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VOLUME 46

ISSUE 4

**Symposium—The Long Overdue Reform of
California's Sentencing Practice and Policy**

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Note from the Editor-in-Chief

It is with truly conflicted feelings that I announce that this is the final issue of the final volume of the *McGeorge Law Review*. As part of an ongoing strategic restructuring at Pacific McGeorge School of Law, the faculty has decided to merge the school's two current student publications into a new journal: *The University of the Pacific Law Review*. While I am saddened to see a journal with such a rich history—the product of thousands of law students' work—come to an end, I am excited about what the future of student and professional scholarship will bring to Pacific McGeorge. Helping to facilitate the creation of this new project has been a primary focus of my tenure as Editor-in-Chief. This time of transition has given me some opportunity to pause and reflect upon the importance of academic scholarship in the legal community and the future of student scholarship in the legal academy.

Near the end of my first year of law school, I attended the journal's symposium entitled: "*The State and Future of Legal Education*." At this event, Pacific McGeorge Dean Francis Mootz shared some remarks about the evolving roles of a contemporary law school as a training ground for a new generation of attorneys and an important pillar of the traditional academy: "Legal education must change in order to prepare tomorrow's lawyers to thrive amidst the many challenges that are now emerging, but that change is probably best defined as training our students to be prepared for a life of perpetual change. . . . By going 'back to the future'—by reclaiming a millennia-long tradition of education and bringing it to bear on present challenges—we can fulfill this task."¹

It is with this vision in mind that the combined boards of the student publications, the Journals Committee, and Pacific McGeorge faculty and administration responded to the pressing challenges facing our journals and our institution. We have devised a means by which original student scholarship will add to the voice of academic discourse, renowned professors from around the world will collaborate with students on publication, and Pacific McGeorge will continue to have an avenue to broadcast the ideas emerging from our many campus symposia to the legal community. *The University of Pacific Law Review* will be a hybrid product featuring both traditional printed issues and an integrated online presence that supports rather than supplants the physical journal. We are looking forward to the ongoing development of *The University of the Pacific Law Review*.

The articles in the final issue of the *McGeorge Law Review* grew out of our November 17, 2014 symposium entitled: *The Long Overdue Reform of California's Sentencing Practice and Policy*. This symposium came ten years after a similar program entitled: *Sentencing Policy and Practice: Dollars and Sense* and revisited many of the same topics raised a decade

1. Francis J. Mootz III, *Introduction*, 45 MCGEORGE L. REV. 3 (2013).

before. This symposium provided a unique opportunity to examine critically the progress made in this controversial field and allowed some of the authors a forum to revisit their arguments with the benefit of hindsight. Further, new minds were brought to the table to present different perspectives and share their experiences in this arena. In addition to the papers presented at the symposium, we have included a student Comment written by Devina Douglas. Sharply contrasting some of the ideas presented at the program, Douglas masterfully provides a different perspective on one aspect of sentencing reform that holds its own in an issue otherwise dedicated to professional scholarship.

I would like to thank the incomparable *McGeorge Law Review*, Volume 46, Board of Editors. I could not have asked for a better team to work with this year. I also wish to thank the editorial staff and staff members who have put in the tireless efforts it takes to publish a journal; Pauline Rodriguez Acosta, our Computer Publishing Specialist and the true backbone of *McGeorge Law Review*; Professor John Sims, our gracious and unwaveringly supportive faculty advisor; and the faculty and administration of Pacific McGeorge School of Law. Also, special thanks to Tiangay Kemokai, the Editor-in-Chief of the *Pacific McGeorge Global Business and Development Law Journal* for her collegial spirit and passion as we have worked together to develop the framework for the new journal.

Jason Miller
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