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Preface

Rosanne Calbo-Jackson

Golden Gate University School of Law

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PREFACE

Someone dubbed 1992 the “Year of the Woman” and the name stuck. 1992 was to be a year of change, fueled by and benefiting women. We were expectant, daring to believe that somehow things would change for women. We were caught up in the media whirlwind.

Now that 1993 is here, we ask, is the “Year of the Woman” simply history? Were the winds of change silenced on December 31, 1992 at midnight? Although women were elected to public office in record numbers, did 1992 give feminists more than just hype?

Certain issues cannot be swept under the media rug. This issue of the Women’s Law Forum examines vital and thought-provoking issues which have confronted women during the “Year of the Woman” and will continue to confront us for years to come: the appropriateness of mediation for battered women, clemency for battered women in prison, racial differences and divisions among feminists, workplace harassment of women of color, abortion, cohabitation contracts for same sex and unmarried heterosexual couples, mothers with HIV, and FDA regulation of silicone gel breast implants. Additionally, our survey on California law identifies and examines issues of critical importance to women, people of color, and lesbians and gays.

The Women’s Law Forum provides an opportunity for feminists to express themselves in the voices they choose. This year, the Outside Articles staff and I made a conscious decision to include innovative and perhaps, nontraditional pieces in Volume XXIII. Although the traditional law review format is to be respected, it is not the only means available for voicing our concerns. Thus, we are proud to include in this issue of the Women’s Law Forum a reflective piece, a panel discussion along the lines of the Buffalo Conversation, and a reprint of a recent Golden Gate presentation on essentialism.

This journal is the result of the commitment and hard work of many dedicated students. Grateful appreciation to Outside Articles Editor Mary Rupp, Richard Karoly, Gina Harmon and Teri Lunn for their tireless work on the outside articles. We especially thank Professors Joan Howarth, Susan Kupfer and

Michael Zamperini for their thoughtful comments on numerous drafts.

This issue of the Women's Law Forum illustrates that the "Year of the Woman" is, in reality, timeless. We hope that you enjoy our journal; more than that, we hope that you will be enlightened.

Rosanne Calbo-Jackson
Editor, Women's Law Forum