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A Congratulatory Note

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A Congratulatory Note

*Dean Frank H. Wu**

Congratulations to the *Women's Law Journal*! Twenty-five years ago, UC Hastings students founded it because they believed they could contribute to social change.

At its best, legal education trains individuals in much more than technical doctrine. It also gives them the skills of persuasion, problem solving, and leadership. And at its best, the practice of law is about much more than attorneys representing clients. It also enables advocates to advance causes.

Each of us tends to measure progress by our own lives. Within my lifetime, feminism has progressed from what was wrongly perceived as a fringe movement to a mainstream consensus. Yet societal attitudes continue to be contradictory. The Equal Rights Amendment has never passed, and the glass ceiling continues to block individuals from achieving their ambitions.

Perhaps the most important legal scholarship being published today demonstrates how legal formalism prevents social justice. Our agreement that sexism is wrong leads us to conclude that it doesn't exist. The explicit forms of discrimination give way to implicit versions of bias. Prejudice masquerades as ironic.

This great ongoing project empowers students. They see the role they can play in continuing the unfinished work of what was called, quaintly if not dismissively, "the women's movement." This endeavor began as an era of totalitarianism came to an end, with the fall of the Berlin Wall. Those who are dedicated to this journal are not merely awaiting, but helping to bring about, a similarly profound symbolic event.

We could not be more honored than to support the *Women's Law Journal*. Best wishes for the next twenty-five years—there is work to be done, and it will be accomplished in part through what is written in these pages.

*Chancellor & Dean of University of California, Hastings College of the Law.

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