

Introduction

Cori Van Noy*

On April 28-30, 2000, Yale Law School proudly hosted a working conference entitled *Women, Justice, and Authority*. A new century seemed an appropriate marker to reassess the progress of women and the law, as well as that of women *in* the law. Drawing together a remarkable number of feminist scholars (both male and female), the conference panels examined many different interactions between women, justice, and authority: feminist theories of justice; historical movements; transnational feminist organizing; the rise of women in roles of judging and governance; and the impact of constitutional provisions of equality, among other topics. It also provided intellectual space for reimagining, and continuing to imagine, what “women’s justice” might look like—in the courtroom, in the work of public interest advocates, in the pages of literature, in everyday life.

Two years later, this symposium issue has gathered together some of the distinguished participants in that conference. We invited them to reexamine their papers, to determine whether the intervening years had marked greater progress for women or simply thrown existing inequalities into sharper relief. Really, what’s left to say about women, justice, and authority? As we soon discovered, plenty.

The result is this wide-ranging and powerful assembly of essays, whose breadth and vigor should give readers some idea of the liveliness that animated the original conference. We hope that the act of reading gives rise to new thoughts and debates on these topics. As this issue shows, the conversation is far from over.

The *Yale Journal of Law and Feminism*’s commitment to that conversation is evident in our title. Although there are an increasing number of legal journals devoted to women and gender, we remain one of the few to explicitly call ourselves “feminist.” That title has been the subject of several internal debates amongst our members. Yet we always conclude that feminism is still timely, still necessary, and still powerful. We hope that you agree.

* Symposium Editor, *Yale Journal of Law and Feminism*; J.D. Candidate, Yale Law School, 2004.

WOMEN IN ROLES OF JUSTICE AND AUTHORITY

