

2017 Sarah Weddington Writing Prize for New Student Scholarship in Reproductive Rights

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS – WIN MONEY AND GET PUBLISHED!

[If/When/How](#), the [Center for Reproductive Rights](#), and the [Center on Reproductive Rights and Justice](#) at U.C. Berkeley School of Law invite submissions for the twelfth annual Sarah Weddington Writing Prize for New Student Scholarship in Reproductive Rights.

The first place winning submission will have a presumption of publishability and receive expedited review by [New York University School of Law's Review of Law and Social Change](#). Winning authors will also receive cash prizes: \$750 (1st place), \$500 (2nd place), or \$250 (3rd place) in addition to a copy of [Melissa Murray's and Kristin Luker's Cases on Reproductive Rights and Justice](#).

Scope & Themes: The co-sponsoring organizations seek student scholarship exploring reproductive rights and justice issues in the United States. We encourage writing that amplifies lesser-heard voices, suggests innovative solutions, and takes into account the realities and the lived experiences of the people most affected by reproductive oppression. We encourage students to think expansively about reproductive rights and justice (RR/RJ) and to analyze issues using an intersectional lens – considering the impact of demographic and institutional factors such as race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, and immigration status.

All submissions on RR/RJ topics are welcomed. Our suggested theme this year is:

Balancing Burdens and Benefits after *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*: In evaluating burdens faced by individuals seeking abortion care, the Supreme Court explained that any purported health benefits of Texas's HB2 were not "sufficient to justify the burdens upon access that each imposes." The Court identified a range of burdens imposed, including clinic closures, increased travel distances, longer waiting times, and less opportunity for individualized medical attention. How might evidence of the burdens that weigh most heavily against poor pregnant people such as out-of-pocket costs for abortions not covered by Medicaid, lost wages, travel time, and childcare factor into courts' analysis using the balancing test going forward? What other type of restrictive reproductive rights and justice regulations are subject to challenge under this new balancing test?

Requirements:

Papers must be at least 20 pages in length (not including footnotes), double-spaced in 12-point font with footnotes in 10-point font, conforming to Bluebook citation format. Only original scholarship by current J.D. or LL.M. law students or 2016 graduates will be accepted. Papers being considered for publication elsewhere are ineligible for the first place prize but may be considered for second and third place. Papers already contracted for publication as of January 2017 will not be accepted. Winners will be selected by an outside panel of legal academics.

Send your submission as an email attachment (in Word format, saved with your name in the title) along with the name of your law school, graduation year, and mailing address to submissions@ifwhenhow.org by **2:00pm ET/ 5:00pm PT on Monday, February 27, 2017**.

Questions? Email submissions@ifwhenhow.org.