

Inaugural Deborah R. Goldberg Scholarship Awarded

This school year, the UCLA Law Center on Reproductive Health, Law, and Policy was honored to award the inaugural Deborah R. Goldberg Scholarship to **Anushay Chaudhry**, a member of the Class of 2028 whose academic excellence and commitment to reproductive justice reflect the values that defined Deborah's life and legal career.

As a student organizer at the University of Pittsburgh, Anushay helped establish the first free menstrual product dispensers across campus, led efforts to reform Title IX processes, and shared her story publicly to help others shed the shame too often attached to reproductive health. She later co-founded Pittsburgh's Abortion Defense Committee, which raised more than \$18,000 for local abortion funds, and provided in-clinic and logistical support shortly after *Roe v. Wade* was overturned. Professionally, Anushay has spent the past two years as a Policy Analyst at Planned Parenthood Pennsylvania, and as a Policy and Systems Engagement Coordinator at the DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence, researching barriers to reproductive care, drafting policy recommendations, and supporting legislative efforts to expand provider access.

It is fitting that Anushay is the first recipient of a scholarship created to honor someone whose own life was shaped by a fierce belief in justice, equity, and compassionate advocacy. **Deborah R. Goldberg JD '96** was committed to protecting reproductive autonomy. A graduate of Brown University, she spent three years in Germany on scholarship before attending UCLA Law, where she served on the Women's Law Journal and authored "Developments in German Abortion Law: A U.S. Perspective."

Deborah had an unwavering dedication to helping others. After her diagnosis with colorectal cancer in 2014, she became a determined patient advocate, channeling her legal training into work with Genentech, Guardant Health, Colontown, the Colon Cancer Alliance, and The WunderGlo Foundation. Even in the hardest moments of her 5½-year fight with cancer, she embodied what her husband, **Daniel Zimmerman LLM '96**, described as "both grit and grace."

Dan and Deborah's story began decades earlier when he arrived in the United States as a German exchange student, and on his first day of high school, they locked eyes. They followed one another between the U.S. and Germany for years, through Deborah's DAAD scholarship in Germany, her JD at UCLA Law, and Dan's LLM program at UCLA Law. They married during Deborah's 2L year, graduated from their respective programs in 1996, and built a life and family together, always remaining deeply connected to the law school community. Dan has made a philanthropic gift to UCLA Law every year since graduating in 1996 and is serving on his 30th reunion committee this year.

After Deborah passed away in 2020, Dan sought a way to honor her that reflected her brilliance and her passion for reproductive justice. He established the Deborah R. Goldberg Scholarship to support students dedicated to reproductive justice. Family and friends, including Deborah's father, Marshall Goldberg, have contributed to the fund. As an endowed scholarship, it will support future generations of advocates in perpetuity.

Anushay's work and commitment make her a meaningful first recipient who is certain to carry on Deborah's legacy. Her advocacy is driven by a clear vision for a more just and equitable future, and her path reflects exactly what the scholarship was designed to honor: courage, compassion, and the belief that advancing reproductive justice is a legal, cultural, and moral imperative.

We are proud to celebrate Anushay's achievements and to honor Deborah's legacy through this scholarship, one that will continue to support students who carry forward the values she lived so fully.

In the News

Cassidy, Murrill take aim at abortion pills still reaching Louisiana by mail

By EMILY WOODRUFF and ALYSE PFEIL | Staff writers Jan 15, 2026 4 min to read



Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Chairman Sen. Bill Cassidy, R-La., speaks during a hearing to examine reviewing recent events at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and implications for children's health on Capitol Hill. in

CRHLP Senior Staff Attorney Amanda Barrow was featured in The Advocate [coverage](#) examining how legal clashes between states over shield laws and the mailing of medication abortion are shaping the future of abortion pill access nationwide. The story focuses on a recent U.S. Senate hearing on mifepristone and Louisiana's attempt to extradite a California doctor for providing abortion care that is legal in California. California Governor Gavin Newsom denied the request, citing the state's shield laws. As Amanda explains, under California's shield laws, California state officials are prohibited from cooperating with out-of-state efforts to impose criminal liability for abortion care that is lawful in California – these laws are designed to protect California providers against another state's anti-abortion action. Read the full piece [here](#). To learn more about how states are using shield laws to protect providers, patients, and support organizations visit our [Shield Law Guide](#).

Policy News



Photo credit: Andrea Ellen Reed for ProPublica

ProPublica has released another devastating story in its [“Life of the Mother”](#) series, detailing the preventable death of Ciji Graham, a 34-year-old North Carolina police officer and mother who was denied standard medical care after becoming pregnant. Graham sought care for life-threatening atrial fibrillation with a dangerously high heart rate, but doctors repeatedly sent her home after learning she was pregnant, despite clear medical consensus that the necessary treatment was safe during pregnancy.

As the story details, Graham believed ending her pregnancy was the only way to protect her health. But new abortion restrictions in North Carolina, combined with hospital hesitancy and a lack of clear pathways for medically complex patients, left her without timely care. She died days later, before she could access treatment. Experts who reviewed her case for ProPublica concluded that her death was preventable.

To learn more, we encourage you to read ProPublica’s [“Life of the Mother”](#) series and ProPublica’s [investigation](#) into the medical care women with high-risk pregnancies receive in states with abortion bans. Together, these investigations show how abortion bans are narrowing medical options beyond abortion care, leaving high-risk patients without clear, timely paths to lifesaving treatment.



Photo credit: Getty Images

A [new study](#) finds that television and film depictions of abortion over the past decade have largely failed to reflect the realities of people's reproductive lives, even as audiences express strong support for legal abortion and a clear desire for more authentic storytelling. Reviewing 560 abortion plotlines from 2015–2025, the analysis shows that on-screen abortion is often portrayed as a one-off decision, detached from family responsibilities, health conditions, work, finances, and caregiving—factors that commonly shape real-life reproductive decisions. Characters who have abortions are disproportionately white, wealthy, and childless, and rarely face the legal and logistical barriers that most abortion patients encounter. Audience data shows majorities of viewers across genres, demographics, and political identities favor legal abortion and say they want more nuanced, realistic portrayals that reflect lived experience.

Legal News



Photo credit: Alabama Birthing Center

An Alabama appeals court [has ruled](#) that freestanding birth centers can be required to meet licensing and oversight regulations

for hospitals, overturning a lower court decision. The court held that birth centers fall within the state's decades-old definition of hospitals because they provide obstetrical care to the public, rejecting arguments that midwifery-led facilities should be treated differently under state law. The ruling upholds new regulations requiring birth centers to operate under physician oversight and within 30 minutes of a hospital with OB-GYN services. These are requirements that birth centers warn could make it difficult or impossible to provide care, particularly in rural areas with limited hospital access. Advocates [note](#) that the decision comes amid persistently high infant mortality rates in Alabama, with stark racial disparities, and could further restrict access to midwifery care at a time when many rural hospitals no longer offer labor and delivery services.

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.

[Native Americans Are Dying From Pregnancy. They Want A Voice To Stop The Trend.](#)

[Trump's Abortion Strategy? Do Nothing. But His Base Has Other Plans.](#)

[The High Cost of Child Care Is Making People Rethink Having Kids](#)

[Abortion Access Can't Depend on Rage Donations](#)



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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