

### **Editor's Note**

It is with pleasure that we present the first issue of the eighteenth volume of the UC Davis Journal of Juvenile Law & Policy. This issue explores areas of juvenile law that are particularly important in our communities. The articles further academic discussions and present compelling scholarship in immigration, juvenile justice and child welfare law.

The first article is "Unwarranted Punishment: Why the Practice of Isolating Transgender Youth in Juvenile Detention Facilities Violates the Eighth Amendment" by James Alec Gelin, a professor at Atlanta's John Marshall Law School. Prior to his career in academia, Professor Gelin served as a Senior Assistant Public Defender in DeKalb County, Georgia for sixteen years. Utilizing his vast experience with the juvenile justice system, Professor Gelin has written a strong critique of the practice of isolating transgender youth in juvenile detention facilities. By placing the critique in the framework of the Eighth Amendment, Professor Gelin explores methods to provide transgender youth with protections and identifies potential routes of advocacy.

Next, we present "Tailoring Entrapment to the Adolescent Mind" by Lily N. Katz, a 2013 graduate of Northwestern University School of Law and associate at Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP. Ms. Katz frames her discussion of the entrapment defense within recent United States Supreme Court cases that have recognized the unique space that juvenile offenders inhabit in the law. By bringing the adolescent mind into the context of entrapment, Ms. Katz identifies key ways that the entrapment defense should be updated to encompass advancements in science and the law.

We are pleased to present "Families First: Reframing Parental Rights as Familial Rights in Termination of Parental Rights Proceedings"

by John Thomas Halloran, a graduate of the Loyola University Chicago School of Law and current PhD student at the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration. Mr. Halloran's article explores reframing the allocation of rights in child welfare proceedings. By showing that child welfare proceedings often create a tension between the parents' rights and the child's best interest, Mr. Halloran argues that defining the rights in terms of the familial unit helps resolve that tension and refocus the proceeding on the child's welfare.

Finally, we present "Almost There: Unaccompanied Alien Children, Immigration Reform and a Meaningful Opportunity to Participate in the Immigration Process" by Wendy Shea, professor at Southern University Law Center. Professor Shea's article "Almost There: Unaccompanied Alien Children, Immigration Reform and a Meaningful Opportunity to Participate in the Immigration Process" discusses the unique challenges that unaccompanied alien children face when they have contact with the United States immigration system. Professor Shea advocates for changes to these children's right to counsel that would provide benefits to the children themselves and the system as a whole.

The diversity of the articles presented in this issue indicates the variety of the reforms needed to successfully advocate for and protect the young people in our communities. We hope that the articles will provide a forum for further investigation and discussion.

We would like to particularly thank our Managing Editors, Sterling Elmore and Rebecca Freed, along with our entire 2013-2014 UC Davis Journal of Juvenile Law & Policy staff for their hard work and dedication to making this issue a success.

Samantha Beatty & Erin Levenick  
Editors in Chief