

Recent Developments in State and Federal Legislation and Litigation Affecting LGBTQI+ Students



Legal Network for Gender Equity Webinar
September 14, 2023 at 3:00 pm ET
Speaker List and Biographies

Simpson
Thacher



Julianna Gonen (she/her) is NCLR's Federal Policy Director, responsible for overseeing and advancing NCLR's federal policy priorities with Congress and the executive branch. Her work focuses on reproductive health, rights and justice, federal nondiscrimination protections, access to health care, and a progressive and inclusive vision of religious liberty.

Julianna has extensive federal policy experience, having served as director of federal policy and advocacy at the Center for Reproductive Rights, where she advocated before the United States Congress, executive branch agencies, and in the courts for public policies at the federal level that protect and advance reproductive health and rights. While there, she led the Center's efforts to defend access to contraception under the Affordable Care Act, drafting regulatory comments advocating against allowing religious employers to deny coverage to their employees and amicus briefs in federal court litigation regarding such exemptions. Julianna also spearheaded efforts that led to the introduction in Congress of major legislation to safeguard abortion rights against politically motivated state laws designed to shut down reproductive health care providers.

Julianna received her B.A. from Cornell University, and then received a doctorate in political science from the American University and a law degree from the Georgetown University Law Center. She is the author of *Litigation as Lobbying: Reproductive Hazards and Interest Aggregation*, published by The Ohio State University Press; the book is a case study of *United Auto Workers v. Johnson Controls*, a 1991 Supreme Court case in which corporate "fetal protection" policies were found to be unlawful sex discrimination. She has taught undergraduate and graduate students in public health and political science as an adjunct professor in the School of Public Affairs at the American University in Washington, D.C. and at the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. She has also taught public health law at Georgetown University Law Center. Julianna served for nine years on the Board of Directors of the Abortion Care Network. She lives in Washington, DC with her wife and two dogs Willie and Ripley.



Anya A. Marino (she/her) serves as the National Women's Law Center's Director of LGBTQI Equality and drives the Center's legal and policy efforts to protect and advance the rights of LGBTQI+ people. Before joining NWLC, Anya instructed Harvard Law School's LGBTQ+ Advocacy Clinic. She also served as Deputy Legal Director for the ACLU of Florida, where she oversaw the legal department's voting rights litigation and litigated LGBTQ+ and First Amendment cases. Anya was the first openly transgender woman of color to serve in any senior legal position throughout the ACLU's federation of national and affiliate offices and was the first transgender woman of color to teach at Harvard Law School.

Throughout her career, Anya's work has included representing the most marginalized and vulnerable members of the LGBTQ+ community, including transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming people; LGBTQ+ people of color; LGBTQ+ youth; and LGBTQ+ people in southern communities. In 2022, the National Hispanic Medical Association honored her as a trailblazer advancing LGBTQ+ health equality, and Liaison International honored her as one of seven women who shattered the glass ceiling in higher education. Anya graduated from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law and is the law school's 2022 Rising Star Award recipient. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in anthropology from Johns Hopkins University. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, attending concerts, studying foreign cultures and languages, and spending time with her two teacup chihuahuas.



Auden Perino (they/them) is a Senior Counsel for Education and Workplace Justice at the National Women's Law Center, focused on LGBTQI+ rights advocacy. They came to NWLC after several years at legal aid organizations, representing immigrants and survivors of domestic violence in court, and also organized against campus sex harassment as a student. Auden is an alum of the University of Virginia School of Law, Tufts University, and the University of Oxford.