

voice

IN OUR OWN

National Black Women's

Reproductive Justice

Agenda

February 2016 Newsletter

Black Women's Organizations File U.S. Supreme Court Brief in Support of Abortion Rights in Texas

On January 5, 2016 twelve Black women's Reproductive Justice organizations, led by [In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda](#), filed an *amicus* [brief](#) in the U.S. Supreme Court case *Whole Woman's Health, et al., v. John Hellerstedt, Commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services, et al.*, highlighting the devastating impact of the clinic closures on Black women in Texas.

Our press release was published in [Michigan Chronicle](#) and Marcela Howell, Founder and Executive Director of In Our Own Voice, was interviewed for the [Maggie Linton Show](#), SiriusXM Urban radio and [Vocative.com](#)

A fact sheet is available [here](#), laying out the potential impact of the Whole Women's Health v Hellerstedt case for Black women in Texas and across the country.



In Our Own Voice on Celebrating the 43rd Anniversary of Roe v. Wade

In a statement from Marcela commemorating the 43rd anniversary of the Roe decision that legalized abortion, she acknowledges that the fight for equal access to abortion continues. Poor women, young women and women of color continue to run into barriers and restrictions that prevent them from availing themselves to the full gamut of reproductive services. In 2016 Black women are heeding and leading the charge to make equal access to abortion services available to all women.

Click [here](#) to view the full article.

The statement has appeared in the [Richmond Free Press](#), [For Harriet](#) and [Mic.com](#). Marcela also provided commentary for the [MOJO show](#) on 900am WURD in Pennsylvania.



Organizational Partner Updates

[Black Women's Health Imperative](#)

Linda Goler Blount, President & CEO at the Black Women's Health Imperative hosted a Roe v Wade radio special on 89.3 FM in Washington DC to mark the 43rd anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court decision. Guests were Merle Hoffman, founder and CEO of Choices Women's Medical Center in New York, abortion rights activist Sunsara Taylor and Dorothy Roberts, acclaimed scholar of race, gender and the law at the University of Pennsylvania.



[Black Women for Wellness](#)

SisterSong, Trust Black Women edition, In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda, California Black Women's Health Project, Forward Together and a cadre of Black Reproductive Justice advocates joined Black Women for Wellness to organize the first statewide meeting of Black Reproductive Justice advocates from across CA to begin conversations on the reproductive health status of women & girls in California.



Upcoming Events

In Our Own Voice will be joining with other activists to Protect Abortion Access during the



March 2 rally on the steps of the Supreme Court.

To RSVP for this event, click [here](#).



SPARK Reproductive Justice Now! is accepting registrations for the Spring 2016 [SPARK Organizing Intensive \(SOI\)](#), taking place February 11-13 in Atlanta.

SPARK Reproductive Justice Now! will also host the 9th annual Georgia [Legislate THIS!](#) day of action on February 18th.

To learn more about these events and how you can get involved, click [here](#).



Black Women for Wellness will host a Twitter chat on February 18 to talk about all things Black beauty #Blkbeautychat.

Click [here](#) to RSVP for this event.

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