

### **Editors' Note**

As Frederick Douglass once remarked, “it is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.” In the second issue of the twenty-second volume of the UC Davis Journal of Juvenile Law & Policy, we examine the implications of Douglas’s remarks through the lens of juvenile justice. Originally developed with the goal of rehabilitating young offenders, over time the juvenile justice system has increasingly come to resemble a miniature version of the adult criminal justice system – a change many believe has negative results for both society and the youth involved. The articles presented in this issue examine the use of restorative and rehabilitative justice in the juvenile justice system and the positive impact and benefits of these approaches. We believe that the findings and theories presented in these articles have important implications not only for academic discussion, but also for legal advocacy and policy making in the field of juvenile justice.

First, we present “Finding Common Ground in Restorative Justice: Transforming Our Juvenile Justice Systems” by Professor Mary Louise Frampton. The article examines the effectiveness of restorative justice in the Fresno County Community Justice Conference. Using both quantitative measures as well as excerpts of interviews with youth offenders, their families, and victims, the article looks at rates of recidivism and restitution and engages in a cost-benefit analysis. The results provide strong evidence that restorative justice programs such as the one used in the County of Fresno are effective and benefit all parties involved. Professor Frampton teaches at the UC Davis School of Law, where she is also the director of the Aoki Center for Critical Race and Nation Studies.

The second article, by Natasha Távore Baker, is “Rehabilitation Via Arbitrariness: Why Commitment as a Dispositional Option in Washington, D.C.’s Juvenile Justice System Should Be Abolished.” Ms. Baker’s article considers the use of commitment in D.C.’s juvenile justice system and its negative impact on youth in the justice system. She argues that commitment is not only arbitrary but ultimately counter-productive and proposes solutions such as greater oversights and transparency as well as the elimination of the commitment system. Ms. Baker graduated from George Washington University Law School in 2017 and is now a Skadden Fellow with Open City Advocates in Washington, D.C., where she represents incarcerated females in post-disposition matters in the D.C. juvenile justice system.

Thus, it is with pleasure that we present the second issue of the twenty-second volume of the UC Davis Journal of Juvenile Law & Policy. We hope that you find these articles stimulating and that they help to facilitate a productive discussion about the significant legal reform issues in the field of juvenile justice. As always, we are incredibly grateful to each and every one of our staff members and to our faculty advisor, Professor Courtney Joslin.

Sincerely,

Kritika Thukral and Elissa Niccum

Editors in Chief