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# Foreword: Symposium 2000 - Chronicling a Movement: A Symposium to Recognize the Twentieth Anniversary of the Lesbian/Gay Law Notes Edited by Professor Arthur S. Leonard

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**SYMPOSIUM 2000**  
**Chronicling a Movement:**  
**A Symposium to Recognize the Twentieth**  
**Anniversary of the Lesbian/Gay Law Notes**  
**edited by Professor Arthur S. Leonard**

**Foreword**

*Camille Broussard*

I am delighted to join the editors and staff of the Journal in presenting to researchers, scholars, and all of our readers this permanent record of “Chronicling a Movement: A Symposium to Recognize the Twentieth Anniversary of the Lesbian/Gay Law Notes.” Within these pages, readers will discover an exploration of the complex tapestry of issues that surround the legal struggle against discrimination and inequality based on sexual orientation.

The symposium held October 14, 2000, honored Professor Arthur S. Leonard of New York Law School who for the last twenty years has written, edited, produced, and distributed one of the most valuable additions to LGBT legal bibliography. In 1980, Art’s *Lesbian / Gay Law Notes* became one of the first publications devoted to collecting and disseminating information about the law affecting lesbians and gay men. This newsletter has given its readers an incredible wealth of timely information on national and international events affecting sexual minority rights. As Professor Polikoff notes in her article, the publication of *Law Notes* “significantly improved the ability of advocates to communicate successes, failures, and strategies.”

The symposium gave uniquely qualified panelists the chance to lead more than 150 participants through an extraordinary discussion of the issues affecting the lesbian, gay, and transgendered community. It was an opportunity to review the past, evaluate the present, and assess, discuss and debate goals and strategies for the future.

Art Leonard began the day with a “Retrospective of the *Lesbian/Gay Law Notes*.” His comments follow this foreword. After presenting a history of *Law Notes*, he introduced each of the day’s

panelists. Art's personal remembrance of the many and varied accomplishments of each speaker is a wonderful introduction to the symposium. I will not repeat credentials here for I cannot add anything of merit to Art's comments.

The remainder of the day included three panels. In the first panel "Perspectives on Progress," Rosalyn Richter, Suzanne Goldberg, Nan Hunter, and Kendall Thomas looked back at both victories and disappointments to provide different perspectives on the progress made during the last twenty years. The second panel discussion, "A Look at the Current Legislation and Litigation Involving the Lesbian/Gay Community," entailed a comprehensive overview of current legal and political issues confronting the LGBT community. Each panelist, Richard Burns, Kevin Cathcart, Matt Coles, and Shannon Minter has litigated significant cases for lesbians and gay men during the last decade. The final panel "Reaching Goals: Choosing Strategies and Issues for Advancement" focused on the broader and more theoretical issues that arise as the movement looks toward the future. Bill Eskridge, Paula Ettlebrick, Chai Feldblum, Nancy Polikoff and Ruthann Robson brought a wide range of perspectives to the table that reflected the breadth of their individual contributions to the continuing struggles of the community. At the end of the day, all of the panelists returned to the dias for a closing discussion and question/answer period.

The importance of *Lesbian/Gay Law Notes* to anyone working on behalf of lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgendered clients is demonstrated by the stature of the group of scholars, practitioners, and activists who attended the gathering in October and whose work appears in this journal issue. As a tribute to Art Leonard's contributions to the struggle for equality for all sexual minorities, the NYLS Journal of Human Rights proudly adds this symposium issue to the bibliography on the movement that Art has so dutifully chronicled.