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Foreword

John M. Challis

Carol L. Parsons

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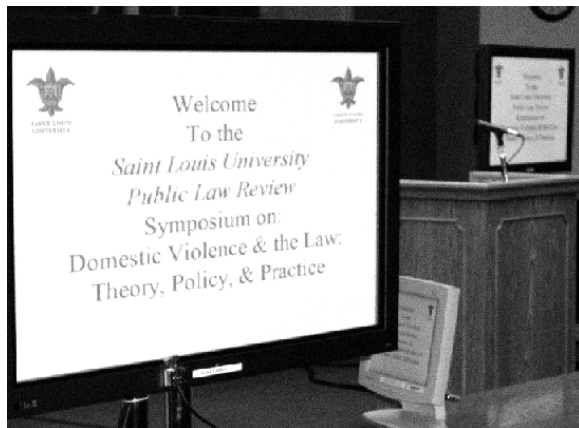
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FOREWORD



On October 3, 2003, The Saint Louis University School of Law and the *Saint Louis University Public Law Review* brought together eight widely recognized scholars in the area of domestic violence and the law. The purpose of this symposium was to address the current

response of the legal system to the domestic violence epidemic in this country and abroad, to assess what must and can be changed, and to discuss possible new approaches in remedying this problem.

This issue of the *Saint Louis University Public Law Review* represents the culmination of all of the research and writing conducted by these scholars. These commentaries represent cutting-edge thought on the problem and possible solutions. These articles address the legal response to domestic violence on a number of levels. This issue will focus on identifying the problem and teaching students and practitioners about the problem, as well as possible solutions to this problem and beyond.

The first group of articles focuses on the problem of domestic violence and the legal response thereto. Asking whether or not law is the answer, Professor Leigh Goodmark takes a critical look at the legal response to domestic violence. Professor Zelda Harris looks at the problem of domestic violence for a subset of individuals often disproportionately affected, immigrants. She sheds light on the problems and possibilities of using traditional and novel legal theories with this diverse group of victims. Professor Beverly Balos addresses the related problem of sexual discrimination in housing and the lack of available remedies for victims who have this essential need kept just out of their reach.

The second portion of the issue focuses on the battered woman herself. Professor Melanie Randall looks at the battered woman and critically analyzes

the ideas of the battered women's syndrome and uncooperative victims in batterers' prosecutions. Professor Kit Kinports thoughtfully responds to the most pointed criticism of battered women's syndrome as a component in a self-defense claim for a victim that finally struck back. The Missouri Battered Women's Clemency Coalition addresses the problem of when the legal system fails to help the victims of domestic violence that have struck back, using a case study developed and executed by that Coalition.

The third section of the issue is devoted to helping students and colleges respond to the problem of domestic violence. Professor Mary Beck writes of the work at the University of Missouri-Columbia, where virtually every department on campus has come together to try to address the problem of domestic violence, providing a model for other campuses to follow. Professors Catherine Klein and Leigh Goodmark share their successful role-play to be used with clinical law students. This role-play not only helps to demonstrate the problem of domestic violence, but also highlights the problems and possibilities of legal responses to that problem.

Finally, the last section of the issue focuses on two cutting-edge solutions to address the problem of domestic violence. The first, authored by Professors Quince Hopkins, Mary Koss, and Karen Bachar, explores the possibility of using restorative justice in domestic violence cases. This article explores the early research conducted in this field and discusses why this quasi-legal response to domestic violence may yield very positive results. Finally, Professor Andrew King-Ries addresses whether or not a small change to the legal system may indeed provide victims of domestic violence with the help they need from the legal system. Professor King-Ries advocates creating an exception to the ban on character evidence in domestic violence prosecutions.

We understand that this issue could not include all of the possible solutions to this most perplexing problem. Nonetheless, we truly hope that this issue will at least present some hope that help may be on the way for victims of domestic violence.

The *Saint Louis University Public Law Review* would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the authors who shared their talents with us, Professors John Ammann and Christine Rollins, Marie Kenyon, and the entire faculty and administration of Saint Louis University School of Law for all of their help in organizing and executing this symposium. We truly hope you enjoy this issue.

JOHN M. CHALLIS
MANAGING EDITOR

CAROL L. PARSONS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF