

**SYMPOSIUM:  
WOMEN MAKING WAVES: A CELEBRATION OF 25  
YEARS OF WOMEN AT VERMONT LAW SCHOOL**

**INTRODUCTION**

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On April 2 and 3, 1998, the *Women Making Waves* symposium brought together a spirited group of women lawyers and scholars in celebration of Vermont Law School's twenty-fifth anniversary. The conference featured two panels and two keynote speakers: Eleanor Clift, a contributing editor of *Newsweek* magazine and regular panelist on television's "The McLaughlin Group," and Mara Liasson, National Public Radio's White House Correspondent. The keynote speakers provided a humorous look at life inside the Beltway as well as a unique account of the role of women in journalism. The first panel presented views on the role of women in the legal system, while the second panel revealed personal experiences women have had in venues ranging from the classroom to the bench to many other professional settings. The conference, sponsored by the Vermont Law School chapter of Women's Law Group and the *Vermont Law Review*, blended academic research and personal stories and focused upon the experiences of women in the legal profession over the last quarter century.

The *Vermont Law Review* is pleased to offer the following articles submitted by participants in the first panel discussion. Although each panelist discussed the evolving status of women in the legal system, they offer diverse perspectives on the motivations and implications underlying developments in this arena. Martha Fineman, Professor at Columbia University School of Law, writes about "The New Tokenism," her theory that the symbolic inclusion of women in the legal profession has replaced the "glass ceiling." Mona Harrington, a Fellow at the Radcliffe Public Policy Institute and author of *Women Lawyers—Rewriting the Rules*, discusses the need for our society to recognize the care/equality dualism faced by women. Carole Shapiro, Associate Professor at Touro Law School, writes of Hollywood's changing portrayal of female lawyers.

As the conference unfolded, the women in attendance were challenged and inspired to continue building upon our successes and striving to make the law respect us as women. The following articles are illustrative of both the strides women have made in the legal profession and the struggles that we still face. We hope that you are also inspired by each author to continue to "make waves" in your own life.

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