

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
**Journal of Gender,  
Social Policy & the Law**

**CALL FOR SYMPOSIUM PAPERS**

“The Criminalization of LGBTQ Youth: A Call to Action”

**Abstracts due: February 15, 2015**

**Conference: April 1, 2015**

**Washington, DC**

Approximately 300,000 LGBTQ youth are funneled through the juvenile justice system each year. Research indicates that these LGBTQ youth make up thirteen to fifteen percent of all youth in detention facilities across the country, yet they represent only five to seven percent of the youth population nationwide. These numbers highlight the disproportionate representation of LGBTQ youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system.

*The Journal of Gender, Social Policy, & the Law* of American University Washington College of Law invites symposium papers from practitioners and scholars that examine the degree to which laws, practices, and social policy specifically funnel and entrench LGBTQ youth into the juvenile justice system. Of particular interest are papers addressing how schools, law enforcement, courts, juvenile detention facilities, jails, and prisons impact LGBTQ youth by unfairly criminalizing and subjecting them to discriminatory treatment. Also crucial to this discussion are papers that address areas of reform to help transform the overrepresentation of LGBTQ youth in the juvenile and criminal justice systems.

Possible topics may include, but are not limited to:

- The policy dimensions of the growing overrepresentation of LGBTQ youth in the juvenile justice system, including how family rejection, homelessness, biased school discipline policies, and policing practices serve as feeders into the juvenile and criminal justice systems.
- The legal structures that underlie the continuing criminalization of LGBTQ youth, such as those that wrongly categorize youth as sexually deviant or “incorrigible.”
- New opportunities for litigation, including topics related to discrimination regarding gender identity, perceived identity, and the interplay of race and sexual orientation or gender identity.

**Instructions for Submission:**

- Emailed submission of abstracts of 500 words or less are due on February 15, 2015.
- Participants will be notified of their selection by February 16, 2015.
- The Journal will strongly consider each timely final submission for publication in an upcoming volume dedicated to the symposium. Final submissions for publication are due to the Journal by July 1, 2015.
- Limited travel assistance funds may be available for some participants who do not have institutional travel support. Please indicate in your submission if you are requesting financial assistance for travel.

Please direct all questions and final submissions to the Symposium Editor,  
Saskia Valencia, at [jgsplsymposium@gmail.com](mailto:jgsplsymposium@gmail.com).