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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***The Georgetown Law Journal* Announces Alden Fletcher's Note "*Forced Betting the Farm: How Historic Preservation Law Fails Poor and Nonwhite Communities*" as Inaugural Winner of the Breonna Taylor Student Note Prize**

The Georgetown Law Journal today announced the first ever winner of the Breonna Taylor Prize, awarded annually to the best student note on an issue of social justice. The Volume 109 recipient of the Breonna Taylor Prize is Alden Fletcher, for his note *Forced Betting the Farm: How Historic Preservation Law Fails Poor and Nonwhite Communities*.

Forced Betting the Farm will be published in Volume 109.6 of *The Georgetown Law Journal*. Alden has selected two organizations – Empower D.C. and the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund – to split the award donated by the *Journal* in his name. Alden “hopes the award gives greater visibility to the activists and organizations who are in many ways the subject of the piece.”

“When our outgoing Senior Notes Editor, Orion de Nevers, approached me with this idea, I wouldn’t let him finish the thought before saying ‘Let’s do it.’ One of my main priorities after being elected to Editor-in-Chief was to increase the diversity – in every aspect – of *The Georgetown Law Journal*. The scholarship we’ve published and our membership has primarily been white, focused on legal topics that are not inclusive of BIPOCs. By implementing the Breonna Taylor Prize, we not only keep Breonna Taylor’s name alive, demanding justice for her life, but it will ensure that every Volume of GLJ will prioritize student scholarship that gives voice to legal issues that impact the BIPOC community. I couldn’t be more proud of this effort and to see the incredible, historical impact it will have on *GLJ*.”

Volume 109 Senior Notes Editor Orion de Nevers added “The Breonna Taylor Prize is an expression of the *Journal*'s belief that the scholarship we publish has moral consequences. We are tenants of a powerful platform, and have a responsibility to use that platform for good. The Breonna Taylor Prize reflects our commitment to discharging that responsibility, and will ensure her name rings through our pages for years to come.”

The Breonna Taylor Prize was created by the editorial board of *The Georgetown Law Journal* in the wake of Breonna’s death at the hands of Louisville police. On March 13, 2020, Breonna Taylor became one of the many Black lives our country has lost at the hands of police violence. *The Georgetown Law Journal* is committed to advancing antiracist scholarship and addressing social injustice in all forms. In support of this mission, the *Journal* will award the Breonna Taylor Prize for excellence in student scholarship on issues of social justice annually.

Alden’s Note discusses historic preservation law in the context of the redevelopment fight over the D.C. neighborhood Barry Farm. The piece argues that historic preservation law is inadequately structured to protect and preserve properties associated with poor and nonwhite communities. It does so by closely examining the efforts of Barry Farm tenants to have their homes historically designated, and it shows how current law placed unnecessary barriers in their paths and recommends removing physicality requirements from historic preservation laws.

[Read the Note in full here.](#)

The Breonna Taylor Prize is part of a larger set of significant steps the *Journal* has recently taken to increase the diversity of its membership and authorship. To that end, the Journal has launched a [new web page dedicated to its diversity efforts](#).

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