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The Georgetown Law Journal Announces Winner of the Volume 111 GLJ Online Student Notes Contest

Radiance Campbell is the winner of the Volume 111 *GLJ Online* Student Notes Contest for their Note “Establishing a Right to Public Recreation: State-Based Water Law Reforms to Remedy the Nature Access Gap,” *The Georgetown Law Journal* announced today. Campbell’s Note will be published in Volume 111 of *GLJ Online*.

“In poignantly examining the ‘nature gap’ that Black Americans face—and proposing a novel right to recreation to address it—Radiance demonstrates what it means to produce equity-centered legal academia,” Volume 111 Editor-in-Chief Maya Gandhi said. “The *Journal* is so privileged to publish their Note, and I can’t wait to see it online soon.”

This year’s contest sought submissions centering on the theme of “Reimagining Rights.” As American constitutional jurisprudence faces a moment of significant change, *The Georgetown Law Journal* sought scholarship looking at how rights, both procedural and substantive, are in flux. “Radiance’s Note perfectly exemplifies the Contest’s theme,” Volume 111 Senior Online Editor Johanna Mintz said.

Campbell’s Note looks at a concept that many Americans take for granted—public recreation—and reminds readers of how important that right is. The Note also brings awareness to the “nature gap,” the historic restriction and exclusion of diversity in natural spaces, especially in water-based recreation. The piece catalogs instances of racial violence that articulate the generational effect of Black Americans’ exclusion from “outdoorsyness.” Then, it offers a solution to the nature gap, the recognition of the right to recreation, which would allow Black people to reclaim an outdoor culture and honor their history with nature. The Note analyzes what such a right could look like in the United States under both a riparian state water system and a prior appropriations state.

Campbell’s Note will be available online in the coming weeks.

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