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The *Berkeley Women's Law Journal* is guided by an editorial policy which distinguishes us from other law reviews and feminist journals. Our mandate is to publish research, analysis, and commentary that address the lives and struggles of underrepresented women, such as women of color, poor women, lesbians, and disabled women. We believe that excellence in feminist legal scholarship requires critical examination of categories such as race, class, sexual orientation, and disability as well as gender. Therefore, discussions of "women's issues" that treat women as a monolithic group do not fall within our mandate. Articles may come within the mandate because of their subject matter, or because of their analytical attention to differences in social location among women. The truly broad scope of this mandate, and the diversity of scholarship it supports, is reflected in this volume of the *Berkeley Women's Law Journal*.

The majority of pieces submitted to this journal, however, do not fall within the mandate. There are far too few of us in legal education and practice committed to advocating for women, let alone focusing on those women least served by the legal system. Rather than abandon or modify our mandate in response to the limited pool of available scholarship, we hope to actively cultivate and support such scholarship by recommitting ourselves to the vision our mandate reflects. We need your help. This forum can only exist with the vigorous participation of thinkers and writers nationwide who share our vision and our commitment. We urge you, our readers and friends, to consider the issues raised in the *Berkeley Women's Law Journal* as you pursue your own work. Share your work-in-progress with us. Publish with us. Tell your colleagues, students, and teachers about us. If you read an unpublished paper, or hear a speech at a conference, that addresses the mandate of the *Berkeley Women's Law Journal*, refer it to us. Join us in nurturing and critically engaging the legal research, theories, and strategies required to serve the interests of underrepresented women, and thus serve the interest we all share in social justice.

As we publish this volume we celebrate the appointment of Herma Hill Kay as dean of Boalt Hall. Professor Kay has been faculty advisor for the *Berkeley Women's Law Journal* since its inception. She was the second female professor ever hired at Boalt when she joined the faculty in 1960, and was one of only three women in her law school graduating class. While the percentage of women law students has increased appreciably since that time, the percentage of women law professors has lagged far behind. Women of color comprise a very small portion of that already small percentage. We hope that Professor Kay's appointment will serve as recognition of not only her own unique and noteworthy accomplishments but also the contributions to be gained by increasing the diversity of law school faculties. We are confident that Professor Kay will use her position as dean to support faculty and students in developing the nontraditional areas of scholarship we seek to publish.

We also celebrate our continued commitment to shared information, open and frank discussion, and group decisionmaking at all levels. We remain, as the Editorial Board wrote in the inaugural issue, "dedicated to a vision of preserving our voices of diversity and maintaining our commitment to social change within the often stifling confines of a law school environment." These pages reflect that dedication.



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*It is the policy of the *Berkeley Women's Law Journal* not to draw a distinction between student pieces and the work of scholars, practitioners, and community workers.

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