

The Role of Women in Law School: A Call for Enhanced Reform

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Abstract: *Over the past decade, women have made significant strides toward equality in many areas of the legal profession. The large increase in the number of women attending law school and the growing percentage of women associates at major law firms are just two examples.' In other areas, however, particularly at the profession's highest levels, women have yet to achieve full partnership with their male colleagues. Women still constitute a disappointingly small percentage of state and federal judges, partners in private law firms and tenured law school professors. Indeed, a recent American Bar Association Journal article entitled Women in Law queried whether a "glass ceiling" keeps a majority of women "from enjoying the full rights and privileges of being a lawyer."*

As legal educators, we recognize that law schools play a unique and critical role in shaping our attitudes toward the law and the legal profession. For most future lawyers, law school transmits the first and the most enduring messages about appropriate behavior within their chosen profession. Law schools also educate and mold the future lawyers who will guide the profession and society into the twenty-first century. For these reasons, the experiences of women in the law school, either as students or as professors, profoundly affect the status of women in the legal profession and in society as a whole.

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