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Foreword

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Foreword

Hastings Women's Law Journal strives to shine a light on legal blind spots by highlighting complex legal issues that often effect the most vulnerable communities. It has been difficult deciding which issues to tackle because there are so many communities who need a voice. We spent much of the semester wrestling with which articles to publish that best upholds the *Journal's* mission statement and best represent the individual passions of our membership. We ultimately selected a diverse group of articles, notes, and comments that affect many vulnerable communities.

The following pieces touch on the tensions between personal autonomy and a traditional rigid legal system. In this issue, Katlyn Brady examines the necessity of federal intervention to protect victims of revenge porn. Anne Onoma discusses the need for a legal exception to assault and battery for willing participants in BDSM. Dana Pugach and Michal Tamir study a gap in the Crime Victim's Rights Act that often does not consider the victim's wishes in a plea bargain agreement. Jennifer Twist and Merienne Star Blake give their personal perspective on the Principal Theory which assigns guilt by proximity. Brooke Acevedo explores access to gender reassignment surgery in U.S. prisons. Avishalom Westreich examines assisted reproductive technologies under the traditional legal system and Jewish law. Lastly, Alice Kwak discusses the impact of medical marijuana on child custody determinations.

Our amazing predecessors warned us that producing a scholarly publication of this caliber would be very time consuming, but nothing could prepare us for what we went through over the past six months. The *Journal's* editorial staff has worked tirelessly to uphold the legacy that is the *Hastings Women's Law Journal*. We had incredibly high expectations for our editorial staff and they not only met those expectations, they exceeded them. What may not be immediately apparent in the following pages is all the hard work the non-editorial staff put into producing this publication. Our Submissions and Acquisitions editor read through countless submissions and handpicked the best articles, creating the theme not only for this issue, but for our upcoming symposium: Legal Blind Spots. Our Managing Editor ensured we had the funds to do all that is necessary to produce this publication, as well as keeping up with scheduling and running our day-to-day tasks. Our Notes Editors have been working tirelessly with our 2L staff editors to develop new and interesting

content to be used in future publications. Our Communications Editor has worked to revamp the image of our *Journal* and increase our presence online. Our Symposium Editors have been working endlessly to plan what is slated to be one of the best *Hastings Women's Law Journal* symposiums to date. Lastly, Tom McCarthy single-handedly guided us through the publication process and pushed us harder than we could have imagined, but we are better for it. We are eternally grateful. Words cannot begin to express how thankful we are to have such a wonderful membership. None of this would have been possible without their hard work.

As you read this issue, keep in mind the extremely personal nature of each article, note, and comment. Try to refrain from thinking that a certain subject or topic does not automatically apply to you, since many of these victims were unwilling participants. Try to empathize instead of judge. Try to see yourselves or your loved ones facing these issues. Try to understand and be sympathetic. It is these legal blind spots that we must understand, because with understanding comes compassion, and with compassion comes change.

Amy Depuy and Tyra Singleton
Co-Editors-in-Chief, Volume 28