

Letter From the Editors

We are pleased to present the first of three issues in our second year of the *Journal of Forensic Social Work*. As our field continues to evolve, we are fortunate to have an outlet for cutting edge scholarship and a medium to exchange ideas.

This first issue of Volume 2 highlights a number of core roles and concerns in forensic social work including interdisciplinary collaboration, cultural differences, and juvenile offending, as well as an analysis of formal and informal case processing in juvenile court.

Firstly, Dr. Cole takes time to remind us of our roots as social workers and our commitment to interdisciplinary collaborations. For the best interests of clients and the future of forensic social work practice, she emphasizes the importance of schools of social work and law preparing students now for their inevitable collaboration. Dr. Cole underscores that regardless of the differences in our Code of Ethics, we must work together for the good of society.

Next, Dr. Burton's provocative research investigates recidivism of juvenile sexual offending through the lens of race. Using a large sample size, his findings indicate African American juveniles are less likely to commit sexual offenses than Caucasian youth. He addresses the various cultural factors that contribute to these results.

Then, Dr. Phillippi's researches the impact of formal versus informal court processing on first-time, nonviolent juvenile offenders. The findings support keeping front-end offenders out of the formal justice system by using alternative interventions like restorative justice. Demographic and family variables are discussed.

Lastly, Dr. Kindle reviews an important new book, *Punished: Policing the Lives of Black and Latino Boys* by Victor M. Rios. The book provides an in-depth look at the complexities African American and Latino juveniles face growing up in a criminalizing environment. We are reminded of the profound consequences of disproportionate minority representation in the justice system which continues to be a central social justice issue in forensic social work.

We thank all our authors' for their outstanding contribution to the start of another exciting year. Forthcoming issues include a special guest edited journal on child victims by Dr. Jon Conte. We look forward to seeing you

at the upcoming NOFSW Conference in Baltimore, MD April 15–18, 2012. The theme this year is Building Bridges: Interdisciplinary Collaboration.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the *Journal of Forensic Social Work* and for your often thankless, but ever important, work in the field.



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