

Letter From the Editors

This issue of the *Journal of Forensic Social Work* is dedicated to Rob Butters for his five years of service, not only as Co-Editor but for his perseverance and vision in helping launch *JFSW*. With his unbounding support, we were able to introduce the first journal devoted to social work practice in the legal arena. Although Rob's busy schedule is taking him away from his role as Co-Editor, he will continue to share his expertise as an editorial board member. We owe him immense gratitude for his service, without which this journal would not have come to fruition.

Under the leadership of our publishers, Routledge, we are fortunate to welcome two dynamic Associate Editors, Susan McCarter and Jeremiah Jagers.

Susan McCarter, PhD, MS, MSW, is Associate Professor at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte Department of Social Work. Dr. McCarter brings her expertise in juvenile justice; racial disproportionality; risk and resilience; the school-to-prison pipeline; mass incarceration; school disciplinary reform; juvenile, family, and adult courts; and interprofessional collaboration. She is co-chair of both the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Track for the *Council on Social Work Education* and the Criminality and Delinquency Special Interest Group for the *Society for Social Work and Research*.

Jeremiah Jagers, PhD, MSW, is Assistant Professor at Indiana University School of Social Work. Dr. Jagers brings strong methodological expertise, both in qualitative and quantitative approaches. His research focuses on juvenile delinquency, adolescent mental health, and parent-child relationships. He has extensive first-hand experience serving the justice system, having established the Washington County, Tennessee Drug Court Evaluation and currently serving on the Marion County, Indiana Dual Status Youth Initiative.

Susan and Jeremiah have served as reviewers and editorial board members for *JFSW*. They share in NOFSW's vision for the journal, and offer ways to improve its visibility and impact. As academicians and practitioners, they recognize the importance of the journal meeting the needs of practitioners, researchers, and policymakers alike. So, please join me in welcoming Susan and Jeremiah as our new Associate Editors.

I would also like to thank the staff of Taylor and Francis for their tireless support and promotion of our journal, especially Jessica O. MacDonald, Publisher; Veronica Sydnor, Marketing Manager; Beth Schad, Production Editor; and David Hamilton, our new Managing Editor.

As we know, forensic social work is still not fully recognized and many social workers practicing within the legal system do not identify as forensic social workers. Therefore, I teamed with our colleagues, Susan Robbins and Tina Maschi to write an Editorial on the necessity of social work programs providing curricula that prepares students for the reality of the forensic world we practice in. Additionally, this issue features the work of Harold E. Briggs from the University of Georgia School of Social Work. He is a leader in the development of psychological measures of African American well-being, as well as research concerning the perception of the African American experience and engaging African Americans in mental health services.

As forensic social workers, one of our core values is social and economic justice for all. Our society is confronted daily with the realities of injustice for many of our most vulnerable and oppressed members. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. epitomized, "*Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.*" Please join us in the nation's capital for the 32nd Annual NOFSW Conference as we address *Forensic Practice: Promoting Social Justice for All through Policy and Practice Reform*. We have invited social work leaders from Congress, as well as other national social work organizations, to have a forum to develop advocacy strategies for advancing social justice policy, research, and practice. Our country continues to face perilous times and social workers must again step forth to lead our communities. Hope to see you there; the time is now!

In solidarity,

Viola Vaughan-Eden, PhD, MJ, LCSW
Editor