Forum: Where Do We Stand?: Georgetown's Clinical Programs

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Law spring, the present and former women's studies pro-
gress directors (of which I am one) met with President
Garzamini to express our concerns over the situation
of women at Loyola. Two women faculty who had worked
in an administrative office had resigned in frustration. Women
deans who resigned or retired were replaced by men.
Women staff members were concerned that men were often
promoted over equally or more qualified women. We direc-
tors were concerned not only about career possibilities for
women, but also about the general climate for women. In
response, President Garzamini established this committee
and our work, begun in the summer, is now moving forward.
Yet the overall picture at Loyola offers some very bright
spots for women. Our women's studies program, in its 26th
year, has had solid administrative support. Men and women
students enroll in impressive numbers in classes in the pro-
gram, and we now offer a master's degree as well; our
MA/MAW program is particularly popular. The Ann Ida
Green, BVM Center for Women and Leadership is a beacon
of light for faculty, staff, and students and has a healthy
endowment of its own.

The Vagabond Monogamy is produced every year as part
of an effort to reduce violence against women, and President
Garzamini has fully supported the productions. And in my
own department of theology, the women full professors now
outnumber the men.

I am cautiously optimistic about Loyola's Commission on
Women and the future for women at Loyola. But we still
have a long way to go. My hopes are that we will see more
women appointed to senior positions in the university, that
there will be a more hospitable atmosphere for them, and that
all of Loyola's women—faculty, staff, and students —
will consider their Jesuit teachers, colleagues, and co-work-
er's to be allies and friends.

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GEORGETOWN'S CLINICAL PROGRAMS
Carol Q. O'Neil

During this period, under the auspices of an extrordi-
narily talented woman dean, Judith Areen, the Law Center
has increased the depth and breadth of clinical programs
that strive to improve the lives of poor women in the District
of Columbia: the Domestic Violence Clinic, in which students
represent clients; primarily women, who are victims of
domestic violence; and the Family Advocacy Clinic, whose
faculty and students represent poor families, often headed
by women, in areas of special education, child adoption,
and government benefits. In the global arena, an International
Women's Human Rights Clinic enables students to work with
international and non-governmental organizations around
the world to promote women's rights. A Women's Law and
Public Policy Fellowship Program supports postgraduate
work on legal and policy issues affecting women. A program
in Leadership and Advocacy for Women in Africa educates
African women lawyers who return to their home countries to
“support...liberation movements which oppose the
exploitation of women and encourage their entry into polit-
ical and social life,” and “specific attention to the phenome-
non of violence against women.”

How and why did this happen? The underlying reason
for this progress has been an institutional commitment
to two additional suggestions in Decree 14: the “appropriate
presence of women in Jesuit institutions,” and “genuine
involvement of women in consultation and decision-mak-
ing.” In universities, no lasting progress is made on impor-
tant issues unless talented faculty members direct their teach-
ing, scholarship and collaborative efforts on them. Thus, at
the Law Center, an institutional commitment to hiring out-
standing women scholars of diverse interests and back-
grounds has led quite naturally to considerable intelligence
and energy being devoted to the legal and social justice
issues affecting women. A concomitant commitment to the
presence of women in leadership positions has guaranteed
that women faculty have appropriate access to decision-
making processes and institutional resources.

Jesuit law schools are particularly well suited to work
against systemic discrimination against women in society.
Careful attention to hiring and support of women faculty and
connected efforts to promote women's leadership in law
schools can create an "organic" and long-term institutional
response to the "equal treatment and exploitation of
women" that Decree 14 addresses so forcefully.

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