

**What:** Roe at 45: When Rights ≠ Access with special speaker, Dr. Willie Parker

**Presenter:** National Council of Jewish Women | Los Angeles

**Date:** Sunday, January 14, 2018

**Time:** 5PM to 7:30 PM

**Location:** 543. N. Fairfax Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90036

**RSVP:** This is a free community event. RSVP required to Joanie at joanie@ncjwla.org 323-852-8518

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Dr. Willie Parker Joins NCJW | LA for “Roe at 45: When Rights ≠ Access”**

*Over 20 Reproductive Justice Organizations Unite to Tackle Barriers to Abortion Access in California and Nationwide for the 45th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade on Sunday, January 14, 2018*

**Los Angeles, CA** (December 20, 2017) - On Sunday, January 14, 2018, Dr. Willie Parker, nationally renowned OB/GYN and abortion access advocate, will address hundreds of Southern Californians for “Roe at 45: When Rights ≠ Access.” Hosted by the National Council of Jewish Women, Los Angeles (NCJW | LA) and co-sponsored by over 20 local, state, and national organizations, this event marks the 45th anniversary of the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision, that protects a woman’s decision to have an abortion, with a call to tackle barriers to abortion access in California and nationwide.

**Dr. Willie Parker, MD (pictured right)** is the physician plaintiff in the federal lawsuit preventing the closure of Mississippi’s only abortion clinic, a case currently in request for hearing by the U.S. Supreme Court. He is a reproductive justice advocate and was honored by the United Nations Office of Human Rights as one of 12 Women’s Human Rights Defenders, and received Planned Parenthood’s 2015 Margaret Sanger Award. He is also the author of the book *Life’s Work: A Moral Argument for Choice*, in which he tells a deeply personal and thought-provoking narrative. The book illuminates the complex societal, political, religious, and individual realities of abortion in the United States from the perspective of someone who performs them and defends the right to do so every day. He looks at how a new wave of anti-abortion activism, aimed at making incremental changes in laws and regulations state by state, is slowly chipping away at the rights of women to control their own lives. In revealing his daily battle against mandatory waiting periods and bogus rules governing the width of hallways, Dr. Parker uncovers the growing number of strings attached to the right to choose and makes a compelling case for championing reproductive rights.



In addition to Dr. Parker’s appearance, the evening will feature an interactive program that powerfully illustrates the experiences of women seeking abortions and the legal, financial, and personal barriers they face together with the consequences of these obstacles. Participants will be invited to discuss their experiences and how to take action to ensure abortion access following the program.

Participants will also have access to Across the Line, an immersive virtual reality experience that combines 360-degree video and computer-generated imaging (CGI) to put viewers in the shoes of a patient entering a health center for a safe and legal abortion.

**Sandra Fluke**, Voices for Progress, California State Director says, “Our constitutional right to safe and legal abortion hangs by a thread while the ability of women in vulnerable communities to realistically access abortion is being constantly eroded. We must all educate ourselves about these threats and how to take action now.”

#### **Co-sponsors include (so far):**

ACLU of Southern California (ACLU/SC)

Advocacy Committee for Women’s Concerns (ACWC)

Anti-Defamation League (ADL)

Black Women for Wellness (BWW)

California Coalition for Reproductive Freedom (CCRF)

California Latinas for Reproductive Justice (CLRJ)

California NOW  
California Women's Law Center (CWLC)  
City of West Hollywood  
City of West Hollywood Women's Advisory Board  
Hollywood NOW  
ikar  
Lenore Wax  
LA for Choice  
NARAL Pro-Choice California  
National Council of Jewish Women, Los Angeles (NCJW | LA)  
National Health Law Program (NHLP)  
Planned Parenthood Los Angeles (PPLA)  
Planned Parenthood Los Angeles Young Professionals (PPLA YP)  
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (RCRC)  
Temple Isaiah  
Temple Israel of Hollywood  
Woman's Perspective Organization  
Women's Reproductive Rights Assistance Project (WRRAP)

**About NCJW | LA**

The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) is a grassroots organization of volunteers and advocates who turn progressive ideals into action. Inspired by Jewish values, NCJW strives for social justice by improving the quality of life for women, children, and families and by safeguarding individual rights and freedoms. NCJW | LA social justice programs provide education and legislative advocacy on issues that affect and impact women, children and families in the areas of children's rights, economic justice, healthcare, human trafficking, reproductive justice, LGBTQ rights, and gender-related violence. All donations to our eight Council Thrift Shops support the programs and services of NCJW | LA. NCJW | LA is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization (Tax ID #95- 1641433). To get help call 877-655-3807 or for more info visit [www.ncjwla.org](http://www.ncjwla.org), call 323-651-2930, or email [info@ncjwla.org](mailto:info@ncjwla.org). Donate today to Council Thrift 800-400-6259.

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