

The Law and Evidence on Self-Managed Abortion Virtual Panel Series

Panel 3: What legal risks are associated with self-managed abortion?



Joanna Erdman

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Joanna N. Erdman is a Professor and the MacBain Chair in Health Law and Policy at the Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University in Halifax, Canada. Joanna has acted as an intervener before various constitutional courts and international bodies. Joanna chairs the Global Health Advisory Committee of the Public Health Program, and serves on the advisory board of the Women's Rights Program, Open Society Foundations. She is a past chair of World Health Organization's Department of Reproductive Health and Research Gender and Rights Advisory Panel. She holds a JD from the University of Toronto and an LLM from Harvard Law School, and completed a fellowship at Yale Law School.



Farah Diaz-Tello, J.D.

Senior Counsel & Legal Director, If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice

Farah Diaz-Tello, J.D., is Senior Counsel & Legal Director for If/When/How, where she helps develop and execute litigation strategy, contributes legal analysis and drafting expertise to assist state and grassroots partners in reaching their policy goals, and provides legal information and training to reproductive rights, health, and justice activists. She is a frequent speaker and guest lecturer in activist and academic forums, and is sought by media for her insights. Farah continues and expands the work she began in 2016 at the SIA Legal Team, which joined forces with If/When/How in 2019. Prior to the SIA Legal Team, Farah worked at National Advocates for Pregnant Women, where she established and helmed programs in human rights and birth justice. Her publications for scholarly and popular press address criminalization of pregnancy outcomes, economic coercion in childbirth, obstetric violence, and reproductive issues in pop culture.

Farah is a graduate of the CUNY Law School, where she was a Haywood Burns Fellow in Civil and Human Rights, and in 2017 was selected by the Rockwood Leadership Institute for the Reproductive Rights, Health, and Justice fellowship.



Lucía Berro Pizarrossa

Associate and Post-doctoral Fellow, O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law, Georgetown University

Lucía Berro Pizarrossa is an associate and a post-doctoral fellow at the O'Neill Institute. In 2020, she was awarded the Rubicon grant by the Dutch Research Council to undertake a two-year research project on sexual and reproductive rights. In 2019, she received a prize from the Dutch Network Women Professors (LNVH) under the Distinguished Women Scientists Fund. She obtained an INSPIRE Grant from the European Union to develop part of her doctoral project at the Socio-Economic Right Project at the Dullah Omar Institute at the University of Western Cape in South Africa. Berro Pizarrossa has previously consulted on matters of sexual and reproductive rights for the UNICEF, United Nations Human Rights Committee members, Women Help Women, IPAS, and RSFU, among others.

Her work has been published in renowned peer-reviewed journals such as BMC International Health and Human Rights, Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters, and Harvard Health and Human Rights. Berro Pizarrossa holds a Ph.D. in international law from the University of Groningen, an MJur from the University of Oxford, and an LL.B. from the Universidad de la República in Uruguay. She also holds a post-graduate diploma in public policy design and a post-graduate diploma in women's rights from Universidad Austral, Argentina.



Patty Skuster, JD, MPP

Beck Chair in Law, Temple University Beasley School of Law
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Patty Skuster is the Beck Professor of Law at Temple University Beasley School of Law and a Fellow at the Center for Public Health Law Research. Her research focuses on the effects of abortion law on public health. Patty spent 15 years with the global NGO Ipas where she conducted research and advocacy on abortion as it relates to law, policy, and human rights. She has authored dozens of publications including guidebooks, briefing papers, trainings, articles, and reports on topics such as partnering with law enforcement, regulation of abortion, US foreign policy, and self-managed abortion. Patty has a JD and MPP from the University of Michigan and taught at Drexel University Kline School of Law and the MPH Program at the University of Pennsylvania.