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FOREWORD

When the two of us met with a group of six other female law students in the summer of 1990, neither of us were aware that this Journal would shape the rest of our law school careers. Of the eight founders, we all had been involved on differing levels in feminist activities, only one of us had traditional law review experience, and none of us had the slightest appreciation for the enormity of what were about to undertake. However, though we had come from a generation that had taken much of feminism for granted, we were united both by our nascent sense of injustice about the state of women and our desire to create a forum to discuss, and hopefully improve, women's position in society. It seemed to all of us that the law school with the largest number of women faculty in the country, and with a woman dean, should have a women's law journal.

Less than a year later, we published our first issue: a 250-page testimonial to the desperate need for this Journal and others like it. But these pages also told another story — one which cannot be cited in Blue Book form. For many of us, what started off as a mere extra-curricular activity became a commitment we could not neglect. In reading submissions and exploring the issues these pieces raised, we discovered how much the injustice we initially sensed was actually codified in our laws. We also realized how tenuous the advances were that our generation of women had taken for granted. We had our work cut out for us if we were to help improve the position of women in society. The Journal became our main priority and our only activity: it influenced our course of study, affected our career choices, and deprived us of an otherwise vibrant law school social life. We were on the brink of becoming our own worst nightmares — *Harvard Law Review* editors! (albeit, without their “mature” senses of humor).

Our efforts to begin work on our second issue were temporarily delayed by the Clarence Thomas confirmation hearings, as we, like the rest of America, were glued to our television sets. These hearings reconfirmed the need to continue discussing the treatment of women in our society. The Thomas confirmation hearings also set the stage for a year in which the stakes for women were particularly

high. Powerful governmental and societal forces demonstrated an unwillingness to respect women, as evidenced by the attitudes displayed by many during the Thomas hearings and by the persistent call for the overturn of *Roe v. Wade*. Women, however, responded in an even louder voice. We flooded congressional phone lines, demanding that our representatives take the issue of sexual harassment seriously. (Someone must have been listening: The Civil Rights Act of 1991 became law shortly after Thomas was confirmed.) And, this past April, over half a million of us marched on Washington to protect our reproductive freedom.

These threats and victories represent only part of what occurred in the lives of women this past year. This issue hopefully provides a more complete picture.

NICOLE C. BERSHON & JOLLEE FABER,
CO-EDITORS IN CHIEF
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