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Editor's Note

Evelyn Sroufe

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The Editorial Board of the Washington Law Review has adopted the policy of encouraging the use of gender-neutral language to the extent commensurate with good grammar, good usage, and good sense. Adoption of this policy reflects the Board's desire to avoid the appearance of sex bias which arises from consistent use of male-gender nouns and pronouns to encompass members of both sexes. The most troublesome area in this regard is the use of male-gender pronouns when referring generally to persons in roles that could be performed by members of either sex: the judge, the attorney, the prosecutor.

As editors, we will suggest formulations that avoid the use of the gender pronoun. If we find that alternative formulations are too awkward, we will suggest alternating the use of male and female gender pronouns throughout the piece when referring to persons in roles that could be filled by either men or women. We will also suggest the use of optional forms such as "he or she," "him or her." We will attempt, however, to avoid stringing several such forms together in a single sentence because the cumulative effect is often cumbersome. Slash forms such as s/he and him/herself are both grammatically questionable and needlessly androgynous; we will discourage their use.

This statement of policy is submitted for the information of our readers and as a guide to contributors.

Evelyn Sroufe