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EDITOR'S NOTE

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The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa is examined from several different perspectives in this edition of the *Journal of Civil Rights and Social Justice*. The Articles presented in this edition were produced in conjunction with the *Journal's* Spring 2009 Symposium, "Reproductive and Sexual Health and the African Women's Protocol." Charles Ngwena, Washington and Lee's 2008-2009 Scholar-in-Residence and Professor of Health and Human Rights at the University of the Free State, South Africa, who chaired the symposium, introduces each Article in his Introduction to this publication on page 1. Thank you to Professor Ngwena for giving his time and energy to help put on the African Women's Symposium with the *Journal*.

In addition to the Articles presented, this edition of the *Journal* features four Student Notes on an array of topics that speak to Washington and Lee Law's and the *Journal's* diversity of interests: speech, obscenity, illegal aliens, and the mortgage-foreclosure crisis. All Notes published by the *Journal* are authored by *Journal* members who are current students or recent alumni.

I would like to include a heartfelt thanks to the entire editorial board of the *Journal* for making this publication possible. Specifically, thank you to Ya Marie Cham for making this year's diversity events a great success; to Josh Shaw for working overtime as an editor and a mentor; to Articles Editors, Benton Keatley, Sara MacManus, and Jason Ratigan, for being true teachers and experts at multi-tasking; to Lauren Fisher for helping the *Journal* behind the scenes, to Hamza Chaudary for working around the clock to make the Fall 2009 Symposium a tremendous success on such little notice; and especially to Executive Editor, Nick Neidzowski, for never saying "no" and always coming up with new and energetic ideas.

A special "thank you" to Professor Ann Massie for her dedication to the *Journal*, for her support of its progress, for her guidance throughout the year, and for all her leadership during the Fall 2009 Symposium. The *Journal* would also like to express its appreciation to the administration of Washington and Lee University School of Law for its support throughout the years, specifically Dean Rodney A. Smolla and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Robert T. Danforth. And finally, the *Journal* would like to take this opportunity to say "thank you" to Elizabeth Christensen for her tireless and important work behind the scenes.

The *Journal* celebrates its sixteenth birthday in 2009 and is proud of its history. We hope the *Journal* will continue to explore new spaces for scholars of all persuasions to expand and develop relevant dialogues within the legal community.

Victoria V. Corder

ARTICLES
