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## Letter from the Editor

Katherine Lent

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

The Richmond Journal of Law and the Public Interest is proud to present the final issue of Volume XVIII, the Symposium Edition of our Volume. This issue explores various topics relating to the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The articles in this issue grew out of the Celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act Symposium held at the University of Richmond, T.C. Williams School of Law in September 2014.

I would like to thank Katherine Groover and Carley Wyche, the 2014-2015 Symposium Editors, for their hard work, dedication and perseverance to ensure that the symposium and the accompanying issue both came to fruition. Without them, this symposium would not have been possible. This enriching event started such a unique dialogue: reminiscing on the past, discussing the present and hoping for the future.

I would also like to thank Commissioner Chai Feldblum for delivering the keynote address, as well as the other panelists and speakers who helped present a successful symposium. Additionally, I would like to thank the Honorable Henry L. Marsh, III for taking the time to reflect on his involvement in the Civil Rights Movement.

This issue includes several articles from scholars reflecting and analyzing the efforts of the Civil Rights Movement culminating in the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and its effect that is still seen today. In *Environmental Justice as Civil Rights*, Wyatt Sassman, Associate Attorney at the Southern Environmental Law Center, offers a narrative explanation of environmental justice's relationship with civil rights law as a means of remedying existing inequalities in environmental regulation. He argues that environmental justice advocates need to focus on building the conceptual and doctrinal connection between environmental protection, property and personal dignity before trying a Title VIII claim.

Jonathon K. Stubbs, Professor of Law at our own University of Richmond School of Law, contributes his most recent work, *Modern "Sappers and Miners": The Roberts Court and the Civil Rights Act of 1964*. In his article, Professor Stubbs argues that the Supreme Court of the United States is systematically destroying the principal jurisprudential foundations of the Civil

Rights Act of 1964. He recounts a history of why the Act was premised on Congress's Commerce Clause authority instead of the enforcement power conferred on Congress by the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Amendments.

In *To End Divisions: Reflections on the Civil Rights Act of 1964*, Dr. Julian Maxwell Hayter, Assistant Professor of Leadership Studies at the University of Richmond, comments on how the Civil Rights Act moved beyond eliminating segregation. His article addresses how the racial climate of the 1960s shaped public policy by enabling African Americans to enforce their rights to live equal lives.

Andrea Simpson, Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Richmond, contributes her latest work in her article entitled, *Public Hazard, Personal Peril: The Impact of Non-Governmental Organizations in the Environmental Justice Movement*. She argues that the local emphasis of micro-movements that form the larger Environmental Justice Movement could gain more traction from relationships with non-governmental organizations; such a partnership could increase their ability to advocate and effect change on the national level.

All that we have achieved this year would not be possible without the dedication and hard work of the Editorial Board and the Staff. I would like to especially thank the Executive Board, Executive Editor Leah Dubuisson and Managing Editor Jacquelyn Bolen, for their undying dedication and enthusiasm about JOLPI. It has been such a rewarding experience working with these two on the executive board of the Journal. They keep the Journal running smoothly and headed in the right direction, and the Journal would not be where we are today without their hard work. Thank you to Brian Vieth, the Senior General Assembly and Manuscripts Editor for your leadership in publishing this year's extensive General Assembly Issue. I thank Rich Forzani and Hillary Wallace, who worked diligently to increase the number of articles coming in and select quality pieces for publication.

Again, thanks to Katherine Groover and Carley Wyche for their help in putting together this year's symposium. Many thanks to the Journal's Manuscripts Editors, Christopher Dorsey, Bennette Sharpe, Alexandra Lydon and Angelica Smith for their diligence in reviewing and editing each piece for publication. I thank Nick Linker for his assistance in the casenote competition and his mentorship to the second-year staff as they worked on their comments. I would also like to thank Chelsea Webster for her continued efforts in formatting and publishing our issues. Last, but certainly not least, I thank Alexander Bereny, Andrew Goodfellow, Veronica Snodgrass and Katie Taylor for their hard work during the past two years, and the rising third-year staff, for their contributions to our successful publications.

It has been an honor to serve as the Editor-in-Chief of Volume XVIII of the *Richmond Journal of Law and the Public Interest*, and I am proud of the Volume we have published. Each issue contains scholarship that contributes to the larger conversation about public interest in Virginia and nationwide. Each and every member of this Journal has worked tirelessly to increase the size of our publications and further contribute to the academic dialogue on such important issues. These publications are a team effort, and I could not have accomplished anything without the help and support of the entire Journal staff. Good luck to the incoming Editorial Board; the outgoing board is excited to see all that you will accomplish in Volume XIX. I am confident that the hard work and dedication of the Volume XVIII board has set the tone for another year of success.

Sincerely,  
Katherine Lent  
*Editor-in-Chief*

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