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Introduction to Issue Four

The Editorial Board and staff of Volume 53 are excited to continue the tradition of dedicating Issue Four of the *Loyola University Chicago Law Journal* to scholarship focusing on important and relevant legal developments that affect Illinois. This Issue of the *Law Journal* strives to serve as a resource for academics, judges, and practitioners. In addition, Issue Four is used to showcase articles written by current student members of the *Law Journal*. This Issue includes articles pertaining to Illinois law and policy, as well as one student comment that touches on a broader legal topic of national and global importance.

The first article, authored by Professor Samuel D. Brunson, proposes a more efficient model of progressive income taxation. Professor Brunson suggests that a flat-rate tax with a demogrant would ensure fairness and progressivity for low-income households, while meeting the constitutional requirements of states with mandatory flat-rate taxes. This article advocates that states—both with and without a constitutional flat-tax mandate—to consider shifting to a flat-rate tax with a demogrant.

Professor Ted A. Donner authors the next article, which focuses on implicit bias in jury selection and proposes a way forward for Illinois courts. Professor Donner examines the legal history behind the use of peremptory challenges to dismiss potential jurors from the jury pool. He recommends that Illinois embrace Justice John Paul Stevens's dissent in the 1995 United States Supreme Court case *Purkett v. Elem* as a means of addressing the problem of implicit bias in jury selection.

In the next article, Professors Kat Albrecht, Maria Hawilo, Thomas F. Geraghty, and Meredith Martin Rountree examine data from Cook County, Illinois, to construct a comprehensive view of the delays that impede a criminal defendant's right to a speedy trial in a felony case. The authors explore different types of delays that occur in the court system and provide an in-depth analysis of the changes needed to address the problem.

Dean André Douglas Cummings and Professor Steven A. Ramirez author the next article, which discusses the social-equity components of Illinois's newly enacted cannabis reform and legalization measures. The

authors direct a critical lens at provisions aimed at repairing the disproportionate harm done to communities of color during the War on Drugs and suggest ways in which Illinois can do more. The article builds on the authors' collaboration in two other articles published this year: *Roadmap for Anti-Racism: First Unwind the War on Drugs Now*, 96 Tul. L. Rev. 469 (2022) and *The Racist Roots of the War on Drugs and the Myth of Equal Protection for People of Color*, 44 U. Ark. Little Rock L. Rev. 453 (2022).

Finally, we are thrilled to present a student comment authored by Emmie Phillips. The comment discusses the 2021 Taliban takeover of Afghanistan and how it relates to the United States executive branch's use of war and treaty powers. Emmie examines the trend of decreasing congressional war powers and suggests that more congressional involvement in the withdrawal process in Afghanistan could have led to a different outcome. The comment ultimately argues that Congress must do more under its treaty obligation to restore its war powers as a coequal branch of government.

The *Law Journal* would like to sincerely thank the authors for contributing their pieces to Issue Four. The Executive Board also extends its deep appreciation to all staff members for their efforts and dedication; this Issue would not have been possible without them. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work on Issue Four. It has been a privilege to work with the authors and staff members throughout this process, and I am indebted to them for their tremendous contributions to the *Law Journal*.

Sara J. Hoult
Executive Editor, Illinois Articles
Loyola University Chicago Law Journal