

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This year we have finally seen the appointment of a female Latina justice to the Supreme Court- Sonia Sotomayor. Her appointment was long overdue, but should be considered as a step forward in the push for diversity and equality in our judicial system. As Senator Leahy stated in Justice Sotomayor's confirmation hearing, "there's not one law for one race or another, there's not one law for one color or another, there's not one law for rich and a different one for poor. There's only one law." It is our hope that Justice Sotomayor's appointment will move us closer to this ideal.

There is still much progress to be made. The makeup of the Court is still predominantly white men particularly. The lengths we need to go can be seen in the Court's decision in *Ricci v. DeStefano*, where the Court upheld a racist hiring practice that Justice Sotomayor had ruled against as a judge on the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. In this issue, we are excited to showcase an article by Professor Girardeau A. Spann examining the Supreme Court's rationale in deciding *Ricci* and the continued and far-reaching implications of the decision.

This fall, *The Modern American*, in conjunction with the Women's Bar Association, hosted our second annual event, Preserving the Past, Celebrating the Future: A Continued Commemoration of Our Shared History, on October 29, 2009—pictures of the event can be found throughout this issue. This year's program focused on the relationship between women and the law, specifically, the intersection between immigration and violence against women. This was a timely issue, 2009 marking the 15th Anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act. To highlight that relationship, this issue features the winning essay of the joint WBA-TMA writing competition, authored by our incoming Editor-in-Chief, Richael Faithful.

We are also proud to announce that our readership base continues to expand; subscribers will now be able to access *The Modern American* through Vlex, LexisNexis, HeinOnline, and the Westlaw database. In the spirit of environmentalism, we are pleased to continue to offer a green publication. The next year promises to be an exciting one for our publication. Our Fifth Annual Symposium will bring together renowned scholars explore how the legal community can better serve marginalized communities. We will also be welcoming a new Executive Board for 2010.

As the old editorial board says goodbye, we want to thank our advisors and staff for all of their help and support throughout our tenure. It has been a pleasure working with an such amazing group of people and we are incredibly excited to see where the new leadership takes *The Modern American*. Our school is one of the most diverse in the nation and with this in mind, we believe that *The Modern American* should become one of the most important diversity publication in the United States. It is with this mentality that we leave the publication to the new leadership.

In closing, we hope our issue inspires you to continue fostering the discourse on diversity and embracing everyday change in your community.

Sincerely yours,

The Executive Board
The Modern American

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