

PREFACE

While entering a new decade, we should take a moment to analyze various incidents of the past few years. The path traveled has been truly diversified with its share of both fortunate and unfortunate developments. While pursuing a legal education, we should never lose sight of the current events that shape the contours of the world around us.

Let us ensure that future generations understand the significance of Nelson Mandela's release this year as well as the tragedy of his imprisonment nearly three decades ago. Additionally, we should reflect on the recent disturbances in Virginia Beach, Virginia and Howard Beach, New York, as well as other locations throughout the nation. Whether the conflict is between the government and minorities or between two different races, prejudice and violence should never be tolerated.

The Reagan administration and the Supreme Court have also taught us valuable lessons. We have learned that individual rights will continually be chipped away to make room for more profitable corporate rights; and affirmative action programs will be struck down or severely curtailed despite their critical need. In essence, the Supreme Court will no longer act as the major guardian of minority rights.

Because minority groups must now travel the path alone, George Mason University School of Law has created the Civil Rights Law Journal to provide guidance and to serve as a forum for civil rights issues. We thank the George Mason University School of Law Student Bar Association, the Law Review, and the administration for their continued support. We hope this inaugural issue will spark important debate and will act as an impetus for articles about newer, more innovative approaches to civil rights questions. The Journal does not subscribe to any one point of view, but, rather, is written for all races and open to all opinions. Therefore, if the Journal merely fosters serious discussions about critical issues, then we will have accomplished our goal.

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