

Foreword

When the 2005-2006 academic year began at Tulane University Law School in New Orleans, Louisiana, the staff of *Law & Sexuality* was busy making preparations for its upcoming publication year. Our members were formatting manuscripts, making schedules, and outlining publication goals. We were looking forward to a productive year of editing and publishing articles, speeches, comments, and notes on legal issues concerning the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community.

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina roared ashore, devastating Southeastern Louisiana as well as parts of Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. Leaving damage and destruction in her wake, Katrina's winds, water, and storm surge overcame the flood protection systems surrounding the city of New Orleans, and large tracts of the city remained submerged under water for several weeks. Tulane University closed its doors for the fall 2005 semester, and students, faculty, and staff, many of whom suffered devastating personal and property loss, spread out across the United States to rebuild their lives.

In the face of Katrina's aftermath, the members of Volume Fifteen recommitted to publication. Despite personal hardships, a closed office, and a staff dispersed throughout the country, the members of Volume Fifteen diligently prepared works for publication in a timely manner. Thanks to the communicative celerity afforded by electronic mail, cellular telephones, the Internet, and Web-based electronic meeting technology, staff members were able to edit efficiently and to produce publishable manuscripts with only a small impact on our publication schedule.

Volume Fifteen would not have been possible without the generous assistance given to our members by several host law schools. These schools opened their doors to our displaced staff members, providing facilities and materials needed for our research and editing. *Law & Sexuality* therefore extends a heartfelt thank you to the following host universities and their respective law schools and colleges: American University, The College of William & Mary, Harvard University, New York University, Texas Wesleyan University, the University of Kansas, the University of Michigan, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the University of Richmond. To these schools, we extend our deepest appreciation and gratitude. We thank you for allowing us to

continue our law studies and publication work, and we are grateful for the assistance you have provided.

Although Tulane University Law School resumed its operations for the spring 2006 semester, the members are mindful of the enormous tragedy occasioned by Katrina. We are keenly aware of the momentous steps that must be taken to rebuild infrastructure, commerce, and the lives of people living throughout New Orleans, Southeastern Louisiana, and the Gulf Coast areas affected by the storm. We also remain mindful of the personal and professional tragedies suffered by so many storm victims from all walks of life. New Orleans and all of the affected regions will continue to walk the road to recovery for a long time.

We are therefore especially pleased to present Volume Fifteen, and we dedicate it to the memory of those who were lost in the storm's wake.

The Staff of Volume Fifteen
Law & Sexuality