

THOMAS JEFFERSON
SCHOOL OF LAW

WOMEN AND THE LAW CONFERENCE

and

RUTH BADER GINSBURG LECTURE SERIES

2001–2016



WOMEN AND THE LAW CONFERENCE HISTORY

Inaugurated in 2001, the Women and the Law Conference was the first lecture series in the western United States focusing exclusively on issues related to gender and the law.

Created by Thomas Jefferson Professors Julie Greenberg, Susan Tiefenbrun and Susan Bisom-Rapp, and fostered by a committed group of faculty, staff and students, the first conference earned rave reviews from its attendees, including practitioners and legal academics. Professor Deborah Rhode of Stanford Law School, a widely acknowledged expert on the status of women in the legal profession, and then-Chair of the American Bar Association's Commission on Women in the Legal Profession, delivered the first keynote address.

After her 2003 visit to Thomas Jefferson School of Law, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg generously created the Thomas Jefferson School of Law Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecture, which at the time was one of only two lecture series bearing her name. Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecturers Joan Williams, Martha Albertson Fineman, Kathryn Abrams, Vicki Schultz, Rochelle Dreyfuss, Barbara Palmer, Cheryl Hanna, Kimberlé Crenshaw, Stacy Leeds, Sarah Weddington, Susan Williams, Stacy Pedrozo, and Leslie Abramson have delivered presentations on a wide range of topics that have a profound effect on women. Bryant Garth is delivering the 2016 Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecture.

Justice Ginsburg returned to the 2013 Women and the Law Conference and discussed the role of women in the judiciary.

The Annual Women and the Law Conference is unique in its early interdisciplinary approach and its commitment to bridging the gap between the teaching academy and the practicing bar.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg



CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE EMBODIES FIVE GOALS:

- 1 Advancing the legal rights of women.
- 2 Promoting gender-related scholarly work.
- 3 Facilitating an interdisciplinary dialogue among academics.
- 4 Enhancing communication about gender issues among jurists, practitioners, legal academics and other specialists working on issues of sex and gender.
- 5 Sharing the expertise of Thomas Jefferson law faculty with the wider community.



Professors Julie Greenberg, Susan Tiefenbrun and Susan Bisom-Rapp

2001: Women as Workers

Keynote Speaker: Professor Deborah L. Rhode

Ernest W. McFarland Professor of Law, Stanford Law School

Keynote Address: *"Women in the Law: The Unfinished Agenda"*

2002: Women and Family Law

Keynote Speaker: Justice Judith McConnell

Administrative Presiding Justice, California Fourth District Court of Appeal

Keynote Address: *"Women in the Law: Changing the Way Courts Do Business"*

2003: Women and the Maternal Wall

Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecturer: Professor Joan Williams

Distinguished Professor of Law, U.C. Hastings College of the Law

Keynote Address: *"Beyond the Glass Ceiling: The Maternal Wall as a Barrier to Gender Equality"*

2004: What U.S. Lawyers Can Learn from International Law: Concepts of Gender Equality Across Legal Cultures

Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecturer: Professor Martha Albertson Fineman

Robert W. Woodruff Professor of Law, Emory University School of Law

Keynote Address: *"Comparative Concepts of Equality Across Legal Cultures:
The Use of International and Human Rights Ideas, Norms, and Concepts in U.S. Jurisprudence"*

2005: The Global Impact of Feminist Legal Theory

(Co-sponsored by Emory University's Feminism and Legal Theory Project)

Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecturer: Professor Kathryn Abrams

Herma Hill Kay Distinguished Professor of Law, University of California, Berkeley School of Law

Keynote Address: *"Work in the Global Context"*

2006: Sexuality at Work

Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecturer: Professor Vicki Schultz

Ford Foundation Professor of Law and Social Sciences, Yale Law School

Keynote Address: *"The Sanitized Workplace"*

2007: Virtual Women: Emerging Issues in Gender and Intellectual Property Law

Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecturer: Professor Rochelle Dreyfuss

Pauline Newman Professor of Law, New York University School of Law

Keynote Address: *"Girls Just Want to Have Fun: What Can Feminist Theory Tell Us About Incentives?"*

2008: Women in Politics: The Role of Gender in Political Decision-Making

Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecturer: Professor Barbara Palmer

Department of Government, American University

Keynote Address: *"Breaking the Political Glass Ceiling: Incumbency, Redistricting, and the Success of Women Candidates"*

2009: Confronting Domestic Violence Head On: The Role of Power in Domestic Relationships

(Co-sponsored by The Relationship Training Institute of San Diego)

Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecturer: Professor Cheryl Hanna

Professor of Law, Vermont Law School

Keynote Address: *"Behind the Castle Walls: Balancing Privacy and Security in Domestic Abuse Cases"*

2010: Women of Color and Intersectionality

(Co-sponsored by UCLA School of Law's Critical Race Studies Program)

Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecturer: Professor Kimberlé Crenshaw

Distinguished Professor of Law, UCLA School of Law and Professor of Law Columbia Law School

Keynote Address: *"Intersectionality and Women of Color"*

2011: Gender Justice and Indian Sovereignty: Native American Women and the Law

(Co-sponsored by the California Indian Association)

Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecturer: Dean and Justice Stacy L. Leeds

Dean and Professor of Law, University of Arkansas School of Law

Chief Justice, Supreme Court for the Kickapoo Tribe

Chief Justice, Supreme Court for the Kaw Nation

Chief Judge, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation District Court

Keynote Address: *"Resistance, Resilience, and Reconciliation: Reflections on Native American Women and the Law"*

2012: Reproductive Justice: Examining Choice and Autonomy in the New Millennium

(Co-sponsored by Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest)

Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecturer: Dr. Sarah Weddington

Professor, Attorney, Legislator, Presidential Advisor and Lead Counsel, *Roe v. Wade*

Keynote Address: "*Women Lawyers: The Importance of Leadership*"

2013: Her Honor: Women in the Judiciary

Honored Guest: U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecturer: Professor Susan Williams

Walter W. Fosskett Professor of Law, Indiana University Maurer School of Law

Keynote Address: "*Women and Judging: A Feminist Approach to Judgment and the Issue of Customary Law*"

2014: Women and the Military

Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecturer: Captain Stacy Pedrozo

Commanding Officer, Naval Justice School

Ginsburg Lecture: "*Sea Change: Women in the 21st Century U.S. Military*"

Keynote Speaker: Vice Admiral Nanette Derenzi

Judge Advocate General, United States Navy

2015: Women and the Criminal Justice System

Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecturer: Leslie Abramson

Criminal Defense Attorney

Keynote Address: "*Using Female Strength to your Client's Advantage*"

2016: Pursuing Excellence: Diversity in Higher Education

Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecturer: Professor Bryant Garth

Chancellor's Professor, UC Irvine School of Law

Keynote Address: "*Diversity, Power, and Hierarchy in Legal Careers: An Empirical and Sociological Perspective*"

2001–2016 A CHRONICLE OF THE WOMEN AND THE LAW CONFERENCE



Professor Deborah Rhode

The Thomas Jefferson School of Law's inaugural Women and the Law Conference in **2001**, Women as Workers, featured as keynote speaker Professor Deborah Rhode, the Ernest W. McFarland Professor of Law at Stanford Law School, former president of the Association of American Law Schools and former chair of the American

Bar Association's Commission on Women in the Legal Profession. Her keynote address, "Women in the Law: The Unfinished Agenda," focused on the status of women in the legal profession and the challenge for lawyers of leading balanced lives. She was followed by Thomas Jefferson School of Law Professors Susan Bisom-Rapp, Julie Greenberg, and Susan Tiefenbrun, who respectively touched on their research related to sexual harassment training, Title VII and gender non-conformity discrimination, and global trafficking of women sex workers.



Justice Judith McConnell

The Second Annual Women and the Law Conference theme in **2002** was Women and Family Law. The Honorable Judith McConnell, Presiding Justice of the California Fourth District Court of Appeal, delivered the keynote address, titled "Women in the Law: Changing the Way Courts Do Business," which reviewed law reform movements

aimed at eliminating gender bias in the courts and in substantive law. Her lecture was followed by presentations from Thomas Jefferson Professors Marybeth Herald, Ellen Waldman, Laura Adams and Ruth Philips, who discussed the rights of spouses to terminate life support, assisted reproductive technology, war crimes and family violence, and refugee laws and domestic violence.



Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

In **2003**, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg visited Thomas Jefferson School of Law and delivered the address titled, "Workways of the Supreme Court." After this visit, Justice Ginsburg generously created the Thomas Jefferson School of Law Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecture, which at the time was one of only two

lecture series bearing her name.

At the Third Annual Conference, Women and the Maternal Wall, Joan C. Williams, then Professor of Law at American University and presently Distinguished Professor of Law at University of California Hastings College of the Law, delivered the first Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecture in 2003. Her talk, "Beyond the Glass Ceiling: The Maternal Wall as a Barrier to Gender Equality," discussed the cutting-edge legal theories developing in the fight against family care responsibility discrimination and charted a course toward



Professor Joan C. Williams

a new reconstructive feminism supporting women both in their traditional caregiving roles and in their desire for access to the traditionally masculine preserves of high status wage labor. Professor Williams' keynote was followed by commentary from Professor William Bielby, discussing social science research on the maternal wall

and its effect on litigation; Thomas Jefferson Professor Susan Bisom-Rapp, analyzing employer reactions to maternal wall lawsuits; Jennifer Roback Morris, critiquing equality jurisprudence; and Thomas Jefferson Professor Julie Greenberg, presenting a unifying theory of gender nonconformity that could be used to assist working mothers and other gender nonconformists.



Professor Martha Fineman

The **2004** conference, What U.S. Lawyers Can Learn from International Law: Concepts of Gender Equality Across Legal Cultures, brought together distinguished professors from law, the social sciences, and the humanities. Martha Albertson Fineman, Robert W. Woodruff Professor of Law at Emory School of Law and Ruth Bader

Ginsburg Lecturer, discussed how a more expansive, substantive notion of equality grounded in international human rights law can be used by progressive lawyers and policy makers to address systemic inequality in the United States and develop a robust vision of the role and responsibility of the state vis-à-vis its most vulnerable citizens. Her talk, “Comparative Concepts of Equality Across Legal Cultures,” was followed by Thomas Jefferson School of Law Professors Linda Keller and Marjorie Cohn, who addressed worldwide noncompliance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the failure of the United States to ratify the treaty; Professor Huma Ahmed-Ghosh, who focused on gender discrimination in Afghanistan; and Professor Abigail Saguy, who compared the sexual harassment laws in the United States to those in France.



Professor Kathryn Abrams

In **2005**, Thomas Jefferson School of Law joined with Emory University’s Feminism and Legal Theory Project to co-host a two-day conference, The Global Impact of Feminist Legal Theory, which focused on the effect of feminist legal theory beyond U.S. borders. Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecturer Kathryn Abrams, Herma Hill

Kay Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of California Berkeley School of Law, delivered a lecture titled “Work in the Global Context,” in which she exhorted feminist law professors to consider issues related to work as a way of understanding the effects of globalization on women around the world. The conference brought together legal and interdisciplinary scholars from around the globe, including Professors Mary Condon and Lisa Phillips from Canada, who spoke about experiments in gender responsive government budgeting in the United Kingdom, Australia and South Africa; Professor Karen Morrow, from the United Kingdom, who evaluated the role of eco-feminists in United Nations sustainable development programming; Siobhan Mullally, who discussed citizenship and family life in Ireland; and Professor Reg Graycar from Australia, who addressed the trajectory of feminist legal theory and understandings of equality. Additional participants included: Michele Alexandre, Penelope Andrews, Judith Baer, Pamela Bridgewater, Kristin Bumiller, Caroline Forell, Julie Goldscheid, Thomas Jefferson School of Law Professor Marybeth Herald, Berta Hernandez-Truyol, Tracy Higgins, Jane Larson, Teemu Ruskola, Ruthann Robson, and Richard Storrow.

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2005 Conference Organizers and Speakers for The Global Impact of Feminist Legal Theory



Professor Vicki Schultz

In **2006**, the Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecturer at the Women and the Law Conference on Sexuality at Work was Vicki Schultz Ford Foundation Professor of Law and Social Sciences at Yale Law School. Her keynote talk on “The Sanitized Workplace” argued that managers use and transform sexual harassment

law from a doctrine meant to advance women’s equality into one designed to banish all workplace sexuality, including harmless banter and dating, even when such behavior has no effect on gender equality. Finding value in certain kinds of sexual expression in gendered segregated work environments, Professor Schultz supports legal reform that updates conceptions of gender equality and organizational rationality and incorporates, under appropriate circumstances, sexuality and intimacy. Commentators on the implications of Professor Schultz’s work for women, people of color, gays and lesbians, immigrant workers, and organized labor included Ruben Garcia, Zachary Kramer, Barbara Lawless, M. Isabel Medina, Rich Paul, and Christine Williams.



Professor Rochelle Dreyfuss

At the conference in **2007**, Virtual Women: Emerging Issues in Gender and Intellectual Property Law, Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecturer Rochelle Dreyfuss of the New York University School of Law spoke about gender effects of incentive structures of the creative fields in her talk “Girls Just Want to Have Fun: What

Can Feminist Theory Tell Us About Incentives?” Four panels of speakers, including Ann Bartow, Dr. Boatema Boateng, Dan L. Burk, Dr. Carys J. Craig, Mallory DeMerlier, Michele Goodwin, Thomas Jefferson School of Law Professor K.J. Greene, Christine Haight Farley, Eileen Kane, Mary LaFrance, Doris Estelle Long, Malla Pollack, Adrien Pruetz, and Rebecca Tushnet, discussed the theoretical underpinnings of gender and intellectual property, the culture of gender and intellectual property, and gender issues in patent law.



Professor Barbara Palmer

The **2008** conference centered on Women in Politics: The Role of Gender in Political Decision-Making. The Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecture, “Breaking the Political Glass Ceiling: Incumbency, Redistricting and the Success of Women Candidates,” was delivered by Professor Barbara Palmer of American University. She was

joined by an array of women from the political arena, including California State Senator Christine Kehoe, San Diego District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis, former advisor to President Carter Midge Costanza, San Diego City Councilwoman Donna Frye, and U.S. Attorney Karen Hewitt, as well as several academic speakers from a variety of disciplines. Topics included special challenges facing women politicians; the intersectional effects of race, class and gender in elections; the role of gender in campaign messages; gender voting patterns; partisan differences in the nomination of women to office; female congressional candidates; and the role of gender in voting patterns.



Professor Cheryl Hanna

The Ninth Annual Conference in **2009**, co-sponsored by the Relationship Training Institute, addressed one of the toughest issues facing the legal system and society in general—the epidemic of domestic violence in the United States. The conference, *Confronting Domestic Violence Head On: The Role of Power in Domestic*

Relationships, began with domestic violence survivors from a variety of backgrounds sharing their stories. Police officers, prosecutors, defense counsel, domestic violence shelter operators and custody mediators discussed their frustrations with the legal theories and remedies currently available in domestic violence cases. Psychiatrists, relationship counselors and batterers’ intervention experts revealed the most recent evidence regarding the causes and effects of domestic violence. In addition, best-selling authors Susan Weitzman, Sandra Brown, Patricia Evans, and David Wexler shared their insights regarding domestic violence. Vermont Law School Professor and Ruth Bader



2008 Speakers: Susan Taylor, Barbara Burrell, Donna Frye, Midge Costanza, and Lynn Schenk

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2010 Conference Organizers and Speakers for Women of Color and Intersectionality

Ginsburg Lecturer Cheryl Hanna addressed the central dilemma in the legal system's treatment of domestic violence in her talk, "Behind the Castle Walls: Balancing Privacy and Security in Domestic Abuse Cases." Finally, legal scholars, including Douglas Beloof, Emily Sack, and Thomas Jefferson School of Law Professors Claire Wright, Steve Berenson, and Ilene Durst, discussed their specific proposals for improving the legal remedies available in civil and criminal cases involving domestic violence. This conference has led to a number of on-going efforts at Thomas Jefferson Law School to combat domestic violence, including the establishment of a clinic through which students and professors provide pro bono legal assistance to victims of domestic violence in collaboration with the San Diego Family Justice Center.



Professor Kimberlé Crenshaw

In **2010**, Thomas Jefferson School of Law broadened the scope of the conference by teaming with the UCLA School of Law's Critical Race Studies Program, led by Professor Kimberlé Crenshaw. Thomas Jefferson School of Law became a Principal Co-Sponsor of the Fourth Annual Critical Race Studies Symposium at UCLA in March 2010, a conference featuring leading feminist scholars, including Catharine MacKinnon, Mari Matsuda and Patricia Williams. Professor Kimberlé Crenshaw then delivered the Ginsburg Lecture, "Intersectionality and Women of Color," at Thomas Jefferson in April 2010. She was joined by a distinguished panel of Critical Race scholars, including Professors Cheryl Harris, Russell Robinson, and Saul Sarabia.

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2011 Conference Organizers and Speakers for Gender Justice and Indian Sovereignty: Native American Women and the Law

In **2011**, the Tenth Anniversary Women and the Law Conference, which was co-sponsored by the California Indian Law Association, focused on Gender Justice and Indian Sovereignty: Native American Women and the Law. Stacy L. Leeds, then the Interim Associate Dean and Professor at the University of Kansas School of Law and presently the Dean of Arkansas School of Law, delivered the Ginsburg Lecture, “Resistance, Resilience,



Professor and Justice
Stacy Leeds

and Reconciliation: Reflections on Native American Women and the Law.” Professor Leeds, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, drew upon her experience as a judge on several tribal courts, including her service as Chief Justice of the Supreme Courts for the Kickapoo Tribe and the Kaw Nation, and her former service as a Justice of the

Cherokee Nation Supreme Court. She was joined by a remarkable national assemblage of additional speakers, including American Indian women judges, practitioners, and academics from across the country.

The **2012** annual conference, Reproductive Justice: Examining Choice & Autonomy in the New Millennium, was generously cosponsored by Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest. The conference focused on a broad spectrum of legal, social, scientific and policy issues. Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecturer Dr. Sarah Weddington, lead counsel for the plaintiff in *Roe v. Wade*, fascinated the audience during her talk, “Women Lawyers: The



Dr. Sarah Weddington

Importance of Leadership,” when she described her personal experience as a very young attorney preparing and arguing the landmark Supreme Court case, as well as her subsequent contributions in politics and education. Three panels of speakers, including Thomas Jefferson School of Law Professor Brenda Simon,

Professors Hank Greely, Martha M. Ertman, Rene Almeling, Priscilla Smith, Nancy Ehrenreich, Khiara M. Bridges, Courtney G. Joslin, and Lisa Ikemoto and policy expert Vince Hall, provided insight on a broad range of reproductive rights topics, including post *Roe v. Wade* developments in the laws regulating access to abortion, commodification, autonomy, intersectionality and marginalized populations.

2001–2016 A CHRONICLE OF THE WOMEN AND THE LAW CONFERENCE



2012 Conference Organizers and Speakers for Reproductive Justice: Examining Choice and Autonomy in the New Millennium



Professor Susan Williams

For the **2013** conference, Thomas Jefferson School of Law presented prestigious jurists and distinguished academics discussing Her Honor: Women in the Judiciary. This conference celebrated female judges and examined the importance of women in the judiciary. Speakers discussed the important effect women judges have had on the judicial system and legal regimes. They also examined the special accomplishments of and the challenges facing women in the judiciary. In a special Q & A session, honored guest U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg shared her perspectives as the second appointed female member of the nation's highest court. Susan Williams, the Walter W. Foskett Professor of Law and Director of the Center for Constitutional Democracy

at the Indiana University Maurer School of Law, delivered the Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecture, "Women and Judging: A Feminist Approach to Judgment and the Issue of Customary Law." Professor Williams has authored numerous books and articles on feminist theory and constitutional law. Other jurists and academics sharing their global and domestic insights included Former French Supreme Court Justice Noëlle Lenoir; Justice Carlos Augusto Ayres de Freitas Britto, former Chief Justice of the Supreme Federal Court of Brazil (retired); Justice Laurie Zelon of the California Court of Appeal; Carla Pratt of Pennsylvania State Dickinson School of Law and Associate Justice of the Standing Rock Sioux Supreme Court; Leslie Kuan-Hsi Wang of Zhejiang University Guanghai Law School; Nienke Grossman of University of Baltimore School of Law; Sally Kenney of Tulane University; and Lillian Lim, San Diego Superior Court Judge (retired) and Thomas Jefferson alumna.

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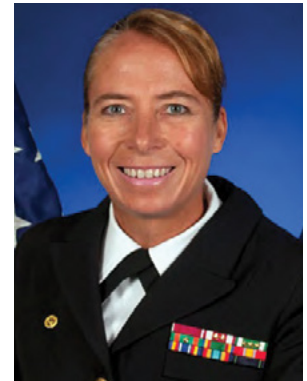


2013 Conference Organizers and Speakers for Her Honor: Women in the Judiciary



Vice Admiral Nanette M.
"Nan" DeRenzi
Keynote Speaker

The **2014** Women and the Law Conference, Women and the Military, gathered together a slate of luminaries in military leadership to explore the unique forces shaping women's access to power in the U.S. military. The Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecturer, Captain Stacy Pedrozo, Commanding Officer, Naval School of Justice, delivered a talk entitled "Sea Change: Women in the 21st Century U.S. Military." Her lecture detailed her journey as a military lawyer. She was followed by a panel of experts who discussed the political and legislative dimensions of recent highly-publicized statistics on sexual assault in the military, including whether changes to the Uniform Code of Military Justice are likely to be effective in combating these crimes. A panel of active-duty and former active-duty service members discussed standards for integrating women into the military along with lessons learned when the military has previously integrated underrepresented service members into various communities. Vice Admiral Nanette Derenzi, Deputy Judge Advocate General of the Navy and Commander Naval Legal Service delivered a moving keynote address that explored the expanding roles of female leaders in the military.



Captain Stacy A. Pedrozo
Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecturer

2001–2016 A CHRONICLE OF THE WOMEN AND THE LAW CONFERENCE



2014 Conference Organizers and Speakers for Women and the Military



Attorney Leslie Abramson

In **2015**, the conference explored Women and the Criminal Justice System. Noted criminal defense attorney and author Leslie Abramson, who handled the Menendez Brothers trial and the Phil Spector case, delivered the Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecture, “Using Female Strength to Your Client’s Advantage.”

Conference speakers included judges, prosecuting attorneys, defense attorneys, civil rights attorneys, academics, and former inmates, who examined gender disparities in prison and throughout the criminal justice system.

The **2016** conference, Pursuing Excellence: Diversity in Higher Education, will provide a multidisciplinary perspective on critical issues related to diversity in higher education. Bryant Garth, Chancellor’s Professor of Law, UC Irvine School of Law and former Director of the American Bar Foundation, will deliver the Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecture, “Diversity, Power, and Hierarchy in Legal Careers: An Empirical and Sociological Perspective.” Other conference speakers will examine how diversity in higher education both affects and is inspired by students, faculty members, and leaders. California Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins and Assemblywoman Shirley Weber,

who have focused their work on enhancing diversity in educational institutions, will share their perspective as government leaders. Three leaders of higher education institutions, Dean Susan Westerberg Prager, presently dean at Southwestern University School of Law and formerly dean of the UCLA School of Law; Interim Superintendent/President Adrian Gonzalez of Palomar Community College; and enrollment expert, Youlonda Copeland-Morgan, UCLA Associate Vice Chancellor of Enrollment Management,



Professor Bryant Garth

will share their insights about how to lead and support diversity efforts at higher education institutions. Judge Vallera Johnson will expand the discussion by discussing her efforts to enhance and support diversity in the legal profession during school and after graduation. Professors from diverse disciplines who

will examine how enhancing diversity in our educational institutions benefits society in a multitude of ways include: Professors Meera E. Deo and Susan Bisom-Rapp of Thomas Jefferson School of Law, UC Berkeley Professor of Law Mary Ann Mason, UCSF Professor of Law Rodney Fong, Professor of Sociology at CSUSM Marisol Clark-Ibáñez, Vice Dean for Education at UCSF’s School of Medicine Catherine Lucey, and Professor of Asian American Studies at UC Irvine Linda Trinh Vo.



December 2015 Valedictorian
Kimberly Coulter

The Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecture and the annual Women and the Law Conference are only two aspects of the important role of women at Thomas Jefferson School of Law. At Thomas Jefferson, faculty, administration, staff, and students work together to create a unique learning atmosphere in which women are given the opportunity to excel.

Empirical research demonstrates that female students at many other law schools may not perform as well as male students who entered law school with comparable academic credentials. The same is not true of women who choose to attend Thomas Jefferson. In recent years, approximately half of our student population has been female. Nine of the last twelve valedictorians have been women and in the two most recent graduation classes, two-thirds of the summa cum laude graduates and almost 60% of the magna cum laude graduates were women. Female law students also are chosen for positions of honor by their peers. Women always have a significant presence on the managing board of the Thomas Jefferson Law Review; the two most recent Editors-in-Chief have been women.



May 2015 Valedictorian
Yana Loboda



December 2014 Valedictorian
Lynn Marie Morski

A Law School Admission Council study ranked Thomas Jefferson eleventh in the nation for percentage of women on the faculty, but this number does not tell the whole story. Many law schools have increased the number of female faculty members they have hired. Recent studies indicate that these women are often hired into

non-tenure track, lower-paying and lower-prestige jobs. At Thomas Jefferson, however, women comprise approximately half of the tenured, tenure track and full professors. Few, if any, law schools in the country have come close to matching this consistently high percentage of successful female faculty members.

Finally, almost one-third of the full-time Thomas Jefferson faculty members include gender as a special focus of their research and teaching. Their scholarship includes articles and books on workplace sex discrimination; women and human rights law; gay, lesbian, transgender and other sexual identity issues; women migrants; sexual privacy issues; women's treatment by the medical profession; assisted reproductive technologies; sex slavery and trafficking; the intersection of gender, race and intellectual property; and women's rights and cultural groups.



May 2014 Valedictorian
Kimberly Roth

ORGANIZERS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE ANNUAL WOMEN AND THE LAW CONFERENCE



Susan Bisom-Rapp
2001, 2003,
2005, 2006



Julie Greenberg
2001, 2004,
2006, 2008, 2016



Susan Tiefenbrun
2001, 2002



Marybeth Herald
2004



Linda Keller
2005



William Slomanson



Lori Wulfemeyer



Sandra Riersen
2007, 2008



Julie Cromer-Young
2007, 2013



Claire Wright
2009



Kaimipono Wenger
2010



Bryan Wildenthal
2011



Joy Delman
2012



Maureen Markey
2012



Thom Golden
2012



Meera Deo
2013, 2016



Amy Day
2014



Marjorie Cohn
2015



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