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## EDITOR'S NOTE: THE FUTURE OF LGBT SCHOLARSHIP

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## EDITOR'S NOTE: THE FUTURE OF LGBT SCHOLARSHIP

The rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered (LGBT) community are in constant flux. Evidence is easily found in the recent controversy over California's Proposition 8 (Prop 8). The gay marriage ban was lifted in the summer of 2008, only to be swiftly reinstated by Prop 8 which sought and succeeded in repealing the right of marriage of the LGBT community. Observers of the recent hearing before the California Supreme Court predict that Prop 8 will survive judicial review.

The Articles presented herein are products of our 2008 Symposium entitled a "Queer Definition of Equality." First, Professor Marc Poirier invites his audience to explore the boundaries of identity and gender in his Article entitled "Microperformances of Identity: Visible Same-Sex Couples and the Marriage Controversy." Second, as Executive Director of the Williams Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles, Professor Brad Sears examines and analyzes the results of the recent study conducted by the Williams Institute, "HIV Discrimination in Health Care Services in Los Angeles County." Third, as research director of the Williams Institute, Professor M.V. Lee Badgett explores the intricacies of gay economic life in "The Double-Edged Sword in Gay Economic Life? Marriage and the Market." Finally, Sharon E. Debbage Alexander and Kathi S. Westcott argue for a renewed policy of gay, lesbian, and bisexual involvement in the military in their article "Repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell': A Smooth Transition." I would like to thank all of the authors for their efforts in making the Symposium and this edition a great success.

Since the Spring 2006 issue of the *Journal*, all student Notes published in the JCRSJ have been authored by current Washington and Lee law students or recent alumni. The student Notes contained herein explore legal issues concerning gender binaries, international adoption, Native American graves, linguistic plurality, and abortion.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire editorial board of the *Journal*. I would like to especially thank Managing Editor Kristen Hutchens for the creation of our first ever alumni newsletter; Managing Events Editor Karthik Nagarajan for his relentless efforts in scheduling the Journal's major events, including Diversity Week and the annual Symposium; and Executive Editor Kelley Stieler for her friendship, dedication, and wisdom. A special thanks to Professor Ann Massie for her support and guidance as the *Journal* continues to evolve and move forward. The *Journal* is indebted to the administration of Washington and Lee University's School of Law, specifically Dean Rodney A. Smolla and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Robert T. Danforth, for their support.

The *Journal* would also like to thank the Francis Lewis Law Center for co-sponsoring our symposia. Finally, we would like to welcome Elizabeth Christensen to the *Journal*. We are privileged to have her as part of the *Journal* family.

The *Journal* is proud of the scholarship it produces and the community it serves. Our goal is to aid individuals and ideas in need by providing thoughtful legal safeguards to protect their rights in the future.

*Erica R. Shamblin Knott*

### **Tribute to Professor Louise A. Halper**

This summer, the *Journal* experienced the passing of our longtime mentor and friend, Professor Louise A. Halper. Professor Halper was committed to the diversity of the law school. In particular, and in her commitment to diversity, she was dedicated to the vitality of the *Journal*. The *Journal* and our corresponding symposia are products of her vision for the law school. She was truly a champion of civil rights and social justice. The transcript that follows was delivered by Editor-in-Chief Erica Knott to the Washington and Lee University community on behalf of the *Journal* at Professor Halper's Memorial Service on October 3, 2008.

*Address to the Community on Behalf of the  
Journal of Civil Rights and Social Justice  
Professor Louise A. Halper's Memorial Service, October 3, 2008*

I am honored to speak to you today on behalf of the *Journal of Civil Rights and Social Justice*. Professor Halper and six students formed the *Journal* in 1994. At that time, it was known as the Race and Ethnic Ancestry Law Journal.

Professor Halper understood the necessity and power of diversity, and she was relentless in her goal to make Washington and Lee a welcoming place for all minorities. In her eyes, we were a vital part of this goal.

With the news of her passing, the *Journal* experienced an outpouring of emotion from our alumni. I would like to share one of their comments with you today.

An alumnus from 2001 writes:

I knew Louise as a peer, an advocate, a mentor, and most of all, a very dear friend. I was introduced to Louise's extraordinary

mentoring skills in 2000. An incident occurred on the undergraduate campus when I was a 2L involving a sensitive racial issue. As editor-in-chief of *Law News*, BLSA president, and a member of the REAL journal, I spent significant time in Louise's office and on the undergraduate campus trying to decipher the rationale for the incident. Louise said, "This was deplorable. But we're going to get something out of this." And we did. We got sincere, heartfelt apologies from the students and a new interest from the University administration to take steps to ensure parity for students of color. We had made a true and lasting difference. I was a non-traditional student and Louise was friend guiding me through the perils of my academic career.

The alumnus concluded by saying: "*You meet people in life whom you savor and want to save and hang on to. Louise was one of those people. I can only hope to be like her when I grow up.*"

The *Journal* chose to share this comment because it reflects the relationship Louise had with us. As part of the *Journal*, if we could dream it, Professor Halper sought to make it a reality. If we saw a wrong, she would help us to right it. She taught us we were more than an academic journal. We felt important to the school. We were a force. Together we could make a difference.

I admit that we, as an organization, feel lost without her. When news of Professor Halper's passing reached me over the summer, I was devastated. I remember thinking that "there is no one like Professor Halper." As a student, I feel the loss of one of the school's greatest mentors. As a member of the *Journal*, I feel we've lost our greatest advocate and friend. The *Journal* has never existed without her guidance.

As we step forward without Professor Halper, we can only hope to live up to the vision that she created for us. We never said it enough, but Thank you Professor Halper . . . from all of us.



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# ARTICLES

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