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Introductory Letter

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INTRODUCTORY LETTER

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the inaugural issue of the *DePaul Journal of Women, Gender & the Law*. The *Journal* fills an important gap in our legal community by providing a forum that promotes discussion on important issues involving women and gender. Before its launch last year, there was a notable absence of such a forum, particularly since none of the nine Chicago area law schools published a journal dedicated to the voices of women engaged in the law or to legal issues affecting women and gender. Tremendous congratulations are due to the students who recognized this void and devoted their considerable talents to addressing it: Noelle Engle ('10) and Maximilienne Elliott ('10) assembled a founding board composed of themselves, Angel Graf ('12), Jessica Huynh ('11), Neil Kelley ('11), Poonam Khatri ('11), Carin McDonald ('11), Elena Ninkova-Kostova ('10), Michonne Omo ('11), and Natalie Parsey ('11). The founding board successfully organized the First Annual Helen F. McGillicuddy Award Symposium, which addressed issues of human trafficking in a sustained and thought-provoking manner.

This year, the *Journal*, led by Jessica Huynh and Carin McDonald, ran a major donation campaign and raised enough money to print this first issue. The book features work by scholarship winners at DePaul as well as outside contributors, and its publication has been eagerly anticipated. This spring, the *Journal* is hosting its second symposium, "Challenges to Combating Gendered Violence," which will bring together speakers and participants with a wide range of perspectives and a wealth of experience.

The *Journal* is committed to advancing, domestically and internationally, the legal rights of women and those implicating gender. We believe that promoting these legal rights is essential to the advancement of justice. To further this mission, the *Journal* encourages submissions of interdisciplinary work. Our aim is

to offer students, legal scholars, practitioners, non-lawyer advocates, and professionals the opportunity to voice concerns, offer solutions, and share insights.

We appreciate your support and invite your active participation in the *Journal's* future endeavors.

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