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Challenges and Solutions*

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The *University of Richmond Law Review* is proud to present its 2016 Allen Chair Symposium Issue: *School Inequality: Challenges and Solutions*. As part of a yearly effort to further the debate on a critical issue, the *Law Review* facilitates a national discussion among scholars, policymakers, students, and the community at large. This year's discussion focused on the importance of equal access to educational opportunities and the creative solutions that can be employed to reach such a goal.

Public education in the United States is a system fraught with disparities in educational opportunities. Often a student's ability to graduate and either attend college or enter the workforce with the requisite skills is tied to race, socio-economic class, or place of residence, and in some cases, all three. Although there is a myriad of complex issues, many school equality advocates have offered novel approaches to address them.

The *Law Review* assembled a group of leading education policy scholars and practitioners from across the country to present this problem at its Allen Chair Symposium on October 23, 2015. The issues discussed included: how per-pupil school funding disparities could be addressed on the state level; insight into the innovative approaches used to address school inequality; the unequal impact of school discipline policies; and whether the federal government should have an increased role in the governance of public schools.

The 2015 Allen Chair Symposium was the most-attended symposium ever held at the University of Richmond. There are a number of people the *Law Review* would like to thank who were crucial to the Symposium's success. To begin, we would like to thank the Symposium speakers who participated and furthered the discussion on this critical issue. These individuals include: Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights Catherine Lhamon, Kimberly Robinson, Lisa Scruggs, and Dr. Javaid Siddiqi.

In addition to participating in the Symposium, several of the other speakers went on to commemorate their discussion into an article which could be analyzed nationally. We would like to thank David Hinojosa, Molly Hunter, Dr. Jerusha Conner, Dr. Marilyn Armour, Meredith Harbach, Pamela Meanes, Jason Nance, Dr. Preston Green III, and Gerard Robinson for doing so. Additionally, we would like to thank the colleagues of the Symposium speakers who coauthored those articles, specifically Kelly Monahan, Dr. Bruce Baker, Dr. Joseph Oluwole, Dr. Julie Mead, and Kathleen Gebhardt. Finally, we would like to congratulate Katherine Lehnen and Kerrigan O'Malley, second-year *Law Review* staff members, for their interesting and thought-provoking articles, which are also featured in this book.

Putting together the Symposium was no small task. The University of Richmond School of Law's administration and faculty helped make the Symposium as successful as it was. We would like to thank the Symposium moderators Kevin Walsh, Dean Jim Gibson, Dr. Dionne Ward, and Dr. Tom Shields for guiding the discussions among the speakers and with the audience. Additionally, the *Law Review* would like to thank several individuals who played a role behind the scenes, specifically Courtney Fain, for her constant encouragement and assistance with the budgeting and logistics of the event; Emily Cherry, for her marketing expertise, which was the reason it was the most-attended Symposium; Dean Kristine Henderson, for always being available to help and her assistance with registering the Symposium for Continuing Legal Education Credit; and Carl Hamm and Carter Nichols, for the technological support they provided in preparation of and during the event.

We would especially like to thank Dean Wendy Perdue for her leadership as Dean of the Law School and her role in propelling the *Law Review* to constantly improve. Finally, we would like to thank the *Law Review's* faculty advisors John Douglass and Carl Tobias for their guidance throughout the year.

The Symposium was only half of the battle; putting together this Allen Chair Symposium Issue is where the real hours were spent. It was the persistence and care of the *Law Review's* staff that put this book together. I would especially like to thank the members of the Executive Board: Ann Reid, Jennifer Wong, Thomas DiStanislao, Jason Hodge, John Hogan, and Steven Lippman. They are some of the smartest and hardest working in-

dividuals that I have ever met, and there is no doubt that they are going to flourish in their legal careers.

Additionally, the *Law Review* would cease to exist without its Legal Publication Coordinator, Glenice Coombs. The organization is fueled by her vast expertise in molding articles into top form, her positivity in what can be an arduous and difficult job, and her sincere friendship. And for that, we say thank you.

On a personal note, I would like to thank my parents, Deborah and Michael Szesko, who always challenged me to be the best person I could be, both academically and personally. I am eternally grateful for their love and support throughout my life. I would also like to thank my sisters Julie-Ann and Sherilyn Szesko for their love and support as well. They are both teachers who are impacting the lives of students every day.

Finally, I would like to recognize two individuals that have been mentors to me. First, I would like to thank Dr. Jerusha Conner. As a senior in college I enrolled in her Education Policy class because I needed three credits to graduate, not knowing that her class would change the trajectory of my academic and legal career. It was her drive towards school equality that inspired me to want to get involved in helping students.

Second, I would like to thank Professor Kimberly Robinson for her guidance through every step of the Symposium. No matter what hour of the day it was, she was there to help. I would also like to thank her for being someone whom I have looked up to throughout law school. Working with her these past two years solidified my passion to pursue education law. She is highly regarded in the education law community, and someone I aspire to be.

The *Law Review* hopes that you will enjoy this year's Allen Chair Symposium Issue: *School Inequality: Challenges and Solutions*, and that it will inspire you to join the discussion as well.

Joseph Szesko
Allen Chair Editor 2016

