Why Reproductive Justice is “Everything”

Farah Diaz-Tello, J.D.
Staff Attorney
Laws intended* to protect pregnant women
Infant Mortality by Race

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mississippi</th>
<th>Rate</th>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic White</td>
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Causes of Death of Pregnant/Postpartum Women

Death per 100,000 live births

- Hemorrhage
- Eclampsia
- Amniotic Embolism
- Homicide
- Suicide
Laws intended to protect children
“[W]e do not see any reason to hold that a **viable fetus** is not included in the term ‘child’...”
“[O]utside the right to abortion created in *Roe* and upheld in *Planned Parenthood*, the viability distinction has no place in the laws of this State [. . .] to the extent that the Court of Criminal Appeals limited the applicability of the chemical-endangerment statute to viable unborn children in *Ankrom*, this Court expressly rejects that distinction . . .”
Corrupting Another with Drugs: The Highland County Prosecutor's Office is passionate in the protection of children in Highland County. Since June 1, 2011 the Office has been actively prosecuting those women who choose to use illegal drugs while pregnant. There have been at least 6 successful prosecutions of such women in the past year.
“Under the doctrine of parens patriae the state is the ultimate parents of all the dependents within its boarders [sic] and should be afforded a remedy to protect the health, welfare, and safety of unborn children within its boarders. [sic]”
New Miss. law requires cord blood from some teen moms

Emily Wagster Pettus, Associated Press  10:46 a.m. EDT August 2, 2013

A new Mississippi law requiring authorities to collect umbilical cord blood from teen moms’ babies is controversial, raising questions across the state.

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — If a girl younger than 16 gives birth and won’t name the father, a new Mississippi law — likely the first of its kind in the country — says authorities must collect umbilical cord blood and run DNA tests to prove paternity as a step toward prosecuting statutory rape cases.
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