

FROM THE EDITOR



The second year of the Newcomb Scholars program teaches students to think critically about complex and interconnected social issues. Twice a week, we gathered at 8:00a.m. to debate appropriate courses of action in real-world case examples like Ann Hopkin's fight for gender equity in the workplace and the rise of sex tourism in Cuba. By engaging with case studies that reflect past or ongoing conflicts that female leaders face, students question the expectations of feminists as leaders and complications that the intersectionality of socioeconomic factors including gender, race, and class raise.

Beyond exposing students to leadership challenges through the case method, this course also requires students to craft an original case study. Using a gendered lens, students narrate the stories of protagonists and their dilemmas, alongside any context that readers may find useful for interpretation. These specific instances provide a base for students and experts alike to discuss general propositions and apply field-specific theory to practical examples.

This issue of *Women Leading Change* presents cases that skillfully weave themes of reproductive justice, motherhood, healthcare, and identity. Author Sydney Soganich follows Dr. Damla Karsan's fight for abortion access in post-Roe Texas, as she weighed the risks of challenging state regulation to her medical career. Similarly, author Yubin Lee examines the tension between financial benefit and motherhood expectations in Mary Beth Whitehead's experience as a surrogate. Author Ella Jeffries explores parenthood in leadership and introduces Anna Paulina Luna and her controversial push for proxy voting for pregnant individuals in Congress. Author Avery Edwards turns our attention to the conflicting demands of faith and politics that Democratic Senator Katrina Jackson navigates in her legal battle for pro-life legislation. Author Caroline Drenth presents a retrospective review of shortcomings in federal drug regulation, with a focus on Dr. Frances Oldham Kelsey's role in the FDA's response to the thalidomide crisis and her advocacy for stringent drug testing for pregnant populations. Finally, author Catarina Vazquez prompts readers to consider the costs of female subservience through Anne Hart's story of military injustice to her husband and other fallen crewmen of the Vietnam War.

To the readers, I hope that you appreciate the efforts of our authors and editorial team. As you engage with the cases and broader relevant themes, it is normal to feel conflicted about your responses to the dilemmas. In fact, embrace and encourage healthy disagreement as you discuss the content in groups, as it is such diversity of perspectives that a case study aims to arouse.

To the authors, thank you for pouring your time and energy into these beautiful projects. It has been deeply rewarding to see you all grow as authors throughout the revision process and I cannot congratulate you enough on this accomplishment. I know that you will all continue to lead as you progress in your journeys and am excited to see what comes next!

Sincerely,
Ifeoma Osakwe
Newcomb Scholar
Class of 2025