

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Each year, the *University of Richmond Law Review* hosts the Allen Chair Symposium—a conference dedicated to a topic of national and international interest. On October 24, 2014, the *Law Review* examined lethal injection, the politics, and the future of the death penalty with experts from across the country bringing a wealth of experience and perspective. 2014 proved to be a year of great change and shifting in the dynamics of the death penalty. The debate over lethal injection drugs and the secrecy laws surrounding the procedures provided a platform for interesting discussion at the symposium. Discussions revealed the issues with lethal injection today; how the politics surrounding the death penalty are changing; and what the future of the death penalty looks like. These discussions also included a look into the role of various socioeconomic factors contributing to the decline of the death penalty.

The essays collected in this special issue grew out of the symposium and reflect the quality of the discussions led by our esteemed panelists. Thank you to our keynote speaker and panelists; it was a privilege to work with each of you. The *Law Review* greatly appreciates your contributions to our symposium and this issue. We particularly want to thank Professor Eric Berger, Professor Stephen Bright, Mr. Richard Dieter, Professor John Douglass, Mr. Mark Earley, Professor Brandon Garrett, Mr. Frank Green, Professor Corinna Lain, Professor Stephen Smith, Professor Mary Tate, and Dr. Joel Zivot for contributing to this issue and participating in the symposium. In addition, thank you to Professor Deborah Denno and Mr. Richard Roper who shared their expertise at the symposium.

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A special thanks goes out to Glenice Coombs for your guidance, patience, and deep commitment to the *Law Review*. We are eternally appreciative for your work ethic and support, which makes it possible for us to succeed. Your sharp wit, kindness, and sense of humor make the whole experience truly enjoyable.

To our readers and symposium attendees: thank you as well. The *Law Review* proudly presents its 2015 Allen Chair Symposium Issue: *Lethal Injection, Politics, and the Future of the Death Penalty*.

Leah Stiegler
Allen Chair Editor 2015