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Commentary Introduction

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Commentary Introduction

First and foremost, this Commentary Issue of the *Connecticut Law Review* honors the memory of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Elijah McClain, and countless others taken by this centuries-long system of racialized violence against Black and Brown communities. We dedicate this Issue to them and their families.

This series of essays is a snapshot of police and prison abolition—abolition as a concept, philosophy, theory, cultural project, legal proposition, and even a social art form. Professor Michele Goodwin aptly primes us with a gripping portrait of the policing and criminalization of pregnancy on racial lines: a damning interrogation of what she calls “the new *Jane Crow*.” The essays that follow are important pieces of the puzzle, rooted both in theoretical and practical perspectives, ultimately posing the idea of abolition as more legitimate, realistic, and effective than reform.

We would like to first thank Professor Jamelia Morgan, whose mentorship both in and out of the classroom was instrumental in the execution of this Issue. We would also like to thank each of our contributors: Professor Michele Goodwin; Dr. Dylan Rodríguez; Professor Jamelia Morgan; Dr. Natalie P. Byfield; Professor Jordan Blair Woods; Professor René Reyes; Richard A. Kirby & Mallori D. Thompson; and Professor Kiel Brennan-Marquez. Next, we thank Cashvelle Ellington for his poem, and the Prison Journalism Project for highlighting the voices of the incarcerated. While the issues addressed by abolition go beyond the criminal system, understanding the experiences of the incarcerated is crucial to the big picture. And last, but certainly not least, thank you to our executive and associate editing teams for the hard work and unconditional support of this Issue.

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