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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents

Letter From The Editor	iv
I Too Can Practice Law: The Legal Hurdles Of DACAmenter Attorneys	1
Reimagining Death Penalty Prosecution: Analyzing America’s Failure To Align The Perception Of The Death Penalty With Reality	29
A Cruel And Unusual Punishment: An Overview Of Private Healthcare In U.S. Jails And Prisons	51

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Reader,

It is my distinct privilege to introduce Volume Five of the Willamette University College of Law's Social Justice & Equity Journal. I am grateful to the staff of this incredible journal for their hard work in making this academic pursuit a reality. The majority of this team was experiencing in-person legal education as we returned to the classroom amidst a pandemic. The ability of our staff to provide excellent work amidst a year which can only be described as chaotic and challenging is incredibly commendable, and for all of them, I am extremely thankful.

Volume 5 of the Journal is also seeing the largest change to the journal since its inception. Beginning with this Volume, the Journal will no longer publish papers by professors or established academics, but rather pivot to solely student works. While Willamette Law students will likely write the majority of articles to be published, the Journal will continue to accept submissions from students around the country. The purpose of this change is to provide students a path to gain recognition for academic works that will contribute to discussions in the field of Social Justice when those works would generally be ignored. It is not just Professors or full-time academics who can contribute to a better world, and the Journal seeks to enable high-quality student scholarship to have an impact as well.

This transitional phase led to only three articles being published in this volume, though they are all of incredible quality. First, Willamette Law graduate Alyne Sanchez discusses the practice of law by "undocumented" residents under DACA, along with the barriers which various states employ, and the hurdles which undocumented attorneys face. Secondly, Willamette Law graduate Makayla Maraganis writes about the interplay of the carceral state and the private healthcare schemes imposed upon the prison system, along with possible solutions for providing higher quality healthcare to incarcerated individuals. Finally, Mississippi Law graduate Schyler Burney analyzes the myths surrounding death penalty prosecution in the United States, showing that the public's general perception of the "benefits" of the death penalty simply do not match reality.

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,
Zachary Forrester
Editor-in-Chief