



UCLA

School of Law

Center on Reproductive Health,  
Law, and Policy

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# The California Reproductive Freedom Amendment

## A New Constitutional Standard

Diana Kasdan, Amanda Barrow, Melissa Goodman

A [new report](#) from CRHLP and written by Legal and Policy Director Diana Kasdan, Senior Staff Attorney Amanda Barrow, and Executive Director Melissa Goodman, *The California Reproductive Freedom Amendment: A New Constitutional Standard*, provides the first comprehensive legal analysis of California's Reproductive Freedom Amendment (RFA) and a constitutional framework for realizing its promise. It distills the RFA's foundational principles and legal standard for challenging barriers or proposing policy reforms that can ensure reproductive freedom is accessible — in reality, not only in

Examining and building on existing California precedent, the report proposes a new “RFA Review” standard that makes equality a necessary component of the strictest possible judicial scrutiny for reproductive freedom rights. Demonstrating how advocates, courts and policymakers can put this framework into practice, the report examines how RFA enforcement would prohibit certain California restrictions on abortion care and pregnancy policing through the medical and family regulatory systems.

The report offers a resource for California-based advocacy and a foundational model for interpreting similar state constitutional amendments.

Read the full report [here](#)

Read the Executive Summary [here](#).

## Events

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## Leveraging the “Menopause Moment” to Demand Women’s Health Equity: Book Launch and Panel Discussion

Celebrating Jennifer Weiss-Wolf’s new book, *When in Menopause: A User’s Manual and Citizen’s Guide*, this discussion will bring together policy experts, UCLA’s leading menopause care provider, **Dr. Rajita Patil**, and groundbreaking reproductive scientist, **Dr. Amander Clark** to discuss why menopause care that is high-quality, inclusive, and affordable is still so difficult to access; why we still see a chronic inattention to and underinvestment in women’s health and research; and ways we can understand and use the “menopause moment” to reshape the national conversation about equity in women’s health.

**This event will be in person and streamed live online.**

**The evening will also feature special guests and refreshments.**

### When in Menopause

A User’s Manual & Citizen’s Guide

by **Jennifer Weiss-Wolf**

Foreword by New York Times  
bestselling author Sharon Malone, M.D.

#### Cosponsored by:

UCLA Comprehensive Menopause Care Program  
UCLA Center for Reproductive Science Health & Education  
UCLA Bixby Center  
UCLA Barbra Streisand Center  
UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television  
UCLA Law Women LEAD



**October 13, 2026**



**5pm- 7pm**



**James West Alumni  
Center  
530 Westwood Ave**

**RSVP at: <https://tinyurl.com/CRHLPMenopause>**

Join us to celebrate Jennifer Weiss-Wolf’s new book, *When in Menopause: A User’s Manual and Citizen’s Guide*. CRHLP Director Melissa Goodman will lead a discussion amongst lawyer and author Jennifer, UCLA menopause care leader Dr. Rajita Patil, and UCLA reproductive scientist Dr. Amander Clark, about menopause care, research, needed policy interventions and systems change, and the opportunity to reshape the national conversation around women’s health.

Join us in person or stream the conversation online. Special guests and refreshments will be featured throughout the evening. RSVP here: <https://tinyurl.com/CRHLPMenopause>

## Policy News

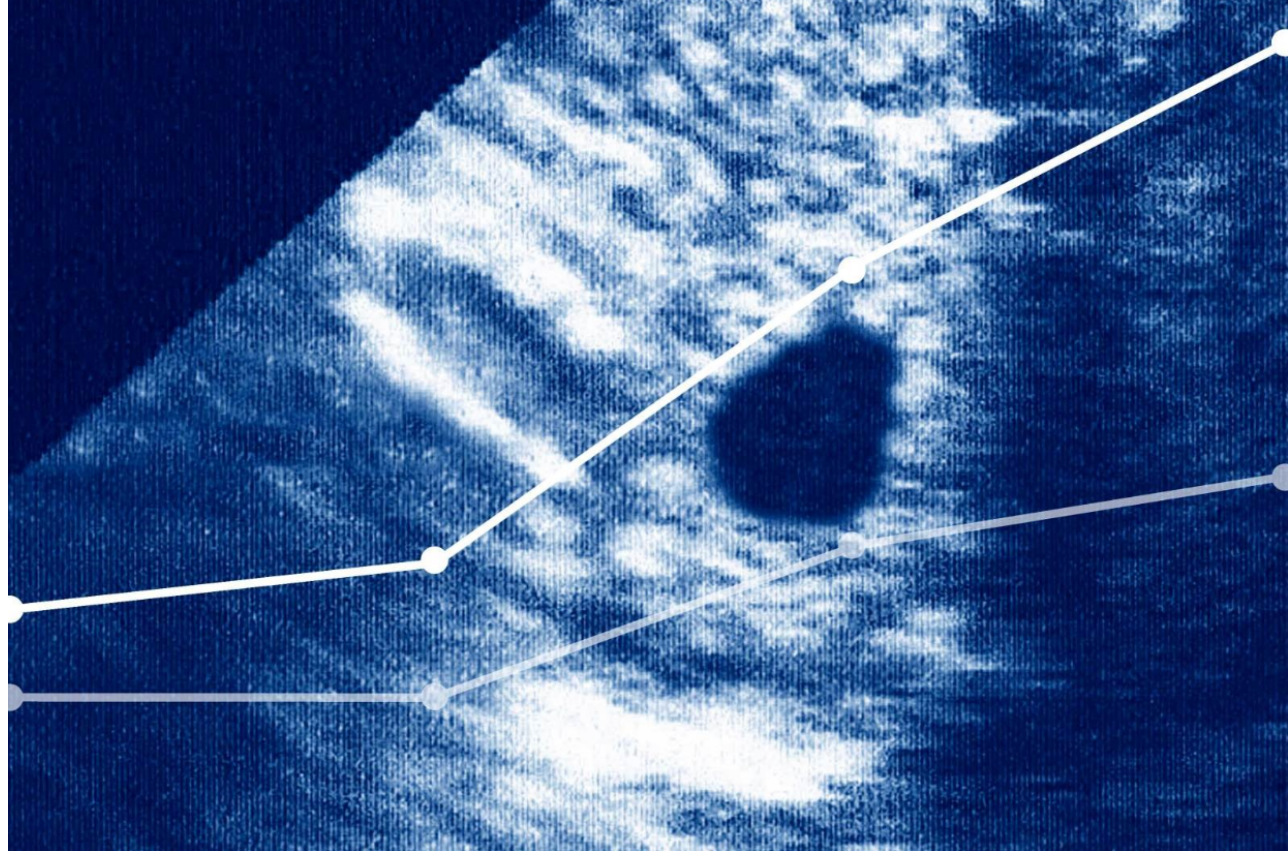


Photo credit: ProPublica

A ProPublica [analysis](#) of federal mortality data found that deaths associated with ectopic pregnancies have nearly doubled in recent years, with almost 200 women dying from 2020 to 2025 compared with about 100 in the previous six years. While the increase occurred nationwide, the rise was substantially steeper in states with strict abortion bans. Experts emphasized that ectopic pregnancies are almost never viable and, when treated promptly, should not be fatal.

The analysis found that doctors in states with abortion bans may delay treatment while seeking definitive confirmation that a pregnancy is ectopic, even when symptoms such as abdominal pain, bleeding, and changing pregnancy hormone levels indicate a high risk. ProPublica also found that 310 more Texas patients experienced substantial blood loss after ectopic pregnancies in 2023 and 2024 than in 2018 and 2019, a roughly 29% increase. Experts consulted for the study cautioned that abortion bans alone cannot explain the national rise and called for more research into the causes, particularly as gaps in federal data collection, maternal health research, and physician training make it difficult to determine what is driving the increase.

## Legal News

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Natalie Behring/The Guardian

This week, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals held oral argument in *Louisiana v. FDA on Plaintiffs'* request for a nationwide order banning people from receiving mifepristone by mail or pharmacy. The argument focused mostly on procedural issues, including whether the state of Louisiana has “standing” -- the legal right to bring the case in the first place. But during the argument – a mifepristone manufacturer reminded the court that imposing an in-person dispensing requirement would place “an enormous burden” on people who have relied on telehealth to access care.

Although the Fifth Circuit may now release a decision at any time, the U.S. Supreme Court has issued an order preventing any decision purporting to modify FDA’s current rules from taking effect until it reviews the case itself. This means that, for now, FDA’s current rules, which allow people to receive mifepristone by mail or pharmacy, remain in place.

As the amicus brief CRHLP, ANSIRH, and O'Melveny & Myers LLP submitted on behalf of 322 reproductive health researchers makes clear, decades of scientific research demonstrate that medication abortion with mifepristone is safe and effective, including when provided through telehealth. Read the researchers’ amicus brief [here](#). Find related CRHLP work on our Medication Abortion Access Resource Hub [here](#).

## Food for Thought

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With so much going on in the world of reproductive health, law, and policy, every week we'll share articles, books, and media you might have missed.

[The Dangerous Delay Of Texas' Maternal Mortality Stats](#)

[Dobbs's Near-Total Destruction of Abortion Rights Across the South](#)

[What Can 24 Governors Do Together for Abortion Access? \(Podcast\)](#)

[The Labor that Labor Day Doesn't Count](#)



Reimagining the future of reproductive health, law, and policy.

UCLA Center on Reproductive Health, Law, and Policy is a think tank and research center created to develop long-term, lasting solutions that advance all aspects of reproductive justice, and address the current national crisis of abortion access.

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