

Preface

“We, the people, declare today that the most evident of truths—that all of us are created equal—is the star that guides us still, just as it guided our forebears through Seneca Falls and Selma and Stonewall”

In the inauguration speech for his second term, President Barack H. Obama’s reference to the Stonewall riots confirmed what many of us already know—that America’s civil rights narrative echoes the intersectionality of our everyday lives. As people, we are not divided into neat categories of identity, and many experience oppression along the lines of race, gender, and sexuality simultaneously. This reality requires a nuanced, often complex analysis of the intersection of law and sexuality.

Volume 22 of the *Tulane Journal of Law and Sexuality* presents an opportunity to communicate this discourse at a time when the intersection of law and sexuality is at the center of many national legal battles and policy debates. Last year, the *Journal* added the subtitle *A Review of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in the Law* to anticipate and accommodate shifting cultural and legal identities. This year, we continue to recognize the important role of identity in complicating and illuminating appropriate legal arguments and in assessing the gains and losses of furthering specific legal doctrines. We also recognize the important role that identity plays in creating a common space for debate on this very important discourse.

We are proud to present a range of views and opinions on legal issues of interest to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community. Volume 22’s articles include an examination of the role of identity in the legal classroom, an exploration of the Black/gay split in the movement for marriage equality, and an analysis of same-sex marriage through the Establishment Clause. Our student work explores new approaches to substantive equality for LGBTQ youth, polyamorous relationships, a comparison between marriage law and citizenship law, and an analysis of gender identity in the context of prisons and punishment.

The Editorial Board of Volume 22 is grateful for your interest in the valuable role that scholarship plays in provoking critical analysis of the

1. Office of the Press Secretary, *Inaugural Address by President Barack Obama*, WHITE HOUSE (Jan. 21, 2013), <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/01/21/inaugural-address-president-barack-obama>.

complex legal issues before us. We are at an exciting time when culturally we recognize that one person's struggle is everyone's struggle and that we are connected to a long line of individuals whose success depends upon those before us.

Thank you for your support.

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