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# THE NATIONAL BLACK LAW JOURNAL

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2023–2024

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## EDITOR'S NOTE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are pleased to be the first to welcome you to Volume 27 of the National Black Law Journal, published at the UCLA School of Law during the 2017-2018 academic year. There are two words that capture the Black experience in America: struggle and triumph. The pattern of pushing and pulling between Black America and the country at large has persisted since the first people of African descent arrived on this land. This cycle of retrenchment and achievement make the current political moment disappointing for Black America, but also predictable. At this time, it is more important than ever that we lift up Black voices as they seek to articulate our struggles and our triumphs to America at large. We appreciate Steven Nelson and Shamar Toms-Anthony for their contributions to this volume and hope that you, the reader, enjoy their work.

Volume 27 begins with Professor Steven Nelson's legal and empirical analysis of the State-Created Danger Doctrine as it relates to the school-to-prison pipeline. Professor Nelson proposes that when states unilaterally take over public schools in a hostile manner and the schools contribute to the school-to-prison pipeline, students should have a legal right to sue for damages. Professor Nelson particularly situates this argument in the context of Black male students, who are disproportionately impacted by the school-to-prison pipeline.

This brief volume concludes with a student comment by Shamar Toms-Anthony. Toms-Anthony explores the portrayal of Annalise Keating in the hit television show "How to Get Away with Murder." He argues that the show's negative depiction of Keating as a Black female attorney can cause viewers to form implicit biases against Black female attorneys and contribute to the difficulty of Black women to excel at predominately White law firms.

NBLJ's 2018 issue would not be possible without the continued support and guidance of Professor Cheryl Harris, UCLA School of Law, Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Professor in Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. Additionally, NBLJ wishes to thank the editorial board and staff editors who have worked tirelessly on this issue.

In March 2018, NBLJ continued its tradition of hosting an annual symposium and we hope that the journal will continue to improve upon our work from this year. The *Trumping Our Rights: Re-Centering our Advocacy in the Age of 45* Symposium would not have been possible without the collaboration, input, and support of Jasleen Kohli and the Critical Race Studies Program.

—Ashlee Hamilton & Caleb Jackson  
*Co-Editors-in-Chief, 2017–2018*



