

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

*“Taking a new step, uttering a new word, is what people fear most.”*  
—Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Crime and Punishment*

Whether directly or indirectly, the American criminal legal system affects every person living in the United States. How we choose to criminalize and punish behavior speaks to what we value as a society and how far we are willing to go to protect those values. The *American Criminal Law Review* is proud to have been a predominant platform for the debates over how best to transform and reimagine a criminal legal system that better reflects and protects our shared values.

To that end, the *American Criminal Law Review*, in partnership with Fair and Just Prosecution (“FJP”), is pleased to present the Volume 60 Symposium Issue, *Reform-Minded Prosecution*. Prosecutors hold a tremendous, arguably the largest, amount of power in the criminal legal system. A growing group of prosecutors is choosing to use that power to reform, rather than re-entrench, criminal justice norms. This Symposium and Issue aims to highlight and even challenge some of those reforms. Through Articles and panels discussing the correction of past injustices, prosecutorial discretion, pushback to reforms, and more, we wish to spur innovative thinking and inspire students, practitioners, scholars, and activists to create a more fair and just criminal legal system. In short, we believe criminal justice requires “taking a new step” and hope this Symposium and Issue inspire more leaders to do so.

The editorial board and staff of Volume 60 owe a huge thanks to all who have made this Symposium possible. Thank you to the authors, panelists, and guests who attended the Symposium in October 2022. We are grateful to the Executive Director, Miriam Krinsky, and the rest of the staff at Fair and Just Prosecution for providing financial and intellectual support as we put together relevant and intriguing panels for our guests. We are additionally indebted to our faculty advisors, Professors Michael R. Dreeben, Shon Hopwood, and Julie R. O’Sullivan, for their continued guidance to our journal. We would also like to thank Claire Jenets, Senior Symposium Editor, and Sephora D. Grey, Editor-in-Chief, of Volume 59 for their leadership in initiating this symposium. We want to express the sincerest gratitude to Professors Justin Murray of New York Law School and Maybell Romero of Tulane Law School for proposing a brilliant topic and guiding us for over two years as we executed their initial vision. Lastly, but perhaps most importantly, we congratulate and thank Robert Cetrino, Senior Symposium Editor of Volume 60, for his truly phenomenal work ethic and dedication to making this Symposium and Issue the best it could be.

Happy reading! We sincerely hope you enjoy these thought-provoking and novel first steps towards creating a more fair and just criminal legal system through reform-minded prosecution.

Sincerely,

Victoria T. Sheber

Editor-in-Chief, Volume 60

*American Criminal Law Review*