

Foreword

The current volume of the *Touro Law Journal of Race, Gender, and Ethnicity* is devoted to wrongful convictions. This volume focuses on the legal issues stemming from arrest to trial and the societal impact on the rush to adjudication and life after a wrongful conviction. While some dispute the American criminal justice system is broken, others agree this system is functioning exactly how it was intended as a legal manner in which to incarcerate those of color.

Many of the Essays and Notes in this issue were presented during Part I of the 2019 JRGE Symposium titled, *The Plight of the Wrongfully Accused: A Discussion of the Legal Issues Arising from the Trial of the 1989 Central Park Case and the Exonerated Youth*, on November 7, 2019, at the Touro Law Center in Central Islip, New York. While the “Central Park 5” case ignited our interest in wrongful convictions, it merely served as a platform for the many legal issues surrounding it, such as the interrogation of a minor without a parent present, false confessions, and prosecutorial misconduct. Part II of the symposium was scheduled to take place on April 2, 2020, but was cancelled in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. We would like to dedicate this Issue to all those lost to the pandemic.

As co-editor in chief of the 2019 – 2020 JRGE issue, I’d like to extend my appreciation and thanks to the participants of the Symposium, the scholars, the Faculty Editorial Board, Professors Irene Crisci, Jorge Roig, John Linarelli, Marjorie Silver, Laura Dooley, and Meredith Miller and visiting Faculty Editors, Professors Melina Healey, Danielle Schwager, and Peter Zablotsky, for their unwavering support, our Faculty Advisor and guiding light, Associate Dean Deseriee Kennedy, the Editorial Board and staff, whose dedication to the success of the *Journal* did not falter despite facing adversity. A special thanks to Articles Editor Irene Satchwell who did much of the work of editing the essays.

Lastly, to my son, Nickaulas, thank you for putting up with my many late nights in the *Journal* office and phone conferences, even when I was home. The fear of raising a teenager of color in this social climate has brought the legal issues discussed in this volume very close to home. And to my fellow Editor-in-Chief Wendy Claros, we were determined to fulfill our vision, and although you graduated in December 2019, you continued to answer my many calls. We hoped that this publication would catalyze change. Well, partner, we did it!

Editor-in-Chief
Syndie G.E. Molina, *Juris Doctor Class of 2020*