Direct from the Doctors & Lawyers on the Frontlines

Abortion Access in America

January 23, 2020 | 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. EST

These esteemed panelists will discuss the landscape of abortion rights in America today, including the significance and potential effects of June Medical Services LLC v. Gee, the first case involving abortion to reach the Supreme Court's new majority.

Betsy Harned (Moderator) serves as Vice President of Public Affairs for Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington, DC and Planned Parenthood Advocates for DC, Maryland & NoVa. Previously, Ms. Harned served in Vice President roles with Planned Parenthood of Maryland and Planned Parenthood of Central and Western New York. Prior to joining Planned Parenthood, Ms. Harned practiced law for seven years as a litigator in her hometown of Buffalo, New York. Ms. Harned is a 1998 graduate of Cornell University and a 2002 graduate, cum laude, of the University of Michigan Law School. She is admitted to practice law in the State of New York.

Ms. Harned currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the Bar Association of D.C.; Co-Chair of the Non-Profit Organizations Forum for the Women’s Bar Association of D.C.; and a member of the Rights of Women Committee for the American Bar Association. Prior to relocating to Washington, DC, Ms. Harned served as an Adjunct Instructor with the Interdisciplinary Degree Program at the State University of New York at Buffalo; as a member of the City of Buffalo’s Board of Ethics; as President of the Western New York Chapter of the Women’s Bar Association of the State of New York; and as a committee member, board member, and volunteer for numerous organizations supporting women, children, and families.

Dr. Serina Floyd is a board-certified obstetrician-gynecologist and the current Medical Director of Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington. She also serves on the National Medical Committee of Planned Parenthood Federation of America. Dr. Floyd did her undergraduate work at Emory University then went on to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she completed a dual degree program receiving both her MD degree and an M.S.P.H. in Public Health with a focus on Maternal and Child Health. She completed her residency training in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Duke University Medical Center. She then worked as part of the faculty practice and in resident and medical student education at Sinai Hospital of Baltimore.
for 2 years before going back to join the faculty at Duke as an Assistant Professor. While there she established the Ryan Family Planning Residency Training Program and was its Director for 6 years, as well as serving as the Associate Residency Program Director.

After moving to the DMV, Dr. Floyd worked as the Associate Residency Program Director and as an OB/GYN Hospitalist for Inova Fairfax Medical Campus, while also serving on faculty at both George Washington and Virginia Commonwealth Universities. She has been actively involved with resident and medical student education and has lectured at various institutions and meetings on family planning topics. She began reproductive health advocacy work while at Duke and that work has continued, increasing after becoming an advocacy fellow with Physicians for Reproductive Health. Dr. Floyd also has an interest in global women’s health and has done work focusing on maternal and infant mortality in rural Jamaica, Guatemala, Haiti and Ghana.

**Dr. Colleen McNicholas, DO MSCI, FACOG,** recently joined Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and Southwest Missouri as the Chief Medical Officer after a decade in academic medicine. As an OB/GYN, and specialist in family planning and abortion care she lives out her personal and professional commitment to abortion access by providing clinical care in 4 states across the Midwest and South. She has grown into an unapologetic and vocal advocate engaging in every available medium. She has been the plaintiff to numerous challenges of state and federal laws and regulations and has recently been recognized with the Planned Parenthood Media Excellence Award and Human Rights Campaign Leadership Award.

**Mai Ratakonda** is a staff attorney at Planned Parenthood Federation of America's Public Policy Litigation and Law Department. While at PPFA, Ms. Ratakonda has been involved in numerous cases that have an impact women’s access to reproductive health services across the country, including challenging an admitting privileges requirement for abortion providers in Alabama, Texas’s attempt to terminate Planned Parenthood from Medicaid, and a contracted physician requirement for medication abortion providers in Arkansas.

Ms. Ratakonda received her law degree at Columbia Law School. After graduating from law school, she was a law clerk to two justices – Honorable Dolores K. Sloviter from the United States Court of Appeals (Third Circuit), and Honorable Robert N. Chatigny from the United States District Court (District of Connecticut). Additionally, Ms. Ratakonda has volunteered at several organizations. She was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Choibalsan, Mongolia for about 2 years, was a committee chair for the Reproductive Rights and Women’s Health Committee of the New York Women’s Bar Association for about a year, is a National Advisory Board Member at Answer for about 3 years, and is a Big Sister at Big Brothers and Big Sisters of NYC for over 4 years.
Joel Dodge is a Lecturer of Law and staff attorney at the Center for Reproductive Rights, where he is a member of the Judicial Strategy Program. His legal work has included spearheading a major legal brief defending the Affordable Care Act before the Supreme Court that was discussed by multiple justices during oral argument. Additionally, he has helped author an amicus brief to the Supreme Court in Whole Woman’s Health v. Hellerstedt on behalf of 163 members of Congress. He currently teaches at Columbia Law School and serves on the board of the American Constitution Society’s New York Lawyers Chapter.

Mr. Dodge graduated from Boston University School of Law in 2014, and from the State University of New York College at Geneseo in 2011. He is based in New York City. Prior to joining the Center, Mr. Dodge was an associate at Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP, where he worked on a wide range of civil litigation and pro bono matters. He was also a volunteer attorney on Hillary Clinton’s 2016 presidential campaign. He also writes about public policy, politics, and law for prominent outlets including The New Republic, The Nation, The Week, The Washington Monthly, and elsewhere. He also regular consults on public policy issues with several think tanks.