EDITOR'S NOTE

The Journal of Law and Social Change (JLASC) is an independent, student-run editorial collective with an interdisciplinary approach to the study of law. The journal solicits papers from scholars, practitioners, activists, and students. We aim to produce a publication informed by both theory and practice, one that is cognizant of inequality in the law and in society. We seek to respond to such inequalities with an approach that is intersectional, giving voice to those whom the traditional canons of legal scholarship silence all too often.

We hope that our readers will view JLASC as an invitation to engage in dialogue, challenging themselves and their colleagues to question their own systems of belief and to critically examine mainstream discourse. For academics, it means making theory more relevant to the world in which we live and more accessible to those outside of the academy. For practitioners and activists, they must not only share innovative approaches to their work but also engage in collaboration in reaching higher goals, so perhaps we will not speak of activists and lawyers but of lawyer-activists.

Through such an exploration, those isolated from the power of knowledge will ideally participate in a communicative space that offers important insights about a system that has been closed to their perspectives while often claiming to represent them. Diverse forms of expression are therefore necessary for the law to respond effectively and to take a proactive role as an agent of progressive social change.

As a journal which aspires for diversity and a focus on substantive equality in its content, we have a collective editorial structure that emphasizes collaboration, and seizes upon each member’s unique voice to produce a journal that embodies the strength of our diversity.

We would like to thank Regina Austin, Dean Gary Clinton and the Administration of the University of Pennsylvania Law School for their continued support of the journal. We would also like to extend special thanks to David Shifren, J.D. '06 for leading the editing of this volume.