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Preface to Issue No. 2

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PREFACE

I am pleased to present Volume 30 of the Women's Law Forum issue of the Golden Gate University Law Review. In keeping with the tradition of Women's Law Forum, Volume 30 is dedicated to issues concerning women and families. Each piece addresses a controversial area of law through extensive research and analysis, challenging the reader to look at the law in a different light.

First, Kimberly Harvey reviews the book *A Caring Jurisprudence*, by Susan M. Behuniak. In her most recent contribution to feminist legal scholarship, Behuniak calls for a revamping of the traditional, outmoded notions of justice as always blind, impartial, and impersonal. In her review, Ms. Harvey praises Behuniak's model for a more caring jurisprudence that would give personal knowledge a forum in the judicial process, alongside the traditionally accepted medical and legal knowledge. Illustrated with excerpts from the book itself, Ms. Harvey's review offers a brief synopsis of the caring model of jurisprudence as Behuniak has applied it to the United States Supreme Court cases involving abortion and physician assisted suicide.

Second, Sara Raymond takes an in depth look at the Gang Violence and Juveline Crime Prevention Act, also known as Proposition 21, an initiative recently passed by California voters in an effort to "get tough" on juvenile crime. She analyzes the most significant changes that the Act will make to current law and the effects those changes will have on the current juvenile justice system. In arguing that the proposed changes are too harsh, Ms. Raymond discusses reasons to repeal the Act and proposes alternative solutions to combat the increase in juvenile crime.

Third, Heidi Rosenberg addresses the parental rights of incarcerated mothers. By using California case law as an example, she criticizes existing law for decreasing an incarcerated mother's chance of reunification with her children after serving her sentence. Ms. Rosenberg proposes that existing laws be reformed to ensure that incarcerated mothers have access to services adequately tailored to the unique needs of incarcerated mothers and their children, and geared toward increasing the likelihood of successful post-incarceration reunification.

Finally, Stacey Leffler Ravetta addresses the application of the learned intermediary doctrine in the *Norplant Contraceptive Product Liability Litigation* through an in-depth analysis of both the Federal District Court and Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal decisions. In her critique, she maintains that, despite the numerous adverse side effects alleged by thousands of Norplant users, both courts correctly applied the doctrine to the plaintiffs' claims against the manufacturer of the device.

Volume 30 the Women's Law Forum is the result of the enormous amount of dedication of the writers. I hope their articles enlighten and educate you, as they have me. Each of the articles sheds a new light on a controversial subject. In addition to my wonderful writers, I would like to thank the Women's Law Forum associate editors, Kimberly Harvey, Tiffany Norman, and Patricia Maitland for their invaluable editing assistance and support. I would also like to thank each of the faculty mentors and the editorial board for their support and commitment in maintaining the excellence of this journal.

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