

Letter from the Editors

We are pleased to present the first double issue of the *Journal of Forensic Social Work* in celebration of our second year in circulation! This *super* issue disseminates innovative research and scholarship for the social justice advocates and other *heroes* in our communities. Forensic social workers are truly *superheroes* who fight for justice in our courts, treatment centers, prisons, and communities across the globe. Often the work we do is thankless and too frequently misunderstood. We labor in the shadowy corners of our society dealing with issues that others would rather not consider, and with individuals who others have discarded. But we endure, and even thrive, because we know that when we promote therapeutic jurisprudence for offenders, justice for victims, and safety in our communities, we contribute to a more compassionate and cohesive society.

The range of articles in this issue highlights many areas common to forensic practice and we are confident you will find them stimulating and informative. It addresses themes facing survivors and offenders within forensic settings including racial disproportionality. The first article discusses factors that influence the well-being of survivors of homicide victims. The next four articles tackle numerous problems faced by offenders including adolescent sexual offenders as well as the various dynamics of offender re-entry. The sixth article examines the mental health issues dealt with by aging prisoners. We have again included a book review; this one debates the theories regarding racism in the criminal justice system.

We excitedly look forward to 2013; it not only brings the third year of the *Journal*, but marks the 30th anniversary of the National Organization of Forensic Social Work. Our annual conference will be held April 14–16 in Seattle, WA recognizing the expanding breadth of Forensic Social Work by including our colleagues from across the globe to *Advance Forensic Practice: Promoting Innovation Worldwide*.

As always, we are grateful to those of you who make this *Journal* such a success—our authors, reviewers, and readers. We hope you join us at the anniversary celebration in Seattle to honor the founders of this trailblazing organization!



Viola Vaughan-Eden, PhD, LCSW



Rob P. Butters, PhD, LCSW