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# THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK LAW REVIEW

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June 4, 2020

The CUNY Law Review Editorial Board is in solidarity with all those rising up to defend Black lives and to resist racism and state violence across the world. We condemn the racist police killings and honor the lives of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Aubery, George Floyd, Tony McDade, David McAtee, Nina Pop, James Scurlock, and every victim of anti-Black violence. We recognize that racism is deeply embedded in the history and laws of this nation, and that the law is a tool of racial oppression. As a law review and as future lawyers, our work is to dismantle the legal structures that enable white supremacy, racism, and police brutality.

We lift up the message from our BLSA colleagues that now is the time to recommit ourselves to social and racial justice. We are committed to a vision of collective liberation that involves not only challenging an unjust legal system that perpetuates anti-Black racism, but also inequity within our own organizations and networks. As a law review, we are working within an institution that is ripe with anti-Black racism and white supremacy, and we are committed to challenging the ways these show up in our own space.

If you haven't already, we encourage you to read CUNY [BLSA's statement of solidarity](#), and CUNY LALSA's list of resources for taking action, donating, and educating ourselves. We also encourage you to follow Black-owned media sources, donate to [Black organizations to support bailout funds and protest efforts](#), and [help get New York's police secrecy law 50\(a\) repealed](#). We're also in awe of [our fellow CUNY Law classmate's national resource compilation, including legal support services, action items, and funds to support](#).

As a social justice law journal, we will keep doing what we strive to do: amplify wisdom. Especially the wisdom of folks on the front lines of our struggles for collective liberation, and those who are most directly impacted by racism and oppression. **Here's a small sampling of past articles that we found from our archives that focus on the Black Lives Matter movement, race and the law, police violence, and structural inequality.** Since our founding, we've turned to our authors for guidance on engaging in critical examinations of the law and our profession. We invite you to do the same.

In solidarity,  
CUNY Law Review Editorial Board, 2020-2021

**CUNY Law Review's suggested reading list:**

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- *Police Brutality, the Law & Today's Social Justice Movement: How the Lack of Police Accountability Has Fueled #Hashtag Activism* by Corinthia A. Carter, recent graduate of CUNY School of Law: <http://www.cunylawreview.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/CUNY-202-Carter.pdf>
- *Family Defense in the Age of Black Lives Matter* by Erin Cloud, Rebecca Oyama & Lauren Teichner: <https://academicworks.cuny.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1424&context=clr>
- *#Black Lives Matter: Are Police Body-Worn Cameras the Solution?* By Lelia A. James: <https://www.cunylawreview.org/lelia-james/>
- *Education is Liberation: The Power of Alternative Education Spaces* by Matthew Amani Glover, recent graduate of CUNY School of Law: [http://www.cunylawreview.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/NC\\_Glover\\_23-CUNYLR-100.pdf](http://www.cunylawreview.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/NC_Glover_23-CUNYLR-100.pdf)
- *Dismantling the Pillars of White Supremacy: Obstacles in Eliminating Disparities and Achieving Racial Justice* by Kevin E. Jason, Assistant Counsel at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc: [http://www.cunylawreview.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/PIPS\\_Jason\\_23-CUNYLR-139.pdf](http://www.cunylawreview.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/PIPS_Jason_23-CUNYLR-139.pdf)
- *Limited Access Letters: How New York City Schools Illegally Ban "Unruly" Parents of Color and Parents of Students with Disabilities* by Andrew Gerst, Staff Attorney/Sinsheimer Fellow, Mobilization for Justice, Warren J. Sinsheimer Children's Rights Program: <http://www.cunylawreview.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/22-CUNYLR-334-Gerst-1.pdf>
- Cross textual dialogue series → In this series, the author was invited to write a short piece in response to the following quotation from Sara Ahmed:

“When you say racism, they say: it could have been something else. Sometimes you just know when it is racism. It is as tangible as hitting a wall, that the problem is you; that part of you that makes you the person they do not want or expect, the part of you that makes you stand out from the sea of whiteness. Sometimes you are not sure. And you begin to feel paranoid. That is what racism does: it makes you question everything, the whole world, the world to which you exist in relation. Heterosexism and sexism are like that too: are they looking at me like that because of that? Is that why they are passing us over, two women at the table? You are not sure.” Sara Ahmed, Evidence, FEMINISTKILLJOYS (July 12, 2016, 2:00 PM), <https://feministkilljoys.com/2016/07/12/evidence/> [<https://perma.cc/T39A-28S3>].

- *9/11 and 11/9: The Law, Lives and Lies That Bind* by Khaled A. Beydoun, Associate Professor of Law at University of Detroit Mercy School of Law:

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- <http://www.cunylawreview.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/CUNY-202-Beydoun.pdf>
- *In the Shadow of Gaslight: Reflections on Identity, Diversity, and the Distribution of Power in the Academy* by Cyra Akila Choudhury, Professor of Law at Florida International University College of Law: <http://www.cunylawreview.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/CUNY-202-Choudhury.pdf>
  - *Hopeless Case?: Escaping the Proof Pitfall in Power-Dependent Paradigms* by e. christi cunningham, Professor and Director of Education Rights Center at Howard University School of Law: <http://www.cunylawreview.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/CUNY-202-cunningham.pdf>
  - *Normalizing Domination* by Atiba R. Ellis, Professor of Law at West Virginia University: <http://www.cunylawreview.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/CUNY-202-Ellis.pdf>
  - *On Race and Persuasion* by Janine Young Kim, Professor of Law at Chapman University Fowler School of Law: <http://www.cunylawreview.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/CUNY-202-Kim.pdf>
  - *The Great American Dilemma: Law and the Intransigence of Racism* by Erika Wilson, Assistant Professor of Law at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law: <http://www.cunylawreview.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/CUNY-202-Wilson.pdf>

**For questions about or suggestions to our list, please contact: Victoria Pilger at [victoria.pilger@live.law.cuny.edu](mailto:victoria.pilger@live.law.cuny.edu).**