

Symposium: Title IX: Women, Athletics and the Law - Foreword

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**WOMEN, LEADERSHIP & EQUALITY PROGRAM
SYMPOSIUM
TITLE IX: WOMEN, ATHLETICS AND THE LAW**

FOREWORD

PAULA A. MONOPOLI*

In April 2003, the Women, Leadership & Equality Program of the University of Maryland School of Law hosted its first annual symposium entitled "Title IX: Women, Athletics and the Law." The symposium was held to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the passage of Title IX¹ by Congress. The scholarly research demonstrates that women who participate in athletics develop skills that make them better able to succeed in the workplace and to assume positions of leadership.² Research also demonstrates the critical role that Title IX has played in increasing such athletic participation among girls and women since its passage in 1972.³

In June 2002, Secretary of Education Rod Paige appointed the Commission on Opportunity in Athletics and charged the Commission with the task of reviewing how Title IX was being implemented to equalize the opportunities for women in college athletics.⁴ That Commission issued its recommendations in February 2003. The Women, Leadership & Equality program asked a distinguished panel of experts to speak about the Commission's recent recommendations at its first annual symposium in April.

The panel consisted of Commissioner, Professor Rita J. Simon of the School of Public Affairs and the Washington College of Law at American University, Professor William C. Duncan of the J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University, Professor Suzanne

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1. 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681-1688 (2000).

2. See, e.g., Syda Kosofsky, *Toward Gender Equality in Professional Sports*, 4 HASTINGS WOMEN'S L.J. 209, 227-28 (1993); Tami Videon, *Who Plays and Who Benefits: Gender, Interscholastic Athletics, and Academic Outcomes*, 45 SOC. PERSP. 415, 420-21 (2002); *Woman + Sports = Top Businesswoman*, BROKER MAG., April/May 2002, at 7.

3. THE SEC'Y OF EDUCATION'S COMM'N ON OPPORTUNITY IN ATHLETICS, "OPEN TO ALL": TITLE IX AT THIRTY 2 (Feb. 28, 2003) (discussing the effect of Title IX on increasing women's participation in athletics), available at <http://www.ed.gov/about/bdscomm/list/athletics/index.html> (last visited Nov. 26, 2003).

4. *Id.*

Sangree of the West Virginia University College of Law and Jocelyn Samuels, Esq., Vice President for Education and Employment at the National Women's Law Center in Washington, D.C. The moderator was Professor Jana Singer of the University of Maryland School of Law.

Each of the panelists gave insightful presentations and the audience engaged the panelists in a lively question and answer period following their presentations. The topic is clearly one that evokes strong feelings among many faculty, students and others involved in higher education. Professors Duncan and Sangree and Ms. Samuels have written thought-provoking articles that touch on the history of Title IX, its current implementation and the ramifications of the Commission's 2003 recommendations. Following the symposium, Secretary Paige announced his decision not to implement the Commission's recommendations at this time. The articles included in this issue of MARGINS will each add insight and clarity to the future implementation of Title IX and the Commission's recommendations if they are revisited.

One of the primary goals of the Women, Leadership & Equality Program is to foster research and scholarship in the area of gender equality. The symposium authors have given us perspective on the Commission's recommendations as well as on the broader social impact of this important piece of legislation. The Program is pleased to join with MARGINS to present these three new articles that make a significant contribution to the scholarly canon in the area of Title IX.