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FOREWORD

[I]f I fail to recognize [others] as faces of myself, then I am contributing not only to each of their oppressions but also to my own . . . I am not free while any woman is unfree, even when her shackles are very different from my own.¹

This has been a year of self-reflection for the *UCLA Women's Law Journal*. Our founding mothers first began to articulate the Journal's mission statement in Volume One: "The *UCLA Women's Law Journal* is committed to diversity within feminist legal scholarship," they wrote. "[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." Now, seven years later, we continue to articulate the Journal's mission statement by affirming and expanding upon its goals.

Over the past several years, issues involving immigrants' rights, racial diversity, race discrimination, sex discrimination, and the intersection of race and gender have occupied the forefront of global, United States, California, and UCLA law school politics. The prominence of these issues has reinforced our belief that women's rights cannot be divorced from discussions of the equality of all people. For indeed, the challenges that women face are not linked solely to our sex, but also to our race, our ethnicity, our class, our sexual orientation, and the disabilities we may have. In recognition of these intersections, the Journal has always embraced a diversity of voices within its pages. This year, we have challenged ourselves to discover additional measures to ensure that the empowering words of our mission statement always guide our endeavors.

Just as Whites must take an active role in ending racism, so too must men join in the struggle against sexism. The consequences of sex discrimination — ranging from domestic violence to genital mutilation — will never disappear until all human beings commit to eliminating them. Furthermore, the challenges

1. Stephanie H. Villafuerte & Laura E. Reece, *Foreword*, 1 *UCLA WOMEN'S LAW JOURNAL* 1, 2 (1991) (quoting A. LORDE, *SISTER OUTSIDER* 132-33 (1984)).

posed by sexism inevitably impact men as well as women. For indeed, men's lives are limited by the same gender roles that oppress women; women are often expected to stay home with children, for example, while men who wish to do the same are often stigmatized. Likewise, other forms of sexism touch men's lives; the rape of a woman certainly affects all of the people who are close to her. In sum, because issues of women are in fact issues of humanity, the responsibility for eradicating sexism belongs to all of us.

With these convictions in mind, the Journal has continued in its efforts to both reaffirm and expand upon our mission statement. This year, we began an ongoing discussion with our faculty advisors and our board members regarding the possibility of changing the Journal's name to better reflect our mission. We considered names that more explicitly convey our goal of including women of color, lesbians, and men. Although we have not yet concluded this valuable discussion, it has led the board to think deeply about the Journal's mission and how best to promote our goals.

In closing, we would like to recognize the extraordinary dedication and talent displayed by our board and staff who have worked so hard to produce this issue of the *UCLA Women's Law Journal*. Finally, we extend our sincere gratitude to the UCLA School of Law administration, faculty, and staff for the support and guidance we continue to receive.

SARAH GILL & JAMIE MICHELE WEYAND
Editors in Chief
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