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Editorial Introduction

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EDITORIAL INTRODUCTION

In 1998, and again in 2001, the *Michigan Journal of Gender & Law* expressed our support for the University of Michigan Law School in defending its affirmative action policy, as challenged in *Grutter v. Bollinger*.¹

Today, as was true then, “. . . we certainly do not believe the Law School admissions policy truly addresses the inequalities within our law school and the legal profession generally. Legal education is unfortunately not a bastion of diversity. . . .”² While the defense of the Law School’s holistic admissions policy is a necessary step towards a goal of inclusion in the legal profession, it is not sufficient to achieve equal representation of women and students of color.

“Without active efforts, we cannot create a society with equal opportunity for people of different races, genders, and sexual orientations. We strive for such a reality, and we hope that the Law School will not be prohibited from trying to move us there. Diversity is more than a method of enhancing the intellectual experience of law students or a narrow manifestation of ‘fairness’ which should be protected; it is justice that the Law School, its faculty, and its students are affirmatively obligated to seek out.”³

To show our solidarity with the students and their lawyers supporting the Law School, at each stage of the litigation we have devoted space in the *Journal* to the voice of student organizations at the Law School. In 1998, we published statements on affirmative action from seven different student organizations, including our own.⁴ In 2002, we published the amicus curiae brief filed on behalf of the Law School’s Black Law Students’ Alliance (“BLSA”) when *Grutter v. Bollinger* was heard en banc by the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.⁵

Now we publish the final installment in the *Grutter v. Bollinger* litigation: a joint amicus brief submitted by a team of five prominent attorneys to the United States Supreme Court on behalf of four of the Law School’s minority students organizations: BLSA, the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (“APALSA”), the Latino Law Students Association (“LLSA”), and the Native American Law Students Association (“NALSA”). The *Michigan Journal of Gender & Law*

1. See 5 Mich. J. Gender & L. 207 (1998); 8 Mich. J. Gender & L. 101 (2002).

2. 5 MICH. J. GENDER & L. 207 (1998).

3. *Id.* at 209.

4. *Id.*

5. 8 MICH. J. GENDER & L. 101 (2002).

remains committed to providing a forum in which all voices are heard, and we are privileged to honor the collective voice of these student organizations.

BIOGRAPHIES OF STUDENT CONTRIBUTORS

DAVID AZCUE received his J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School in 2003. He received a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1993. While a law student, Mr. Azcue served as Secretary of LLSA from 2001–02 and was an Associate Editor for the *Michigan Law Review*. He is currently an associate at Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen and Hamilton in New York.

DIEGO M. BERNAL will receive his J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School in May 2004. He also received his undergraduate degree, as well as a Masters of Social Work, from the University of Michigan. Mr. Bernal served as LLSA Chair from 2002–03. After graduation, he plans to return to his hometown of San Antonio, Texas, to practice civil rights law.

MARIA BONO is a member of the University of Michigan Law School class of 2004 and 2003–04 LLSA Chair. Ms. Bono is an Associate Editor for the *Michigan Law Review*. She is a dual degree candidate in Public Policy and holds a B.A. in Political Science from Rice University, Houston, Texas. Ms. Bono is from San Antonio, Texas.

KIRSTEN MATOY CARLSON (Cherokee) is a joint degree student working toward a Ph.D. in Political Science in addition to a J.D. at the University of Michigan Law School. She received her undergraduate degree from Johns Hopkins University, and a Masters as a Fulbright Scholar in the Maori Studies Department at the Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand.

ANN H. CHEN earned her B.A. from Yale University and her J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School in 2003. At Michigan, she was President of APALSA and served as an Executive Editor for the *Michigan Law Review*. After graduation, Ms. Chen joined the Chicago practice of the law firm of Kirkland & Ellis. Ms. Chen will be a clerk for the Honorable Adalberto Jordan of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida for the 2004–05 term. She is originally from Chicago, Illinois.

ROWENA GILLMORE-MCALLISTER received her J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School in May 2003. She received a B.S., cum laude, from Georgia State University. While a law student,

Ms. Gillmore-McAllister served as both Treasurer and Amicus Committee Chair for BLSA. In addition, she was a board member of the 78th Annual Henry M. Campbell Moot Court Competition. Ms. Gillmore-McAllister is now an associate at King & Spalding, LLP in Atlanta, Georgia.

KRISTIN N. JOHNSON received her J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School in 2003, and served as an Executive Board member of BLSA and as a Note Editor for the *Michigan Law Review*. She received a B.S. with distinction from the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service. Ms. Johnson is currently serving as a law clerk for the Honorable Joseph A. Greenaway, Jr., U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey. After her clerkship she will join the law firm of Simpson, Thatcher & Bartlett as an associate.

LEN KAMDANG, a December 2003 graduate of the University of Michigan Law School, earned his B.A. in Cultural Studies/Sociology from Georgetown University in 1998. As a law student at the University of Michigan, Mr. Kamdang served as an APALSA Executive Board member and as an Associate Editor of the *Michigan Journal of Race & Law*.

ELIZABETH ANN KRONK graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in May 2003. While at the law school, Ms. Kronk was Chair of NALSA and a Contributing Editor for the *Michigan Law Review*. She graduated from Cornell University with a B.S. in Communication, and is originally from Lansing, Michigan.

NIKETA S.H. KULKARNI is originally from Chandler, Arizona. She attended the University of Michigan and graduated in 2001 with an undergraduate degree in Political Science and Sociology. Ms. Kulkarni will receive her J.D. as well as an M.A. in South Asian Studies from the University of Michigan in 2004. During the 2002–03 academic year, she was President of APALSA. Ms. Kulkarni also serves as Executive Articles Editor of the *Michigan Journal of International Law* in 2003–04.

CHRISTOPHER MOODY will receive his J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School in May 2004. He received his B.A. in Political Science from the George Washington University in May 1997. In 2003–04, Mr. Moody serves as the President of BLSA. Mr. Moody was born in Memphis, Tennessee, and resides in Washington, D.C.

JOSEPH RICHBURG is a member of the University of Michigan Law School Class of 2004. He is originally from Hillside, New Jersey. Mr. Richburg received his B.A. from Duke University. In law school, he is an active member of BLSA, and serves as an Executive Editor of the *Michigan Journal of Race & Law*.

TRAVIS TOWNSEND is from Muskegon Heights, Michigan. He was BLSA Chair in 2002–03, and Vice-Chair in 2001–02. He served as Associate Editor of the *Michigan Journal of Race & Law* from 2001–02, and Executive Note Editor from 2002–03. Mr. Townsend was the Minority Affairs Program (MAP) Resource Committed Chair from 2001–02, and a MAP Instructor from 2002–03. He graduated from the University of Michigan with a B.A. in Psychology in 2000, and received his J.D. from the University of Michigan in May of 2003. Mr. Townsend is an associate at Alston & Bird in Atlanta, Georgia. ♣