

## EDITORIAL

# *JFAR* Editor's Message

**A**s the new editor of the *Journal of Forensic Accounting Research (JFAR)*, I will continue prior efforts set by the past editor, Professor Charles D. Bailey, to expand the journal's scope while simultaneously improving the quality and increasing the number of submissions to get ranking—the Impact Factor—for the *JFAR*. To accomplish this goal, I have commissioned several special issues on “fraud,” “non-fraud,” “behavioral,” and “digital forensics.” Calls for papers for these special topics for the *JFAR*'s consideration and publication are posted on the websites of the American Accounting Association (AAA) and the Forensic Accounting Section (FAS). We are reaching out to our global colleagues to consider submitting to this fast-track review for special topics of the *JFAR*. Please contact the issues' editors for more detailed information about special issues with your suggestions, comments, and proposals. Below is a synopsis of the call for these special topics:

1. *JFAR* Issue “Fraud Research Opportunities in Forensic Accounting”  
Issue Editors: Professors Cindy Durtschi (DePaul University, [cdurtsch@depaul.edu](mailto:cdurtsch@depaul.edu)); Meghann A. Cefaratti (Northern Illinois University, [mcefaratti@niu.edu](mailto:mcefaratti@niu.edu)); and D. Kip Holderness, Jr. (West Virginia University, [Kip.Holderness@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:Kip.Holderness@mail.wvu.edu))
2. *JFAR* Issue “Non-Fraud Research in Forensic Accounting”  
Issue Editors: Professors James A. DiGabriele (Montclair State University, [digabrielej@montclair.edu](mailto:digabrielej@montclair.edu)); Lester E. Heitger (Missouri State University, [LesHeitger@MissouriState.edu](mailto:LesHeitger@MissouriState.edu)); and Richard A. Riley, Jr. (West Virginia University, [Richard.Riley@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:Richard.Riley@mail.wvu.edu))
3. *JFAR* Issue “Behavioral Aspects of Forensic Accounting”  
Issue Editors: Professors Sridhar Ramamoorti (University of Dayton, [Sri.Ramamoorti@UDayton.edu](mailto:Sri.Ramamoorti@UDayton.edu)); Frank S. Perri (DePaul University, [FPerri@17thcircuit.illinoiscourts.gov](mailto:FPerri@17thcircuit.illinoiscourts.gov)); and Natalia Mintchik (University of Cincinnati, [mintchna@ucmail.uc.edu](mailto:mintchna@ucmail.uc.edu))
4. *JFAR* Issue “Digital Forensics”  
Issue Editors: Professors Graham Gal (University of Massachusetts, [gfgal@isenberg.umass.edu](mailto:gfgal@isenberg.umass.edu)); Amelia A. Baldwin (University of South Alabama, [baldwin@southalabama.edu](mailto:baldwin@southalabama.edu)); Kevin C. Moffitt (Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, [Kevin.moffitt@business.rutgers.edu](mailto:Kevin.moffitt@business.rutgers.edu)); Lynda Schwartz (University of Massachusetts Amherst, [lschwartz@isenberg.umass.edu](mailto:lschwartz@isenberg.umass.edu)); and Brigitte W. Muehlmann (Babson College, [bmuehlmann@babson.edu](mailto:bmuehlmann@babson.edu))

I have attended several conferences nationally and internationally this year in promoting the *JFAR* including:

1. Attended the 2019 Forensic Accounting Section Research Conference in St. Louis, MO on March 1–2 and worked with the FAS leadership in developing an effective strategic plan for advancing and sustaining the *JFAR*.

2. Attended the 2019 Institute for Fraud Prevention Conference in Austin, TX on June 27 and encouraged several authors to submit their paper presentations to the *JFAR*.
3. Attended the American Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) Research Institute meeting in June 2019, discussing collaboration with the ACFE in promoting fraud investigation and potential practical publications in the *JFAR*.
4. Met with the AAA publication committee and editors of other AAA journals in August at the 2019 AAA Annual Meeting, promoted the *JFAR* and engaged in discussions about making the *JFAR* more relevant to practitioners and academics.
5. Met with the publication committee of the FAS and associate editors of the *JFAR* in March and August 2019 to discuss our challenges and opportunities and finalize our strategic plan. As a respected AAA section journal, I am well aware of the challenges in obtaining a high-quality reputation for the *JFAR* that could be viewed in comparison with peer AAA journals (e.g., *Auditing: A Journal of Practice & Theory*, *Accounting Horizons*, *Issues in Accounting Education*). These challenges can motivate us, the editorial team, to strive for obtaining, reviewing, and publishing high-quality forensic accounting articles.
6. Attended the 2nd Global Chinese Accounting Association (GCAA) in Nanjing, China on November 2–3, 2019 as the keynote speaker on “Forensic Accounting” and promoted the *JFAR*.

As of now, this year we have two accepted manuscripts in production, several revised and resubmitted for regular submission, and eight submissions for the Special Forum in “Non-Fraud Forensic Accounting.” We plan to publish at least 15 articles in the Spring of 2020 issue of the *JFAR*.

I truly appreciate the cooperation and efforts of the leadership of the FAS, past editor, associate editors of the *JFAR*, and the staff of AAA in making our journal one of the premier AAA journals. When we are successful with our initiatives, we will be able to build a case for inclusion in the indexes. I suggest considering the Social Science Citation Index (SSCI) to get the Impact Factor soon. To take the journal international, we need to get ranking in international and regional databases including SSRN, Web of Science, Scopus, CABS (U.K.), ABDC (Australia), CNRS (France), and VHB (Germany), among others. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any suggestions for maintaining the sustainability of the *JFAR*. I am counting on your support!

Best regards and Happy Holidays,

—Zabihollah Rezaee  
Editor