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Foreword

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Foreword

Putting together an academic journal is a lot of work. A lot. This time last year, I don't know that I really understood what we were in for. But over the past twelve months, the remarkable team of the *Hastings Women's Law Journal* has come together in a spectacular way. As I consider what to say about this second and last issue of Volume 26, I am overwhelmed with gratitude at all of the hard work that has gone into the past year. We welcomed four new Staff Editors in this issue, who helped reinforce our team of second year students: they are the backbone of our production process, checking and rechecking every single source our authors use. Our tireless Articles and Executive Articles editors put in countless hours with the Bluebook rechecking citations and un-italicizing periods. And of course without our Executive Editor Jen Warner, this publication would still be a pile of pages on my desk. Her eagle-eye and infinite patience have been the glue that held our production process together.

What isn't immediately apparent in these pages is that the non-production team has been just as busy! The Managing Editor kept us funded, scheduled, and generally running as smoothly as possible behind the scenes. In January, our Symposium Editors coordinated a moving, engaging, and thought-provoking half-day event examining issues of reproductive justice, family maintenance, and treatment of transgender people in prison. The Notes Editors have been working closely with Staff Editors all year, so that each 2L member is supported in producing their own unique scholarship. Our Submissions and Acquisitions Editors have read and responded to every one of the dozens of articles we received, carefully curating the scholarship we'll slate for publication. And finally, Tom McCarthy, Director of the Scholarly Publications Department at UC Hastings, has been a tireless champion for each of us. He is always available to offer a friendly face, sage advice, redline edits, or a receptive ear for grumblings. It's thanks to *all* of their work that I have the pleasure of presenting the following articles, examining areas of broad but interconnected importance—personal safety and autonomy, health, education, and employment.

This issue opens with a comment from one of our own lead articles editors Marc Tran, responding to the timely and as-yet underexamined issue of street harassment. Using his background in municipal law, Marc calls for the engagement of city governments to codify sanctions against people who engage in the invasive and arguably violent practices of

catcalling and creepshot photography. Professor Rona Kaufman Kitchen then calls for another adjustment to the criminal law, but this time on a national level: she argues for decriminalizing pregnant women by re-conceptualizing the adversarial paradigm by which courts examine pregnant people's relationship with their fetus.

Before moving into the third article, we punctuate our legal analysis with a poignant commentary and photograph from Carol Collins, a local woman who has documented and processed her battle with breast cancer through art. With your minds on medical care, then, Professor Thomas Simmons explains the potentially disastrous ways that Medicaid can function as modern-day coverture, subsuming the needs of a woman to those of her spouse and failing especially to recognize the needs of later-in-life married couples, or same-sex couples. Next, Dr. John Pearce and Ilya Lipin clearly explain steps that employers should follow to identify and discourage third-party sexual harassment in the workplace. The issue closes with a note by our executive notes editor Neelam Takhar, drawing on a long history of public education in the United States to argue that the new Common Core State Standards are a necessary and hopeful step toward improving our country's education system and insuring equality for all students.

The following nearly two hundred pages represent months of work for all of us involved—from early morning phone conferences between editors and authors, to late-night tech edits in our *Journal* office. From each of these hours have come important conversations, fresh understandings, and irreplaceable friendships. I hope that all of our readers can tell just how much this means to each of us. We don't just do it for course credit or for some type of prestige. No—this small, scrappy journal stays afloat and maintains its sterling reputation through labors of love. For me, this has been one of the most valuable experiences of my life. The people involved have truly set a high bar for the professionalism and camaraderie that I hope to encounter as I embark upon my next adventure as a *juris doctor*. It is indeed a bittersweet goodbye as we approach the Class of 2015 commencement.

I am, however, thrilled to be able to introduce the next generation of capable women who will head this publication. Editors-in-Chief Ali Nicolette and Yasi Sahely are already dreaming big, and developing a committed team that will follow their inspiration into Volume 27. Their passion and dedication is evident, and I have no doubt that they will seamlessly shepherd this *Journal* through the next years of its ongoing evolution.

I am grateful to you all.

Sonya Laddon Rahders
Editor-in-Chief, Volume 26