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Berkeley Women's Law Journal Celebrates Ten Years

Berkeley Women's Law Journal celebrated its tenth anniversary this year. To commemorate ten years of publication, the *Journal* hosted a symposium entitled, "Underrepresented Women in the Law: Looking to the 21st Century," on November 5 & 6, 1994. Approximately 200 people braved torrential rain to hear the presentations of more than thirty distinguished speakers from the United States and Canada. The weekend proved to be both educational and uplifting for students, practitioners, scholars, and professors alike.

BWLJ members sponsored the symposium to foster new scholarship that falls within our mandate. The *Journal* was founded upon and remains true to a mandate to publish pieces that address the lives and struggles of underrepresented women, such as women of color, poor women, lesbians, and disabled women. The symposium brought together a community of people who believe that excellence in feminist legal scholarship requires critical examination of categories including race, class, sexual orientation, and disability, as well as gender.

Professor Trina Grillo of the University of San Francisco initiated the weekend of panel discussions with her keynote address about two themes central to feminist jurisprudence—intersectionality and essentialism. She then gave a moving account of her experiences as a multiracial person and her thoughts on multiraciality and feminism. She warned scholars and students to recognize the identity characteristics that limit their experience of the world. She inspired her listeners to trust in personal experience while seeking out those voices that are often silenced. Her address is contained in this volume.

The weekend concluded with Professor Emma Jordan of the Georgetown University School of Law making closing remarks entitled, "Airing Dirty Linen: Revealing the Gender Paradox Within the Civil Rights Movement." She shared her experiences representing Anita Hill during the confirmation hearings of now Justice Clarence Thomas. Her remarks drew upon themes present throughout the weekend, including the concept that each of us, in one way or another, is privileged. She noted that even a person who feels powerless in most situations must realize that in some

situations she wields power and must be careful not to abuse her own privilege at that time.

The symposium elicited a tremendously positive response from those who attended. Organizers received many compliments about the initiative and spirit of Boalt students. *Journal* members hope that the symposium will spark ideas and scholarship concerning underrepresented women and the law. We look forward to continuing to produce a unique and indispensable publication that is dedicated to the principles of anti-essentialism and publishing quality legal scholarship within our mandate. The symposium selections that follow demonstrate just a few of the presentations that made up the event.

The *Journal* owes a debt of gratitude to the scholars and practitioners whose hard work and dedication made the symposium informative and inspiring. The symposium was generously sponsored by Bay Area law firms, bar associations, public interest organizations, students organizations, the Boalt Hall Alumni Association, and *Journal* alumnae. To them, we express our deepest gratitude.