



BERKELEY WOMEN'S LAW JOURNAL

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The *Berkeley Women's Law Journal*, now five volumes old, is no longer a newcomer, not yet an institution. The Journal's founding members hoped it would fulfill two needs: first, that it would flourish as an academic journal dedicated to presenting issues of importance to marginalized women; and second, that it would serve as a non-hierarchical, welcoming alternative to the traditional law journal organization.

Since these intentions and hopes involved processes rather than goals, we report not on our success but on our progress. We are especially pleased to present the articles in this issue; and in particular, to publish the results of the survey conducted by Sue Homer and Lois Schwartz, "Admitted but Not Accepted: Outsiders Take an Inside Look at Law School." This article speaks directly to our experience of law school as a sometimes alienating place. But we think it also speaks to the larger need for structural reform within law schools: faculty diversity, curricular and pedagogical reform. All of the articles we publish here confirm our sense of the importance of women's contributions in the restructuring of society and the law.¹

As a journal, we have tried to provide an alternative to the traditional law review structure by incorporating feminist principles and values of cooperation, inclusion, and consensus into our production process. We accept all members, relying on their dedication to feminist issues to inspire them to take on work incommensurate with the academic reward. All journal members have a voice in the selection of articles for publication. All of the articles in this issue were team-edited. And both the editor-in-chief and the managing editor positions were shared. The Journal benefited from two sets of eyes, two approaches, the synergy of teamwork. Restructuring the work of the journal allowed members to attend to life apart from law school: members were freed to pursue other interests, from new motherhood to political and social causes to tending their own gardens.

As a Journal, however, we also struggle with an important issue confronting feminists today: how to achieve consensus while honoring diversity. Consensus is time consuming, frustrating, and not always attainable. After a lifetime of participation in hierarchical institutions—from family to corporation—even committed feminists sometimes bring the baggage of power to the discussion table. We remain confident in the process, however, determined to create an enterprise strengthened by the wholehearted commitment of all its members.

¹ One of *our* modest structural reforms was to abandon the Blue Book in favor of the more flexible, less rule-bound Maroon Book. We are convinced that citation clarity is not dependent on arcane and self-conflicting rules. In addition, since we believe that gender matters, we wanted to be able to refer to authors by something other than just the patronymic.



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