



Opportunity and Challenge Profile

*Search for the Executive Director for the Center on Reproductive Health, Law, and Policy
University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law
Los Angeles, California*

UCLA School of Law seeks a visionary and highly collaborative inaugural Executive Director to lead the Center on Reproductive Health, Law, and Policy (the Center). There has never been a more important time for an impassioned leader to step up to protect, rebuild, and expand reproductive rights and justice in this country. The Center will be at the heart of that effort: training the next generation of reproductive justice lawyers and advocates, working with scholars and movement actors to generate innovative strategies to safeguard the health and wellbeing of people capable of pregnancy, and developing programs and initiatives to address the great challenges and pressing needs created by the Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs*. With a \$5 million allocation from the State of California, the Executive Director will have the strong foundation necessary to continue to grow the Center and increase its visibility on the national stage. Working with the new Center's Faculty Director and Advisory Committee, the inaugural Executive Director will develop the vision, goals, strategy, and programs for the Center and direct their day-to-day implementation. The Executive Director will have overall strategic and operational responsibilities for the Center's staff, research, programs, fundraising, budget, and mission.

Founded in 1949, UCLA Law has a reputation for artful teaching, influential scholarship, and enduring innovation. As the first public law school in Southern California and the youngest top-ranked law school in the United States, UCLA Law consistently pushes new boundaries in the study and practice of law. The current climate of the United States reinforces the imperative of the rule of law and lawyers' critical role in maintaining democracy and justice for all. It is in this context that UCLA Law educates the next generation of lawyers and leaders, and trains graduates who are committed to the school's values: The highest level of individual and institutional excellence, a belief in the promise of people from all walks of life, and a commitment to serving the greater good. Now, UCLA Law is excited to launch the new Center on Reproductive Health, Law, and Policy.

The Center will be a leading interdisciplinary academic center on the West Coast, dedicated to conducting rigorous, independent research on reproductive health, law, and policy. The Center will join other highly regarded programs such as the Williams Institute on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Law and Public Policy; Critical Race Studies Program; The Promise Institute for Human Rights; David J. Epstein Program in Public Interest Law and Policy; Health and Human Rights Law Project; and the Criminal Justice Program in promoting the highest standards of intellectual discourse at UCLA Law School. Through research, publications, and conferences, UCLA Law's centers offer invaluable information for legislators, the judiciary, and the public, while providing critical training for UCLA students and the broader community.

In leading the Center, the Executive Director will address the following opportunities and challenges:

- Develop a comprehensive and cohesive vision that drives the Center's work;
- Thoughtfully craft and lead the Center's internal organizational structure;

- Convene the UCLA community to elevate and strengthen the interdisciplinary and intersectional mission of the Center;
- Expand and secure the financial resources that will allow the Center to achieve its many aspirations;
- Help train and fortify the next generation of reproductive rights lawyers and advocates; and
- Serve as a compelling and effective ambassador for reproductive justice.

A list of the desired qualifications and characteristics of the Executive Director can be found at the conclusion of this document, which was prepared by the search advisory committee with the assistance of Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm. This document aims to provide background information and detail the key opportunities and challenges related to the position. All confidential applications, inquiries, and nominations should be directed to the parties listed at the conclusion of this document.

About UCLA School of Law

Founded in 1949, UCLA School of Law has garnered a reputation for access and excellence: delivering a world-class legal education and producing leading scholarship while providing access to a life in the law to a diverse and high-achieving group of students. As the first public law school in Southern California and one of the youngest top law schools in the United States, UCLA Law is an innovative institution that embodies the University of California's commitment to teaching, research, and public service.

Offering broad access to a preeminent legal education and career in the law has been core to UCLA School of Law since the start. The law school currently serves over 1,300 students. Today, about one in six of the school's J.D. students is a first-generation college graduate, a higher percentage than that reported by any other top-15 law school. In addition, 58 percent of the incoming class of 2022 identifies as women and 42 percent identifies as students of color.

Beginning in the 1970s, UCLA Law was among the first law schools to embrace clinical education, allowing students under expert supervision to provide direct legal services to clients who could not afford it. Today, the school has a robust and multi-faceted experiential program, with clinics serving populations as diverse as military veterans, documentary filmmakers and musicians, criminal defendants, communities affected by pollution, immigrant families, and organizations promoting sustainable food practices. Simulations provide students with the opportunity to learn the ropes in complex financial and real estate transactions, and the school's Supreme Court and First Amendment clinics allow students to participate in the practice of law at its highest levels.

UCLA Law's [faculty](#) is one of the most influential nationwide. UCLA professors are leading scholars in constitutional law, corporate law, critical race theory, evidence, immigration, and other areas. They often hold faculty appointments in other UCLA academic departments—a testament to the relevance of their work in interdisciplinary teaching. Members of the faculty regularly publish books and op-eds, driving the debate in many areas of law and policy. They also testify before Congress in defense of vulnerable communities and have served in important posts at institutions such as The Hague and the Office for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. Faculty impact studies ranked UCLA 11th nationwide in 2018.

Today, the UCLA Law [alumni](#) community is more than 17,000 strong and extends to nearly every state and more than 50 foreign nations. More than 320 alumni serve or have served on courts throughout the

country, and UCLA has educated more judges on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit than any other law school. Alumni serve in Congress and leadership positions in the federal government and are leading figures at law firms, movie studios, businesses, and nonprofit organizations.

Programs, Centers, and Institutes at UCLA Law

UCLA Law is home to several notable centers and institutes that are excited to support and work in collaboration with the Center. Faculty in the [Critical Race Studies](#) program are among the foremost scholars in this field, and the school has the only student specialization in the nation in this area. The school is also renowned for its David J. Epstein [Public Interest Law Program](#), and has a long tradition of developing students who become leaders in social justice and providing legal resources to underrepresented communities. The [Criminal Justice Program](#) at UCLA Law is known in part for its success in training students interested in public defense and criminal justice reform.

In addition, the school is home to several centers and institutes in areas of institutional strength. These include: the nationally known [Williams Institute](#), the preeminent source for information and analysis of law and policy impacting the LGBT community; the [Emmett Institute on Climate Change and the Environment](#), one of the top environmental programs in the country; the [Promise Institute for Human Rights](#), founded with a \$20 million gift in 2017; and the [Resnick Center for Food Law and Policy](#), focused on the critical topics of food systems, food access, and equity. More recently, the school established the [Center for Immigration Law and Policy](#).

About the Center on Reproductive Health, Law, and Policy

In the United States, individuals increasingly face enormous obstacles to obtaining reproductive health care, including abortion and contraception. In the wake of *Dobbs*, numerous states have acted swiftly to ban abortion, close clinics, and criminalize various forms of reproductive health care—acts that have given rise to enormous uncertainty and unnecessary suffering. The Center on Reproductive Health, Law, and Policy will work to defend reproductive rights and justice through research-informed debate and published articles; collaboration and engagement with legislators, the judiciary, and the public; and critical training for UCLA students and the broader community.

The Center's work focuses on five thematic goals:

- **Training Tomorrow's Leaders:** Increasing the number of law students and lawyers trained to pursue reproductive rights and justice through litigation, policy, and other advocacy strategies.
- **Educating Key Stakeholders and Decision-Makers:** Providing legislators, judges, non-profit leaders, health care providers, and lawyers with reliable, current data and arguments to advance reproductive health and rights.
- **Convening for Innovation:** Creating a trusted location on the West Coast for convening reproductive justice scholars and advocates to discuss ideas and develop new strategies.
- **Producing Scholarship That Matters:** Publishing rigorous interdisciplinary research designed to inform current debates related to reproductive health and rights.
- **Changing the Narrative:** Creating a national research and storytelling collaborative to generate and disseminate compelling narratives to advance reproductive justice.

To develop the Center's thematic goals, UCLA Law consulted with over 60 local and national constituents, and it counts on several stakeholders within UCLA to support its current and future work.

This past year, Center scholars and staff participated in over three dozen events, and the Center hosted a panel discussion titled *The Future of Reproductive Rights* to discuss the passage of SB8 in Texas, a post-*Dobbs* webinar attended by well over 1,000 listeners, and a discussion of the Court's recent term that focused heavily on its abortion jurisprudence.

Faculty, visiting scholars, fellows, and students work together at the Center to publish policy research to elevate the importance of reproductive justice in legal studies while influencing lawmaking and legal cases. The Center will also be a hub for collaboration with experts in other academic disciplines at UCLA, such as public health, film, journalism, social sciences, and medical sciences. Current projects include research support for California's constitutional amendment protecting abortion rights, research on the barriers to disseminating medical abortions through pharmacies and working nationally with prosecutors and other professional associations to develop policies in response to *Dobbs*.

In addition, the Center supports law students and emerging leaders and scholars through:

- A Reproductive Rights and Justice seminar that examines the regulation of pregnancy and reproduction with an emphasis on how abortion plays into wider discussions of reproductive justice today.
- Experiential course offerings and pro bono opportunities, including an innovative medical legal partnership with a Planned Parenthood clinic in Inglewood, California.
- A new law teaching fellowship program to support and train clinical law teaching fellows focused on sexual and reproductive health.
- Funding scholarships, summer fellowships, and post-graduate fellowships for students focused on reproductive justice.

Role of the Executive Director

The Executive Director will join UCLA Law at a pivotal moment in the history of the country as it relates to reproductive rights. The Center is uniquely positioned to be a trusted leader in supporting abortion access, freedom to choose, and reproductive justice in all its forms for people of all gender identities; racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds; and socioeconomic statuses. The Executive Director will be a highly collaborative and visionary leader, successfully managing the day-to-day operations of the organization while securing the resources for the ongoing work of the Center. The Executive Director will understand the Center's affiliation with UCLA Law as a salient facet of the Center's identity, one that requires the Center to be a teaching-oriented space that supports a growing workforce of reproductive rights-focused attorneys.

This is a full-time, year-round, non-tenure track, academic position. The Executive Director will report to the Dean of UCLA School of Law and manage a growing team consisting of a Faculty Director, Deputy Director, teaching fellow, administrative assistant, policy analysts, and program coordinator. The Executive Director will manage a budget of about \$1.5 million a year (which is funded for the first three years) and secure the space and staffing to lay the foundation of the Center.

Key Opportunities and Challenges for the Executive Director

In order to ensure the success and impact of the Center on Reproductive Health, Law, and Policy, the Executive Director will be expected to address the following opportunities and challenges:

Develop a comprehensive and cohesive vision that drives the Center's work

The Executive Director will provide the vision and creativity to build this new Center. This includes developing and leading innovative, world-class public policy research, programs, and initiatives that advance the Center's mission. As part of this vision, the Center will work to protect the constitutional right to access abortion as well as support the broader intersectional reproductive justice movement in which abortion rights are situated. The Executive Director must stay informed of, and engage with, reproductive health, law, and policy to ensure the Center's programs and research remain relevant and timely and provide strategic leadership and direction for the dissemination of the Center's work. In doing so, the Executive Director will work towards creating a trusted hub of reproductive justice work on the West Coast and nationally.

Thoughtfully craft and lead the Center's internal organizational structure

The Executive Director will build a culture of inclusion, transparency, and passion at the Center, hiring and leading a team of talented researchers and staff. Vital to the Executive Director's work will be taking a nuanced and balanced approach that prioritizes shared governance. As part of a community of successful center and institute leaders, the Executive Director will work with colleagues to learn and share best practices in managing a center in the UC system. The Executive Director will be a strategy-minded leader and a thoughtful planner to ensure the healthy functioning of the Center's operations, including the ethical and responsible management of the Center's budget.

Convene the UCLA community to elevate and strengthen the interdisciplinary and intersectional mission of the Center

The Center is situated in one of the top law schools and universities in the country. The Executive Director has the unique and exciting opportunity to leverage the entire UCLA community to facilitate cross-campus collaborations and in turn, foster growth. The Center will collaborate with units such as the Williams Institute and the Promise Center for Human Rights to engage students in interdisciplinary research, discussion, and clinical training. The Executive Director will also engage with other departments and schools, such as the UCLA School of Theater, Film, and Television and the Fielding School of Public Health, finding synergies and working closely with the Faculty Director to bring in faculty from these different units. Interdisciplinary collaboration will be essential to ensuring an intersectional narrative around reproductive rights.

Expand and secure the financial resources that will allow the Center to achieve its many aspirations

The Executive Director will ensure the Center's future and ongoing impact through fundraising. With the support of UCLA Law's Office of External Affairs and Development, the Executive Director will lead the Center's fundraising efforts, as well as develop and engage a committed group of volunteers and an advisory council. The initial State funds of \$5 million lay a strong foundation for building towards long-term sustainability.

Help train and fortify the next generation of reproductive rights lawyers and advocates

UCLA Law students go on to become successful attorneys and advocates in their fields. The Center will be a resource for students looking for direct clinical experience, course offerings, and practicum

opportunities in reproductive rights. The Executive Director will support the Faculty Director in recruiting faculty and teaching fellows to create a clinic that prepares students for their roles as reproductive rights advocates, litigators, and policymakers. The Executive Director will create and sustain partnerships with local, regional, national, and international organizations in support of the Center's mission to provide students with clinical experience, internships, and fellowships so they are ready to join the workforce upon graduation. The Center will model itself on existing clinics with similar productive relationships, such as the Criminal Defense Clinic, which partners with the nationally renowned Bail Project to address systemic barriers inextricably linked to the bail system.

Serve as a compelling and effective ambassador for reproductive justice

The Executive Director must have the capacity to develop, collaborate, and engage with the Center's new partners and audiences, and the substantive expertise and communication skills to serve as an effective representative of the organization and as the principal spokesperson for the Center. The Executive Director must be an effective bridge-builder in convening litigators, legal scholars, grassroots activists, the press, policymakers, and others in thoughtful discussion about the importance of legal work in advancing abortion access and reproductive justice broadly. Additionally, the Executive Director will have a student-centered approach to external engagement by showcasing the work of the Center's clinical program and elevating students' needs and interests in conversations with community members.

Qualifications and Characteristics

The Executive Director must bring an authentic passion for the new Center's mission, appreciation for its unique institutional voice as an academic research center, and a commitment to a programmatic portfolio that embraces the full diversity of communities impacted by, and working for, reproductive justice and health.

The successful candidate should have either a J.D. or another terminal degree. In particular, the successful candidate will demonstrate most, if not all, of the qualifications and characteristics below:

- At least seven years of successful senior management and leadership experience
- A track record of innovation and program building
- Deep familiarity with current reproductive health, law, and policy issues
- Demonstrated administrative and organizational skills
- Experience with and success in fundraising
- Direct experience in managing a budget
- An entrepreneurial spirit marked by creativity and motivation
- A commitment to diversity
- An established track record for organizing and leading a strong team
- An ability to generate investment and enthusiasm
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills and a demonstrated ability to create and maintain productive relationships with colleagues, constituents, donors, and advisory board members
- Excellent verbal and written communications skills and the ability to represent the Center to the press, policymakers, and the public
- A focus of work with and regarding the rights of women, People of Color, LGBTQ people, people with disabilities, children and youth, and/or people of low socio-economic status

- A commitment to the highest standards of scholarship and professional activities and to a campus climate that supports equality and diversity.

Location

The position requires living in Los Angeles and a hybrid work schedule on the UCLA campus. Situated on 419 acres, UCLA is enriched by the cultural diversity of the dynamic greater Los Angeles area and the geographic advantages of Southern California. UCLA Law is located on the UCLA campus in the Westwood neighborhood of Los Angeles. UCLA is a crossroads of ideas, cultures, and limitless experiences and opportunities. Los Angeles is a global city where culture, business, and industry blend. It is where four million people power the world's 15th largest economy. With an average of 292 sunny days per year and UCLA's location five miles from the world-famous Santa Monica beach, which includes access to a 22-mile-long path for bicycling, skating, jogging, and walking, L.A. has much to offer in the way of a healthy and happy lifestyle. Home to the largest city park in the country, countless hiking trails, and some of the nation's best museums, performance venues, and farmers' markets, Los Angeles is internationally recognized as one of the most livable cities in the world. Learn more at www.discoverlosangeles.com.

Applications, Inquiries, and Nominations

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. During the final vetting process, finalists will be expected to supply at least two letters of recommendation. Inquiries, nominations, referrals, and CVs with cover letters should be sent via the Isaacson, Miller website for the search: www.imsearch.com/8274. Electronic submission of materials is required.

ISAACSON, MILLER
imsearch.com

Courtney Wilk-Mandel and Sofia Vargas
Isaacson, Miller
1925 Century Park East
Suite 1700
Los Angeles, CA 90067

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