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Editor's Note

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The picture of the typical American family has changed over the past several decades. Once formed exclusively through marriage, the nuclear families of generations past have evolved to accommodate family relationships built through nonmarital unions and cohabitation. These rapidly evolving dynamics evoke questions as to how these new family formations will affect women and children.

In this issue of the *Washington and Lee Journal of Civil Rights and Social Justice*, noted scholars from around the country examine the relationship between work, family, and marriage. The Articles presented here are products of a 2009 panel discussion, "The Growing Disconnect Among Work, Family, and Marriage." Moderating the panel for the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Section on Family and Juvenile Law was Robin Fretwell Wilson. Professor Wilson serves as Chair of the Section on Family and Juvenile Law of the AALS and is a Professor of Family Law and Health Law at Washington and Lee University School of Law. Thank you to Professor Wilson for giving her time and energy to team up the AALS panel with the *Journal*.

First, Professor Nancy Dowd embraces the range of emerging family forms by proposing a new framework for considering the connections between work, family, and marriage in her Essay, "(Re)Constructing the Framework of Work/Family." Next, Professors Sharon Sassler and Amanda J. Miller explore the challenges women face in balancing work and family and how women's family-building behaviors diverge across social class groups in "Class Differences in Women's Family and Work Behaviors." Then, Professor June Carbone examines and analyzes the interaction between family and market changes in light of the accompanying class, gender, and racial dynamics in "Cultural Conflict and the Revival of Class Warfare." Finally, Professor Cynthia R. Mabry provides a framework for including consideration of culture in child custody proceedings in "The Browning of America—Multicultural and Bicultural Families in Conflict."

Since 2006, current Washington and Lee law students or recent alumni have authored all student Notes published in the *Journal*. This issue of the *Journal* features six student Notes exploring an array of topics that speak to the *Journal's* diversity of interests. They explore legal issues concerning many topics, including retirement benefits for the many workers whose careers span Mexico and the United States; access to emergency contraceptives; discriminatory ordinances aimed at illegal immigrants; sexual offender registration and notification laws; pregnancy discrimination; and citizenship delays stemming from the September 11th, 2001 terrorist attacks.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire editorial board of the *Journal*. I would like to especially thank Executive Editor Jen

Nguyen for her friendship, encouragement, and organizational mastery in scheduling and managing assignments; and Article Editors Robbie Clarke, Gail Deady, Christy Harrison, Kate Lester, Peter Luccarelli, and Amanda Streff for dedicating countless hours to editing this issue.

A heartfelt "thank you" to Elizabeth Christensen for her tireless commitment to the *Journal* in working around-the-clock to make this publication possible, and to Professor Ann Massie for her support and guidance in shaping the *Journal's* future. The *Journal* would also like to express its appreciation to the administration of Washington and Lee for its support throughout the years, specifically Interim Dean Mark Grunewald, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Robert T. Danforth, and Associate Dean for Law Student Services Sidney S. Evans.

Sabina B. Thaler