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The Women and International Law Program

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THE WOMEN AND INTERNATIONAL LAW PROGRAM

The Women and International Law Program at American University's Washington College of Law (WCL) supports and promotes the work of advocates and scholars around the world to fully integrate women's human rights into legal education, practice and doctrine. In May of 1997, the Women and International Law Program launched the *Gender and Legal Education Project*¹ to strengthen women's legal status in Latin America. This project has fostered the work of Latin American legal scholars and women's rights advocates to integrate gender into legal education and legal doctrine through Teaching, Research and Advocacy Fellowships, conferences, establishing networks, and creating and publishing legal texts and teaching materials.

The initial phase of this project was *The Pan-American Conference on Transforming Women's Legal Status: Integrating Gender Into Legal Doctrine and Legal Education*, which took place at the Washington College of Law in November 1997. The Conference brought together over seventy academics and women's advocates from Latin and North America to examine Latin American legal systems from a gender perspective and to exchange experiences regarding the challenges and opportunities for integrating women's rights into law school curricula and legal doctrine. The Conference consisted of various presentations from experts in legal education and women's rights. Participants also took part in skills-building workshops, where they explored new teaching methodologies, and developed teaching modules and strategies that they could use in their own work as professors, law school administrators and women's rights advocates.

This publication is a compilation of articles and presentations, authored by conference participants, which address critical issues of integrating gender into legal education and legal doctrine. The

1. The Gender and Legal Education Project has been made possible through the generous support provided by The International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) through the Office of Women in Development, Global Bureau, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Ford Foundation, and the Inter-American Development Bank.

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Women and International Law Program would like to extend its deep appreciation and many thanks to the contributors to this publication for their tireless efforts and dedication to promoting and protecting women's rights. We would also like to thank the staff of the Journal of Gender, Social Policy & the Law for publishing the important outcomes of the Pan-American Conference, and for their patience and diligence in publishing this work.