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FOREWORD

When we, and many members of the Editorial Board, began law school in the Fall of 1990, we joined the staff of the first edition of the *UCLA Women's Law Journal*. At that time, we were inspired by the promise that our legal careers would be used to further the cause of equal rights for women of all social and ethnic backgrounds. Today, the publication of Volume 3 marks the departure of the last *Journal* members who were present at its beginnings. The completion of our work on the *Journal* has led us to reflect on the progress that has been made toward this vision over the past year, and how much progress is left to be made.

To be sure, 1992 and the opening months of 1993 were full of promise and progress. The elections of November 1992 brought women into political office, across party lines, in unprecedented numbers. In his first week in office, President Bill Clinton lifted the so-called "gag rule" that had prohibited federally funded health care providers from counselling their patients about abortion.¹ Further, Clinton promised to dissolve the long-standing barrier to the service of gays in the military, a move that foreshadowed greater inroads for women in that traditionally heterosexist, male-dominated institution. Evidence of this progress could be seen in the decision to make certain female military pilots eligible to fly combat missions.² Finally, Clinton promised a commitment to the placement of women in positions of political power. His wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton, was put in charge of implementing the President's revolutionary health care proposal; he filled his cabinet with women from a variety of social backgrounds, including the first openly lesbian woman to be appointed to a cabinet-level position;³ and his first appointment to the United States Supreme Court was ardent supporter of women's rights, Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

1. Robin Toner, *Settling In: Easing Abortion Policy; Clinton Orders Reversal of Abortion Restrictions Left by Reagan and Bush*, N.Y. TIMES, Jan. 23, 1993, § 1, at 1.

2. John Lancaster, *Nearly All Combat Jobs to be Open to Women; Front-line Ground Units Would Be Excluded*, WASH. POST, Apr. 29, 1993, at A1.

3. *Far Right Rails Against Nominee; Helms, Gramm Lead Conservative Attack on Achtenberg*, HOUSTON CHRON., May 21, 1993, at A6.

This season of promise and progress was blighted, however, by a number of disappointments. In July 1993, an overwhelming majority of the House of Representatives voted to uphold the Hyde Amendment which prohibits Medicaid funding of abortions in most cases.⁴ Then, the promise of a military completely open to gays and lesbians gave way to the so-called compromise policy of "don't ask, don't tell." Further, the headlines were filled with the "Nanny Gate" scandal, in which the nominations of two eminently qualified female candidates for the position of Attorney General were withdrawn in the face of allegations that they had hired undocumented aliens to care for their children while they pursued their legal careers.⁵ Finally, the promise of change remains largely unfulfilled for poor women and women of color who have borne disproportionately the burdens of the deepening recession and broadening health care crisis.

Clearly, then, there is much work to be done before our original vision can be realized. We know that our commitment to this goal, and the commitment of those members who came before us, will continue long after our participation on the *UCLA Women's Law Journal* ends. It is our hope that future members are similarly inspired by the promise and committed to progress.

LISA A. ANDERSON & EUGENIE A. GIFFORD,
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4. Kevin Merida, *Abortion Foes Claim Momentum in Congress and in Public Opinion*, WASH. POST, July 15, 1993, at A17.

5. Michael Kranish, *Woes Over Workers: Clinton Denies a Double Standard*, BOSTON GLOBE, Feb. 9, 1993, at 1.