

## Remarks from the Volume 1 Board of Editors

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### Recommended Citation

Goren, Nicky and Fernandez-Williams, Maria (2016) "Remarks from the Volume 1 Board of Editors," *Cornell Journal of Law and Public Policy*: Vol. 25 : Iss. 3 , Article 8.

Available at: <http://scholarship.law.cornell.edu/cjlpp/vol25/iss3/8>

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## REMARKS FROM THE VOLUME 1 BOARD OF EDITORS

*Maria Fernandez-Williams\**

When I attended Cornell Law School, I was very involved in the fabric of the law school. I chose to focus on being the President of the Latino American Law Students Association (LALSA) as a 2L, an organization that provided me with the support I needed while attending Cornell. At the same time, the concepts of social justice and public policy were and continue to be important to me. Thus, when the individuals working on the launching of the *Cornell Journal of Law and Public Policy (CJLPP)* approached me, I jumped at the chance to be part of the founding members of the Journal. I recall the early meetings and the excitement of creating an alternative journal addressing the intersection of law and public policy—the power of the law to achieve social justice.

Those meetings where we discussed and debated the mission of the *CJLPP* were a breath of fresh air for me. I was pleased to be working with individuals who were planning different paths after graduation (public interest, government, law firms, etc.) and yet we all had the same passion for social justice and the drive to make the *CJLPP* successful.

As Administrative Editor for Volume 1 of the *CJLPP*, I worked closely with the other founding members and dealt with many of the issues in getting a new journal launched, many of which were new for us. I was very proud when our first issue was published, which still holds a special place on my bookshelf, and of being part of change at Cornell Law School. As time has passed, I am pleased to see that the *CJLPP* has continued our mission and has grown to a highly regarded student-edited law journal. It seems like yesterday we were in the midst of all the planning. Congratulations to the *CJLPP* on celebrating its 25th anniversary and here is to many more years of excellence and social impact through the law.

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\* Maria Fernandez-Williams was the Administrative Editor for Volume 1 of the *Cornell Journal of Law and Public Policy*. During her time at Cornell Law School, she was also the President of the Latin American Law Students Association (LALSA). After graduation, she was involved with many non-profit organizations, including LatinoJustice–PRLDEF, a Latino civil rights organization. Recently she was elected as a School Board Member for the Ossining Union Free School District in Ossining, New York.

