

# **UCLA**

## **UCLA Women's Law Journal**

### **Title**

Foreword

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# FOREWORD

The *UCLA Women's Law Journal*, in its eighth year, has become an entity of its own — somewhat of an institution. The essence of the *Journal*, as articulated by the founding members,<sup>1</sup> will remain the same even though changes in our communities and future political issues will affect the contents of our journal. While we are pleased with the growth and stability of the *Journal*, we must remind ourselves not to grow complacent. The word “institution” should make us proud but also should raise some concerns because the work is not done yet. We continually need to remind ourselves that while our *Journal* provides a valuable forum, scholarship is only a first step in confronting those social debates which obscure or ignore analyses of gender, race, class, and sexual orientation.

Let the words of Gloria Anzaldúa be a challenge to us:

[W]e need *teorías* [theories] that will enable us to interpret what happens in the world, that will explain how and why we relate to certain people in specific ways, . . . [n]ecesitamos *teorías* that will rewrite history using race, class, gender and ethnicity as categories of analysis, theories that cross borders, that blur boundaries — new kinds of theories with new theorizing methods. . . . And we need to find practical applications for those theories.<sup>2</sup>

In order to implement this idea of joining theory and practice, we began a retrospective process in which we carefully reviewed the past issues of our *Journal*. We have discovered that the *Journal* is achieving the goals laid out by our founding editors. We have published articles which range in style from the theoretical to the narrative and which covered issues of gender, race, class, and sexual orientation. We are taking this informa-

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1. Our founding editors entrusted us with the following goal:

The *UCLA Women's Law Journal* is committed to diversity within feminist legal scholarship. We believe that feminist scholarship must endeavor to encompass the experiences of *all* women. . . . [W]e hope to place at the center of our journal the perspectives of women of color, lesbians, impoverished women, physically challenged women, and other underrepresented voices. The touchstone of a more encompassing feminist jurisprudence is acknowledging difference with accuracy and without exclusion.

Stephanie H. Villafuerte & Laura E. Reece, *Foreword*, 1 *UCLA WOMEN'S L.J.* 1, 1 (1991).

2. Gloria Anzaldúa, *Introduction to MAKING FACE, MAKING SOUL HACIENDO CARAS: CREATIVE AND CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES BY FEMINISTS OF COLOR* xxv-xxvi (Gloria Anzaldúa ed., 1990).

tion and are compiling a bibliography of the articles we have published. This information will be placed on our new web site "www.law.ucla.edu/Student/Organizations/wlj." We hope that this web site eventually will serve as a "cyber-treatise" on feminist legal scholarship and allow our readers to generate ideas on how to bring the theories into practice.

Our spring symposium on same-sex rights is another way the *Journal* intends to bridge the gap between theory and practice. At our symposium, we will join together academics, practitioners, and community activists to acknowledge that same-sex rights cannot develop in theory alone.

The creation of the symposium on same-sex rights and production of Volume Eight of the *Journal* represents the collaborative efforts of all our members. We would like to send our deepest thanks to all our members for their dedication and long nights working on the *Journal*. Additionally, we could not have achieved this high level of success without the continual support of the UCLA School of Law administration, faculty, and staff.

MICHELLE AHNN & SANDRA BERNAL  
Editors in Chief  
*UCLA Women's Law Journal*  
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