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Foreword

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF FOREWORD

Our journal's main goal will always be to amplify the voices of those the world has historically silenced. No matter what, the *Hastings Race and Poverty Law Journal* will always be an ally that prioritizes those in need. Everybody deserves the fundamental right to live, to be free, and to pursue their dreams regardless of who they are or where they come from. Unfortunately, our world excludes certain groups' access to those rights.

All communities are unique. But too often in societal institutions, fear of the other serves as motivation to target and attack. To combat this fear, discussion is critical. And in this issue, we highlight several scholars from the [UC Hastings Center for Racial and Economic Justice's](#) "Connecting the Threads that Bind: Contextualizing Legalized Violence Against Asian Americans," a conference held on September 10, 2021. In *Asian and Muslim Americans Intersections, Solidarity and Striving Ahead*, Khaled Beydoun presents a panel discussion where she traces the roots of Islamophobia and offers a framework to dismantle it. Next, Russell C. Leong, in *Poetry Matters*, tells us of the power in poetry and shares two pieces that challenge the current structures we live in. In *The Racialization of Asian-Americans in the United States*, Michael Omi details Asian-American history and how this country's problematic past created the roots for the discrimination and hate we see today. While not part of the conference, we've included Nicole Tashovski's article *Immigration Judge Independence Under Attack: A Call to Re-evaluate the Current Method of IJ Appointment and Create a Separate Immigration Court System*, wherein Tashovski points out glaring issues in our immigration court system rooted in inappropriate prosecutorial control of adjudicators, and she proposes a way to achieve a system that is fair, equitable, and just for non-citizens. Lastly, we conclude with a transcript of Frank H. Wu's keynote address from the conference entitled *Asian Americans at a Crossroads*, which analyzes the plight of Asian-Americans during the Covid-19 pandemic. By looking at our country's historical context, Wu brings forth solutions that can both combat racism and empower Asian-Americans for the future.

Just as our journal commits to progress, we as individual staff members will never stop fighting for justice and freedom. We have not given up hope for the future we want to see.

Thank you,
Ritchie Lee
Editor-in-Chief
Hastings Race and Poverty Law Journal