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I am pleased to present Volume 4, Issue 1 of the *Journal of Race, Gender and Ethnicity*. This issue would not have been possible without the great efforts and dedication of the *Journal's* Editorial Board and staff members. I would like to extend my 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 learning experience that it is.

This volume contains two articles that address legal issues concerning lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender ("LGBT") individuals. The first article discusses the effects of *Bowers v. Hardwick*, 478 U.S. 186 (1986), as a rallying cry for LGBT organizations. The second article addresses the path towards same-sex marriage rights. I would like to thank the authors for submitting their articles to the *Journal* and for their continued cooperation in putting this issue together.

Additionally, this volume features short student pieces on felon disenfranchisement. I would like to thank the students for their insightful contributions. This particular portion of the volume was specifically created by members of the Editorial Board, and the pieces are authored by senior staff members of the *Journal*. In particular, I would like to extend my gratitude to Managing Editor Alice Choi, Articles Editor Gregory Coleman, and Notes and Comments Editor Felicia Bromes, for putting this project together and for working alongside the students to edit the notes.

The *Journal* aims to promote discourse and raise awareness about how legal decisions have societal ramifications, and this volume certainly serves these very goals. On behalf of the *Journal* and its members, I would like to thank Dean Lawrence Rafal and the administration at Touro Law Center for their support and encouragement throughout this academic year.

Jeannine Farino
Editor-in-Chief
2008-2009 year