



Gretchen Borchelt (she/her/they) is Vice President for Reproductive Rights and Health at the National Women’s Law Center (NWLC) Action Fund in Washington, D.C. She oversees NWLC’s advocacy, policy, litigation, and education strategies to promote reproductive rights and access to comprehensive, affordable health care, including abortion and birth control. Before joining NWLC, she worked at Physicians for Human Rights and was a Women’s Law and Public Policy Fellow at the National Partnership for Women and Families.



Shiwali Patel (she/her) is Senior Director of Education Justice at the National Women's Law Center Action Fund. She is a nationally recognized Title IX expert and leads advocacy addressing gender-based harassment in schools, including sexual harassment and sexual assault. Previously, she was at the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), where she worked on civil rights policy and legal guidance interpreting Title IX’s anti-discrimination protections.



Sydney Petersen (she/her) is Director of Media Relations at the National Women's Law Center Action Fund, where she leads strategic communications and media engagement across a broad range of policy issues. Before joining NWLC, she served as press secretary for U.S. Senator Maggie Hassan, and also served as Senator Hassan's press secretary during her successful re-election campaign in 2022.



Whitney Pesek is the Senior Director of Federal Child Care Policy at the National Women's Law Center. Previously, she led the federal legislative strategy on work and family issues at Paid Leave for the United States (PL+US) and ZERO TO THREE. She has also led legislative oversight of Ohio's incarcerated youth, women, and other vulnerable populations. Whitney served in AmeriCorps and has experience as an Early Head Start Teacher. She holds a JD from Georgetown University Law Center and a BA in Sociology from Ohio University.