

After Roe: Harassment and Violence against Health Professionals Who Provide Reproductive Care: A Webinar

**Standing Committee on Reproductive Health, Equity, and Society
Committee on Human Rights**

December 11, 2023 | 10:30-12:00 am ET

Moderator



Justin R. Lappen, MD is the Division Director of Maternal Fetal Medicine (MFM) at the Cleveland Clinic and an Associate Professor of Reproductive Biology at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. Dr. Lappen received a BA in Mathematics from Columbia University and his Medical Degree from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He completed residency training in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Prentice Women's Hospital, Northwestern University and fellowship in MFM at MetroHealth Medical Center, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.

Dr. Lappen is a nationally recognized for his work in expanding the provision of comprehensive reproductive health care, including contraception and abortion, within MFM to reduce pregnancy-associated morbidity and mortality. He is the current chair for the Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine (SMFM) Committee on Reproductive Health, which provides national guidance to MFM physicians and directs research initiatives on reproductive health care and abortion within MFM. He directed the Cleveland Clinic institutional response and informed the state-wide approach to care in Ohio following the Dobbs decision. In addition, Dr. Lappen has clinical and research expertise at the intersection of obstetrics and critical care medicine, including in maternal cardiac disease in pregnancy. He is the site principal investigator for the Maternal Fetal Medicine Units Network, a national multicenter research consortium supported by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. Dr. Lappen is a funded principal investigator for a state-wide quality improvement initiative in Ohio to reduce maternal morbidity and mortality and health disparities related to hypertensive disorders of pregnancy. He has served on numerous national committees including the National Partnership for Maternal Safety Committee on Vital Sign Triggers and the SMFM Publications Committee, which publishes national clinical guidelines for MFM physicians. Dr. Lappen has numerous peer reviewed publications in major medical journals including the New England Journal of Medicine. He has been invited to speak nationally and internationally and has received numerous research and teaching awards.

Speakers



Anitra Beasley is an Associate Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Baylor College of Medicine. She serves as Assistant Dean of Academic and Faculty Affairs at Ben Taub Hospital and Director of the Ryan Residency Training Program in Family Planning and Director of Faculty Development within her department. She additionally provides care at Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast where she serves as the Medical Director.

She earned her medical degree and completed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Baylor College of Medicine. Her advanced training includes a complex family planning fellowship and a Master of Public Health with a concentration in epidemiology at Columbia University. Dr. Beasley is a diplomate of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and is a Fellow in the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. She specializes in general obstetrics and gynecology and complex family planning. Her academic and advocacy interests include contraception management for people with complex medical issues, reproductive justice, and comprehensive reproductive healthcare. She maintains a clinical practice in the Harris Health System and is dedicated to providing access to comprehensive and quality healthcare to all residents of Houston and Harris County.



David S. Cohen is a professor of law at Drexel University's Thomas R. Kline School of Law, where he teaches constitutional law courses as well as courses in sex discrimination and reproductive rights. His scholarship explores gender construction in the law and abortion providers and provision. He is the coauthor of *Living in the Crosshairs: The Untold Stories of Anti-Abortion Terrorism* (Oxford 2015, with Krysten Connon), and *Obstacle Course: The Everyday Struggle to Get an Abortion in America* (California 2020, with Carole Joffe). After graduating from Columbia Law School, Professor Cohen clerked for Justice Alan B. Handler of the New Jersey Supreme Court and Judge Warren J. Ferguson of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Before joining Drexel, he was a fellow and a staff attorney for the Women's Law Project in Philadelphia. Professor Cohen continues to litigate cases with the Women's Law Project, including the currently pending Pennsylvania Supreme Court challenging Pennsylvania's refusal to use Medicaid funds for abortion care. He is on the board of directors for the Abortion Care Network and previously was on the board of the Women's Law Project and Women's Medical Fund.



Michelle Davidson is the Director of Security at the National Abortion Federation (NAF). Since 2011, Michelle has provided security support to abortion providing NAF members across North America who face anti-abortion violence, disruption, and targeting. Michelle directs and oversees the NAF Security Department in the collection and publication of violence and disruption statistics, intelligence gathering and dissemination, tracking of anti-abortion extremists and groups, and acts as a liaison to law enforcement and other government officials. Providers also receive 24-hour emergency response and support during acts of violence as well as proactive resources that include on-site staff security trainings, security program and procedure development, and facility and residential security assessments. Michelle is a member of the Association of Threat Assessment

Professionals (ATAP), the American Society for Industrial Security (ASIS), and the International Association for Healthcare Security and Safety (IAHSS).



Lisa Harris is F. Wallace and Janet Jeffries Collegiate Professor of Reproductive Health, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Professor of Women's and Gender studies at University of Michigan (UM). After college and medical school at Harvard University, Dr. Harris completed residency at University of California, San Francisco. Because so many issues in reproductive health have to do as much with culture and politics as with biomedical sciences, she went on to earn a PhD in American Culture at UM. She has included abortion care in her clinical work throughout her career, and founded and led UM's residency training program in abortion and

family planning, and Fellowship in Complex Family Planning. Her scholarship and public voice on abortion have made her a national and international thought leader in a range of arenas, including abortion stigma, conscience and abortion, experiences of abortion care providers, race and social class stratification of reproduction, and the role of doctors' voices in depolarizing abortion discourse. She is the recipient of a variety of awards for her scholarship, including the Association of Reproductive Health Professional's Preserving Core Values in Science Award, the Society of Family Planning's Outstanding Researcher Award, and the Bernard Lo Award in Bioethics.



Payal Shah is the Director of the Program on Sexual Violence in Conflict Zones at Physicians for Human Rights and a Fellow with the International Reproductive and Sexual Health Law Program at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law. She has previously led the Asia Program at the Center for Reproductive Rights and served as a Practitioner-in-Residence on Human Rights at Columbia Law School. Her work focuses on bringing together legal, health, and human rights perspectives to strengthen gender equality and justice. Payal is a leading global legal expert on sexual and reproductive health and rights, including documentation of gender-based and sexual violence and advocacy for reproductive and sexual autonomy and health.