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Foreword

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Foreword

For twenty years, the *Hastings Women's Law Journal* has provided a forum for alternative legal discourse, exploring topics ranging from changing family structures to international human rights to issues surrounding gender norms, equal employment opportunities, and race.

The founding members of the *Hastings Women's Law Journal* sought to create a space that allowed and encouraged its members and the legal community at large to explore areas of law that affected communities traditionally denied a voice, such as women of color, poor women, and lesbians. Today, the *Hastings Women's Law Journal* is proud to continue and expand on that tradition, providing an open and inclusive forum for discussing cutting-edge social justice issues. Our issue begins with an analysis of the 2008 presidential campaign as a medium for exploring how race and gender inform voting behavior, focusing on voters' perceptions of Michelle Obama. The next piece explores the role of law in reinforcing social and cultural norms through regulation of washroom spaces. Our student notes address topics within the gender and social justice rubric: Title VII class-action suits and legal resources for battered women. In addition, we are excited to publish excerpts from Lora Jo Foo's memoirs of growing up in San Francisco's Chinatown and her efforts to acquire an education and economic autonomy. We are incredibly proud of the level of scholarship our authors and student contributors bring to the discourse of social justice.

We would also like to express our great appreciation for our tireless and diligent Articles team: Executive Articles Editor Grace Chung, Senior Articles Editor Kristen Driskell, and Lead Editors Nicole Blake, Jessie Lee, and Holly Miller. In addition, we want to thank our second year members for their help in bringing this issue to completion.

This February, we have the distinct pleasure of inviting the legal community to attend our twentieth annual Symposium on economic equality for marginalized communities. This theme embraces such topics as women attaining economic equality as advocates; low wage workers' struggles during economic recession, especially in industries with a high concentration of women, people of color, LGBTQ people, and immigrants; work-life balance; and economic perspectives on social change. The symposium will also celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the *Hastings Women's Law Journal*. On behalf of our Executive Symposium Editor, Hillary Jo Baker, we extend a special invitation to all *Hastings Women's*

Law Journal alumni to attend the symposium and to join us for our reception afterward to discuss the past and future of our distinguished publication.

Finally, and most importantly, we extend our thanks to the wonderful group of women and men who are currently part of the *Hastings Women's Law Journal*. We are inspired by and grateful for your dedication and enthusiasm. As your Editors-in-Chief, we've enjoyed having the opportunity to work with each of you and are lucky to be surrounded by such fiercely intelligent and creative people. Thanks also to Managing Editor, Kathryn Cantrell, for keeping everyone informed and organized.

As *Hastings Women's Law Journal* begins its twentieth anniversary year, we are delighted to share with you, our Readers, the fruits of our labor!

Darcy Vaughn
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Editors-in-Chief, Volume 20