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EDITOR’S NOTE

The National Editorial Board is proud to present this double issue of the NATIONAL BLACK LAW JOURNAL. This expanded issue is the product of a joint enterprise between NBLJ and the University of Alabama School of Law.

In furtherance of the NATIONAL BLACK LAW JOURNAL’S commitment to providing a forum for the collective African-American voice, former Editor-in-Chief Brenda Sutton and Bryan Fair, Professor at University of Alabama School of Law, entered into a unique agreement. Students in Professor Fair’s seminar on Race, Racism and the American Law would produce comments to be included in an edition of the Journal. The fruits of that unique and bold agreement are the articles included herein. The foreword by Professor Fair and the student notes that follow, not only evidence the success of that agreement but also the success of Professor Fair’s seminar.

In his foreword, Professor Fair provides a trenchant argument illuminating the numerous fallacies and contradictions inherent in the constitutional doctrine of colorblindness. Professor Fair analyzes the history of the United States and its Constitution, and the vast body of antidiscrimination scholarship and caselaw, to demonstrate that the jurisprudence of the United States Supreme Court is not one of colorblindness, as the Court asserts; rather, it is, and always has been, distinctly coloraware.

The student authors address various aspects of the law as it relates to, and affects the lives of African-Americans — past, present and future. Though diverse in their perspectives and approaches, each of the student pieces evidence that race and the law are inextricably bound. The notes range from the provocative — as in Mark Sabel’s advocacy of a system of criminal justice for Black defendants to be administered exclusively by Black judges and juries — to the instructive — as Reginald Speegle evaluates the likely impact of the Civil Rights Act of 1991 in African-Americans’ continued battle against racial discrimination in the workplace.

It is the hope of the NATIONAL BLACK LAW JOURNAL that the articles included in this issue will complement existing dialogues concerning the convergence of race and law, and, in some instances, raise issues that will spawn wholly new dialogues. Now that the Supreme Court has made it patently clear that people of color may not seek protection from rights infringement within their tribunal, it is of immeasurable importance that African-Americans keep race dialogue ignited; lest, the flames of hope and justice be extinguished forever.

ANTHONY W. WHITE
Editor-in-Chief