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## Letter From the Editor

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

*Alexandra Ellmauer*

2018]

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

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Dear Readers,

On behalf of the *Richmond Public Interest Law Review*, it is my honor to present the final issue of Volume XXI. This is the 2018 edition of our Spring Issue. We are proud to present an issue that covers a variety of timely topics, and we extend great gratitude to the authors who contributed their meaningful research and experience to our journal.

We proudly open the issue with Jonathan C. Augustine's article, *The Fiery Furnace, Civil Disobedience, & the Civil Rights Movement: A Biblical Exegesis on Daniel 3 & the Letter From Birmingham Jail*, which pays tribute to Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on the 50th anniversary of his assassination. In this piece, Augustine compares King's *Letter from Birmingham Jail* to a biblical passage. Augustine contends that King's message in the *Letter* was fueled by this biblical foundation, and the passion that King based the *Letter* on has inspired modern social movements.

Next, Marvin Astrada delves into the complexities of the judicial process in *The Nature of the Judicial Process: A Complex Systems Analysis of Checks & Balances & Separation of Powers in the Present Political Context*. This article uses complex systems analysis to analyze our nation's system of checks and balances and separation of powers. Through his analysis, Astrada views the courts as having a role in the nation's policymaking system.

In *Fostering Futures in Virginia: Why Is It Needed and What Does It Add to Existing Programs?*, Karen E. Dottore responds to an obstacle faced by "foster youth," or foster children between the ages of 18 and 21. Dottore responds to the problem, which is that foster youth are left with a lack of experience to become self-sufficient members of society by introducing a new program called Fostering Futures.

Chelsea Hernandez-Silk then addresses the laws surrounding emotional support animals in *They Say Emotional Support Dog, We Say Service Dog: Why the Americans with Disabilities Act Should Recognize Emotional Support Dogs as Service Animals*. In this article, Hernandez-Silk details why emotional support animals should be accepted in today's society and suggest ways in which the nation can achieve that goal.

In the first comment, *Bargaining Towards Equality: The Effects of Implicit Bias Training on Plea-Bargaining*, John Dunnigan (L '18) addresses a racial bias that exists in today's plea-bargaining process. Dunnigan proposes that implicit bias training would alleviate the discrimination and detail why this response would be a step in the right direction to curing the prevalent racial discrimination.

Finally, in *Giles, The Confrontation Clause, and Inferred Intent: Do Abusers Forfeit Their Confrontation Rights by Engaging in Domestic Violence?* Evan Stastny (L '19) reflects on *Giles v. California* and its implication in how the Confrontation Clause affects victims and defendants in Domestic Violence disputes.

The scope of this issue demonstrates the complex and intriguing society in which we live. We extend the utmost gratitude to each of the authors for sharing their research and experience with our readers. On behalf of the *Richmond Public Interest Law Review*, we sincerely hope this issue offers you insight into some of the most paramount topics in modern Public Interest Law.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Ellmauer

*Editor-in-Chief*