

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The *Columbia Journal of Gender and Law* was honored to cosponsor the third annual conference of Empowering Women of Color at Columbia Law School (EWOC) entitled *Double-Consciousness: Women of Color as Advocates for Ourselves and Others* in March 2017. This conference theme embodied the work of EWOC: to serve and champion women of color in the greater Columbia Law School community and beyond. *CJGL*—as a law journal committed to amplifying diverse voices and demanding that feminist dialogue and debate embrace the intersections of gender, race, and economic status, among other identities—made the perfect home for the resulting discussions. The following pages contain the off-the-cuff wisdom of the speakers who participated in *Double-Consciousness*.

In this issue and partnership with EWOC, we honor *CJGL*'s intersectional and interdisciplinary roots. By publishing works such as this that cross disciplines and engage with intersecting identities and oppressions, *CJGL* resists and subverts the dominant, white- and male-driven narrative in the law that is otherwise assumed to be the universal and neutral perspective.

We also create a space in the literature with this Symposium issue to memorialize both the excellent work of EWOC members in conceptualizing and organizing this conference, and the personal and professional challenges that women of color in the law must overcome. The marvelous panelists and speakers at *Double-Consciousness*—many of whom were returning to Columbia Law as alumnae and several as past editors of *CJGL*—shared their insights, experiences, frustrations, advice, and hopes generously. We at *CJGL* echo EWOC Conference Co-Chair, Alexis Johnson's wish that this issue will inspire readers to take thoughtful, concrete action to challenge the limitations law and society place on people's ability to fully inhabit their multiple identities and to enjoy true equality and inclusion.

Finally, *CJGL* is deeply grateful to the conference participants whose brilliant remarks appear in these pages for their insightful contributions. Our heartfelt thanks also go out to 2016–2017 EWOC leadership, including Elise Lopez, Chloe Bootstaylor, and Alexis Johnson, for their partnership with *CJGL* on this issue.

Warmly,
Madeline K. Hopper
Editor-in-Chief, 2017–2018
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