



# ADVOCACY IN ACTION

ADVOCATING CHANGE = ADVANCING LIVES

## NCJWSTL's Hot Topics Brunch - Protecting the Missouri Nonpartisan Court Plan with Amy Collignon Gunn



**When:** Sunday, September 14 | 10:00 - 11:30 AM

**Where:** NCJWSTL

[RSVP Here](#)

For more than 80 years, Missouri's Nonpartisan Court Plan has kept politics out of our courtrooms, ensuring fair and impartial justice for all. But this vital system is constantly under threat from the Missouri Legislature. **Join us for coffee, bagels and an important conversation about what's at stake**, why this plan matters to every Missourian, and how you can help protect it for future generations.

**We are honored to feature Amy Collignon Gunn**, a longtime St. Louis attorney and one of the region's foremost experts on the Missouri Nonpartisan Court Plan. Amy brings her deep knowledge and passion for protecting judicial independence to this important conversation.

We hope you can join us for what will be an enlightening conversation!

*Hot Topics Brunch is free, but you must register to attend. Please [click here](#) to register. Questions? Contact Jen Bernstein at [jbernstein@ncjwstl.org](mailto:jbernstein@ncjwstl.org).*

**Join the St. Louis Law Library and NCJWSTL for a Special Exhibit Preview of the Judicial Legacy Project**



## HONORING TRAILBLAZERS IN OUR COURTS

Exhibit Run:

September 2, 2025 through March 10, 2026

Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

**When:** Thursday, September 4 | 4:00 PM

**Where:** Law Library Association of St. Louis, 10 N. Tucker Blvd., 13th Floor

[\*\*RSVP Here\*\*](#) (Registration closes on 8/28)

NCJWSTL is proud to cosponsor the St. Louis Law Library Association's exhibit, Honoring Trailblazers in Our Courts. The exhibit highlights the Law Library Association's Judicial Legacy Project, which involves interviewing retired judges and jurists of our 22 Judicial Circuit and other Missouri courts. Many of the judges profiled were among the first women and members of the African American community to serve in this role.

[\*\*Learn more about the exhibit and find the full list of sponsors\*\*](#). There is a Meet and Greet for the opening of the exhibit.

*There is no cost to attend, but **registration is required by 8/28**. Please [\*\*click here\*\*](#) to register for the event. If you are interested in carpooling from the NCJWSTL office, please let Jen Bernstein know at [\*\*jbernstein@ncjwstl.org\*\*](mailto:jbernstein@ncjwstl.org).*

## Pledge: I am Part of the Faithful Majority for Reproductive Freedom



For decades, anti-abortion extremists have dominated the faith-based conversation on abortion, promoting a false narrative that pits religion against reproductive freedom. Jewish tradition teaches that every person deserves dignity, compassion, and agency — including the freedom to make their own reproductive health care decisions. **Our religious freedom and reproductive freedom are inseparable.**

That's why National Council of Jewish Women is proud to co-lead the new [\*\*Faithful Majority for Reproductive Freedom\*\*](#) alongside Catholics for Choice and SACReD. Together with faith partners nationwide, we're reclaiming the moral narrative: people of faith support legal abortion.

*Please [\*\*click here\*\*](#) and join us today by signing the pledge and declaring that you are part of the Faithful Majority!*

## Volunteers Needed to Help Keep Abortion Legal in MO

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



As we persevere in our commitment to protect abortion rights in Missouri, we are looking for volunteers to work the polls, knock doors, educate our communities, and notarize absentee ballots.

We're beginning to organize around a critical issue: **protecting abortion rights in Missouri**. You may have heard that the Missouri Legislature is bringing abortion rights back to the ballot under the same name, **Amendment 3**. We anticipate a strong misinformation campaign from the opposition and we need to be strategic in order to fight it. Although the new measure likely won't appear on the ballot until August or November 2026, [now is the time to act](#).

We are looking for volunteers to work the polls, knock doors, educate our communities, and notarize absentee ballots. If you're interested in getting involved, please [click here](#) to sign up. **It's going to take all of us.**

For any questions, please contact Jen Bernstein at [jbernstein@ncjwstl.org](mailto:jbernstein@ncjwstl.org).

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

Protect Missouri's Libraries! Join the Right to Read Coalition by [clicking here](#).

For those who have already joined, thank you! *Check our member list to see who supports us...and if you've already joined by [clicking here](#).*

Right to Read is a statewide coalition of 1,000 individuals and nearly 100 organizations. The coalition opposes legislative, state policy, or other efforts to restrict access to materials at public and school libraries.



Censorship denies our First Amendment rights to access books that reflect our diverse community:

- Missouri ranked third nationally in 2023 for the number of books banned at school libraries.
- 60% of banned books in the U.S. include characters of color and discussed issues of race and racism or presented LGBTQ+ characters or themes.

Laws and policies enacted recently have led to book bans and harmful regulations on our libraries. **We expect more censorship efforts in Missouri in 2025.**

Add your voice to thousands of Missourians to fight censorship and book bans!

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](mailto:righttoreadcoalition@gmail.com).

## 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](mailto: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 ensure that your name is on NCJWSTL's A-List for 2025!** 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 2025.



- **\$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



A new national JAMA study found a 4% drop in OB-GYN practitioners per 100,000 reproductive-age women in the states with the most restrictions on reproductive healthcare, compared to no decline in states without new restrictions. Since the Dobbs ruling in 2022, increasingly restrictive abortion laws have caused alarming rates of OB-GYNs from affected states to stop practicing medicine in the area, creating maternity care deserts. Maternity care deserts are defined by March of Dimes as "any

county without a hospital or birth center offering obstetric care and without any obstetric clinicians."

**[Click here](#) to read Emari Pam's article from the Feminist Majority Foundation, "New Study Shows Abortion Bans Are Driving Doctors Out."**

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**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!**

Donate to Support NCJWSTL &  
Transform Our Community



National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis



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