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UCLA School of Law
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Events

Embryonic and Fetal Rights? What it Would Mean for Pregnant People and Reproductive Rights, Health, and Research

A Discussion Featuring



PROFESSOR MARY ZIEGLER

*Panelist
UC Davis School of Law
Author, Personhood: The New
Civil War Over Reproduction*



HEATHER SHUMAKER

*Panelist
Senior Director State Abortion
Policy, National Women's Law
Center*



DR. AMANDER CLARK

*Panelist
Founding Director UCLA Center
for Reproductive Science, Health,
and Education*



DIANA KASDAN

*Moderator
Legal and Policy Director, UCLA
Law Center on Reproductive
Health, Law, and Policy*

 **NOVEMBER 13TH, 2025**

 **10:00 - 11:00 AM PT**

 **LOCATION: ZOOM**

Presented in Partnership by

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

 **UCLA** College of Life Sciences
Center for Reproductive
Science, Health & Education

 **UCLA Social Sciences**
CSW BARBRA
STREISAND
CENTER

 **BIXBY**
CENTER
TO ADVANCE SEXUAL AND
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH EQUITY

REGISTER TO ATTEND VIRTUALLY:
[HTTPS://BIT.LY/CRHLPNOV13](https://bit.ly/crhlpnov13)

Join us on November 13th at 10 AM PT for Embryonic and Fetal Rights? What it Would Mean for Pregnant People, Reproductive Rights, Health, and Research.

This moderated conversation will address the implications of “fetal personhood” as a legal concept and the impact it would have on reproductive health and rights and scientific research in the field. We will also learn about recent messaging research and polling (conducted by NWLC and Pregnancy Justice) that can help advocates and others to better communicate these issues to different audiences. Register [here](#).

Job Opportunities



CRHLP is now welcoming applications for spring law student externs. Part-time student externs will have the opportunity to contribute to our policy and legal research and analysis, as well as our empirical research that supports legal and policy change. Projects may include topics such as the reproductive rights of minors, constitutional protections for maternal health, protecting access to mifepristone, and more.

As available, externs will also have the opportunity to participate in convenings and meetings with advocates, scholars, health care providers, researchers, and community members in the field. This position is available to 2L, 3L, and LLM students at UCLA Law. Learn more [here](#).

Please submit a resume, cover letter, and legal writing sample to apply. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis through November 17, 2025. Interested students should submit applications to Sofia Espinoza at espinoza.crhlp@law.ucla.edu.

Policy News



Photo Credit: Jade Jackson/Indianapolis Recorder

Indianapolis, in a public-private partnership, is [launching](#) a new program providing unconditional cash transfers (UCTs) to support low-income pregnant people in the city's ZIP codes with the highest infant mortality rates. Eligible participants, 18 or older, less than 27 weeks pregnant, and with a family income under \$39,000, will receive \$1,125 during pregnancy and monthly payments after birth. The program, in collaboration with [The Bridge Project](#), aims to improve maternal and infant health by addressing systemic barriers such as poverty, lack of prenatal care, and poor nutrition. Families can spend the funds on any needs, including rent, groceries, medical care, or childcare. To learn more about UCT programs for pregnant people and new parents, read our policy brief exploring UCTs as a promising new avenue to address economic, racial, and gender-based disparities in health and well-being: [Unconditional Cash Transfer Programs as a Promising Reproductive and Racial Justice Policy Intervention](#).

Legal News



Photo credit: Emily Tom/HPR

A federal judge in Hawaii [has ruled](#) that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration acted unlawfully in its decision to maintain unnecessary onerous restrictions on mifepristone. The lawsuit argued that the FDA's 2023 decision to keep special certification requirements for prescribers and pharmacies lacked scientific justification. The Hawaii District Judge found that the agency violated the Administrative Procedure Act by failing to consider relevant evidence and not providing a reasoned explanation for continuing to treat mifepristone more restrictively than nearly all other prescription drugs. The court [ordered](#) the FDA to reconsider the evidence and its 2023 decision to maintain the burdensome requirements, though the restrictions remain in place pending that review. [At the same time, HHS is already [conducting a review](#) ostensibly to consider reinstating even more burdensome restrictions once again.]

To learn more about the science supporting mifepristone's safety, read [our comment](#) submitted on behalf of more than 260 researchers to the FDA. To follow the many efforts to protect or restrict access to mifepristone, use our [Mifepristone Litigation and Federal Action Tracker](#).



Photo credit: Montinique Monroe/Getty Images

A New York court has [dismissed](#) a lawsuit filed by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton seeking to enforce a \$113,219 default civil judgment issued by a Texas state court against a New York doctor for providing abortion medication via telehealth to a patient in Texas. The New York court ruled that a New York county clerk properly refused to accept and file the Texas state court judgment because [New York's shield law](#) prohibited the clerk from using resources to further Texas's attempt to impose civil liability for reproductive health care services legally protected under New York law. The court reasoned that New York's shield law is clearly intended to protect providers offering reproductive health care services to out-of-state patients via telehealth. The decision marks one of the first enforcing New York's shield law, and affirms its protection for providers against legal actions from anti-abortion states. To learn more about shield laws, use our [Shield Law Guide](#).

Food for Thought



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.

[Threats To Maternal And Infant Health Won't End After Shutdown Resolved](#)

[Iowa Doesn't Have Enough OB-GYNS. Is The State's Abortion Ban Part Of The Problem?](#)

[The Quiet Collapse Of America's Reproductive Health Safety Net](#)

[Fighting MAGA Medical Disinformation: States Must Confront Trump's War On Science And Reproductive Health](#)



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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