

Winter 2019

Foreword

Melissa B. Herrera

Follow this and additional works at: <https://repository.uchastings.edu/hwj>

Recommended Citation

Melissa B. Herrera, *Foreword*, 30 *Hastings Women's L. R.* 1 (2019).
Available at: <https://repository.uchastings.edu/hwj/vol30/iss1/2>

This Prefatory Matter is brought to you for free and open access by the Law Journals at UC Hastings Scholarship Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in *Hastings Women's Law Journal* by an authorized editor of UC Hastings Scholarship Repository.

Foreword

Stand for something or you will fall for anything.

Today's mighty oak is yesterday's nut that held its ground.

—Rosa Parks

For the last thirty years, *Hastings Women's Law Journal* (HWLJ) has provided a platform that celebrates diversity and serves to uplift the voices of those in marginalized communities and nontraditional academic scholarship. HWLJ grew out of a frustration that the male perspective dominated not only the law, but also legal discourse and discussion in and out of the classroom. It was a response to the urgent need for a space to address the ideas and concerns of women and the marginalized people and identities in our society. As the keepers of this revolutionary act, we would like to thank the Founders and original board members: Diane Bessette, Deborah Kochan, Jaynelle Bell, Amy Brown, Carrie Gleeson, and Valerie Karno, and Michelle Ben-Hur. We would also like to extend our deepest gratitude to all those who had a hand in the first issue of HWLJ, as well as those who have supported HWLJ throughout the years. Thank you to the greater Hastings community and our esteemed professors for your commitment to teaching and training the next generation of legal scholars and for encouraging us to stand for our convictions.

HWLJ would also like to acknowledge those who have ventured to pave the path for our existence. Women such as Clara Shortridge Foltz, the first woman lawyer on the West Coast and a legal powerhouse who fought for the right for women to be able to attend law school in California. We would also like to recognize all of the ground-breaking revolutionary women in Congress and in our personal lives who continue to push for a better tomorrow for us all. An additional note of gratitude to the women who sacrificed their safety and privacy to uphold the civic duty we all share. We thank you Anita Hill and Dr. Christine Blasey Ford for your bravery and courage. Your actions do not go unnoticed and they inspire us to continue to speak out against injustice.

HWLJ has aimed to serve as a vehicle for the advancement of feminist jurisprudence. Our publication is a testament to the fact that scholarship driven by personal narratives is invaluable to our profession and scholarship—*for the personal is political*. As we celebrate this achievement,

it is important to note that such platforms are not guaranteed. Historically, women getting to voice their thoughts is an anomaly. We must not forget this hostile reality in our fight to advance feminist scholarship. We are living in a precarious historical moment where our current administration is propagating antagonism and hatred toward minorities—women, the LGBTQ community, immigrants, and Muslims. HWLJ has always been committed to publishing the work of scholars who examine and analyze difficult and pressing issues. This scholarship is invaluable because of its power to facilitate necessary discussion and stimulate discourse. We are living in a time and place where the voices of those targeted by the Trump administration are critical to push against bigotry and discrimination. That said, HWLJ would like to thank the authors of this issue for their contribution to feminist discourse and their fresh approaches to difficult matters concerning: race, sexuality, sexual violence, and motherhood.

Lastly, HWLJ would like to thank our team of dedicated editors. Without their collective commitment to standing up for what they believe in—advancing the rights of all women and marginalized people—our journal could not survive. We would also like to thank Tom McCarthy, for his continued and unwavering support to ensuring the publication of all journals at Hastings, especially our own.

Melissa B. Herrera
Editor-in-Chief, Volume 30