

THOUGHTS FROM A FORMER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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I spent more hours working on the *Columbia Journal of Gender and Law* (*JGL*) than on any class I ever took at Columbia, but I think it was just as educational an experience as I have had in a classroom. It is a journal whose members take it very personally. On the interview trail, I met one of *JGL*'s founding members and I told her that the 1996-1997 *JGL* board decided to replace the cover illustration with a more traditional table of contents cover. She was really shocked, and a bit shaken up because she had designed the illustration. I remember thinking then that I wished *JGL* had more of an institutional memory. I felt the same way when I was EIC—so many times I felt we were reinventing the wheel when we tried to sell subscriptions, publicize the journal, change printers, or handle issues with the administration.

In the interest of preserving some of *JGL*'s history, I will explain that the Columbia Women's History Month Writing Competition was dreamed up by myself and Afra Afsharipour in 1998. Afra was a Submissions Editor for *JGL* in 1997-1998 as well as the Columbia Law Women's Association (CLWA) Chair. I was a Production Editor for *JGL* and the CLWA board member in charge of Women's History Month. We put out a call for papers, formed a joint committee of *JGL* and CLWA members, and were overwhelmed at the response. The winners were announced at the Myra Bradwell Day Dinner. I would like to think that we began a tradition that will continue for years.

I never felt particularly alienated in law school, texts like *Becoming Gentlemen* notwithstanding. It was slightly intimidating being called on for the first time 1L year in Legal Methods, but I cannot say I did not enjoy my time at Columbia, and I did not feel disadvantaged for being a woman. I know this was not the case for everyone in my class, or the students who followed us, though. How do I know this? Because so many people told me how valuable *JGL* was to them, and how *JGL* was one of the few safe spaces at law school.

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JGL accepts everyone who wants to be a member. *JGL* gives everyone an equal voice. It is easy to overlook how important this is.

Hoping the next ten years will bring more good things for *JGL*.