



ADVOCACY IN ACTION

NCJW

ADVOCATING CHANGE = ADVANCING LIVES

The 2026 Missouri Legislature is in session. At NCJWSTL, we are dedicated to tracking these legislative developments closely, focusing on bills that align with our mission of improving the lives of women, children and families.

Please [click here](#) to view the bills NCJWSTL is following and whether we are in support or in opposition. The list will be continuously updated throughout session.

Become a Court Watch Volunteer!

We are excited to announce that NCJWSTL is now coordinating the Domestic Violence (DV) Court Watch Program. Court Watch is a volunteer-powered initiative designed to bring transparency, accountability, and humanity to domestic violence and Order of Protection cases in St. Louis. This is an opportunity for individuals seeking to make a measurable difference in the lives of survivors of domestic violence and strengthen accountability in our justice system. No legal background is required. NCJWSTL will provide comprehensive training and ongoing support to all participants.



Are you interested in learning more? Watch for information regarding future trainings and volunteer registrations. For more information about Court Watch, please contact Rachel Bray, NCJWSTL Advocacy Manager, at rbray@ncjwstl.org or call [314-514-4955](tel:314-514-4955).

THIS WEEK! Meet St. Louis's Judicial Trailblazers



When: Thursday, March 19 | 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Where: 10 North Tucker, 13th Floor

[RSVP Here](#)

Join the Law Library Association of St. Louis for a special panel discussion featuring several of the trailblazing women honored in the [Judicial Legacy Project](#) exhibit. This conversation will explore the history, impact, and legacy of women serving on the bench in the St. Louis region, offering insight into their experiences and the path they helped forge for future generations.

Moderated by Judge Nicole Colbert-Botchway and co-sponsored by the Women Lawyers Association of Greater St. Louis, the panel will include Hon. Evelyn Baker, Hon. Anne-Marie Clarke, Hon. Mary Kay Hoff, and Hon. Lisa Van Amburg.

Please [click here](#) to register. Check-in is at 5:30 PM. Program runs from 6:00 to 7:00 PM. Followed by a social event from 7:00 to 7:30 PM. Qualifies for 1.2 MO Bar Ethics CLE credits.

Tell Your Senators: Stop the SAVE Act!

The [SAVE Act](#) is bad enough. **Now, President Trump wants to make it even worse — and he's willing to hold all legislation ransom in order to do it.** According to an [article from The Guardian](#), the president has threatened not to sign any new bills until Congress approves a version of the SAVE Act that includes attacks on our access to vote, but also completely unrelated bans on transgender people participating in women's sports and gender-affirming surgeries for minors.



There is no good version of the SAVE Act, but this new version the Trump administration is calling for is unnecessarily cruel. The SAVE Act would already have a disproportionate impact on women and trans people because of the strict limitations on what documents people would be able to use to prove their citizenship before they could register to vote.

As Jewish advocates, we are called to pursue justice and protect the dignity and rights of all people. Our democracy is strongest when everyone can participate.

[Click here](#) to tell your senators to vote NO on the SAVE Act.

Volunteers Needed to Help Keep Abortion Legal in MO



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 on 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.

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

Protect the First Amendment! Join the Right to Read Coalition

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

Right to Read is a statewide coalition of 1,200 individuals and nearly 100 organizations. NCJWSTL is a founding coalition member.

- Censorship denies our First Amendment rights to access books that reflect our diverse community.
- Missouri laws and policies have led to book bans and harmful regulations on our libraries.
- President Trump's Executive Order threatens to eliminate \$3 million of Federal funds for Missouri's libraries.



Get the latest information at [MO Right to Read – Supporting Missouri's Libraries](#).

Get FREE Emergency Contraception at NCJWSTL!



NCJWSTL is thrilled to announce that we have partnered with [Beacon Reproductive Health Network](#) 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, Beacon Reproductive Health Network, 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.

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 2026! 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 2026.

- **\$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



From Kansas to Tennessee, U.S. states are copying a novel legal tactic from Texas to turn neighbors on each other and strip residents of their rights.

In 2021, Texas passed SB 8, an aggressive law that outlawed abortion after six weeks. In practice, this banned almost all abortions since most people don't learn they're pregnant so soon. Texas imposed the bill nearly one year before the Supreme Court

ended federal abortion protections.

[Click here](#) to read Mia Brett's article from Rewire News Group, "Anti-Abortion 'Bounty Hunter' Laws Spread from Texas Across U.S."

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

NCJWSTL

National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis



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