

4-1-1998

Mutua and Scales-Trent are Honored by Black Law Students

UB Law Forum

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Recommended Citation

UB Law Forum (1998) "Mutua and Scales-Trent are Honored by Black Law Students," *UB Law Forum*: Vol. 11 : No. 1 , Article 49.

Available at: https://digitalcommons.law.buffalo.edu/ub_law_forum/vol11/iss1/49

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keep our problems private. Men, on the other hand, especially economically privileged white heterosexual men, can have it both ways — their demands for public protection are taken as a sign of their power and responsibility.”

McCluskey uses date-rape policies as an example. Critics claim, she points out, that strict date-rape policies “infantilize” women by assuming that women cannot resist offensive male advances on their own.

“If this is so,” she asks, “then the U.S. military’s strict anti-gay policies infantilize soldiers in assuming they couldn’t resist the mere mention of a comrade’s same-sex desires.”

She points to the Anita Hill allegations of sexual harassment by Clarence Thomas as another example of the double standard applied to women.

“If Hill should have quit her job in the face of offensive sexual harassment, as many of her critics have suggested,” McCluskey asks, “then why shouldn’t strong, smart men respond to undeserved charges of sexual harassment or feminist abuse by quitting theirs? Or, in the case of universities, by switching colleges?”

This double standard, says McCluskey, excuses men’s fears of feminist harm as natural and reasonable, while condemning women’s fears of male harm as hysterical or devious.

“Innumerable media stories warn that feminist concerns about oppressive male power run to exaggeration and excess,” she says. “The child’s kiss, the compliment, the offhand joke, they say, are turned by maniacal feminists into a sexual harassment charge.”

“But where are the comparable stories warning against excess and exaggeration in the concerns expressed by heterosexual white males about oppressive feminist power?” she demands.

“Where are these real-life ‘Feminazis’ and ‘feminist thought police’ who supposedly keep men in terror on campus and in the workplace, threatening the end of heterosexual romance, or even the end Western civilization?”

McCluskey calls for the rejection of stereotypes — “not just those of tough men and weak women, but of tough, autonomous individuals and weak, irresponsible victims.”

Mutua and Scales-Trent are honored by black law students

Two UB Law faculty members, Makau Mutua and Judy Scales-Trent, received awards from the regional National Black Law Students Association (NBLSA) for their commitment to educating students of color. The awards were presented on Saturday, Feb. 7, during a dinner highlighting the 30th annual regional convention of the organization, hosted by the UB chapter and attended by some 350 law students from the Northeast.

NBLSA, through its 210 college and university chapters, advances education, development and growth of African-American law students.

Mutua, associate professor of law, received the Thurgood Marshall Award recognizing his continued commitment to the education and training of law students of color at UB, as well as for his extensive experience in international law.

He is co-director, with UB Professor Claude Welch, of the university’s Human Rights Center and of the Baldy Center Program on Human Rights. Formerly, he was associate director of Harvard University’s Human Rights Program. Mutua has conducted numerous human rights, diplomatic and rule-of-law missions in Africa, Latin America and Europe.

Scales-Trent, professor of law, received the Barbara Jordan Award for Faculty Excellence, recognizing her commitment to educating law students of color and her teaching methods and impact on the education of UB Law students.

She is the author of “Notes of a White Black Woman” and is continuing research comparing racial purity laws in the U.S., Nazi Germany and South Africa.

She earned a law degree from Northwestern University and has served as an attorney for the Appellate Division, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and special assistant to general counsel and commissioner of the EEOC. ■



Judy Scales-Trent and Makau Mutua

UB LAW

FORUM

Spring
1998

PHOTO: JOHN HOKEY