

### **Editor's Note**

The legal issues facing juveniles are often complex, nuanced, and have profound policy ramifications affecting the livelihood of vulnerable youth. It is with this in mind, that we selected these three articles to publish in the first issue of the nineteenth volume of the UC Davis School of Law Journal of Juvenile Law and Policy. These articles further legal advocacy and academic discussion on important issues in the fields of both dependency and delinquency law.

The first article, “The New Permanency” by Josh Gupta-Kagan, explores the continuum of permanency options created by legal reforms, which permit ongoing relationships with biological parents without terminating parental rights. Professor Gupta-Kagan discusses how these options can empower families to determine the best legal solution for their particular situation. He does this by highlighting how in practice, the new permanency in the District of Columbia has seen the number of guardianships surpass the number of adoptions. Professor Gupta-Kagan is currently an Assistant Professor at the University of South Carolina, School of Law.

Next, we present “Separated at Adoption: Addressing the Challenges of Maintaining Sibling-of-Origin Bonds in Post-Adoption Families” by Rebecca L. Scharf, an Associate Professor of Law at the William S. Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada – Las Vegas. Professor Scharf explains that, upon adoption, children often lose the ability to have contact with their siblings and discusses the impact this has on these children. Professor Scharf proposes a measure that accommodates contact with biological siblings after adoption, without intruding on the fundamental constitutional liberty of parents.

Finally, we present “Status Offenses and Dejudicialization: Establishing a Right to Counsel in Informal Diversion Proceedings” by Daniel J. Gibbs. Gibbs discusses the evolution of status offense jurisdiction in order to highlight the underlying intent and tension in this area of law. He then proceeds to analyze the risks inherent in pre-court diversion, and proposes that attorneys be appointed as client-directed, holistic advocates prior to pre-court proceedings in order to overcome the shortcomings and enhance the rehabilitative purpose of status offense cases. Gibbs is a 2015 J.D./M.S.W. Candidate at the University of Georgia, School of Law. He graduated from the University of South Carolina in 2011.

We hope that these articles facilitate a productive discussion about significant legal reform issues in juvenile law. An immense thank-you goes out to the entire 2014-2015 *Journal of Juvenile Law and Policy* staff, and especially Sadie Mae Weller and John Hollis for their dedication to making this journal a success.

Sincerely,

Amy F. Barnett and Juliana Fehrenbacher

Editors in Chief