



2019

Editor's Note—The Ben J. Altheimer Symposium—Cooper v. Aaron: Still Timely at Sixty Years

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EDITOR'S NOTE

It is easy to forget the sordid history of Little Rock, the State of Arkansas, and our nation. It is easy to think that *Cooper v. Aaron* was decided sixty years ago and should be left alone. It is easy to avoid these topics that may make some people, including myself, uncomfortable.

It is difficult to read these articles and recall the embarrassing history of segregation in Little Rock, the State of Arkansas, and our nation. It is difficult to consider the occurrences of the late fifties and dredge up the harsh realities. It is difficult to immerse a room of people and our readers, including myself, in a discussion that makes people uncomfortable.

Although this issue focuses on the constitutional issues of *Cooper v. Aaron*, we are reminded of our nation's history throughout these articles as the authors tell the history of segregation, the *Cooper* case, and the Little Rock Nine.

It is imperative today, sixty years after the events of *Cooper v. Aaron* occurred, to remind ourselves that these acts took place on our doorsteps—by our parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents. It is imperative today, in 2018, that we look at our actions and resolve to be on the side of justice. It is imperative today, in a nation that is integrated but not equal, that we continue to do the work to make this nation one of liberty and justice for all.

Thank you to our esteemed speakers and authors who shared with us on September 28, 2018: LaVerne Bell-Tolliver, Grant Christensen, Joel Goldstein, Enrique Guerra-Pujol, Sybil Hampton, John Kirk, Ronald Nelson, Christopher Schmidt, John Walker, and Rebecca Zietlow. It was a pleasure to hear from all of you and read the articles of the contributing authors. Thank you to our Symposium Editor, Shelby Howlett, for her hard work to organize this event, and all of the other members and apprentices of the Review who contributed their efforts.

Cooper v. Aaron reminds us of the falls and triumphs of the past and propels us forward to the triumphs of the future. May we strive not to fall so far again.

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