

Call for Submissions: Volume 51.3 Special Issue on Race and Wrongful Conviction in Partnership with the Innocence Project

The *N.Y.U. Review of Law & Social Change* (“*Social Change*”) is seeking submissions for Volume 51.3, a special issue on race and wrongful conviction, published in partnership with the Innocence Project and the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project.

The issue will be centered around the brief filed by the Innocence Project and the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project on behalf of Tommy Lee Walker, a Black man wrongfully executed in Texas in 1956. *Social Change* will select articles responding to the brief and the issues it raises, including race, wrongful conviction, capital punishment, and posthumous exoneration.

The submission window will close **January 15, 2027**.

Background

In 2025, the Innocence Project and the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project filed a brief with the Dallas County commissioners, seeking the posthumous exoneration of Tommy Lee Walker. In January 2026, the Dallas County Commissioners Court declared Mr. Walker innocent, nearly seventy years after his execution. *Social Change* published the brief online in October 2026, preserving its litigation format and in-text citations.

Volume 51.3 will publish the brief in print, together with select articles written in response, for practitioners to access and cite.

The brief is available on our website. We ask that authors read it prior to submitting their manuscripts.

Submission Guidelines

All manuscripts must be submitted with a one-page cover letter explaining how the article relates to the Tommy Lee Walker brief. Submissions should be sent to law.rlsc@nyu.edu by January 15, 2027.

I. Scope

All manuscripts must engage the brief or the issues it raises. Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- The legal mechanisms available for posthumous exoneration, their limits, and what a better mechanism would look like.

- Building and litigating a historical record: archives, witnesses, and physical evidence decades after the fact.
- The role of post-conviction litigation in prison abolition.

This list is not exhaustive. We welcome critical, radical work across a broad range of subjects so long as it relates to the topic of race and wrongful conviction. Consistent with *Social Change*'s "page-to-practice" model, authors should, to the best of their ability, show how their argument can serve practitioners, advocates, and affected communities.

Please note that *Social Change* only publishes legal scholarship.

II. Author Eligibility

The call is open to legal scholars, system-impacted authors, practitioners, advocates, organizers, and current and recently graduated law students. There is no institutional affiliation requirement.

We strongly encourage submissions from system-impacted authors. *Social Change* will reserve at least one of the issue's pieces for a manuscript written by a system-impacted author.

III. Formatting Guidance

All manuscripts should:

- Be submitted as double-spaced Microsoft Word documents.
- Run between 6,000 and 25,000 words, inclusive of footnotes.
- Place all citations in footnotes that conform to the "Whitepages" of *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* (22d ed. 2025).

Selection Process

A joint committee of Innocence Project staff, including attorneys who worked on the Tommy Lee Walker brief, and *Social Change* editors will review all submissions and recommend manuscripts for publication. *Social Change* will make final selection decisions.