From the Editor

Editors of peer-reviewed journals like the *Law & Society Review* can stimulate submissions by identifying and encouraging researchers who are doing interesting work to submit their manuscripts to the review process. They can also suggest revisions and alterations in the contents of manuscripts they receive. But in large measure, the collections of articles published in peer-reviewed journals ultimately reflect the research that authors decide to submit. A Special Issue represents one of the important spheres of opportunity for an editor, albeit one that can be used only sporadically for a journal with a healthy flow of regularly submitted manuscripts. When a topic has provoked a set of important questions and stimulated a body of interesting research, the editor can respond by issuing a call for papers on the topic to mark the occasion, to provide a forum for focusing attention on the topic, and to invite reflections on future work in the area.

This Special Issue on Gender and Sociolegal Studies reflects such an occasion. The topic of gender, well represented in the interests of scholars in our field and in plenaries and paper presentations at the Law and Society Meetings over the past several years, was ripe for the concentrated attention that a Special Issue can provide. I was delighted that Carrie Menkel-Meadow accepted my invitation to take the lead in co-editing this Special Issue of the *Review*. Her enthusiasm and expertise infused our work together as she gently educated me and stimulated my appreciation for this exciting area of scholarship. Thanks to Joe Sanders, the review essays editor of the *Review*, the issue also contains two review essays that address similar themes. The result, which we discuss in the substantive introduction that follows, is a wide-ranging and yet focused issue that extends the boundaries of work traditionally published in the *Law & Society Review*.

Shari S. Diamond
August 1991

LAW & SOCIETY REVIEW, Volume 25, Number 2 (1991)

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0023921600018995 Published online by Cambridge University Press