

3-25-2014

Golden Gate University Professor Leads Bill Limiting State Prison Sterilizations

Lisa Lomba

Golden Gate University School of Law, llomba@ggu.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.law.ggu.edu/pressreleases>

 Part of the [Civil Rights and Discrimination Commons](#), and the [Law and Gender Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Lomba, Lisa, "Golden Gate University Professor Leads Bill Limiting State Prison Sterilizations" (2014). *Press Releases*. Paper 92.
<http://digitalcommons.law.ggu.edu/pressreleases/92>

This Press Release is brought to you for free and open access by the About GGU School of Law at GGU Law Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Press Releases by an authorized administrator of GGU Law Digital Commons. For more information, please contact jfischer@ggu.edu.

Golden Gate University Professor Leads Bill Limiting State Prison Sterilizations

San Francisco, CA (March 25, 2014) — [Golden Gate University](#) (GGU) is at the heart of legislation recently introduced by the California Legislative Women's Caucus to limit sterilization surgeries in all state prisons, county jails and other detention centers.

Since the mid-2000s, [Cynthia Chandler](#), an adjunct professor at [Golden Gate University School of Law](#) and co-founder of the Oakland-based prisoner rights group Justice Now, actively pushed for an end to prison sterilizations, gathering data and firsthand accounts from female prisoners about questionable and damaging surgeries. The group has worked closely with state Sen. Hanna-Beth Jackson, D-Santa Barbara, who introduced SB 1135. Chandler and her group crafted the bill's language that would ban sterilizations for birth-control purposes in all state and local correctional institutions. Surgeries would be restricted to life-threatening medical emergencies and the curing of physical ailments.

"Justice Now hopes that this bill moves attention toward ensuring all California families have a future by sending a clear message that coercive sterilizations targeting imprisoned people are not tolerated," Chandler said.

If passed, the bill would close several loopholes on inmate sterilizations and for the first time bring California law up to federal standards. Federal and state laws ban sterilizations if federal funds are used, but allow for the use of state money. Prison rules have restricted tubal ligations since 1994, but no such limits were placed on surgeries that removed women's uteruses and ovaries.

At GGU, Chandler serves as the law school's Public Interest Career Counselor, providing career guidance for students interested in law careers that serve the greater good. In 2010, she was awarded a Gevelber Distinguished Lectureship on Public Interest Law from Northeastern University School of Law.

About Golden Gate University School of Law (GGU Law)

[GGU Law](#) offers full- and part-time law programs that blend practical skills training with legal theory to prepare students to be critical thinkers, problem solvers and leaders. Founded in 1901, GGU's Law School is accredited by the American Bar Association and American Association of Law Schools.

About Golden Gate University

[Golden Gate University](#), a private nonprofit, has been helping adults achieve their professional goals by providing undergraduate and graduate education in accounting, law, taxation, business and related areas for more than 113 years. The university is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

###

Media Contact:

Judy Rowcliffe, judy@mortaragency.com, 415-456-4131