

Introduction

In the spring of 1982, the newly selected board of editors of the University of Minnesota's "second journal" met to decide what course the new publication would take. After much discussion and some controversy, we decided on the journal's focus: law and inequality. We felt that existing legal literature did not sufficiently examine problems of inequality, and we felt that a journal with this subject focus would provide a valuable service to both the legal and non-legal communities.

In our view, inequality could not adequately be addressed within the confines of existing legal doctrine, nor fully analyzed in traditional legal journal format. With that in mind, we decided to use a broad based theoretical and practical approach to inequality as it exists in law and society, in an effort to achieve a more balanced and comprehensive analysis.

Law and Inequality: A Journal of Theory and Practice offers a unique forum for exploring and criticizing inequality. The *Journal* includes social, empirical and traditional doctrinal writings, as well as experiential, literary and community-based articles. It also features short argument pieces and reflections on inequality. The perspectives of lawyers, non-lawyers, scholars from many disciplines, and organizers are included to lend the *Journal* the intellectual insight and practical depth necessary for an adequate understanding of inequality.

The *Journal's* first volume focuses on gender inequality. In our view, gender touches every aspect of law and society. The articles in Volume 1, therefore, not only focus on gender as a subject matter, but analyze laws and social policies in gendered terms.

Future volumes will focus on other substantive areas of law and inequality. That decision will be made by each volume's board of editors. Volume 2's board of editors has decided to continue with the gender focus. Whatever the subject-focus, we intend to maintain our innovative style and format in order to provide a source for discussion and change. We hope that our articles inspire further analysis and theoretical development on the subject of inequality. We welcome articles written in response to theories and analyses presented in the *Journal*. We especially encourage responses to ideas featured in the Argument section. We also welcome any comments and suggestions you have.

We appreciate the help of all those who have contributed to our efforts. In particular, we wish to thank the following people for their continued support and assistance:

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