

Protecting and Expanding Abortion Access In a Post-Dobbs Landscape

Panelists

Shayla

Executive Director, Our Justice

Christy

Senior Staff Attorney, Gender Justice

Karmann

Medical Assistance Organizer, Our Justice

Who We Are



Shayla is a proud Black Dominican-American living on occupied Dakhóta + Anishinaabe land (aka Twin Cities, Minnesota). She's a Reproductive Justice advocate who's dedicated 10 years to the reproductive freedom movement. She's the Executive Director of Our Justice, an organization that advocates for reproductive justice and provides support to abortion-seekers in the Midwest. In 2019, she began shifting the internal orientation of Our Justice towards centering rest & healing, economic justice and mutual aid beyond abortion support. Shayla has expanded Our Justice's scope of work to include lodging support, free emergency contraception and safer-sex kits.

Who We Are



Christy is a Senior Staff Attorney at Gender Justice, where she represents clients challenging gender discrimination.

Minnesota Lawyer honored Christy as a 2022 Attorney of the Year, alongside co-counsel The Lawyering Project, for their victory in the abortion rights lawsuit *Doe v. Minnesota*. She was also named an Attorney of the Year in 2021, alongside co-counsel from ACLU of Minnesota and Stinson LLP, for *N.H. v Anoka-Hennepin School District*, a precedent-setting case for transgender rights in Minnesota schools. Christy has been honored as a Power 30 employment lawyer by Minnesota Lawyer Magazine and was awarded as one of the 2023 Notable Women in Law by Twin Cities Business Magazine.

Who We Are



Karmann spent the last four years building and strengthening community between independent abortion clinics, abortion funds, the UnRestrict Minnesota coalition, and the Reproductive Health Alliance, as the Minnesota Advocacy Coordinator for Whole Woman’s Health Alliance.

She is now the Medical Assistance Organizer for Our Justice, and serves as the co-chair of the UnRestrict Minnesota Direct Services Working Group. She also serves on the board of directors for WE Health clinic, and is the current secretary of the Reproductive Health Alliance.

Nearly thirty years ago, the Minnesota Supreme Court found that the state constitution protects the right to have an abortion. However, anti-abortion politicians in Minnesota quietly passed laws that infringe on that right.

Today we will highlight:

- The history of abortion lawsuits in Minnesota
 - Doe v Gomez (1995)
 - Doe v Minnesota (2022)
- Implications of abortion regulations on a national landscape

Doe v Gomez (1995)

- Before Doe v Gomez, Medical Assistance did not cover abortion care in Minnesota
- Six Plaintiffs: Our Justice, WE Health Clinic, Midwest Health Center for Women, Meadowbrook Women's Clinic, Dr. Jane Hodgson, and Jane Doe
- Minnesota Supreme Court ruled that our right to have, and to decide to have, an abortion is protected by the Minnesota Constitution
- Judge Ruled: The state can not prioritize one pregnancy outcome over another
- Providing stronger protections than the federal constitution

Doe v Minnesota (2022)

- Over time, anti-abortion restrictions became law
- Once again, Our Justice became a plaintiff, along with the First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis, an anonymous abortion provider and an anonymous nurse practitioner

Doe v Minnesota (2022)

Minnesota State District Court ruled that the following abortion restrictions were unconstitutional and permanently blocked their enforcement

- Physician-only requirement
- 24-hour waiting period
- 2-parent notification
- False & misleading script
- Ban on 2nd Trimester care outside of hospitals
- Felony criminal penalties

Doe v Minnesota (2022)

- The court held that the Minnesota Constitution protects not just a fundamental right to choose abortion, but also a fundamental right to access abortion care.
- The Honorable Thomas A Gilligan said: “The right to chose to have an abortion...would be meaningless without the right to access abortion care.”

Implications of Abortion Regulations on a National Landscape

- Chaos caused by long-dormant laws still on the books both federally (like Comstock) & at the state level (like Wisconsin)
- Appointment delays forcing patients to extend their pregnancies into the 2nd trimester
- More expensive procedures
- Forcing patients to travel outside of their communities of care
- Strain on abortion funds & direct service funding
- Forced births

Q & A

“There is no abortion justice without access.” ~ Shayla

Contact

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THANK YOU