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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The *Georgetown Law Journal* Announces Emily McWey’s Note “From ‘Hearing’ to Listening: Access to Justice & Indirect Displacement” as Second Annual Winner of the Breonna Taylor Student Note Prize

The *Georgetown Law Journal* today announced the second annual winner of the Breonna Taylor Prize, awarded annually to the best student Note on an issue of social justice. The Volume 110 recipient of the Breonna Taylor Prize is Emily McWey, for her Note “From ‘Hearing’ to Listening: Access to Justice & Indirect Displacement.”

“From ‘Hearing’ to Listening” is published in Volume 110.1 of *The Georgetown Law Journal*. Emily has selected two organizations with a powerful history of advancing racial and economic justice goals— Empower D.C., which invests in the political power of D.C.’s lowest-income residents, and the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund, which preserves and protects overlooked African American historical sites — to split the award donated by the *Journal* in her name.

Volume 110 Editor in Chief Agnes Lee explained: “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 110 Senior Notes Editor Wynne Leahy added “The *Journal* is committed to publishing pieces that reflect our values – and Emily’s Note does just that in its thoughtful engagement with the challenges of gentrification and displacement in DC. We’re proud to honor Breonna Taylor’s legacy “From ‘Hearing’ to Listening” plays an important role in acknowledging and serving marginalized communities in the city we call home.”

The Breonna Taylor Prize was created by the Volume 109 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.

Emily's Note addresses the due process issues that arise when government zoning policy acts to gentrify neighborhoods and displace residents, and the recourse available to those residents is to seek justice from the same government, now acting as adjudicator. It does so by focusing on the H-street neighborhood of Washington, D.C., and telling the story of pro se plaintiff and longtime H-street resident Sharon Cole, who sought justice through the available legal process and was denied a meaningful opportunity to be heard. The Note makes a compelling case that the process available to displaced longtime D.C. residents is fundamentally insufficient to defend these communities against indirect displacement and resulting homelessness caused by zoning-induced gentrification. The Note advocates further studies on local community experiences with indirect displacement to promote awareness of the issue, create a more accurate understanding of the relationship between gentrification and displacement, mitigate the impact of bias, and facilitate access-to-justice interventions among policymakers and nongovernmental organizations. 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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