

## About the Authors

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Rita J. Simon is a sociologist who earned her doctorate at the University of Chicago in 1957. Before coming to American University in 1983 to serve as dean of the School of Justice, she was a member of the faculty at the University of Illinois, at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and at the University of Chicago. She is currently a "University Professor" in the School of Public Affairs and the Washington College of Law at American University.

Professor Simon has authored twenty-two books and edited thirteen, including: *The Impact of Social Science Data on Supreme Court Decisions* (University of Illinois, 1998); *In the Golden Land: A Century of Russian and Soviet Jewish Immigration* (Praeger, 1997); *The Ambivalent Welcome: Media Coverage of American Immigration* (with Susan Alexander) (Praeger, 1993); *Women's Movements in America: Their Achievements, Disappointments, and Aspirations* (with Gloria Danzinger) (Praeger, 1991); *International Migration: The Female Experience* (with Caroline Brettell) (Rowman and Allanheld, 1986); *Rabbis, Lawyers, Immigrants, Thieves: Women's Roles in America* (Praeger, 1993); *Continuity and Change: A Study of Two Ethnic Communities in Israel* (Cambridge University Press, 1978); *The Crimes Women Commit, the Punishments They Receive* (with Jean Landis) (Lexington, Mass., 1991); *Adoption, Race, and Identity* (with Howard Altstein) (Praeger, 1992); *The Case for Transracial Adoption* (with Howard Altstein and Marygold Melli) (American University Press, 1994).

She is currently editor of *Gender Issues*. From 1978 to 1981 she served as editor of *The American Sociological Review*, and from 1983 to 1986 as editor of *Justice Quarterly*. In 1966 she received a Guggenheim Fellowship.

Rhonda Roorda was born in Rochester, New York, in 1969. She was adopted two years later into a white family and was raised in the Wash-

ington, D.C., metropolitan area with her brother, Christopher, and sister, Jean. In 1992 she graduated from Calvin College with a bachelor of arts degree in telecommunications with an emphasis in Spanish and sociology. Her interests in learning about human stories became paramount as an intern in 1991 at WLS-TV, Chicago. In subsequent years she expanded her experiences in the media. From 1991 to 1996 she held intern positions at WOOD-TV and WLHT-Radio, Grand Rapids, and WILX-TV, Lansing. From 1992 to 1994 Ms. Roorda served as program associate to the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities in Washington, D.C., where she concentrated on racial and ethnic issues in higher education. She returned to Michigan to pursue graduate studies. During this time she became the managing editor of *Community News and Views*, a statewide newsletter published by the Michigan Partnership for Economic Development Assistance and the Community and Economic Development Program at Michigan State University. In 1996 she earned her master's degree in Communication-Urban Studies at Michigan State University.

Currently she is working as coordinator of financial and support services at an educational advocacy organization in Lansing, Michigan.