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## Dedication to Freedom

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## DEDICATION TO FREEDOM

*Emily M.S. Houh*<sup>†</sup>

This special volume of the *Freedom Center Journal* comprises two issues, both dedicated to the tenth anniversary of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center (“Freedom Center”), which first opened its doors in 2004. The Freedom Center’s location in Cincinnati on the banks of the Ohio River—which prior to the end of the Civil War separated free (Ohio) from slave (Kentucky) territory—serves as a powerful reminder of the legacy of slavery and the struggle to be free. In fact, on a visit to the Freedom Center, one can stand on one of its outside decks, stare across the Ohio River to the Kentucky banks, and experience a profoundly unnerving and powerfully visceral sensation in realizing just how close we are, temporally and physically, to American slavery.

A joint scholarly publication of the University of Cincinnati College of Law (“UC Law”) and the Freedom Center, the *Freedom Center Journal* (“*FCJ*”) was established through the generous support of Harry and Ann Santen, longtime stalwarts of the Cincinnati community, to enable a more diverse range of UC Law students to gain the highly valued experience of editing and writing for a student-run law journal (such journals are the “stock of the trade” in the legal academy). Edited and published annually by law students, the *FCJ* explores legacies of historic struggles for freedom in order to provide a better understanding of ongoing forms of subordination and to craft strategies for social change. The journal not only publishes articles, comments, essays, and book reviews written by students, legal practitioners, and scholars from different disciplines, but also has published poetry and featured visual art and graphic design. Each issue of the *FCJ* covers a diverse range of issues relating to race, gender, sexuality, class, freedom, justice, and law.

The first part of this special, double-issue volume of the *FCJ* celebrates the tenth anniversary (in 2014) of the Freedom Center, and opens with an essay by Dr. Michael A. Battle, Sr., Executive Vice President and Provost of the Freedom Center and former U.S. Ambassador to the African Union, in which he connects American chattel slavery with continuing and more contemporary forms of slavery. Three

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pieces by Cincinnati preservationist and Freedom Center Senior Advisor Carl B. Westmoreland follow. The first traces the history of one of the Freedom Center's signature exhibits, "The Slave Pen," that was formerly owned by slave-trader Captain John W. Anderson and recovered and transported from a Kentucky farm located fewer than 60 miles from the Freedom Center. The next two pieces examine the lives of two important historical figures: Salmon P. Chase and Margaret Garner. Chase is perhaps most famously known as a former governor of Ohio, Secretary of the Treasury, and Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, but it is Chase's legacy of his (unsuccessful) representation of escaped slaves, including Solomon Northrup (who authored *12 Years a Slave*<sup>1</sup>, recently made famous by the film of the same name), that Westmoreland highlights here. Westmoreland's account of the life of Margaret Garner, the escaped slave whose life story inspired Toni Morrison's great American novel *Beloved*<sup>2</sup>, follows. These two stories—of the lives of Salmon P. Chase and Margaret Garner—together powerfully show us two manifestations of great courage and demonstrate the necessity for *all* of us who care about freedom to be courageous. To complete the connection drawn by Dr. Battle in his opening piece between American slavery and contemporary forms of slavery, Brooke Hathaway, the Freedom Center's Director of Strategic Initiatives, discusses its commitment to exposing and ending human trafficking in its many contemporary forms. And finally, the Freedom Center "anniversary issue" closes with a compilation of student-authored pieces about recipients of the Freedom Center's annual International Freedom Conductor Award, which it has been awarding since 1998 (before the Freedom Center's official opening).

The second part of this volume returns to the *FCJ*'s "regular" format. It includes articles and notes by law professors, legal practitioners, and law students on topics that range from juvenile justice reform to the history of racially discriminatory medical research and practices. In short and as usual, the pieces in this second issues show us how and why we must continue to struggle for freedom.

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<sup>1</sup> 12 YEARS A SLAVE (Regency Enterprises 2013).

<sup>2</sup> TONI MORRISON, *BELLOVED* (1987).