

EDITORS' FOREWORD

We are honored to present the Summer 2023 issue of the *Social Justice Law Review*. The articles published within this issue reflect our editorial effort to highlight the ways in which large, systemic injustices manifest within individuals' daily lives. The complex machinery of oppression can sometimes seem impenetrable — too vast for any one person to begin to address — and these articles remind us that tangible inequities are what keep the apparatus running.

This issue begins with the transcript of the Free People of Color Symposium hosted in 2022, entitled *Beyond Black and White: Transcript of the Free People of Color Symposium Discussing Campus Approaches to Race in Twentieth Century West Coast Universities and a Racial Justice Audit Template for Universities*. This symposium featured professors, researchers, and historians from UC Davis, Cornell University, UC Berkeley, University of New Mexico, and Oregon State University sharing their research on how esteemed educational institutions historically benefited from — and themselves implemented — racist practices. This conversation suggests tools and tactics for other West Coast universities that wish to pursue the critical work of reckoning with these histories. As the saying goes, sunlight is the best disinfectant.

Our first article, *Predatory Landlords, Beware Lincoln's Law: The Federal (and State) False Claims Acts as Powerful Tools for Protecting Low-Income Section 8 Tenants From "Side Payment" Fraud* by Raphael P. Movsesian, exposes the deplorable practice of landlords charging low-income tenants unauthorized payments in contravention of Section 8 Housing Program regulations. Movsesian explores how lawsuits based on a Civil War-Era federal law have successfully held landlords accountable for this predatory behavior, and proposes a novel theory by which state law may also be leveraged to prevent such economic exploitation.

Our second article, *A Public Banking Option as a Viable Solution to Counter the Racial Economic Inequality Perpetuated by Predatory Overdraft Fee Schemes* by Livia Stahle, critically examines the ways in which low-income individuals, particularly people of color, are harmed by exploitative practices in the private banking industry. Stahle discusses the origins of the dreaded overdraft fee and banks' continued reliance on such practices, concluding with recommendations for state-run banking alternatives and proposing a new federal program incentivizing states to explore the feasibility and potential adoption of such initiatives.

Our final article, *Transportation Network Companies and Accessibility Under the ADA & Other Pathways to Transportation Equity* by Helen C. Wuellner, Benjamin Baek, Prashanth S. Venkataram, and Mollie C. D'Agostino, explores how state and federal law can be wielded to expand access to rideshare services such as Uber and Lyft for people with disabilities. This groundbreaking article analyzes the most recent litigation shaping this field and provides a timely roadmap for advocates, policymakers, and litigators looking to advance transportation equity and effectuate the protections afforded by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

We extend our deepest gratitude to these esteemed writers, our hardworking Journal colleagues, and our faculty mentor, Professor Courtney Joslin. We also wish to thank members of the Free People of Color Working Group for spearheading such groundbreaking work and for allowing *Social Justice Law Review* to include the transcript in this issue.

Finally, we thank you, the reader, and hope that you find these articles as useful and illuminating as we did.

As always — fiat lux.

Emily R. Walsh, on behalf of the *Social Justice Law Review*

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is for Briana Pérez-Brennan, and the signature on the right is for Emily R. Walsh. Both signatures are fluid and cursive.

Briana Pérez-Brennan and Emily R. Walsh
Editors-in-Chief