



National Association of Women Lawyers
Empowering Women in the Legal Profession Since 1899

Resolution in Support of Reproductive Justice

The following resolution was approved by the Board of Directors of the National Association of Women Lawyers on the 13th day of September, 2021.

WHEREAS, the mission of the National Association of Women Lawyers (“NAWL”) is to provide leadership, a collective voice, and essential resources to advance women in the legal profession and advocate for the equality of women under the law;

WHEREAS the National Association of Women Lawyers was established in 1899, and, as an organization that is over one hundred and twenty years old, has the power of the law and advocacy experience to advance reproductive justice under the law;

WHEREAS, the National Association of Women Lawyers acknowledges that reproductive justice is fundamental for the dignity, equality, health, and well-being of every person, and that women cannot be fully equal under the law—or professionally, as lawyers—without bodily autonomy, including the legal right to decide whether, when, and by what means to have the number of children they desire, access to reproductive health care such as abortion, life-saving obstetrics care, pre-natal healthcare, and contraception, the ability to parent children in safe and sustainable communities, and freedom from gender-based violence and abuse based on an individual’s biological sex and gender identity;

WHEREAS, the National Association of Women Lawyers supports the right of all individuals to have their privacy and personal autonomy respected, to freely define, choose, and exercise their own sexuality, to decide whether, when, and whom to marry, and to have access over their lifetimes to the information, resources, services, and support necessary to achieve the above free from discrimination, coercion, exploitation, and violence;

WHEREAS, the National Association of Women Lawyers believes in advancing these goals through advocacy and public policy that enables women and their families to thrive, and that NAWL must make its organizational commitment to reproductive justice under the law clear, intentional, and explicit;

WHEREAS, the National Association of Women Lawyers has long supported women’s rights as fundamental human rights and advocated for these rights through amicus briefs, programming, collaborations with partner organizations, and by providing a forum for debate and advocacy since 1912 in the *Women Lawyers Journal*;



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WHEREAS, the National Association of Women Lawyers recognizes matters of reproductive justice are equally economic justice issues, public health issues, and racial justice issues and that NAWL must continue its advocacy so that all persons, not just those in a position of privilege, may make their own reproductive and health care decisions with dignity;

WHEREAS, the National Association of Women Lawyers reaffirms its commitment to support “every woman's right to reproductive self-determination”, and to promote “efforts to secure equal protection of the laws for . . . women by allowing the use of public funds for abortions” as resolved in 1988 together with its endorsement of *Roe v. Wade*; and

WHEREAS, continuing this legacy, on October 6, 2020, the National Association of Women Lawyers adopted a resolution that, “commits to actively oppose structural racism and combat the impact of systematic racism by reiterating and reinforcing NAWL’s commitment to racial equity and justice,” and recognizes that laws and legislative efforts on the federal, state, and local level create barriers and restrict access to reproductive healthcare, and that education creates systems of inequality disproportionately impacting people of color;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the National Association of Women Lawyers will not relent in our advocacy, and we will support individuals seeking abortions and fight for all individuals to get the care they need wherever they may be located;

NOW BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the National Association of Women Lawyers commits its collective voice and the power of law to advance reproductive justice around the world and to actively support, promote, and advocate for reproductive justice under the law by partnering with and supporting the efforts of international, national, and local organizations to further public policy, by encouraging lawmakers to take legislative action to restore and protect these rights, by exploring *pro bono* opportunities, and program content and speakers for NAWL, and by engaging the Amicus and Supreme Court Committees on these subjects.