

MELISSA A. RODGERS

Associate Director

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Melissa Rodgers, JD, EdM, is the Associate Director of Berkeley CHEFS and the Director of CHEFS' Health Security work, which focuses on developing a research-based policy agenda for health care reform. The mission of Berkeley CHEFS is to develop and advance creative solutions to address the economic risks faced by working Americans with a focus on improving access to health care, developing better protections for workers who are voluntarily or involuntarily on leave from their jobs, supporting working parents in a flexible workplace, and ensuring that seniors can be secure in their retirement years.

Ms. Rodgers also developed a medical-legal course that she co-taught as a lecturer at Stanford Law and Medical Schools. She was newly selected to participate in the Berkeley Engaged Scholarship Initiative (BESI) faculty program to develop a similar medical-legal course at Berkeley.

Previously, Ms. Rodgers was a Directing Attorney at the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County in the San Francisco Bay Area, and the Director of Legal Aid's Health Consumer Center, a Health Consumer Alliance partner organization that represents low-income San Mateo County residents on issues ranging from eligibility for public insurance programs, to access to services under managed care, to medical debt. In San Mateo, Ms. Rodgers participated in county-based efforts to expand coverage to uninsured children and adults. She also engaged in policy work focused on the Medi-Cal program and medical debt, and litigation involving the automation of Medi-Cal benefits. She helped start Legal Aid's Family Advocacy Program, a collaborative with Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford (LPCH) and the Ravenswood Family Health Center in East Palo Alto that aims to improve health outcomes for low-income pediatric patients through advocacy. She also helped start the San Mateo County Preemie Project, a collaborative with LPCH focused on access to services for premature infants.

Ms. Rodgers sits on the Board of the California Hospital Assessment and Reporting Taskforce (CHART), which was established in 2004 to develop a statewide hospital performance reporting system and in 2007 launched CalHospitalCompare.org. She has taught health care law as an adjunct professor at Golden Gate University School of Law.

Ms. Rodgers received her master's degree from Harvard Graduate School of Education and her law degree from Harvard Law School.

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