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The *Journal of Race, Gender and Ethnicity* is honored to present Volume 5, Issue 1. This issue would not have been possible without the great efforts and dedication of the *Journal's* Editorial Board and staff members. We would also like to extend our gratitude to the *Journal's* faculty advisors, Professor Meredith R. Miller and Professor Douglas Scherer. If not for their support and guidance, the *Journal* would not be the wonderful experience it is.

This volume contains three articles that were submitted in conjunction with a symposium entitled, "Transgender Law: Challenging the Boundaries of Law and Gender." The symposium transcript was previously published in Volume 4, Issue 2 of the *Journal* in May 2009.

We would like to express our gratitude to the three authors of the excellent articles in this issue. The lead article is by Professor Jillian T. Weiss. This article discusses the arguments for a rational basis standard of review of the right of gender autonomy after *Lawrence v. Texas*, 439 U.S. 558 (2003). The second article is by Benish A. Shah. It discusses the placement of transgender inmates within the prison system. Finally, the third article is by Katrina C. Rose. This article addresses how the passage of proposition 8 affects transgender individuals in California.

Finally we would like to thank Dean Lawrence Raful and the administration at Touro Law Center for their support and encouragement throughout this academic year, and for supporting the symposium that gave rise to this issue.

Melissa Patzelt-Russo
Editor-in-Chief
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