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Letter from the Editor-in-Chief

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Letter from the Editor-in-Chief

Dayton Campbell-Harris[†]

The way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them – Ida B. Wells¹

The *Washington International Law Journal* is proud to present this special-edition issue: “A Global Reckoning: Answering Calls for Change.” Combating racism and majority-group supremacy in all its forms is always necessary.² This was true before the Black Lives Matter demonstrations last summer, and it will remain true long after this special-edition issue is published. As our authors illustrate, much work remains in our great struggle for human dignity and equity. But you cannot solve a problem that is unseen. This issue helps illuminate those wrongs. It exposes racism’s different forms, examines how racism became embedded in our systems of power, and extends some solutions going forward. In particular, this special-edition issue offers paths for private actors to follow in support of historically marginalized communities across the world, and in the United States. Only once “[t]he comfortable, the entrenched, the privileged,” stop “trembl[ing] at the prospect of change,” will equity be achieved for us all.³

Producing this issue required collaboration between many talented and hard-working parties. I would like to first thank the Global Business Law Institute (GBLI) for their financial support and trust in the *Journal* to publish this issue. The *Journal* is particularly grateful for GBLI board-members Scott Schumacher, Matthew LeMaster, and Jeannine D’Amico Lemker, for their advocacy to see this book, and accompanying symposium, come to fruition.

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¹ Ida B. Wells, *Miss Ida B. Wells, A Lecture*, in WASHINGTON BEE, (Oct. 22, 1982) at 1.

² The term “majority-group supremacy” is used because the demographics of groups oppressing minority populations or marginalized peoples are not always white. See, e.g., James Fallows, *On Uighurs, Han, and general racial attitudes in China*, THE ATLANTIC (July 13, 2009), <https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2009/07/on-uighurs-han-and-general-racial-attitudes-in-china/21137/> (discussing Uyghur discrimination from ethnic Han Chinese in China, before the Chinese Communist Party’s ongoing Uyghur genocide). To learn more about the Uyghur genocide, see NEWLINES INSTITUTE, THE UYGHUR GENOCIDE: AN EXAMINATION OF CHINA’S BREACHES OF THE 1948 GENOCIDE CONVENTION (Mar. 8, 2021), <https://newlinesinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/Chinas-Breaches-of-the-GC3.pdf>.

³ Martin Luther King Jr., *A Testament of Hope* (1969), reprinted in A TESTAMENT OF HOPE: THE ESSENTIAL WRITINGS AND SPEECHES OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., 313, 314 (HarperCollins Publisher 1986).

This endeavor would be impossible if not for the approximately fifty *Journal* student editors. Through their efforts and dedication, this publication became a reality. A very special thank you to the *Journal*'s exceptional executive board, who worked with me well beyond the regular time expected to publish our issues. And to the *Journal*'s Chief Articles and Managing Editors, Kolby Cameron and Logan Westerman respectively, no words can begin to express my gratitude. Your value to this special issue is immeasurable. Kolby and Logan demonstrated measured leadership throughout the printing process. Our Volume 31 editors have benefitted immensely with them as department heads.

Many people at the University of Washington School of Law supported this project too. Thank you to Dean Mario Barnes and Dean William Covington for working with the *Journal* to make this issue possible. And special thanks to Professor Schumacher again and Dean Jonathon Franklin, whose guidance and assistance in all our publication efforts has been invaluable.

To the authors and artists in this special issue, thank you for entrusting us with editing your scholarship and art. Professors Erika George, Jena Martin, Tara Van Ho, Marina Aksenova, and Zang Dongsheng, thank you for writing and submitting your articles for publication in this issue. To Nicci Arete, Sydney Bay, and Jessika Gonzalez, special thanks to you all for not only publishing your timely scholarship with the *Journal* but doing so as law students and first-year lawyers in a global pandemic. The resolve all our authors demonstrated throughout the editing process was inspiring.

To Dean Covington, the *Journal* is honored that you partook in this publication. The parallelism you identify in your Foreword is striking. Thank you for your support not only with helping make this special issue become a reality, but also for being a leader for students of color at the University of Washington School of Law. Your patience, ability to listen, and kindness have been invaluable to us on the *Journal*, and within our law school community at large.

Serving as the *Washington International Law Journal*'s Editor-in-Chief has been an immense honor. I am grateful for the opportunity and privilege to make a mark on the legal profession with my exceptional team. The staying power legal scholarship has to influence litigation, policy, and public discourse is timeless. I hope you all enjoy this special issue, but at the same time reflect on the critiques presented, the solutions offered, and the connections made between today and moments of progress' past.