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Forward

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Foreword

For eighteen years the *Hastings Women's Law Journal* has provided a forum for voices outside the traditional scope of legal scholarship. We seek to publish works that explore the evolving relationship between gender, race, class and the law. We seek to encourage the examination and analysis of legal issues that are marginalized in traditional legal discourse.

The founding members of the *Hastings Women's Law Journal* attended classes in which women were a stark minority. In contrast, the graduating class of 2007 is composed of more than fifty percent women. Although our presence has increased in the classroom, we lack similar representation in the faculty lounge, the corporate boardroom and the partner's retreat. Whether the obstacles to our success are outright discrimination or the more invidious bias of enforced conformity to a male-defined workplace paradigm, we must continue the fight for equality of opportunity that inspired the founding members of the Journal.

This year, our annual symposium invited speakers to address the issues of prejudice and bias both in the workplace and society at large. The Honorable Justice Kathryn Werdegar, Associate Justice of the California Supreme Court, provided the introductory comments in which she shared her story of graduating — after a highly successful law school career — only to find few opportunities open to her because of her gender. Keynote speaker Irma Herrera, Executive Director of Equal Rights Advocates, spoke of the continuing struggle to gain equal rights and economic opportunity for women and girls. Professor Joan Williams, Director of the Center for WorkLife Law at UC Hastings, shifted our focus from asking “why are women ‘opting out’ of the workplace?” to instead examining the workplace structure, created by men of an earlier generation, that forces women to make a choice between work and family. Other speakers discussed their work fighting appearance discrimination based on weight, fighting the profiling and deportation of Arab men in the wake of September 11, and litigating the landmark class action case challenging Wal-Mart's glass ceiling. We thank Executive Symposium Editor Nicole Scher for her vision and guidance of a dedicated committee, which organized a lively and educational symposium.

In this Issue we offer three articles on topics as diverse as how the relationship between sex and trust affect the constituencies of corporate boards, the lack of response by the Guatemalan government to gender-

based violence against women, and how the disruption of the traditional binary concept of gender by gender transgression results in legal and social discrimination against individuals who fail to conform to gender norms. We also continue our effort to feature non-traditional voices by offering a piece addressing the challenge of completing a rigorous course of graduate study with a learning disability. Finally, we present three student notes that explore the ways in which domestic violence survivors are further endangered by discriminatory housing policies, the need to account for the unique circumstances and consequences of marital rape, and how the one-child policy in China has impacted United States immigration law.

On a personal note, although our law school experiences have been fulfilling in many ways, we both feel that serving as Co-Editors-in-Chief of the *Journal* has been the most rewarding. We have had the privilege to work with a wonderful and talented group of women and men and it has been a pleasure to watch our colleagues learn and grow through the process of publishing a journal. The *Journal* as a whole owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to our utterly capable and unflappable Managing Editor, Eliza Brink. We deeply appreciate the tremendous commitment and accomplishment of our Executive Articles Editor, Meredith Packer. Finally, we would like to thank our Executive Public Relations Editors, Ruby Ho and Nancy Zabala, whose untiring efforts have created a strong sense of community among *Journal* members. Thank you all for a job well done!

Lauren Whittemore
Rebecca Green
Co-Editors-in-Chief, 2006-2007