

## Electronic Press Kit

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### WHO WE ARE

The Center is a think tank and research center created to meet the current national crisis in access to abortion while working towards long-term solutions to advance reproductive justice. Our lawyers, policy experts, and researchers are working to concretely increase access to abortion, contraception, reduce racial disparities in health care, and support people who decide to build families. Through analysis, research, and strategy convenings we advance short- and long-term solutions for legal, policy, and narrative change, and serve as a trusted hub for convening and engaging scholars, advocates, healthcare providers, policymakers, and community members. The Center evaluates and promotes the spread of California's policy innovations, trains the reproductive law and policy leaders of tomorrow, and helps organizer and garner the full power and expertise of the UC system to further reproductive rights, health, and justice throughout the nation.

### OUR WORK AND EXPERTISE

We conduct analysis and research for legal, policy and narrative change. We are an information hub for evidence-based research, strategy, and problem solving, connecting and convening researchers and scholars directly to advocates and advocacy, across issues and disciplines. We also train the reproductive law and policy leaders of tomorrow and expand legal services for the reproductive rights and justice movements.

Our research, analysis, and advocacy focus on:

- Helping to create a country where obtaining abortion care is a right and care is delivered as essential basic, mainstream pregnancy care a person can access easily and affordably regardless of where they live or who they are without any barriers imposed by politicians.
- Protecting and expanding affordable and confidential access to contraception for those most vulnerable to losing the right in this political environment, focusing on young people, and research and promote new forms of mass access points to contraception.
- The fact that restricting abortion and other types of reproductive health care is gender discrimination and rooted in gender stereotypes and control of women and people who can become pregnant.

- The fact that criminalizing healthcare and punishing women and families is never the best approach. Giving people access to health care and economic resources is.
- Advocating for policies that help people have safe and healthy pregnancies and build families.  
Like:
  - Ending gross racial disparities in maternal mortality.
  - Supporting policies that make fertility treatments more affordable and accessible
  - Promoting economic policy solutions that help families stay together and thrive.

To stay up to date with the latest news, events, educational webinars, and more [sign up](#) for the Center on Reproductive Health, Law, and Policy's [newsletter](#)

## STAFF BIOS AND AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

### Cary Franklin:

Professor Franklin is the McDonald/Wright Chair of Law at UCLA Law School and the Faculty Director of the Williams Institute and the Center on Reproductive Health, Law, and Policy. She writes and teaches in the areas of Constitutional Law, LGBTQ+ Law, and Reproductive Rights and Justice. She is a frequent commentator on Supreme Court decisions and other developments at the federal and state levels in these areas.

**Areas of Expertise:** Constitutional law, Courts, Reproductive Rights, LGBTQ rights, Comstock, Legal History, Access post-Dobbs

Cary can be reached at: [franklin@law.ucla.edu](mailto:franklin@law.ucla.edu)

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### Melissa Goodman:

Executive Director | UCLA Center on Reproductive Health, Law and Policy

Melissa Goodman is the Executive Director of the Center on Reproductive Health, Law, and Policy (CRHLP) at UCLA Law, a think tank and research center created to meet the current national crisis in access to abortion while working towards long-term solutions to advance reproductive justice. Melissa is a nationally recognized expert in reproductive rights and gender equity constitutional law and policy. For the past 20 years Melissa has conducted and published research, crafted and helped implement new innovative laws and policy, devised creative legal and litigation strategies, and conducted public writing and speaking to expand access to reproductive rights and justice in the United States. Before joining CRHLP, Melissa was the Legal and Advocacy Director at the ACLU of Southern California, leading the organization's 60 attorneys, policy advocates, organizers, and support staff in regional, statewide, and national civil rights and civil liberties work. Melissa spent a decade advancing reproductive justice, LGBTQ rights, and gender equity

litigation and policy advocacy campaigns with the ACLU in California and New York. Melissa has a JD from NYU School of Law, and a BA in Politics and Urban Studies from NYU College of Arts and Science.

**Areas of Expertise:** Constitutional law, Reproductive Rights law and policy, Access post-Dobbs, Maternal health policy, fertility treatment access, Economic justice for pregnant people and families, the intersection of the criminal legal and family policing systems with reproductive health and families

Melissa can be reached at: [goodmanm@law.ucla.edu](mailto:goodmanm@law.ucla.edu)

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### **Amanda Barrow**

Senior Staff Attorney | UCLA Center on Reproductive Health, Law and Policy

Amanda Barrow is a senior staff attorney with the Center on Reproductive Health, Law and Policy, a think tank and interdisciplinary research center that engages with community organizations, scholars, lawmakers, practitioners, and advocates to advance reproductive health, law, and policy. Her current areas of research and expertise include law and policy related to reproductive health care including abortion access, shield laws, health record and data privacy, and human rights law.

**Areas of Expertise:**

Abortion access, medication abortion, shield laws, privacy rights

Amanda can be reached at: [barrowa@law.ucla.edu](mailto:barrowa@law.ucla.edu)

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### **Cathren Cohen**

Staff Attorney | UCLA Center on Reproductive Health, Law and Policy

Cathren Cohen is a Staff Attorney at the UCLA Law Center on Reproductive Health, Law, and Policy, a think tank and interdisciplinary research center created to meet the current national crisis in access to abortion while working towards long-term solutions to advance reproductive justice. We conduct analysis and research for legal, policy, and narrative change and serve as a trusted hub for convening and engaging academics, advocates, providers, policy members and community members to reimagine the landscape of reproductive health, law, and policy. We also train the next generation of reproductive law and policy leaders. Prior to joining UCLA, Cathren was a Staff Attorney at the National Health Law Program and a Law Fellow with Lambda Legal's Youth in Out-of-Home Care Project. She received her B.A. in Political Science and Psychology from UCLA and her J.D. from NYU School of Law.

**Areas of Expertise:** Abortion access, medication abortion, pharmacy access to medication abortion and contraception, young people’s rights to access care and medications, anti-abortion centers (otherwise known as crisis pregnancy centers), gestational bans and later abortion, family policing, LGBTQ rights

Cathren can be reached at: [cohenc@law.ucla.edu](mailto:cohenc@law.ucla.edu)

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## **Leslie Serrano**

Research Data Analyst | UCLA Center on Reproductive Health, Law and Policy

Leslie Serrano, M.P.H., is a Research Data Analyst at the Center on Reproductive Health, Law, and Policy. Her research interests center around health equity, social determinants of health and reproductive justice. Her previous work for the Georgia Medication Abortion Study through SisterLove, Inc. focused on medication abortion knowledge and stigma. Leslie received an M.P.H. in Behavioral, Social, and Health Education Sciences from the Rollins School of Public Health. And B.A. in Urban and Environmental Policy from Occidental College.

### **Areas of Expertise:**

Research and data about abortion, contraception, impact of abortion policy on healthcare workforce, pharmacy access to medication abortion and contraception, anti-abortion centers

Leslie can be reached at: [serranol@law.ucla.edu](mailto:serranol@law.ucla.edu)

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## **Jaclyn Serpico**

Post-Grad Law Fellow | UCLA Center on Reproductive Health, Law and Policy

Jaclyn Serpico (she/her) is a Fellow at the UCLA School of Law Center on Reproductive Health, Law, and Policy, Her current portfolio covers a range of reproductive health, rights, and justice issues, with a focus on access to contraception and medication abortion. She received her JD from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law in 2022 and also holds master’s degrees in Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies, and Public Health. As a law student, she interned on the Public Policy, Litigation, and Law team at Planned Parenthood Federation of America and on the Federal Policy and Advocacy Team at the Center for Reproductive Rights, and was the founding president of Moritz’s If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice chapter.

**Areas of Expertise:** Abortion access, medication abortion, pharmacy access to medication abortion and contraception, emergency contraception

Jaclyn can be reached at: [serpico@law.ucla.edu](mailto:serpico@law.ucla.edu)