



BERKELEY WOMEN'S LAW JOURNAL

1988-89 Volume 4



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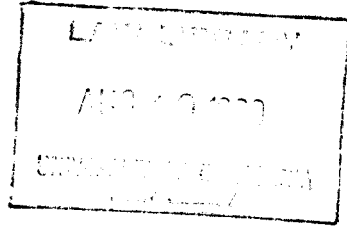
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Dedication

The Journal would like to dedicate this issue to those involved in the fight for reproductive freedom and those whose lives have been and will be affected by this struggle.



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The *Berkeley Women's Law Journal* thanks those women and men who submitted articles to us this year. For many, writing an article meant taking time away from their law practice, studies, political organizing, teaching and personal responsibilities. Volume IV's authors mirror our diverse readership. In this Volume, they explore issues ranging from reproductive rights and affirmative action to same-sex marriage and pornography. We are especially pleased to be publishing our first interdisciplinary article—a sociological look at class and gender analysis as reflected in the land laws of post-revolutionary China.

Despite the range and diversity of our authors, we remain concerned about the tenure system in the law schools, and the universities generally, which prevents some feminist academics from publishing with us or our sister journals. In this system, certain mainstream journals have become proxies for acceptability. Often, tenure reviewers look no further than place of publication to determine scholarly value. As a result of this system, some feminist academics have said to us that, although they would like to publish in a women's law journal, their goal of obtaining tenure forces them to publish in a more mainstream law journal. This is not universally true, of course. Some academics, particularly those with tenure, have more freedom to choose the forum for their work. We sympathize with the dilemma facing non-tenured feminist academics; patriarchal institutions often require feminists to choose between principle and practice.

By publishing feminist jurisprudence in traditional forums, feminist academics are compelled to contradict their theory with their practice. Because many feminist academics gain tenure only after being forced to deny their commitment to feminist institutions, these gains often leave the tenure system intact and unchallenged. One way to challenge that system is to choose to publish with a women's law journal. At the same time, we must prevent the law schools from dictating the "right" places to publish. To do so, we must ensure that law schools stop evaluating feminist legal scholarship and feminist scholars through the myopic lenses of hierarchy; a hierarchy that rewards those who ignore the existence of sexism, racism, classism and homophobia rather than those who actively fight to change those realities.



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