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Foreword

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Foreword

In the wake of a wildly successful 25th anniversary year, we at *Hastings Women's Law Journal* have been proud to reflect on our remarkable history of practical, progressive, and often even radical legal scholarship. We are also deeply mindful of our role in building community and supporting those traditionally left outside of the scope of legal academia. Thus, in our 26th year we seek to reaffirm our commitment to the voices and experiences of *all* people, creating a space to foster difficult dialogue as well as to honor the importance of storytelling.

In that vein, we will present a Spring 2015 symposium on issues faced by women and LGBTQ people who are incarcerated, focusing especially on forming and maintaining the family unit, and safe access to reproductive and other necessary health care services. The Winter 2015 issue of *HWLJ* seeks to begin the conversation on several of these important subjects. We open this issue with a letter from Chamel Anderson, a woman who was brave enough to write us her firsthand story of incarceration in Texas. We then offer a soft transition into legal scholarship with a piece of Sebastian Milla's poetry evoking longing, past and future.

Our first three pieces explicitly explore issues of incarceration. First, Rachel Roth and Sara Ainsworth tackle a topic that has been front and center in California's recent news: the forcible or coerced sterilization of women in prison. In this article, they build from California's shameful history of eugenics and sterilization to examine prison policies nationwide, and set a strong foundation for their call to end the sterilization of women in prison. Amber Baylor's comment then suggests that women and their communities would be better served by providing alternatives to bail after arrest. She reviews community and organizational support systems for people after arrest, critiquing models of gender-responsive incarceration and instead advocating that reduced incarceration for people awaiting trial will result in lower rates of long-term incarceration and a far less devastating impact on women and their families. Jennifer Warner closes the section on incarceration with a comparative survey of prison nurseries worldwide, encouraging an expanded system of childcare support for parents who become incarcerated while pregnant or with young children at home.

Sebastian Milla ushers us into the second section with another poem, conceiving of oppressions found in superhero dreams. Our final article and two notes address unique issues of criminalization and oppression faced by

a variety of underrepresented populations in the United States, and each offers thoughtful solutions. Lieutenant Krista Bordatto first exposes a double standard that exists for military and civilian spouses when adultery is involved. While most states in the Union have recognized the futility of criminally prosecuting unfaithful spouses or consensual nonmonogamous arrangements, the military continues to violate privacy rights of those in its service by prosecuting and persecuting under an archaic code inequitably applied. We turn then from some of our nation's most lauded employees to some of its most profoundly ignored, as Christa Conry illuminates the devastating lack of protections for women who work as migrant farm laborers and suffer from disproportionate occurrences of abuse and sexual assault. Finally, my own note argues that young people in this country are done a great disservice by the prevalence of abstinence-only education programs in our schools: they are denied information about sexual health and behavior, resulting in unwarranted punishment and potentially disastrous results.

In closing, I want to take this opportunity to thank you personally—each of you with this book in your hands—for trusting in the passion and skill that this journal represents. I invite you to join us at our symposium in January or online in our social media accounts, to continue any and all of these conversations. I am honored to take the helm of this remarkable publication as we pave the way to an even brighter, more progressive, and perhaps even more radical future.

Sonya Laddon Rahders
Editor-in-Chief, Volume 26