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## Preface

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## PREFACE

*Shira Galinsky\**

On November 5, 2004, a diverse group of legal scholars, practitioners, and students gathered at the City University of New York School of Law to celebrate the work of Professor Ruthann Robson and discuss areas of legal thought and practice that she has influenced. These areas included Equality, Pedagogy, Law and Literature, and Sexuality, and the conference included a panel on each. It was exciting and moving to witness speaker after speaker bear witness to the wide-ranging effects of Professor Robson's work on legal theory and public interest practice and discuss the ways that Professor Robson's work influenced them personally and professionally.

The New York City Law Review is delighted to be able to publish the papers that resulted from the conference, as well as additional works, in this symposium edition of the Law Review. The breadth and depth of papers that are gathered here is a testament to the power of the ideas that Professor Robson has introduced and the wide-ranging ways that her work has resonated in the academic and legal worlds.

As a brief synopsis, the symposium edition follows the structure of the conference and features papers on the subjects of Equality, Pedagogy, Law and Literature, and Sexuality. In the Law and Literature section, Robert Batey, Kate Nace Day, James Elkins, Linda Hall, Andrea McArdle, Danielle Ofri, and Sima Rabinowitz discuss some of the dominant themes of Robson's fiction and describe the influence that Robson has had on diverse aspects of their own writing. In the Equality section, Sharon Hom, Joey Mogul, Kendall Thomas, Jenny Rivera, and Carmen Vazquez's inspiring pieces address themes such as civil and human rights, including race, international justice, and criminal justice. Elvia Arriola, Karl Stychin, and Nancy Polikoff's discussion of sexuality, especially regarding marriage, continues the Robson tradition of challenging the status quo and expanding the boundaries of legal theory. Finally, in the Pedagogy section, Kris Franklin addresses the importance of including discussions of theory in even the initial stages of legal education, and Kim Brooks argues that there is much to be learned in Robson's work about teaching law in a classroom.

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\* *New York City Law Review* Symposium Editor, 2004-05.

In addition, we are grateful to Law Review member Sanja Zgonjanin for her exhaustive bibliography of Professor Robson's work and are proud to include Julie Shapiro's exploration of her involvement in a Washington State gay marriage case in the Law Review's second Public Interest Practice Section.

In her work on same-sex marriage, Professor Robson advocates for expanding the movement for marriage into one that lobbies for official support for many different types of relationships. Inherent in this view is a recognition of the significance of relationships in people's lives and the complicated ways that relationships transcend the boundaries of easy categorization. The works gathered here and the discussion of Professor Robson's scholarship at the November 2004 symposium bear witness to the complex and powerful relationships that individuals throughout the legal and academic communities have formed with Professor Robson as a practitioner, theorist, writer, and teacher. We are proud to be able to recognize and celebrate those relationships and the important work that has grown out of them through this symposium edition.