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Foreword

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The *Hastings Women's Law Journal* has been a forum for alternative legal discourse for thirty-three years. This year, we continue to expand our discourse in the wake of unprecedented times. In 2020, we have collectively combatted a global pandemic, joined the national outrage following the murder of George Floyd, and mourned the death of the second woman to join the Supreme Court—Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg. We now face a monumental presidential election where Hastings' very own Senator Kamala Harris is the Democratic Vice-Presidential candidate and the first woman of color to be nominated for national office by a major political party.

In this issue, we consciously looked to amplify the voices that are often silenced in the legal sphere. We strongly believe that the law should be a tool to evoke change, not a means of gaining and preserving privilege and position. Recognizing that academia often perpetuates the very harmful institutions that we condemn, we intentionally sought to broaden the scope of scholarship represented in our Journal in the hope of bringing it within the vision expounded by our founders' mission statement. The founding members of the *Hastings Women's Law Journal* sought to add a unique and valuable perspective to the legal community, embracing and celebrating diversity. We carry on this legacy.

Our issue begins with an exploration of women's resilience in leadership during times of crisis. The authors look at three examples across three different political, economic, and cultural jurisdictions—the United States, Italy, and Japan. First, Lécia Vicente delves into diversity and inclusion in boards of directors of corporations in the United States. Then, Lucia Ruggeri explores women's resilience in the face of needless bureaucracy in Italy. Lastly, Kozue Kashiwazaki describes how a female community leader successfully established a shelter during the Japan Great Earthquake in 2011 despite a lack of government support. The stories the authors tell illustrate that unique circumstances shape the resilience of female leadership. This piece is timely as we continue to experience the crisis of a global pandemic. Similarly, our student note topics reflect current events ranging from the weaponization of white womanhood, a critique of incarceration during pregnancy, and an argument for imposing a duty of oversight on University boards of trustees.

To further align this issue with our mission, we found artists that depict some of the emotions that are currently being experienced and have been experienced by generations of Black womxn. We aimed to amplify their voices and lived experiences within our publication.

Thank you to all of the Executive Editors and Staff Editors who worked tirelessly throughout Volume 32, Issue 1 production. Special thanks to

Executive Editor Julia Crawford—this publication would not have been possible without your dedication and grace. We would also like to extend our gratitude to all of the authors who have contributed throughout the years. Your scholarship and research allows our Journal to continue its mission to serve as voice for those who are outside the conventional margins of legal discussion. Lastly, the *Hastings Women's Law Journal* would like to thank Tom McCarthy, we would not be able to do the work we do without your help and guidance.

Emily Mayers
Editor in Chief
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