Civil disabilities, which supplement traditional criminal penalties, have a long history in our legal system. Despite this established tradition, civil disabilities raise difficult questions about their role in the punishment and rehabilitation of convicted persons, their impact on the ability of certain groups to participate fully in society, and their impact on the criminal justice system.

The *Fordham Urban Law Journal* will hold a symposium that explores the legal, social and practical ramifications of the civil consequences of criminal convictions. The symposium will address particular areas of the law in which civil disabilities have recently been enacted or expanded, such as immigration, public housing, and welfare. It will also consider the practical impact of criminal convictions on the socio-economic status of particular racial and ethnic groups.