

WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW

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

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Reader,

It is a great honor to introduce Volume Six of the Willamette University College of Law's *Social Justice & Equity Journal*. Since 2016, the Journal has continued to support up-and-coming legal researchers and advocates passionate about the advancement of social justice and equity within Oregon and beyond. Starting this year, the Journal has chosen to uplift our local legal community and focus exclusively on publishing academic papers authored by Willamette Law students.

To further support this ambitious mission, multiple students have volunteered countless hours as editors to prepare and finalize these articles for publication. As many are aware, law students must be selective of their extracurriculars after dedicating significant time to their academic pursuits, legal employment, and personal lives. Despite the time commitment, each and every editor indicated a passion for social justice and advocacy and were eager to assist and collaborate. I am eternally grateful for the hard work and determination of the editorial board to produce excellent work. Thank you all.

In addition to publishing exclusively student work, we have shifted our publication schedule to publish once a year to ensure the quality of our articles. While the theories and ideas purported by the authors within this publication do not represent the views of the Journal or Willamette University College of Law, we are proud to present five articles focused on identifying and proposing solutions to severe issues impacting underrepresented and marginalized communities.

First, Alexandria Hanna (JD '23) extensively discusses the consequences of inaction against climate change and disasters and proposes criminal law reform in *Killing Our Home: the Case for Creating an International Crime of Ecocide*.

Second, Paul Lemieux (JD '23) advocates for the increased accessibility of broadband internet to rural communities and proposes a municipal public utility model in *The Time Has Come for Broadband Internet to Be Regulated as a Utility: How the COVID Pandemic Crystallized this Reality*.

Third, Alexandra Teesdale (JD '23) calls attention to the increasing danger of extreme heat events in Oregon and proposes policy-focused efforts to protect vulnerable residential populations in *Extreme Heat in Oregon: How to Alleviate the Burden of Poor Air Quality on Vulnerable Residents Through Protective Standard Setting Schemes*.

Fourth, Rachel Lara-Schmidt (JD '23) uncovers how industrial agriculture during the COVID-19 pandemic exposed life-threatening health disparities among migrant workers and proposes legislative changes to protect the vulnerable community in *Meatpacking, Migrant Labor, OSHA, and COVID-19*.

Finally, Samantha Fakharzadeh (JD '24) challenges "colorblindness" in historical and modern police enforcement as disproportionately affecting citizens of color in *Lynching: Frontier Justice and Modern Day Policing*.

Clearly inspired by modern events and thoughtful reflection, Volume Six is a publication that emphasizes the need for significant policy changes to address issues that have disproportionately impacted generations of marginalized communities. We hope this publication fosters discussion towards the advancement of social justice and lasting equity for all persons.

Sincerely,  
Caitlin Adel Spencer  
Editor-in-Chief