues concerning social justice and equity.

To say that the 2020–2021 academic year was challenging would be an understatement. Students faced cloying smoke for weeks due to wildfire and a multi-week power outage due to a once-in-four-decade snow and ice storm. And all of this amid the backdrop of a global pandemic. Through it all, this exceptional group of students devoted themselves to the promotion of social justice through their work on this journal. It has been my great honor to lead this group of students, without whom the journal could not exist. I am deeply grateful to each of them for their service.

In our first note, "Curing What Ails U.S. (Asylum Law): Dismantling the Mythology of "Private Violence" Undergirding *Matter of A-B-*," author Sarah Husk examines and critiques former Attorney General Jefferson Sessions' 2018 opinion in *Matter of A-B-* and the Trump Administration's broader hostility to domestic-and sexual violence-based asylum claims.

Our first article, by Carlos Micames, "Affirming Affirmative Action: Weighing the Use of Race in Admissions for Higher Education," reviews case law on affirmative action in higher education. Micames then applies that case law to predict how the Supreme Court is likely to rule in future affirmative action cases.

In our last note, "Tempering Glass Armor: A Demand for Improved Anti-Discrimination Housing Laws to Protect Homeless Transgender People," author Jack Beasley analyzes the potential ramifications of the Trump Administration's proposed homeless shelter rules on transgender individuals.

The theories and ideas purported by the authors within this publication are not those of the *Journal* or Willamette University College of Law. However, it is our mission to give voice to issues not commonly published by law reviews or other non-special interest journals. It is our hope that this publication will foster discussion of change in the interest of social justice and equity for all and ultimately spur the legal community to action in furtherance of these pursuits.

Sincerely,

Christopher M. Killmer  
Editor-in-Chief

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The editorial staff of the Willamette University Social Justice and Equity Law Journal extends their gratitude to Professor Steven K. Green, Fred H. Paulus Professor of Law at Willamette University. In addition to serving as the *Journal's* faculty advisor he continues to participate in and further the *Journal's* mission through his mentorship.

The editorial staff also appreciate the contributions and guidance of Daniel Santos. Mr. Santos is a former Dean of Student Affairs at Willamette University College of Law.

The editorial staff also thank Ms. Galin Brown, Access Services Manager of the Willamette University College of Law Library, and Ms. Mary Rumsey, Reference & Instruction Services Librarian of the Willamette University College of Law Library.

Lastly, the editorial staff thank Felipe Rendon, founding Editor-in-Chief of this journal, without whose efforts this publication would not exist to address legal issues that are often overlooked by mainstream academia.