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FOREWORD

In early fall 2018, Dr. Christine Blasey Ford bravely went before the Senate Judiciary Committee and gave testimony about her experience with sexual assault from over three decades ago. Her dignified testimony was powerful, but her account in conjunction with Justice Kavanaugh's and the Committee's responses sent reverberations through all who were watching—including our own community at UCLA Law.

As law students, we felt the weight of the moment. We saw the ways in which systems of power were being both challenged and then reinforced, not only in the hearings themselves but also in the surrounding conversations. We were moved by the ways in which our student and faculty community immediately rushed to support survivors who were impacted by the larger conversation. We were disheartened by those who chose to express disdain, rather than empathy. As legal professionals on the brink of entering the field, we grappled with what these events meant to our profession—what was now different and what had remained the same. We wanted to mark this moment.

We reached out to law faculty and student groups, asking them to reflect on what the moments over this period had unearthed in their lives—personally, professionally, or somewhere in between—or to contribute a piece that would shed light on an aspect of the larger issue that was being overlooked or ignored. As part of marking this moment, we were focused on reintegrating the personal back into the conversation. In the wake of an event that seemingly invalidated the real experiences of Dr. Blasey Ford, we wanted to provide a platform for survivors, students, faculty, and community members to shine a light on the ways in which students and lawyers are people whose trauma or experiences directly inform our professional perspectives. We believe that not only are these personal experiences valid and meaningful, but they can tell us something greater about how we as future or current legal professionals come to the work we have chosen.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all of our contributors. Thank you to Claudia Peña and LaToya Baldwin Clark for their careful and thoughtful reflections on how the nomination process has impacted not just their professional lives but also their personal lives. Thank you to Laura Gómez and Kimberlé Crenshaw for contextualizing this moment—noting how sexual harassment and assault are nothing new in our legal profession.

Thank you to Womyn of Color Collective, who wrote a letter of hope and reassurance; to the UCLA National Lawyers Guild, who helped coalesce the UCLA Law community in support of survivors; and to Law Women for their poetry full of powerful imagery. We would also like to thank our anonymous poet who shared a deeply personal story.

We are grateful for the opportunity to publish this issue. When we remember this moment, we believe this issue will help ground us. These authors, with their varied perspectives, paint a rich portrait of what these hearings meant for us at this moment in time.

— Ysabel J. Jurado and Amy Thompson
Editors-in-Chief
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