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## Foreword

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# Foreword

Nadine Taub

## **Abstract**

The birth of the first “test-tube baby,” the death of a couple who left frozen embryos, breakthroughs in prenatal and perinatal care, and similar developments since the 1960s have generated widespread public and professional debates over the new reproductive technologies.

## Foreword

**Nadine Taub\***

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The birth of the first “test-tube baby,” the death of a couple who left frozen embryos, breakthroughs in prenatal and perinatal care, and similar developments since the 1960s have generated widespread public and professional debates over the new reproductive technologies. Until relatively recently, however, women’s voices and concerns were conspicuously absent from these debates.

The Project on Reproductive Laws for the 1990s began in 1985 under the aegis of the Women’s Rights Litigation Clinic and the Institute for Research on Women, both at Rutgers University with the goal of injecting women — as participants and as a group with interest to be considered — into the debates over reproductive law and policy. Two goals characterized the Project’s work: first, to generate discussion, and, where possible, consensus among those committed to reproductive autonomy and gender equality as to the best way to respond to the questions raised by reported advances in reproductive and neonatal technology and new modes of reproduction; and second, to ensure that those shaping reproductive law and policy appreciated the ramifications of these developments for gender equality.

To meet this twofold agenda, the Project convened a working group of 25 academics and activists who shared a common commitment to reproductive choice and gender equality to lay a theoretical foundation for Project proposals. At the same time, with the help of individual drafters, the Project produced model legislation and position papers in six areas: time limits on abortion; prenatal screening; fetus as patient; reproductive hazards in the workplace; interference with reproductive choice; and alternative modes of reproduction. Two publications have resulted from the Project’s work: a Briefing Handbook distributed to approximately 2500 policy-makers and advocacy groups in the fall and winter of 1988 and a scholarly book, *Reproductive Laws for the 1990s*, reviewed in this issue.

As Project Director, I am pleased that the Project has been able to

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contribute to exploring the implications of today's reproductive modes and technologies. But this process of exploration is clearly one that must continue. Thus, I am even more pleased that the editors of the *Nova Law Review* have also joined in that process and that the Introduction written by the Project's working group can introduce this issue.

The birth of the first "test-tube baby," the death of a couple who left behind a childless marriage, breakthroughs in prenatal and perinatal care, and other developments since the 1960s have generated widespread public and professional debates over the new reproductive technologies. And, relatively recently, however, women's voices and concerns were conspicuously absent from these debates.

The Project on Reproductive Law for the 1990s began in 1987, under the aegis of the Women's Rights Litigation Clinic and the Institute for Research on Women, both at Rutgers University with the goal of involving women — as participants and as a group with interest in the issues — in the debates over reproductive law and policy. Two goals characterized the Project's work: first, to generate discussion and, where possible, consensus among those committed to reproductive autonomy and gender equality as to the best way to respond to the questions raised by reported advances in reproductive and neonatal technology and new modes of reproduction; and second, to ensure that these shaping reproductive law and policy appeared the excruciatingly difficult developments for gender equality.

To meet this twofold agenda, the Project convened a working group of 25 academics and activists who shared a common concern: to reproductive choice and gender equality by way of a substantial foundation for Project proposals. At the same time, with the help of individual staffers, the Project produced model legislation and position papers in six areas: time limits on abortion, parental consent, fetal rights, reproductive interests in the workplace, postcoital emergency contraception, and alternative modes of reproduction. Two publications have resulted from the Project's work: a *Reproductive Handbook* distributed to approximately 2500 policy-makers and advisory groups in the fall and winter of 1988 and a scholarly book, *Reproductive Law for the 1990s*, reviewed in this issue.

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