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On November 19, 2008, the *Journal of Race, Gender and Ethnicity* and the Black Law Students Association organized and held a symposium, “Racial Violence and Self Defense” at Touro Law Center. The symposium featured a discussion of two controversial New York Cases, *People v. Goetz* and *People v. White*, and the roles that racial violence and self-defense played in those cases. This volume contains a case summary of *Goetz* prepared by the *Journal of Race, Gender and Ethnicity*, the transcript of the symposium, and an article authored by Prof. Richard Klein, of Touro Law Center, concerning the doctrine of self defense and the role of race in determining the proper use of force to protect oneself.

The presenters were Frederick Brewington Esq., attorney for John White, and Mark Baker, Esq., attorney for Bernhard Goetz. Each attorney discussed the facts and circumstances of the cases and their defense strategies, and explained how racial violence and self-defense were prevalent themes and influential factors in the outcome of these cases. The facts, as discussed by Mr. Brewington and Mr. Baker, reflect their clients’ accounts and their theories of the events.

The publication of this volume could not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the *Journal*’s 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 editorial boards and staff members. The *Journal* would also like to express our gratitude to Mr. Brewington and Mr. Baker for sharing their experiences with us. Additionally, we thank Prof. Klein for moderating the symposium and for his insightful article, and thank the Black Law Students Association for coordinating the event.

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