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### Afterword

Marcus Gadson

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# Afterword

Marcus Gadson

As millennials in the legal profession, we are preparing for great responsibility. In the next several years, the torch will pass to us. We will constitute a larger and larger share of faculties and increasingly start to occupy leadership positions in the academy. In many ways, the events of this summer have brought into sharper focus the preexisting challenges the academy faces. The pandemic and the way it has disproportionately affected students from particular backgrounds reminds us that we have work to do to help ensure all students have a chance to achieve their dreams. We must commit to working with the mothers bearing a disproportionate share of child care responsibilities while they struggle to find enough time to study, and with already socioeconomically disadvantaged students forced to spend a great deal of time tending to families reeling from COVID's impact. This is not merely a matter of charity or even one of justice. It is a matter of allowing the legal profession and the country it serves to profit from the talents of a truly diverse set of lawyers.

The Black Lives Matter movement and this summer of protests have illuminated preexisting racial inequalities. Before George Floyd and Breonna Taylor died, Blacks and other students of color were disproportionately not enrolling in law school or getting particular positions. These issues matter to our cohort, not just because of an abstract commitment to justice, but because they implicate our lived experience as the most diverse generation to enter the academy.

The challenges facing legal education right now are immense. That is true. But when we met earlier this summer to share our experiences and think about how to address these issues, something else became clear: We are up to the challenge. We heard from colleagues who overcame tremendous obstacles to make it into the academy and colleagues who had thought deeply about achieving equity in education. Far from being self-absorbed, entitled, and obsessed with our smartphones, we are committed to serving our students, our communities, our institutions, and the legal profession. Law school can be about so much more than the narrow purposes of helping students learn legal analysis and get jobs. It can be a place to inculcate broader virtues of civility, inclusion, and service. We are committed to this work.

At the same time, we are cognizant of the debt we owe those who have mentored us and are helping us become the best teachers and scholars we can be. We are especially grateful to Margaret Montoya, Meera Deo, and Laura

Rosenbury, who met with us to share their wisdom and guidance on issues facing the academy. We are each also grateful for mentors at our institutions too numerous to list here for their encouragement and help. Every generation that has come before has made important contributions to the academy. We are excited to start making ours.