

“Defending the Free Speech Rights of Pro-Life Advocates”

Presenter Biographies

Catherine Short, Life Legal Defense Foundation Legal Director

Catherine Short graduated from Thomas Aquinas College in 1980 with a B.A. in Liberal Arts. She received her Law degree from Boalt Hall, U.C. Berkeley, in 1983.



In 1985, Ms. Short began sidewalk counseling outside an abortion clinic. Over the next few years, her efforts turned to using her legal training to protect the rights of other pro-life activists, including rescuers, sidewalk counselors, and crisis pregnancy centers. In 1989, she participated in establishing Life Legal Defense Foundation, which she now serves as Legal Director.

In her years with LLDF, Ms. Short has written numerous briefs for state and federal courts, including petitions for certiorari and amicus briefs in the United States Supreme Court and California Supreme Court. She has also co-authored the text of Proposition 73, Proposition 85, and most recently Proposition 4, all of which were California ballot initiatives attempting to establish a law requiring parental notification before a minor can receive an abortion. She was recently co-counsel in *People’s Advocate v. ICOC*, a suit challenging the constitutionality of the governing board of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine, the agency established by Proposition 71 to fund embryonic stem cell research.

Ms. Short’s primary focus is defending the free speech rights of pro-life activists at every level of both state and federal court. She is married to fellow TAC graduate Bill Short and has nine children.

Allison K. Aranda, Life Legal Defense Foundation Senior Staff Counsel

Allison Aranda graduated from Biola University in 1997 with a B.A. in Social Science and a minor in Sociology. She went on to earn a Law degree from Pepperdine University in 2001. Ms. Aranda worked as a prosecutor in Orange and Riverside Counties and was honored as Misdemeanor Prosecutor of the Year in 2004.



In 2006, Ms. Aranda went to work for a public interest law firm in San Diego where her work as a pro-life litigator began. In 2008, Ms. Aranda accepted the Life Legal Defense Foundation’s invitation to join their staff where she now dedicates her time to defending the liberties of pro-life advocates.

Recently Ms. Aranda was co-counsel in *People v. Hoye* and *Turn the Hearts v. City of Birmingham*. In *People v. Hoye*, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office prosecuted Pastor Walter Hoye claiming that he violated the City of Oakland's bubble ordinance. After a successful appeal, all charges against Pastor Hoye were dismissed. *Turn the Hearts v. City of Birmingham* was filed after nine pro-life advocates were arrested while standing on the public sidewalk in Birmingham. All criminal charges against the pro-life activists were dropped, the Birmingham permit ordinance dating back to the civil rights era of the 1960's was struck down, and the city paid an undisclosed amount of money to the pro-lifers who were wrongfully arrested.

Ms. Aranda's primary focus is defending the free speech rights of pro-life activists in both state and federal court. Additionally, Ms. Aranda has taught several legal seminars for pro-life activists to educate them about their free speech rights. Ms. Aranda resides in Temecula, where she grew up. She and her husband Miguel are foster parents to three adorable kids.

About Life Legal Defense Foundation

Founded in 1989, Life Legal Defense Foundation (LLDF) is a non-profit public interest law firm operating through both full-time staff and a network of attorneys and other concerned citizens committed to the sanctity of human life.



LLDF's mission is to give innocent and helpless human beings of any age, particularly unborn children, a trained and committed defense against the threat of death, and to support their advocates in the nation's courtrooms. LLDF seeks to accomplish its mission and purpose through law and education.

As an example of LLDF's legal work, LLDF recently settled two civil rights actions filed in Orange County, California against Cypress College. The settlement on behalf of young pro-life advocates includes significant changes to the school's free speech policy and monetary damages. The plaintiffs are now welcome to share the message of life on the Cypress College campus.

LLDF also conducts seminars and trainings on legal and life-related issues. In the fall of 2011, LLDF presented "Do No Harm" a seminar on conscience rights issues. The seminar focused on pharmacists' rights to conscientiously object to dispensing drugs harmful to human life. LLDF also publishes a periodical, *LifeLine*, which includes up-to-date news relevant to life issues in the law.

Visit lldf.org for more information; you can also follow LLDF on Facebook and Twitter.