

UCLA School of Law **Center on Reproductive Health, Law, and Policy**



Founded in 2021 by the State of California, the [Center on Reproductive Health, Law, and Policy](#) (CRHLP) is an interdisciplinary research center created to address the national crisis in access to abortion, while working towards long-term solutions to advance reproductive justice.

CRHLP is dedicated to producing research, creating research-informed strategies, empowering advocates to move forward proactively, and training the next generation of reproductive justice leaders. With six full-time staff members and a faculty advisory committee of more than a dozen experts, CRHLP also leverages expertise throughout the University of California (UC) system, the support of hundreds of law students and lawyers in the state, and a full range of UC and community partners.

INFLUENCING POLICY & PERSPECTIVES

Core to CRHLP's mission is conducting rigorous research to inform public policy. Key examples include the following:

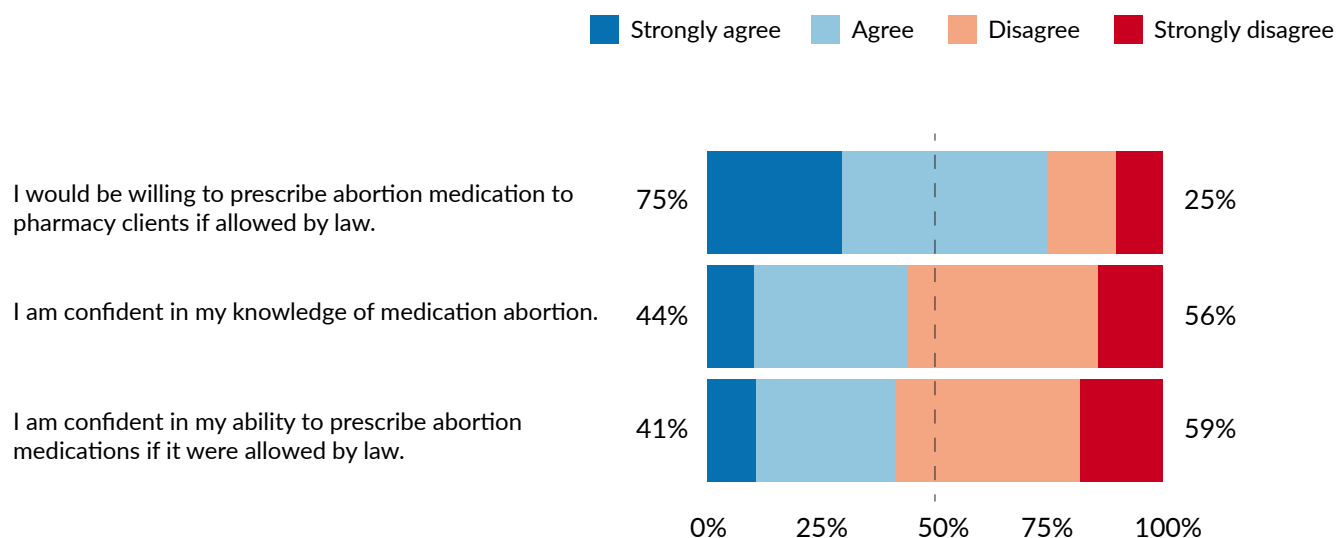
Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization. Our scholars filed two amicus briefs in the case, one on behalf of [Native American organizations](#) and the other on behalf of [economists](#). Our first policy study, published weeks before the *Dobbs* decision, estimated that 10,000 additional people would travel to California each year for abortion care. The study was cited by nearly every major news outlet, and our webinar, hosted just hours after the opinion came down, was attended by over 1,000 people seeking to grapple with a post-*Roe* reality.

California's Proposition 1. Our Faculty Director, Professor [Cary Franklin](#), advised extensively on the language of Prop 1, which explicitly enshrines reproductive freedom, including access to abortion and contraception, in California's Constitution. Professor Franklin [testified](#) on Prop 1 before the California legislature, consulted with editorial boards throughout the state, spoke to dozens of community and professional groups, and was cited by countless media outlets, including the LA Times, the Atlantic, the Washington Post, USA Today, and the San Francisco Chronicle. Her analysis and name appeared in the official [voter guide](#) sent to every registered voter in California.

National Prosecutors Roundtable. Since 2021, CRHLP has partnered with the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (APA) on a project to support prosecutors in declining to enforce abortion-related crimes. To date, we have co-hosted six two-day meetings of leaders from 10 jurisdictions, including several states where abortion is newly criminalized. Importantly, the group published two [national statements](#) opposing the criminalization of reproductive healthcare disseminated to over 21,900 prosecutors, investigators, and allied professionals.

Expanding Access Through Pharmacists. In recent years, California has passed critical legislation, including SB 159 and SB 493, to expand access to PEP, PREP, and contraception (including emergency contraception) through pharmacists. The state may consider similar legislation for medication abortion. CRHLP is engaged in exploring why existing legislation has not been fully implemented. Our [initial study](#) showed that while over 90% of pharmacists are willing to provide these drugs, most pharmacies are not doing so due to a lack of resources, time, and training. Next, we will work with large pharmacy chains and insurers to address some of these barriers, including through legislation and corporate policy.

Participant attitudes about medication abortion provision



LA County Abortion Safe Haven Project. CRHLP was one of LA County’s core partners in developing its plan to become a safe haven for abortion access. We helped draft the [Report on Preserving Reproductive Health Access on the Anniversary of Roe v. Wade](#), which included recommendations for expanding medical training, increasing the reproductive healthcare workforce, creating a uniform referral system, and reducing health disparities. CRHLP also helped via working groups and a report for the Board of Supervisors. We continue to work closely with LA County to realize this ambitious agenda.



Public Education. CRHLP influences public debate through our [website](#); social media accounts ([Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Youtube](#)); dozens of community education events, including timely and well-attended webinars; and our weekly newsletter sent to 4,000 subscribers. The world is hungry for analysis in this field.

Our work and experts have already been cited hundreds of times by local, state, and national media, including the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, and NPR.

THINKING STRATEGICALLY

CRHLP is an intellectual hub for developing innovative arguments and strategies to win back the right to abortion and advance reproductive justice. We have organized the following major convenings:

Mainstreaming Reproductive Health, February 10, 2023. This national conference brought together two dozen experts from across the U.S. in areas such as health law, food and drug law, health insurance, health privacy, bioethics, and medicine to probe why governments and institutions have siloed reproductive and sexual health from other health care needs. Particularly salient post-*Dobbs*, the conference identified strategies for mainstreaming reproductive and sexual health.

Developing an Empirical Research Agenda, May 8-9, 2023. CRHLP will bring together leading researchers and legal experts to develop a national empirical research agenda to advance reproductive rights. This strategic convening will look ahead to identify what research needs to be started now to support new legal arguments for expanding access to abortion in the short and long term.

Developing New Legal Theories and Strategies, September 2023. CRHLP will host a national conference of leading legal scholars to develop new strategies for protecting and advancing reproductive rights in the wake of *Dobbs*. For 50 years, reproductive rights litigators felt bound by the Court's doctrinal framing in *Roe v. Wade* and its substantive due process approach. Now, advocates must substantially reconceptualize their core legal arguments and strategies. Led by Constitutional Law scholars at UCLA and Yale Law Schools, this two-day conference is designed to jumpstart strategic thinking.

WORKING INTERSECTIONALLY

CRHLP takes an intersectional approach to all our work. Notable examples include:

LGBTQ Access to Reproductive Health Care. In 2022, we published [a review of research](#) showing the

disparities in reproductive health care faced by LGBTQ people, disparities that are often overlooked by policymakers, providers, and the media.

California Birth Control Disparities Study. Using data from the California Health Interview Survey, we are analyzing the lack of access to birth control and related services among cisgender women in California. Almost two-thirds of women who are at risk of unintended pregnancy have not received birth control counseling in the past year. Our analysis reveals that those most at risk are women of color, Spanish speakers, recent immigrants, and low-income individuals.

Visions of Reproductive Justice Speakers Series. This year, we launched an innovative speaker series, covering reproductive justice issues impacting [Native Americans](#), [Black maternal health](#), and [immigrants in detention](#), and exploring the connections between [climate justice](#) and reproductive justice.

Cross-Movement Coalition Building. For the past two years, we have worked with the African American Policy Forum and UCLA Law's Critical Race Studies Program to document the connections between anti-reproductive justice, LGBTQ, and CRS movements. This work resulted in a number of cross-coalition meetings and events, including [Branches of the Same Vine: LGBTQ Rights, Reproductive Rights, and Critical Race Theory](#), attended by over 1,000 people.

COLLABORATING WITH PARTNERS THROUGHOUT THE UC SYSTEM

CRHLP works to leverage the incredible resources of experts throughout the UC system. To date, we have collaborated with the following UC schools and centers: UC Berkeley School of Law, UC Berkeley School of Public Health, UC Berkely Social Welfare, UC California HIV/AIDS Policy Research Centers, UC Global Health Institute's Center on Gender and Health Justice, UCSF ANSIRH, UCSF Bixby Center for Global Reproductive Health, UCSF Department of Community Health Systems—School of Nursing, UCLA Health Law and Policy Program, and UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs.

INCREASING FREE LEGAL SERVICES

CHRLP has two primary projects to increase free legal services to support reproductive justice.



Southern California Alliance for Reproductive Justice (SoCal LARJ). SoCal LARJ is an innovative partnership, spearheaded by UCLA Law, that brings together state and local government agencies, advocates, service providers, and law firms to provide pro bono representation for patients, providers, and advocates concerning abortion and other reproductive justice issues. To date, every request for help (e.g., legal advice, risk assessment, organizational restructuring, amicus drafting, etc.) has been matched with sophisticated lawyers at top law firms. For example, we secured legal assistance for a California-based abortion provider who plans

to create an innovative, multi-state travel-oriented reproductive health package that employers can provide in abortion-restricted states, allowing employees to travel to California and other states where abortion remains legal.

PPLA Black Health Initiative - Inglewood Medical-Legal Partnership. CRHLP has also launched an innovative Medical-Legal Partnership with Planned Parenthood LA (PPLA) and Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA) at PPLA's Inglewood Health & Community Center. The new center is part of PPLA's Black Health Initiative to reduce racial inequities in health outcomes. Medical-Legal Partnerships (MLPs) provide free legal services directly in clinics on topics ranging from safe housing to domestic violence, thereby treating patients' health holistically. We believe this is the first-ever MLP attached to a reproductive health care clinic. Our aim is to provide a model that can be replicated throughout the state.

TRAINING TOMORROW'S LEADERS

A core part of CHRLP's mission is developing the [next generation of leaders and advocates](#) focused on sexual and reproductive health and rights. To this end, we offer courses at UCLA Law and provide numerous opportunities for students and graduates. Thus far, we have offered four sexual and reproductive health courses, four scholarships for students dedicated to reproductive justice, three post-graduate fellowships to launch recent graduates' careers, six reproductive justice externships, and four summer fellowships for students to work at reproductive justice organizations.



CRHLP FACULTY & STAFF

Cary Franklin

(she/her)

McDonald/Wright
Chair of Law at UCLA
and Faculty Director

Professor Cary Franklin writes and teaches in the areas of constitutional law, anti-discrimination law, and legal history. Her work focuses on the development of conceptions of equality in American law and how this history influences the shape of contemporary legal protections in the contexts of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and race.



Melissa Goodman

(she/her)

Executive Director

For the past five years, Melissa Goodman has been the Legal and Advocacy Director at the ACLU of Southern California. In this role, Melissa has led the affiliate's 60 attorneys, policy advocates, organizers, and support staff across offices in Los Angeles, Orange County, the Inland Empire, and Kern County.



Brad Sears

(he/him)

Associate Dean
of Public Interest
Law and Founding
Executive Director,
The Williams Institute

Brad Sears helped design CRHLP and has been leading CHRLP during its initial planning and start-up phase.



Lara Stemple

(she/her)

Assistant Dean for
Graduate Studies and
International Student
Programs

Lara Stemple leads the Southern California Legal Alliance for Reproductive Justice (SoCal LARJ).



Grace Meng

(she/her)

Director of the Judge
Rand Schrader Pro
Bono Program at
UCLA Law School

Grace Meng coordinates CRHLP's innovative Medical-Legal Partnership with Planned Parenthood Los Angeles (PPLA) and Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA) at PPLA's Inglewood Health & Community Center



Lindsay Wiley

(she/her)

Professor of Law and
Faculty Director of
the Health, Law, and
Policy Program at
UCLA Law

Professor Lindsay Wiley's research focuses on access to health care and healthy living conditions in the U.S. and globally. She is a co-author of *Public Health Law: Power, Duty, Restraint* and *Public Health Law and Ethics: A Reader* and the forthcoming *Feminist Judgments: Health Law Rewritten*.



Sapna Khatri

(she/her)

Sears Clinical Law
Teaching Fellow for
2021-2024 at UCLA
Law

Sapna Khatri's research takes an intersectional approach to exploring the discriminatory impact of new technology to accessing sexual and reproductive health care. Sapna joined the Center from the ACLU of Illinois where she was a Staff Attorney on the Women's & Reproductive Rights Project.



Cathren Cohen

(she/her)

Staff Attorney

Cathren Cohen's work focuses on sexual and reproductive rights. Cohen previously served as a Staff Attorney with the National Health Law Program, where she engaged in policy and administrative advocacy to advance access to high-quality health care for low-income and underserved individuals. Prior to that she was a Law Fellow at Lambda Legal.



Carley Towne
(she/her)

Program and
Communication
Coordinator

Carley Towne is the Program and Communication Coordinator at CRHLP. Carley has over four years of experience working for reproductive justice and feminist nonprofits. Her previous roles included federal, state, and municipal advocacy as well as community outreach.



Jaclyn Serpico
(she/her)

Post-Graduate Fellow

Jaclyn Serpico received her JD from the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law in 2022. She also holds an MA in Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies, and an MPH with a concentration in Health Behavior & Health Promotion. As a law student, she interned with the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, and on the Federal Policy and Advocacy Team at the Center for Reproductive Rights.

