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LETTER TO OUR READERS

JENNIFER KEYS

It began with a dream. Three women with a vision to create a forum calling for justice, bringing inequalities to light and inspiring others to fight for what is right and just in this world.¹ Beyond a dream, we had little more. No money. No office. And very few models for what we wanted to accomplish. We knew we wanted a journal unlike any other at our law school and among only a handful of public interest-oriented journals across the country. But we carried on, tightly holding onto our dream and the hope that someday the journal would become a reality and that someone like you would read these words and feel inspired.

We hope this journal opens your eyes to the possibilities. One possibility being that your grassroots organization can reach out to the local politicians in your area and make a change in the law, like Julie Dworkin and her colleagues at the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless. Or the possibility that one government employee can transform the life of a client through advocacy and compassion, just as Charles Golbert and his co-workers at the Office of the Cook County Public Guardian do daily. We hope to show that you can work for social justice every day, as demonstrated by Margaret Benson who proves social justice can

¹ Our staff continues to grow, including additional male and female students. However, the group that worked to start the journal consisted of two women in addition to me: Susan DeCostanza and Alysia Franklin. I owe them many thanks in believing and joining in my dream – as wild and daunting as it sounded in the beginning. We also cannot express our gratitude enough for Professor Leonard Cavise and Shaye Loughlin who generously offered their support and the resources of DePaul's Center for Public Interest Law.

be achieved by wisely dedicating several minutes each day to public interest law.

While all forms of charity and activism are critical to creating a society that is equal and just, we must remember that all of us can bring about a change. Anthropologist Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world."² Her words ring true when we remember that it is not only the actions of a large coalition that can make a difference. A few people working together on a mission to demand improvement and justice is sometimes all it takes to build a movement.

As we worked together to develop the journal, we agreed we wanted to reach out not only to scholars and lawyers, but also professionals across a variety of disciplines and students who also seek reform. By accepting submissions not as lengthy or heavily-cited as traditional law review articles, we felt we would draw from a larger pool of socially conscious writers who have something to say but may not have research assistants or large amounts of free time to author an article. Because we accept pieces with personal views, such as Bill Quigley's inspirational letter to students, we leave the door open for writers to promote radical viewpoints and to share their unique experiences. We want our authors to not just point out the wrongs in our society, but also to propose solutions.

We believe that by affording academics, practitioners and students the opportunity to voice concerns and offer answers, we will start a ripple of change. We hope to open people's minds to the lesser known injustices. We want to act as a forum for attorneys and activists, such as Michael Wilson, who live and breathe the fight for justice every day, to write openly and honestly about the challenges. We promise to tackle tough issues of today facing our cities, states, countries and global world, just as

² The Institute for Intercultural Studies, Inc., New York, holds the trademark to Mead's quote and granted permission for its use.

Heena Musabji and Christina Abraham do in their article on the PATRIOT Act and its effect on certain communities within the United States.

Our hope is that this journal will have a ripple effect in creating social change by giving others the tools or the inspiration to fortify them in their work and help them make an even greater impact. We can achieve social justice – as long as we never lose sight of the dream.

