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Dear Editors:

As legal scholars who write broadly about the law, justice, race, and inequality, we have watched with both fear and cautious optimism as our country attempts to grapple, once more, with the reality and legacy of racial subordination and structural inequality. We are witnessing a series of political movements in response to the killing of black women and men at the hands of both state and non-state actors. This racial reckoning is happening in the midst of an historic pandemic that lays bare our significant political and institutional failures and exacerbates existing structural inequalities. These political movements have opened up opportunities for a fundamental upending of the racial and class hierarchies across a number of institutional domains—public as well as private. As legal scholars of color, who understand that law is central to maintaining and dismantling structural subordination based upon race, class and other marginalized identities, we would be remiss if we did not offer our collective assessment of this moment.

Consequently, we are organizing a symposium, *Reckoning and Reformation: Reflections and Legal Responses to Racial Subordination and Structural Marginalization*, that we hope your respective journals would publish jointly. The symposium will bring together scholars of law and inequality from different specialties and expertise to grapple with a moment in which we seem to be at an inflection point of fundamental reformation. As you will see below, the symposium has received enthusiastic support from a diverse group of legal academics—gender, varying level of seniority, schools, racial/ethnic diversity, etc.—who have each agreed to participate. The symposium will focus on nine broad themes: (a) social movements and legal change; (b) criminal justice; (c) democratic institutions; (d) public health, public failure, and racial subordination; (e) education; housing; and employment: rethinking political economy and private ordering; (f) the family and individual autonomy; (g) reviving critical theory and reforming pedagogy; (h) race, law, and belonging: reconceptualizing community; (i) subordination and marginalization from a comparative and international perspective. Authors will address at least one of the themes.

Essays will be between five and seven thousand words and will be due the 18th of December. A one-page precis will be due the 4th of September. A rough draft will be due October 30th. We will have two workshops, one after the precis and the other after the rough draft. Essays can be co-authored. We expect the symposium to make a strong statement about the importance of this moment of reckoning and to bring to the forefront views and perspectives that are too often rooted to the margins. As organizers, we will share in the responsibility of making sure that the

timelines are enforced; organizing the workshops; and facilitating substantive feedback before final drafts are due.

We are asking each journal to publish three (3) essays on their online venues. However, we also urge that you consider publishing print versions at a later date. We know that is not something that journals often do. However, these are extraordinary times that demand unprecedented action and calls for distinctive responses.

Our institutions are in peril and, as indicated by the current protests, there is growing disillusionment with persistent and marked inequality. Law, law professors, and law students cannot stand on the sidelines. As the leading academic journals of our profession, you have an opportunity to serve as a critical forum for understanding our current moment and aggregating suggestions for structural reform. As lawyers and legal academics, the haunting question is whether law has anything to say to the profound crises in which we find ourselves. We are sure as law students you are haunted by the same question. Therefore, we cannot proceed as we would under normal circumstances.

Sincerely yours,

Aziza Ahmed
Professor of Law
Northeastern University
School of Law

Ifeoma Ajunwa
Associate Professor, Labor Relations, Law, and History Department
Cornell University

Ralph Richard Banks
Jackson Eli Reynolds Professor of Law
Stanford Law School

Guy-Uriel E. Charles
Edward & Ellen Schwartzman Professor of Law
Duke Law School

Luis Fuentes-Rohwer
Class of 1950 Herman B. Wells Professor of Law
Indiana University Bloomington, Maurer School of Law

H. Timothy Lovelace
John Hope Franklin Research Professor
Professor of Law

Duke Law School

Tracey L. Meares
Walter Hale Hamilton
Professor of Law
Yale Law School

Melissa Murray
Frederick I. and Grace Stokes Professor of Law
NYU Law

Bertrall Ross
Chancellor's Professor of Law
Berkeley Law

Franita Tolson
Vice Dean for Faculty and Academic Affairs
Professor of Law
USC Gould School of Law

Themes and Participants

- A. Social movements and legal change
 - 1. Atinuke Adediran (Boston College) and Shaun Ossei-Owusu (Penn)
 - 2. Ifeoma Ajunwa (Cornell)
 - 3. Maggie Blackhawk (Penn) and Monica Bell (Yale)
 - 4. Gina-Gail Fletcher (Duke) and Veronica Martinez (Notre Dame)
 - 5. Jasmine Harris (UC Davis)
 - 6. H. Timothy Lovelace (Duke)
 - 7. Kevin Johnson (UC Davis)
 - 8. Bijal Shah (Arizona State)
 - 9. Jamillah Williams (Georgetown)
- B. Criminal justice
 - 1. Chaz Arnett (Maryland)
 - 2. Jessica Eaglin (University of Indiana, Bloomington)
 - 3. Trevor Gardner (Washington University)
 - 4. Eisha Jain (University of North Carolina)
 - 5. Irene Joe (UC Davis)
 - 6. Steven Koh (Boston College)
 - 7. Sunita Patel (UCLA)
 - 8. India Thusi (Case Western University)
- C. Democratic institutions
 - 1. Guy Charles (Duke)
 - 2. Luis Fuentes-Rohwer (Indiana University, Bloomington)
 - 3. Bertrall Ross (Berkeley)
 - 4. Josh Sellers (Arizona State)
 - 5. Franita Tolson (University of Southern California)
- D. Public health, public failure, and racial subordination
 - 1. Aziza Ahmed (Northeastern University)
 - 2. Craig Konnoth (Colorado)
 - 3. Matiangai Sirleaf (Maryland)
 - 4. Andrea Wang (Penn)
- E. Education; housing; and employment: rethinking political economy and private ordering
 - 1. Abbye Atkinson (Berkeley)
 - 2. LaToya Baldwin-Clark (UCLA)
 - 3. Osamudia James (Miami)
 - 4. Aaron Tang (UC Davis)
- F. The family and individual autonomy
 - 1. Rick Banks (Stanford)
 - 2. Melissa Murray (NYU)
- G. Reviving critical theory and reforming pedagogy
 - 1. Meera Deo (Thomas Jefferson)
 - 2. Myriam Gilles (Cardozo) and Suzette Malveaux (Colorado)
 - 3. Tracey Meares (Yale)

4. Portia Pedro (Boston University)
 5. Patricia Williams (Northeastern)
- H. Race, law, and belonging: reconceptualizing community
1. Stephen Lee (UC Irvine)
- I. Subordination and marginalization from a comparative and international perspective
1. Tendayi Achiume (UCLA)
 2. Kevin Davis (NYU)