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**EDITORS' NOTES**

Last year, the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL) produced an extraordinary new report under the title *The Trial Penalty: The Sixth Amendment Right to Trial on the Verge of Extinction and How to Save It*. The report explored in detail how and why criminal trials are now so rare and the array of legal and practical factors (many of which reflect modern sentencing realities) that have made pressured plea bargaining so central to the operation of modern criminal justice systems. The editors of *FSR* contacted the leadership of NACDL to see if we might curate a set of new commentaries using "The Trial Penalty" report as a springboard.

*FSR* has been so very fortunate to have had Norman Reimer, executive director of NACDL, working with his colleague Martin Sabelli, NACDL's second vice president, to solicit an outstanding array of original articles for this issue. Indeed, the guest editors have been so productive, this project became a special double issue so that a lengthy reprint of the "The Trial Penalty" report could appear together with commentaries addressing the importance of criminal trials and their disappearance from historical, practical, empirical, and international perspectives.



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