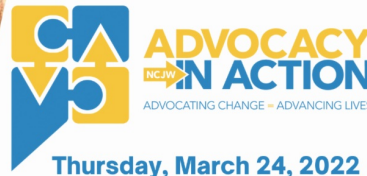




**ADVOCACY
IN ACTION**

ADVOCATING CHANGE = ADVANCING LIVES

March Lunch & Learn: Threats to the Initiative Petition Process with Ashton Kuehnel



Thursday, March 24, 2022
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM CT

Ashton Kuehnel

When: Thursday, March 24 (note 4th Thursday) | 12:00 – 1:00 PM CT

Where: Zoom Meeting

[RSVP Here](#)

Missouri's initiative petition system has been in place for 115 years and allows citizens to put an issue on the ballot for a statewide vote. This critical tool, used through the years by citizens from all political persuasions is now under attack by lawmakers who want to curtail the people's power.

The legislature is currently proposing 20 or so different bills that would make it harder to get an issue on the ballot and increase the threshold for an initiated measure to pass once on the ballot. For some perspective, a large majority of voters recently approved a higher minimum wage, Medicaid expansion, and medical marijuana through the initiative petition process. Under the proposed new threshold, each would have failed.

For our March Lunch and Learn, NCJWSTL is excited to welcome Ashton Kuehnel, who will present on why this is happening and what we can do about it. Ashton is a Grassroots Organizer with the Sierra Club, Missouri Chapter. In her role Ashton has organized around Medicaid Expansion, a just transition to clean, renewable energy and voting protections. She lives in St. Louis City and is a Saint Louis University alum.

Please [click here](#) to RSVP and receive your login information. If you have any questions, please contact Jen Bernstein at jbernstein@ncjwstl.org.

Human Trafficking - It's Here, Let's Act!



When: Tuesday, March 15 and Tuesday, March 22 | 6:30 PM CT

Where: Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

NCJWSTL, along with St. Margaret of Scotland and the Archdiocesan Office of Peace and Justice, and the International Institute is pleased to present an important and timely program, Human Trafficking - It's Here, Let's Act.

Human Trafficking isn't something that only occurs in other places; it's here right in our area and we need not only to be aware of this human slavery, but we must actively work against it. Trafficking can take many forms: sex, labor, international, domestic, agricultural, etc., and is happening in our midst.

The first session will feature presentations from NCJWSTL, the International Institute, law enforcement, and a trafficking survivor. They will share the realities of trafficking in the St. Louis area and suggest ways you can possibly help.

In the second session, engage in small groups with representatives from Healing Action, Covering House, International Institute, Covenant House, and Gateway Human Trafficking - hear what they are about, ask questions, and learn about volunteer or advocacy opportunities. There will be three sessions so you will be able to attend three different presentations.

Please click [here](#) *to register. The events are free, but registration is required.*

Join us for Human Trafficking Lobby Day

When: Wednesday, March 30 | 8:30 AM

Where: Missouri Capitol Rotunda

[RSVP Here](#)

Put your passion to work and join NCJWSTL, Missouri Council Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, the Council on Trafficking and Exploitation, Missouri Kids First, St. Martha's Hall, and Senator Brian Williams for Missouri's Human Trafficking Lobby Day. We will show support for trafficking victims, hear from legislators, and have an opportunity to talk to educators about human trafficking and advocate for policies that combat human trafficking.



No prior experience talking to legislators is required.

For more information and to register for the Lobby Day, please contact Heather Silverman at hsilverman@ncjwstl.org.

Tell Your Legislators: No Abortion Bans

**NO
ABORTION
BANS.
NOT NOW,
NOT EVER.**

Last week, several anti-abortion bills were scheduled for a hearing in the Missouri Senate. Luckily, only [SB 753](#), the so-called "Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act" was heard at that hearing (as of now, it has not been voted on). However, we anticipate several other bills, including [SB 778](#), the Texas copycat bill, will eventually get their hearing.

Every person in Missouri has a right to determine their future and make decisions about their own body. Seven out of ten Missourians, from Joplin to St. Louis, agree that abortion is essential healthcare.

This is why we are encouraging you to [contact your state Senator and Representative](#) TODAY and urge them to OPPOSE all legislation that bans or restricts abortion in Missouri.

Please [click here](#) to find your legislators' contact information.

Contact Senators Blunt & Hawley - Urge Them to Confirm Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to SCOTUS!

NCJWSTL is thrilled with the news that President Biden nominated [Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson](#) to the United States Supreme Court. If confirmed, Judge Jackson would be the first Black woman in history to sit on the Court.

Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson has a wealth of experience having served as a federal district court judge in Washington, DC since 2013 and circuit court judge on the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit since 2021, our nation's second-highest court. A former public defender, assistant special counsel on the US Sentencing Commission, and law clerk for Justice Stephen Breyer, Jackson has a record of supporting reproductive healthcare, civil rights, disability rights, labor rights, and other issues.

WE NEED A SUPREME COURT THAT PROVIDES JUSTICE FOR



#CourtsMatter

@civilrightsorg

Now the work begins. We need you to contact Senators Blunt and Hawley **TODAY** and urge them to confirm Judge Brown to the Supreme Court! You can do so by [clicking here](#), or by calling their offices:

Senator Blunt: (202) 224.5721

Senator Hawley: (202) 224.6154

If you have any questions, please contact Jen Bernstein at jbernstein@ncjwstl.org.

Take Action: Join the A-List

Now more than ever you will want to make sure that your name is on NCJWSTL's A-List for 2022!

Join us as we stand together and speak out about the issues that matter most.

Together we can make a difference!

A-List sponsorship ads sustain our collaborative efforts to educate the community and elected officials about issues integral to our mission. The full-page ads will run in the St. Louis Jewish Light during 2022.

- **\$18** includes your name in the ad.
- **\$54** makes you an Advocate Plus with your name in bold.
- **\$72** makes you a sponsor with your name distinguished in color and includes a special gift.

[Click here](#) to see the A-List flyer.

[Click here](#) to see the latest A-List Ad.

Join the A-list [here](#).



Interesting Reading

A popular UK supermarket chain, Asda, has ditched the phrase 'feminine' hygiene and is now marking their aisles



to read 'period products.' This shift in language is a big win for women, trans and non-binary people, and a tangible step towards inclusivity and ideological change.

[Click here](#) to read Rebecca Katz's article from Bust Magazine, "Popular UK Supermarket Chain Makes Real Change By Switching Up Name of Aisle From 'Feminine Hygiene' To 'Period Products'."

St. Louis Jewish Community Response to Ukraine Crisis



Special Briefing on Ukraine Hosted by Congregation B'Nai Amoona

When: Monday, March 14 | 5:00 PM CT

Where: Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

The situation in Ukraine is changing rapidly. Hear what is happening right now by registering to attend a special Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) briefing on the evolving situation in Ukraine. The briefing will feature Elisheva Massel of JDC in conversation with Rabbi Carnie Shalom Rose of Congregation B'Nai Amoona.

Brian Herstig, President & CEO of the Jewish Federation of St. Louis, will also be in attendance and can answer any questions about the Federation's [emergency fund](#) for Ukraine, which supports our global partners who are responding with critical services on the ground.

[Click here](#) for more information and to make a donation to the Jewish Federation of St. Louis' Ukraine Emergency Fund. Please [click here](#) to register for the special briefing.

Clean Speech St. Louis

NCJWSTL is proud to be a part of [Clean Speech St. Louis](#), a community-wide initiative, bringing the St. Louis Jewish community together for a month-long initiative to educate, inform, and raise awareness around the Jewish ideal that our words have the power to foster community growth.

Get inspired & join us!

www.cleanspeechstl.com



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NCJWSTL | 125

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