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Foreword

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## **Foreword**

The UCLA Women's Law Journal strives to highlight the centrality of law in both the history and current status of women, and the centrality of women's experiences in the history and current status of American law. As evidenced by this issue's selections, American jurisprudence continues to underscore how women have been oppressed by law, defined by law, and empowered by law. Moreover, in significant ways the selections illustrate how the law continues to delimit the social, educational, and professional opportunities of women. The authors in this issue take up questions about the social, economic, and political forces that have shaped, and continue to define, the history of American women. By offering a critical analysis of several historical and modern day legal frameworks, the articles offer a central questioning of how far women have come, and what struggles still remain.

Our lead Article offers a hypothetical about the fictitious National Law School, whose labor relationships mimic those of many real law schools in a number of ways. Based on the facts of this hypothetical, the Article analyzes the different possible causes of action, either systemic or individual, that employees could reasonably win against the National Law School in an effort to highlight the concentration of women in the lower levels of law faculty hierarchies. Our Essay discusses the exclusion of lesbian rights from the human rights dialogue and constructs a framework for inclusion. Our Recent Development article presents a model for incorporating reproductive oppression into the modern reparations for slavery movement in the United States. Our Book Review analyzes the connection between animal rights and the feminist movement by focusing on Catharine MacKinnon's essay, titled "Of Mice and Men: A Feminist Fragment on Animal Rights," published in Animal Rights, by Cass Sunstein and Martha Nussbaum. Our Student Scholarship selection offers a critique of the ambiguity currently present in abortion law's viability standard as articulated by the Supreme Court in Planned Parenthood v. Casev.

As the school year draws to a close, we would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the entire 2004-2005 staff and editorial board of the UCLA Women's Law Journal. Special thanks are owed to next year's Editors in Chief, Arwen Johnson and Kate Padbury, who have gone above and beyond their duties in order to see this issue to fruition. We also owe special thanks to the UCLA School of Law professors and administrators. In particular, we are indebted to Journals Consultant Pei Pei Tan, Professor Christine A. Littleton, Dean of Students Liz Cheadle, and Dean Michael Schill.

MIKAH O'MARA & HOLLY A. WILLIAMS Editors in Chief UCLA Women's Law Journal Volume 14:1, 2004-2005