
Watch



California's legislative year has wrapped, with meaningful progress on menopause policy and some disappointments too. Watch this video to learn the five things to know about the changes this session.

CRHLP Director Melissa Goodman and UCLA Law student Raven Bedewyi break the topic down in more detail in a new commentary. Read the full commentary [here](#).

These laws are an important step, but not a solution on their own. Much of this progress has been driven by patient demand and advocacy, and it will take continued pressure, and conversations like the one [we're hosting next week](#), to close the gaps that remain in research, provider training, access to care, and stigma.

In the News



JUDICIAL INTERPRETATION

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

VOTING RIGHTS AND ELECTIONS

California's Reproductive Freedom Amendment: An Opportunity for a New Constitutional Standard

Legal advocates should push for expansive court interpretations of new state constitutional amendments.

By **Diana Kasdan** | Published: September 28, 2026



CRHLP Legal and Policy Director Diana Kasdan published a new [article](#) in State Court Report examining how California's Reproductive Freedom Amendment could shape the development of a new constitutional standard for reproductive autonomy and equality.

The article builds on CRHLP's new report, *The California Reproductive Freedom Amendment: A New Constitutional Standard*, which Diana co-authored with Amanda Barrow and Melissa Goodman. The report proposes a framework for interpreting and enforcing California's amendment, including the principle that reproductive freedom is foundational to gender equality.

As Diana writes in State Court Report, this principle not only informs the new reproductive freedom right under California's amendment, it animates the post-Dobbs wave of state reproductive freedom amendments more broadly. Together, the article and report emphasize the importance of developing durable state constitutional frameworks that can translate reproductive freedom into meaningful protections in people's lives.

Read Diana's [article](#) in State Court Report and explore CRHLP's [new report](#).

Events

Legal Leaders for Reproductive Justice Reception

Join us to celebrate advocates and organizations whose leadership has helped build the Center and advance the work of the Southern California Legal Alliance for Reproductive Justice pro bono network.

Recognizing



Rick Chavez Zbur
Assemblymember
District 51



Sue Dunlap
Planned Parenthood LA
President and CEO



Brad Sears
Founding Director
Williams Institute



Isaac G. Bryan
Assemblymember
District 55

Gibson Dunn

O'Melveny

**Women Lawyers Association of Los
Angeles**

**October 28,
2026**

5:00–6:30 p.m.
Gibson Dunn
333 South Grand Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90071

*Hosted in partnership with
Gibson Dunn.*

RSVP

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/CRHLPRSVP](https://tinyurl.com/crhlprsvp)

Join us at an intimate gathering for those dedicated to reproductive justice. We will be recognizing the people and organizations whose leadership has been instrumental to the early success of our Center and the Southern California Legal Alliance for Reproductive Justice (SoCal LARJ) pro bono network. Come connect with colleagues and celebrate our shared work to provide urgently needed pro bono legal services to reproductive health providers and organizations nationwide.

UCLA

School of Law

Center on Reproductive Health, Law & Policy

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. Refreshments will be served. RSVP here: <https://tinyurl.com/CRHLPMenopause>



The California governor [has signed](#) AB 1973 into law, removing unnecessary restrictions on certified nurse-midwives, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants providing abortion care after the first trimester. As explained in our recent report on California's Reproductive Freedom Amendment (RFA), enactment of AB 1973 "is a minimum step" to bring California regulation of abortion care in line with the RFA's constitutional guarantees. It is an important reminder that RFA enforcement and implementation does not happen only through the courts and judicial action, but also by policymakers taking initiative to eliminate barriers to care and affirmatively legislating to fulfill the RFA's reproductive autonomy and gender equality promise.



Source: The Boston Globe

New [preliminary research](#) from the University of Michigan suggests that abortion bans enacted after *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* may have increased the share of health insurance premium costs paid out of pocket by women of reproductive age.

Researchers analyzed U.S. Census Bureau data from 2019–2025, comparing women ages 18–44 in 10 states with near-total abortion bans to women in five states that did not enact bans. Following the implementation of abortion bans in 2022, women in ban states experienced a 5.4% increase in annual out-of-pocket health insurance premium expenditures. The increase was larger among Black women (12.8%) and Hispanic women (13.7%), and was not observed among men in the study. The researchers [suggest](#) that higher pregnancy-related health care costs may be one factor contributing to the increase. Abortion bans have also been associated with increased rates of adverse maternal and infant health outcomes and interventions such as cesarean deliveries and neonatal intensive care, which can increase insurers' costs and potentially contribute to higher premiums.

Legal News



Louisiana, Alabama, and Arkansas [have filed](#) two lawsuits challenging abortion shield laws and targeting providers and organizations that help people across the country access medication abortion. In a rare move, the three states filed a motion directly with the U.S. Supreme Court seeking to invalidate shield laws in California, New York, and Massachusetts, arguing that the laws are unconstitutional. California, New York, and Massachusetts have sixty days to respond, and the Court has discretion over whether to hear the case. In a separate federal lawsuit, Louisiana, Alabama, and Arkansas [have sued](#) 30 individuals and organizations for allegedly advertising, prescribing, and shipping medication abortion to individuals in their states. Together, the lawsuits challenge crucial legal protections, providers, and organizations that have helped people access abortion care from states where it is legal.



A federal appeals court [has declined](#) South Dakota officials' request to reinstate a law criminalizing the advertising of abortion pills, leaving a lower court order blocking enforcement in place while a constitutional challenge proceeds. The law at issue in the case, prohibits the dispensing, distribution and advertising of abortion pills and other abortion-related items, with violations punishable by prison time and fines. The lawsuit was brought by a former state legislator and the nonprofit Mayday Health which provides public health information about abortion pills and where people can get them from legal third-party providers. The plaintiffs argue that the law censors truthful, lawful, non-commercial public health information in violation of the First Amendment and also chills protected speech such as even wearing a sweatshirt that directs people to information about obtaining abortion pills. South Dakota argues there is no First Amendment protection because the ads promote illegal activity. [In July](#), a federal district judge [ruled](#) that the plaintiffs were likely to succeed on their First Amendment claim and temporarily blocked enforcement of the advertising ban. The court held that the ad ban was a content-based restriction on speech subject to strict judicial scrutiny and that state officials had not shown that the organization's advertising was intended to facilitate specific criminal conduct; rather, it was protected speech that provides accurate non-commercial information intended to educate people in South Dakota that they have choices and inform those choices.

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.

[The Fall Of Roe Changed Doctors. Now They're Changing Politics.](#)

[Why Black Women Are More Likely To Die Of Breast Cancer: An Oncologist Explains](#)

[What Pennsylvania's Measles Outbreak Could Mean For Pregnancy Care Across America](#)

[A 'Politically Motivated Cover-up': Why The State's Maternal Death Report Was Pushed Until After Midterms](#)

[Amidst Obstacles, Black Birth Workers Shape New Birthing Futures in the South](#)



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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