



STARE DECISIS

Jane Bedno

A man must love his gentle mate,
Support her, feed her, care for her;¹
For God created female's state,
Not to compete², but to defer³;
And, though now become a person⁴,
Benign rules still protect a lass⁵.
Suspect not her special classification,⁶
That courtly E.R.A.'s yet to pass⁷.
Firm male justice rules the nation
With wisdom, force, and verbiage⁸;
The hand that rocked the cradle's passion
Is due to a faulty hormonal gauge⁹.

1. MICHIE, JURISPRUDENCE, Husband and Wife, §21 at 22; but note VA. CODE ANN. 20-61 (1975 Supp.)
2. *Goesaert v. Cleary*, 335 U.S. 464, 467 (1949).
3. *Bradwell v. State*, 83 U. S. (16 Wall.) 130, 132, 141 (1872).
4. *United States ex rel. Robinson v. York*, 281 F. Supp. 8, 14 (1968).
5. *Kahn v. Shevin*, 416 U.S. 351 (1974)
6. *Frontiero v. Richardson*, 441 U.S. 677 (1973)
7. Brown, Ellinger, Falk, Freedman, *The Equal Rights Amendment: A Constitutional Basis for Equal Rights for Women*, 80 Yale L.J. (1971)
8. *Muller v. Oregon*, 208 U.S. 412, 420, 421, 422 (1907).
9. G. Murdock, *Social Structure in Law: Its Nature, Functions and Limits* (Howard and Summers, ed. 1965).