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Preface

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PREFACE

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Forum on Law and Social Change. Part of the 31st Volume of the Golden Gate University Law Review, the Forum is a reincarnation of what was once known as the Women's Law Forum. This journal is dedicated to presenting articles on cutting-edge, socio-legal problems, but free from the subject matter constraints of its predecessor. In its maiden voyage, the Notes and Comments that appear in the Forum on Law and Social Change will challenge those that read them to either reconsider or challenge long-held opinions and attitudes towards the law and its relationship with social problems.

First, Hedy Bower takes a close look at a state's right to order a pregnant woman to undergo prenatal exams. Rebecca Corneau is a member of a religious sect that may not receive any kind of medical care. Following the death of one of her children, the State discovered that Corneau was pregnant again and ordered that she undergo prenatal medical treatment. The case of Rebecca Corneau brings up several questions concerning the right to privacy and the freedom to exercise religious acts without interference from the state. Ms. Bower explores all these questions, and argues that a state may not order a woman to undergo prenatal care where there is no evidence that the life of the fetus is at risk.

Second, Ignascio Camarena examines the nationwide inconsistency in the imposition of professional sanctions on attorneys that have been convicted of acts of domestic violence. In the context of major cases taken from several jurisdictions, Mr. Camarena compares and contrasts the various types of sanctions that may be imposed against a domestically violent attorney. He criticizes the inconsistency that prevails, and proposes a uniform system for discipline in such cases, urging that each state treat domestic violence as a crime of moral turpitude, and that the system be adopted by state bar associations across the nation.

Third, Jenna Bauman explores the rights of a child born of artificial insemination by anonymous donor to uncover information about that donor. In *Johnson v. Superior Court*, a child born of artificial insemination later developed a genetic disease that could only be traced to the anonymous donor. The child's family brought suit to force the sperm bank to release

the donor's medical history and the force the donor to give a deposition and appear at trial. Despite strong objections by the donor and the sperm bank, the court ultimately found that a child's need for accurate information about her medical background overrides an anonymous sperm donor's right to privacy where that information is concerned. In her critique, Ms. Bauman agrees with the court analysis and holding.

Finally, Melissa Leavister chronicles the familiar story of six year-old Elian Gonzalez' failed attempt to gain asylum in the United States. In addition to providing a background of Cuban politics and American asylum law as it applies to children, Ms. Leavister summarizes the strategy that went on behind the *Gonzalez v. Reno* litigation and examines the court's analysis and holding. Although sympathetic to the conditions that brought Elian to the United States, Ms. Leavister agrees with the court's analysis and holding that the Immigration and Naturalization Service was correct in requiring that when a six year-old child applies for asylum, the child's parent or legal guardian must consent to the process.

The Forum on Law and Social Change is a product of countless hours of work, research, and dedication on the part of its writers. Their time and effort has culminated in a set of articles that is thought-provoking and enlightening. It has been an honor for me to have been given this opportunity to work with each of these people. However, the production of the Forum on Law and Social Change would have been equally impossible with the work of its associate editors; Julia Adams, Lisa Lockwood, and Rose Arce. Input and assistance has also come from countless members of the faculty at Golden Gate University. I have also received enormous editorial support from the Forum's Alumna Mentor, Jennifer Emmaneel; and from our faculty advisor, Mary Ann Wolcott. Lastly, my thanks go out to the rest of the editorial board for their assistance in making sure that this volume of the Golden Gate University Law Review remains as high in quality as those volumes that have come before it.

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