The Birth of a Journal

The American University Journal of Gender & the Law is pleased to celebrate our beginning with you. The Washington College of Law at The American University has a history of new beginnings. The law school was founded in 1896 by two feminists, Ellen Spencer Mussey and Emma Gillett, to fulfill their dream of educating women in the law. By expanding educational opportunities for women, the founders hoped to further their broader goal of social and political equality for women. They chose to create a co-educational institution because they believed that gender equality could best be achieved through cooperation and communication between the sexes.

In this spirit, we decided to found a journal to explore gender-related issues and how they relate to the law. The American University Journal of Gender & the Law focuses specifically on the impact the law has on women's lives, and more generally on how gender bias in the law and in legal studies affects all of us.

Our intent is to fill a void in feminist legal scholarship by providing an opportunity for academic discussion that is otherwise overlooked by traditional journals. By focusing on gender issues, we are committed to creating a dialogue between the sexes—a dialogue that we hope will further advance the development of gender equality in the law.

The exploration of gender issues cuts across traditional boundaries that have separated legal disciplines from each other. Thus, the type of Journal we foresee will not be limited to any one area of the law. Our vision of the Journal will enable us to incorporate various aspects of gender issues and the law. It is our hope that this holistic approach will serve to empower all individuals in our society, and will strengthen the role of progressive perspectives in mainstream legal scholarship. The articles in this issue were presented at our Fall 1992 symposium entitled "Discovering Our Connections: Race and Gender in Theory and Practice of the Law." We hope our first issue will further an understanding of the unique dynamics that take place when race, gender, and the law intersect. This symposium issue of the Journal celebrates how far all of us have come, and we hope that it provides inspiration for the distance we have yet to go.

Founding Committee,
The American University Journal of Gender & the Law
Discovering Our Connections: Race and Gender in Theory and Practice of the Law

Saturday, September 12, 1992

Panels Included:

Domestic Violence
- Leslye Orloff, Director, Legal Aid Clinic, AYUDA, Inc., Washington, DC
- Kathy Culliton, Ford Fellow & WCL student
- Debbie Lee, Family Violence Prevention Fund; founder, Asian Woman's Shelter Project, San Francisco, CA
- Jane Murphy, Professor, University of Maryland
Moderator: Catherine Klein, Professor, WCL

Race and Gender in the Workplace
- Claudia Withers, Executive Director, Fair Employment Council of Greater Washington, Inc.
- Judith Winston, Professor, WCL
- Floyd Weatherspoon, Professor, Capital University of Ohio
Moderator: Joan Williams, Professor, WCL

Grassroots Organizing/Political Empowerment
- Stacy Brustin, Professor, Catholic University and Coordinator, Hermanas Unidas Program, Washington, DC
- LaRae Berrien, Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights, Washington, DC
Note: This panel is intended to be especially interactive.

Criminal Justice
- Jamin Raskin, Professor, WCL
- Angela Davis, Public Defender Service, Washington, DC
- Binny Miller, Professor, Criminal Justice Clinic, WCL
- Dwight Greene, Professor, Hofstra University School of Law
Moderator: Burt Weschler, Professor, WCL

Coercive Intervention and Reproductive Rights
- Cheryl Amana, Professor, North Carolina Central University
- Nancy Ehrenreich, Professor, University of Denver
- John Tocci, Judicial Clerk
- Vanesta Poitier, Koba Center for Drug Treatment and Research
Moderator: Ann Shalleck, Professor, WCL

Parenthood Issues
- Dorothy Roberts, Professor, Rutgers School of Law
- Liz Hendrickson, Executive Director, National Center for Lesbian Rights
- Beverly Horsburgh, Professor, St. Thomas University
- Susan Waysdorf, Whitman-Walker Clinic, Legal Services Department, Washington, DC
- Twila Perry, Professor, Rutgers School of Law
- Karen Czepansky, University of Maryland School of Law (Visiting Professor and Clinician, WCL)
Moderator: Nancy Polikoff, Professor, WCL

Philosophy, Morality and the Foundations of Law
- Kate Day, Professor, Suffolk Law School
- Beverly McQuearry Smith, Professor, Touro Law Center
- Debra Post, Professor, Touro Law Center
- Madelyn Squire, Professor, Howard Law School
- Carol Moore, Author and Political Activist
- Barbara Stark, Professor, University of Tennessee
Moderator: Mark Hager, Professor, WCL

Featured Keynote Speaker: Margaret Walker Alexander—poet, teacher, and activist