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FOREWORD

I never lose sight of the fact that the questions I address and the formulations I pose might have effects on real people. Political theory is not about making the most efficient turbine engine, or constructing the sleekest giant skyscraper, or erecting the most monumental rocketship. It is about how people live their lives and create and recreate meaning anew with each waking day.¹

Now in our ninth year of publication, the *UCLA Women's Law Journal* remains one of the foremost women's law journals and continues to devote its pages to exploring issues of feminist legal jurisprudence. In line with the above idea, we have tried to publish articles that show the effects public policy has had on real people. It is important not to lose sight of the fact that although we are a scholarship institution, we must continually "endeavor to encompass the experiences of all women," as our founding editors wrote.

This issue will serve to introduce our new Student Scholarship department. Here, we have chosen to highlight an article written by a student, with a special eye towards publishing work done by our local student body. In this issue, we are excited to publish an article by Sandra Cavazos, "Harmful to None: Why California Should Recognize Out of State Same Sex Marriages Under its Current Choice of Law Rule." This article was originally presented at the *UCLA Women's Law Journal* symposium, "Queer Matters: Emerging Issues in Sexual Orientation Law" on March 7, 1998. Our second issue will feature an article written by a current *UCLA Women's Law Journal* member that discusses women and children labor in Mexico under the NAFTA and its side accords.

This has also proven to be the year for bringing the Women's Law Journal office into the next century. Not only have we updated our office equipment and technology with a new state of the art laser printer and fax machine, but through generous donations of couches, pictures, and a new coffee machine, we have tried to make the *Journal* office not only easily accessible, but inviting to all members. We have worked to develop a sense of community within our growing and diverse membership, and

1. JEAN BETHKE ELSHTAIN, *PUBLIC MAN, PRIVATE WOMAN, WOMEN IN SOCIAL AND POLITICAL THOUGHT* xvi (1981).

we are striving to be not only a journal but also a resource for our members; a place where all members can feel they have a mentor, a supporter, and a friend.

We wish to express our sincere gratitude for the consistent support we have received from the UCLA administration and faculty. Finally, we would like to thank our staff and board for their extraordinary hard work and excellent performance. We would also like to acknowledge all of the hard work the Essay department put in on an article scheduled for publication in this issue, but were ultimately unable to publish. The considerable commitment displayed by the board and staff members of the *UCLA Women's Law Journal* is commendable, and we sincerely appreciate the time and effort expended by all.

JUDY L. BENTON & MARLA MAXFIELD
Editors in Chief
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