

## Panel 9 Speaker Bios

### Sara Ainsworth



Sara Ainsworth, JD, Director of Legal Advocacy, is a graduate of the University of Washington School of Law. She began her legal career in poverty law, advocating for safety and economic security for survivors of intimate partner violence. Sara was Senior Counsel with Legal Voice (formerly the Northwest Women's Law Center), where she worked to secure the rights of all women to reproductive health and freedom. While at Legal Voice, she helped lead Washington State efforts to stop the deceptive practices of crisis pregnancy centers and to pass a bill prohibiting the shackling of pregnant incarcerated women. Sara is also adjunct faculty with the University of Washington School of Law and a former visiting assistant professor at Seattle University School of Law, where she taught women's rights courses. She is a founding board member of Surge Northwest, a non-profit that works for reproductive and racial justice in the Northwest. She is overjoyed to be able to work for NAPW from Seattle, her hometown.

## **Joanna Erdman**



Joanna N. Erdman is an assistant professor and the inaugural MacBain Chair in Health Law and Policy at the Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia, Canada. Her primary research area is sexual and reproductive health and human rights in a transnational context. She has published in leading international journals on harm reduction in safe abortion, the regulation of emergency contraception, and human papillomavirus vaccines policy. Joanna is a co-editor of the recently published, *Abortion Law in Transnational Perspective: Cases and Controversies* (2014). Joanna has acted as an intervener before various courts and international bodies, including the European Court of Human Rights, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and the Committee against Torture. She co-chairs the Gender and Rights Advisory Panel of the Reproductive Health and Research Department, World Health Organization, and serves on the advisory boards of the Public Health Program and Women's Rights Program of Open Society Foundations. She received her BA and JD degrees from the University of Toronto and her LLM from Harvard Law School, and completed a fellowship in reproductive justice at Yale Law School.

## **Courtney Normand**



Courtney Normand is Washington State Public Affairs Manager at Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii (PPVNH), where she has worked to build and mobilize the grassroots movement for reproductive health and rights over the past seven years. She was born and raised in rural Snohomish County and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology, Minor in Women Studies, and Master of Arts Degree in Policy Studies at the University of Washington. Her research on low-income single mothers, welfare reform and child-care subsidies was published in the UW Bothell Policy Journal in 2007. In 2008 she joined the team at Planned Parenthood as a field organizer, and after two years of hard work organizing activists and amassing an impressive collection of campaign buttons and pink t-shirts, she was promoted to Public Affairs Manager of the Washington Team. In 2012 she was honored with a Campaign Heroines Award from the National Women's Political Caucus of Washington for her work writing and executing PPVNH's robust statewide electoral campaign plan for 2012. Courtney lives in Arlington, Washington with her husband, Kirk, three-year-old daughter, Madeline, and seven-month-old son, Archer. She enjoys gardening, downhill skiing, riding motorcycles, and camping with her family.