

NO TIME TO SPARE



Rachel Johnson-Farias '12 had little choice but to hit the ground running as the new executive director of Berkeley Law's Center on Reproductive Rights & Justice.

America's teenage pregnancy rate is higher than in many developed countries; women of color face disproportionate barriers to health insurance, contraceptives, and quality care during pregnancy and childbirth; and 29 states are hostile to abortion rights.



HOMEcoming: Alumna Rachel Johnson-Farias '12 has returned to Berkeley Law to lead its Center on Reproductive Rights & Justice.

"I'm really interested in investigating policies leading to poor maternal health outcomes," Johnson-Farias says. "Additionally, crucial to realizing reproductive justice for all is removing barriers to meaningful choice."

The first think tank of its kind, CRRJ's non-partisan analyses contributed to the budgetary repeal of California's welfare family cap in 2016. The center also produced the first law school textbook on reproductive rights and justice issues, and launched the first online collection of reproductive resources to help bridge the academic-advocate divide.

On April 12, the center presented its inaugural CRRJeous Conversation, which included a panel discussion on Black maternal mortality.

After graduating from Berkeley Law, Johnson-Farias implemented a juvenile reentry program at the East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC) and founded Esq. Apprentice, which offers free legal-profession training to low-income people of color. In law school, she won the Francine Diaz Memorial Award for her social justice commitment.

"If it weren't for providing direct services to real people, the law wouldn't have made much sense to me," Johnson-Farias says of her student involvement at the Workers' Rights Clinic and EBCLC. "Those early experiences helped bring the law into focus for me, and I continue to draw on them." —*Andrew Cohen*