

***Gender, Health & the Constitution***  
**CONSTITUTIONAL LAW CONFERENCE**  
THE CENTER FOR CONSTITUTIONAL LAW AT AKRON  
Friday, October 13, 2023

[The Center for Constitutional Law at Akron](#) seeks proposals for its annual Constitutional Law Conference. The Center is one of four national centers established by Congress in 1986 on the bicentennial of the Constitution for legal research and public education on constitutional law. Past presenters at the Center have included Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, Justice Arthur Goldberg, Judge Jeffrey Sutton, Professor Reva Siegel, Professor Lawrence Solum, Professor Maggie Blackhawk, Professor Katie Eyer, Professor Ernest Young, Professor Julie Suk, and Professor Paula Monopoli, among many others.

The 2023 Conference brings together scholars to explore the constitutional questions at the intersection of gender and health. The daily news features issues of gender and health, whether related to Covid, abortion, transgender treatment, or maternal health. Bodily autonomy and health rights raise questions about balancing against the interests of the state and third parties. And individuals struggle to seek justice for their own lived reality. This conference invites papers and presentations on any and all aspects related broadly to the theme. Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Covid: mandates, illness, and gendered differences
- Abortion and reproductive justice
- Transgender school and medical treatment bans
- Maternal health, pregnancy, and surrogacy
- Medical malpractice, including gaslighting of women patients
- Exclusion of women and gendered treatment in medical research
- Barriers in access to healthcare
- Gendered aspects of aging
- Biology as a basis for sex discrimination
- Rights related to gender-affirming care
- Gendered implications of medical conscientious objections

The Conference will be held live, in person on **Friday, October 13, 2023**, at the University of Akron School of Law. Presenters may also participate virtually to facilitate participation by all who are interested in joining. Unfortunately, we are not able to pay for travel expenses, and hope that speakers can be reimbursed from their home institutions.

Papers will then be published in a Winter 2024 Symposium Edition of the Center for Constitutional Law's open-access journal, [ConLawNOW](#) (also indexed in Westlaw, Lexis, and Hein). Papers are typically shorter essays of 10,000 words. Publication is expedited within four to six weeks of final paper submission. The journal is designed to put issues of constitutional import into debate in a timely manner for an opportunity to impact discussion and decision.

Those interested in participating in the 2023 Constitutional Law Conference should send an abstract and CV to Professor Tracy Thomas, Director of the Center for Constitutional Law, at [thomast@uakron.edu](mailto:thomast@uakron.edu) by August 15, 2023.