Symposium Issue on Racial Justice & Criminal Law

Date Posted: April 20, 2021
Submission Deadline: September 17, 2021

**Topic: 100 Years of Oregon Law Review: Looking to the Future of Racial Justice & Criminal Law**

The Oregon Law Review invites submissions on the intersection of racial justice and criminal law in Oregon and across the country for the Symposium Issue of OLR’s Volume 100.

In 1921, Klansmen paraded through Oregon’s streets to aid in what would be their 1922 sweeping victory of state legislative seats, the Anti-Sterilization League was battling decisions by the Oregon State Eugenics Board to sterilize “confirmed criminals,” laws prohibiting Black people from living in Oregon and people of color from voting in Oregon would be on the books for another four and five years respectively, and faculty at the University of Oregon published OLR’s first volume. A century later, we seek to examine the present intersection of race and criminal law as we look to the century ahead.

We seek Articles and Essays that address unresolved debates, emerging controversies, and unexplored problems at the intersection of racial justice and criminal law in Oregon and across the country including, but not limited to:

- arguments for and against the decriminalization of drugs, including the implications of marijuana legalization and Oregon’s recent adoption of ballot Measure 110 reducing possession of small amounts of controlled substances from a misdemeanor to a minor civil violation;
- the challenges and opportunities of establishing alternatives to policing, such as the Eugene-based CAHOOTS model for responding to mental health crises;
- the connection between future decisions on the retroactivity of *Ramos v. Louisiana* and racial justice, e.g., the decision to retry or reverse Oregon’s past nonunanimous jury convictions;
- the effects of repealing mandatory minimum sentences, like those established by Oregon’s Measure 11, on racial justice, rehabilitation, and community safety;
- the relationship between racial justice and successes and failures in providing effective counsel to criminal defendants, like those documented in the Sixth Amendment Center 2019 report on Oregon’s public defender crisis; and
- any other unexplored problems at the intersection of racial justice and criminal law in Oregon and/or the United States.
Articles and Essays need not be centered on an Oregon-related topic to be considered; however, mentions of the state or connections to the criminal justice system in Oregon are appreciated.

**Eligibility and Submission Details**

The *OLR* invites submissions from both established and emerging scholars. We also welcome submissions from practitioners, jurists, and others with special expertise on the intersection of racial justice and criminal law in Oregon and across the country.

The deadline to submit an Article or Essay is **September 17, 2021**. Please include a cover letter indicating your desire to submit for the Symposium Issue.

Electronic submissions via [Scholastica](https://www.scholastica.com/) are strongly preferred. Once we receive your manuscript, you should get an email from Scholastica acknowledging your submission; you will not get an email from the *OLR*. (If necessary, you may [email your submission to the Articles Editors](mailto:olr@uoregon.edu).)

Submissions should conform to *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* (21st ed. 2020) and *The Chicago Manual of Style* (17th ed. 2017). We prefer articles under 25,000 words, including footnotes (approximately 50 law review pages).

We request adherence to the following formatting guidelines when submitting your manuscript:

- Double-spaced text
- One-inch margins
- Times New Roman, 12-pt. font
- Complete, single-spaced footnotes

Please direct questions about this Symposium Issue to *OLR* at [olr@uoregon.edu](mailto:olr@uoregon.edu).

**Symposium Details**

The *OLR* hopes to host an in-person Symposium on this issue in Eugene, Oregon, in the spring of 2022. We will remain cautiously optimistic as we simultaneously plan for the possibility of needing to hold the Symposium virtually.

Additional details regarding the Symposium will be shared as planning progresses. Please direct event-related questions about the Symposium to Operations Editor Natalie Fisher ([nmf@uoregon.edu](mailto:nmf@uoregon.edu)).