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ACLU panel to tackle discrimination, harassment and the law

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NEWS RELEASE

Sept. 28, 1998

Contact: Ilka Becker, ACLU volunteer, (406) 721-4648.

**ACLU PANEL TO TACKLE DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT AND THE LAW
MISSOULA--**

Discrimination on the basis of gender is the most common employment discrimination complaint heard by the Montana Human Rights Commission, according to Jerry Keck, bureau chief of the Montana Human Rights Bureau.

Sexual harassment frequently accompanies gender discrimination claims, he added.

A panel of local experts will address those issues in a discussion at The University of Montana-Missoula's School of Law on Monday, Oct. 5. The panel discussion begins at 7 p.m. in the Law Building's Castles Center.

"Gender Discrimination, Sexual Harassment and Changes in the Law" is sponsored by UM's student chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union in conjunction with the Federalist Society.

Panelists will be Keck, Beth Brenneman, Joan Jonkel, Candace Fetscher and Michael Greve.

Brenneman, a 1996 graduate of the UM law school, is the legal director of the Montana ACLU. She will present a brief history of the law of sexual harassment and gender discrimination.

Keck, a 16-year veteran of human rights enforcement in Montana, will discuss the procedural framework of sexual harassment complaints in Montana, the Montana Human

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Rights Commission's process of evaluating such complaints, and the relation of state law to Title VII of federal law.

Jonkel, a 1978 graduate of the UM law school, conducts a private practice in Missoula, largely in the areas of discrimination and employment law. She will address the plaintiff's approach to sexual harassment complaints and what employees should do to preserve their claims.

Fetscher, a 1975 graduate of the UM law school, works with the Missoula law firm of Garlington, Lohn and Robinson. She will speak about preventing and defending claims of sexual harassment in the workplace.

Greve is the executive director of the Center for Individual Rights in Washington, D.C.

Bari Burke, UM law professor, will moderate the panel discussion.

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