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

### **Title**

Editor's Note

### **Permalink**

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### **Journal**

UCLA Women's Law Journal, 8(1)

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### **Publication Date**

1997

### **DOI**

10.5070/L381017683

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## EDITORS' NOTE

Jennifer Durkin and Lara Herrington

The *UCLA Women's Law Journal* prides itself on publishing articles on the cutting edge of feminist legal theory, and we are proud to announce that our Spring/Summer 1998 issue will be devoted to the topic of same-sex rights and the law. The *Journal* also will be holding a live symposium on March 7, 1998 at the UCLA School of Law. At the live symposium, authors will present their pieces, and there will be panel discussions, brown bag lunches, and social events.

When we decided to devote one issue to a symposium, there was heated debate over what the topic should be. In the end, the *Journal* members overwhelmingly voted to address issues relating to sexual orientation and the law — issues such as same-sex sexual harassment, employment benefits for same-sex partners, domestic violence in the gay and lesbian community, and same-sex marital rights. Issues affecting same-sex couples and their families in particular have finally begun to get media attention and have truly become part of our social discourse. For example, more and more employers are beginning to provide benefits to the domestic partners of their employees and local courts are hearing cases involving transgendered people seeking custody of their children. Similarly, issues of same-sex sexual harassment are increasingly being addressed by the courts and recognized as harmful by society. The United States Supreme Court recently has heard oral arguments in *Oncale v. Sundowner Offshore Services, Inc.*,<sup>1</sup> a case on same-sex sexual harassment. As a preview to our upcoming symposium, we are publishing the following amicus brief by Professor Catharine A. MacKinnon, introduced by Marc S. Spindelman and John Stoltenberg's, "*Oncale: Exposing 'Manhood.'*"

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1. 83 F.3d 118 (5th Cir. 1996), *cert. granted*, 117 S. Ct. 2430, 138 L.Ed.2d 192, 65 U.S.L.W. 3809, 65 U.S.L.W. 3814 (U.S. June 9, 1997) (No. 96-568).

It is imperative that the legal community continue to be at the forefront of the movement to free the workplace of sex and sexual orientation discrimination and to shape the future of the legal rights of same-sex couples and families. Through our symposium, the *Journal* hopes to provide a forum for this discourse. We hope to publish articles on same-sex marriage, transgender relationships, adoption issues relating to gays and lesbians, employment benefits for domestic partners, same-sex sexual harassment, and sexual orientation discrimination. Our live symposium will include speakers who are legal scholars as well as practitioners and community members who are involved in these struggles on a day to day basis.

For more information on our symposium contact:  
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