Lesbian Mothers

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This project has involved many people along the way—too many to acknowledge by name here. The exploratory discussions I had on this topic with Harriet Whitehead were followed by more formal conversations with Susan Griffin, Shirley Johnson, Marcia Kallen, and Ivy Jane Webber. Their advice was essential to the first formulations of a research design, as were the comments and suggestions of therapists, attorneys, researchers, and community service providers whom I talked with early on. Among those who contributed in this way are Alan Ablanfeld, Roberta Ackerman, Susan Bender, Ricki Boden, Barbara Bryant, Clarissa Donelson, Renee Epstein, Marilyn Fabe, Alice Gabrielson, Mary Jo Risher, and Ann Waterman. Their contributions, along with the many others mentioned below, were invaluable.

Meeting early in the project with Mary Jo Risher and Ann Foreman clarified my understanding of the long-term impact of custody litigation on lesbian mothers’ lives.

Most vital to the completion of this very lengthy project were the 115 mothers who opened up their lives to me, taking hours to share their experiences and their feelings with little indication of how their confidences would be employed. I cannot acknowledge them by name, but I hope they will find something in this volume that will compensate them for the time they devoted to telling me about themselves.

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