



ADVOCACY IN ACTION

ADVOCATING CHANGE = ADVANCING LIVES

NCJW stands in solidarity with the people of Israel. May our collective hopes and efforts pave the way for a brighter future where Israelis, Palestinians and all in the region can live in peace.

Take Action for Hostages Held by Hamas

Hundreds of kidnapped civilians are being held hostage by Hamas in unfathomable circumstances. Global women leaders raise their voices urging humanitarian aid and the safe and swift return of all hostages to their loved ones.

Reach out to your lawmaker in Congress today to urge swift action to support the hostages, providing them medical care and negotiating their release. Congress must do everything in its power to ensure the immediate release of Americans as well as all of the hostages.

Please [click here](#) to urge Congress to help release hostages held by Hamas.

National Council of Jewish Women

Take action:

Urge Congress to help release hostages held by Hamas

TELL YOUR LAWMAKER TO DO EVERYTHING IN THEIR POWER AND PASS THE PRESIDENT'S SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET REQUEST FOR ISRAEL

The Case for Reproductive Rights as Religious Freedom

The Case for Reproductive Rights as Religious Freedom

Thursday, Nov. 9, 7 p.m.
The Center of Clayton
50 Gay Ave., Clayton, MO 63105

Learn about the current status of the lawsuit to strike down Missouri's abortion ban as a clear violation of the state constitution's provision of church-state separation.

Speaker: Brian Silva, Vice President of Outreach and Engagement, Americans United for Separation of Church and State



Co-sponsors



When: Thursday, November 9 | 7:00 PM
Where: Center of Clayton | 50 Gay Avenue, St. Louis, 63105
[RSVP Here](#)

Did you know that reproductive freedom is closely associated with religious freedom? This past January, a lawsuit was filed by Americans United for the Separation of Church and State and the National Women's Law Center, on behalf of fourteen Missouri clergy from seven faith traditions. The lawsuit seeks to strike down Missouri's abortion ban as a clear violation of the church-state separation provided in Missouri's Constitution.

Americans United's Brian Silva will discuss the current status of the lawsuit, and its religious freedom foundations. Some of the clergy plaintiffs will also join us.

Please [click here](#) to register. You won't want to miss this timely presentation!

LAST CHANCE! Register Today: NCJWSTL Trip to the Missouri Capitol in Jefferson City

When: Thursday, November 16 | 8:45 AM – 5:30 PM

Where: Meet at the NCJWSTL Office

[RSVP Here](#)



If you've ever wanted to visit the Missouri's State Capitol when the politicians aren't there, this is your chance! Experience the magnificent beauty of the building itself, the public art displayed within and a faithful reflection of the themes, events and people of Missouri. Time permitting, we'll step into the primary courtroom of the Missouri Supreme Court. And to cap off the day, we will enjoy a sweet treat at Central Dairy.

And did you know that there is an active synagogue in Jefferson City? We'll also be visiting nearby Temple Beth El, the oldest synagogue west of the Mississippi in continuous use and learning a bit about its 150-year history.

We will travel together by bus and lunch/snacks will be provided. Friends are welcome to join. SPACE IS LIMITED, SO PLEASE REGISTER ASAP.

Please [click here](#) to register for what will be an amazing day. For more information, please contact Jen Bernstein at jbernstein@ncjwstl.org.

November Lunch & Learn: How Political Can Non-Profits Be? Plus, Legislative Session Preview



Thursday, November 16, 2023
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM CT
Sam Gladney

When: Thursday, November 16 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM

Where: Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

May nonprofits engage in political activity? The answer is yes, no, and maybe, depending on the type of nonprofit and its activities.

There is a lot of confusion about what constitutes political activity. Nonprofits often engage in advocacy, political campaigning, or lobbying. These terms are not identical!

For our November Lunch & Learn, we are excited to welcome Sam Gladney, who will help us navigate what we can and cannot do in the political realm at NCJWSTL. He will also give us a brief preview into the upcoming legislative session.

Gladney is a 2016 graduate of the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law. He is licensed to practice law in Missouri and is a member of the AFL-CIO Lawyers Coordinating Committee. He is the Chair of the Employee Benefits Section of the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis (BAMSL). He recently started at a new firm, Stranch, Jennings & Garvey PLLC.

Please [click here](#) to register for the October Lunch & Learn. Questions? Email

ADD YOUR NAME and Help Us Oppose Censorship of Our Public Libraries

For those who have already joined, thank you!

To protect libraries throughout Missouri, including those at public schools, NCJWSTL has helped convene a statewide coalition of individuals and organizations called Right to Read. The coalition will oppose any legislative, state policy or other effort to restrict access to materials at public libraries; the coalition has the utmost confidence in trained, experienced librarians and educators to evaluate and select materials in the libraries' collection.



Did you know?

- As a result of a Missouri law enacted in August 2022 restricting some types of materials in public schools, **librarians fearful of criminal prosecution have removed nearly 300 titles** from school library shelves.
- Under an administrative rule imposed by Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft, all public libraries must have submitted by July 31 how they will comply with the vaguely written rule. **Failure to comply could result in loss of state funding**, which comprises a significant portion of small libraries' budgets.
- Missouri is among the nation's top book banning states, **especially regarding restricting access to books about gender, sexuality and race in public schools.**

More attempts will likely be made in the 2024 Missouri legislative session to suppress First Amendment rights. Free and open access to materials at our public libraries is an essential aspect of our democracy.

Please [click here](#) to add your name as an individual member of the coalition. For more information, please e-mail the coalition at righttoreadcoalition@gmail.com.

Partner Abortion Clinic Needs Donations

For the past year, NCJWSTL has partnered with local abortion clinics across the river in Illinois to provide direct support services to patients.

One of our partner clinics is in need of a few specific items:

- Gas cards
- Snack bags (pretzels, cookies, granola bars, etc.)
- Diapers (sizes 1-5)
- Travel shampoo
- Baby formula



This is an opportunity to make a "hands-on" difference in someone's life. Please drop off or mail any donations to the NCJWSTL office at 295 N. Lindbergh, St. Louis, MO, 63141. For more information, please contact Renee Sigel-Hearst at rsigel-hearst@ncjwstl.org.

Get FREE Emergency Contraception at NCJWSTL!

NCJWSTL is thrilled to announce that we have partnered with the [Missouri Family Health Council](#) (MFHC) to distribute **FREE emergency contraception kits**! This effort is vitally important in the wake of last year's Supreme Court decision overturning *Roe vs. Wade*, especially in states like Missouri where abortion is illegal. Everyone should have the right to determine when and if they wish to start a family, and emergency contraception is vital in preventing unwanted pregnancies.



Also known as the morning-after pill, or by the brand name Plan B, the emergency contraception pill is an over-the-counter form of birth control that can be taken up to five days after unprotected sex to avoid pregnancy. The goal of this effort is to reduce geographic and financial barriers Missourians face in accessing emergency contraception pills.

While supplies last, MFHC, NCJWSTL and other partner organizations are offering free EC kits to anyone of any age. **Feel free to stop by the NCJWSTL office to pick up your kit - for you or a loved one.**

If you have any questions, please contact Jen Bernstein at jbernstein@ncjwstl.org. You can also order an emergency contraception kit by mail by [clicking here](#).

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 2023! 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, such as birth control access and voting rights. The full-page ads will run in the St. Louis Jewish Light during 2023.

- **\$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

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

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

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

Interesting Reading



If you thought the Supreme Court's decision overturning *Roe v. Wade* was the end of the Court's war on women, think again. Now gender violence laws are under attack. Case in point: last term's decision in *Counterman v. Colorado* striking down a stalking conviction as unconstitutional. This upcoming term, the Court is poised to deal another blow to domestic violence laws, in a case about guns: *United States v. Rahimi*.

[Click here](#) to read Victoria F. Nourse's article from *Ms. Magazine*, "*The Supreme Court's Blindness to Gender Violence*."

Not yet a member of NCJWSTL? [Click here](#) to become part of a growing network of courageous and compassionate individuals who improve the lives of women, children, and

families every day. You don't have to be a woman or Jewish to join!

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Transform Our Community

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2019 WINNER
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Southern Illinois



NCJWSTL | 295 N. Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63141

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