

CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FUND

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Wrongful Birth ???

Jury Gives Parents \$4.5 Million Because They Missed Chance to Abort Disabled Son By Paul Cooper

I was talking to an associate the other day and mentioned "Wrongful Birth" He Couldn't believe it. Well folks, here is proof... reality is sometimes stranger than fiction!

On September 9, a West Palm Beach jury awarded Rodolfo Santana and Ana Mejia \$4.5 million because they did not get accurate information from Dr. Marie Morel and OB/GYN Specialists of the Palm Beaches. Their son Bryan Santana, now age 3, was born disabled. He has no arms and only one leg. The argument made by his parents was that if the clinic had told them their son was so disabled, they would have aborted him. And since they didn't get a chance to terminate Bryan in the womb, and obviously they can't legally do it now, they wanted millions of dollars.

The woman, who certainly will not win any mother-of-the-year awards, told the jury during the two-week trial, "Definitely, I would have had an abortion."

I hope when little Bryan grows up he never Googles himself or his parents. I can't imagine the horror when he reads that his parents said they would have killed him. I wonder how quickly he will grasp that his parents think his life, since he has disabilities, isn't worth living. I wonder if that jury considered how the disabled community would feel if they knew that a jury awarded these parents millions because they missed the opportunity to abort their disabled son.

Marc Sherman, Program Director for AccessABILITY Center for Independent Living, Inc. Sherman, who has been diagnosed with C5/C6 quadriplegia himself, had a strong reaction:

A disability is just a natural part of life. A person with a disability has just as much worth and just as much importance as anybody else. It doesn't matter what kind of disability, they have just as much worth and importance.

They should get to choose how they want to live.

Sherman went on to explain that people with disabilities are guaranteed the same rights as anyone else, and that this case says a lot about how our culture still sees the disabled as less than equal:

The disabled have rights just like women or minorities. This case would be the same as if these parents wanted to abort a child because of gender or race. It's the same thing as in China where you have women aborting children because they are females and not males.

It's a valid argument. What would that jury have done if the parents complained that the clinic told them they were having a male but they had a female? What would the reaction be to a parent openly saying that they deserve millions because they would have aborted their girl if they knew she was going to be a girl? Any ultrasound nurse will tell you that every once in a while they get the gender wrong. Does this give precedence for future lawsuits?

Few people realize how much sentiment exists out there that the disabled are less than human. If you want proof one only has to look at abortion. In the UK, there are limits on when you can abort a baby unless that baby has severe disabilities. The UK law does not define those disabilities but allows abortion up until the moment of birth if the child is disabled. Why? Obviously the message is that a child with disabilities has less value or reason to live. The West Palm Beach jury would agree with that atrocious idea.

In America, 90% of non-life threatening disabled babies are aborted. If you have a disability in the womb, you have a 1 in 10 chance of being born. You have a 9 in 10 chance of your parents deciding your life isn't worth living. In 2003, a Gallop Poll revealed that almost 6 in 10 Americans think it is okay to abort if a child has a mental or physical disability. Imagine if instead of a disability, 6 in 10 said it was okay to abort because a child is black or female.

Thankfully, these numbers are so shocking that even some on the pro-choice Left see this as a problem. The Left is conflicted in being pro-rights for all types of minorities, but being pro-choice on abortion. As one pro-choice writer said:

There is clearly a double standard here. It seems that a large number of people are pro-life only for babies who are thought to be "perfect." Polling indicates that people not faced with this decision personally would still be more likely to support an abortion in this situation. Reality indicates that people actually faced with this decision almost universally choose abortion.

We need more on the Left to realize their own double standard. Ted Kennedy, who was a huge pro-choice advocate, understood the poor treatment of the disabled. In 2005, Kennedy co-sponsored the Prenatally and Postnatally Diagnosed Conditions Awareness Act. That bill expanded federal financing to teach parents of children with Down Syndrome how to help raise them. Kennedy understood that parents needed to learn that disabled children had equal value, and if parents learned those skills, then they wouldn't feel the need to abort. The goal of the bill was to stop the atrocious rate of abortions based on a child being diagnosed with Down Syndrome. That bill was co-sponsored by big pro-lifer Sam Brownback, it was signed into law by President Bush, and it was actually backed by the pro-abortion NARAL.

We can dream that someday Americans will again see the value in the lives of the disabled and turn the 90% abortion rate around. But for now, a jury in Florida all made it clear that they believe the disabled are not worthy of life. And missing out on the chance to kill the disabled when still in the womb is now worth millions.

Paul Cooper wears many hats but only some of them well. He is first and foremost a husband and father in a house filled with females (even the cat). He pastors a church, runs an online business with his wife, and does

freelance writing that is usually conservative and from a Christian worldview.

Abortion Increases Mental Health Risks 81 Percent

Accounts For Ten Percent Of All Mental Health Problems.

A new landmark study published this month in the [British Journal of Psychiatry](#) by Dr. Priscilla Coleman of Bowling Green University the most published researcher in the field of abortion and mental health, finds that women who have an abortion are eighty-one percent more likely to have mental health problems than those who give birth. It also found that a staggering ten percent of mental health problems are directly attributable to abortion.

Coleman's Study is based on an analysis of 22 separate studies which, in total, examine the pregnancy experiences of 877,000 women, with 163,831 women having an abortion."

The study also reports a 34 percent higher risk of anxiety disorders, 37 percent higher risk of depression, a 110 percent higher risk of alcohol abuse, a 220 percent greater risk of marijuana use and 155 percent greater risk of trying to commit suicide. Women with a history of abortion were 55 percent more likely to have mental health problems than women who did not abort an unplanned pregnancy.

Dr. Coleman conducted the study "to produce an unbiased analysis of the best available evidence addressing abortion as one risk factor among many others that may increase the likelihood of mental health problems." She also said, "this review offers the largest estimate of mental health risks associated with abortion available in the world literature. The results revealed moderate to high increased risk of mental health problems after abortion. Consistent with evidence-based medicine, this information should be used by health care professionals."

Coleman also says this study was necessary because "recently published, less systematic reviews of the scientific literature on abortion and mental health, including the American Psychological Association report and one by Johns Hopkins researchers among others, are prone to bias, and as a result actively mislead the public."

Do you know someone who might be considering abortion?

Make sure they get the facts first!

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Abortion advocates of course will attack the results by not only attacking Coleman's reputation because she is pro-life, they will also blame the victim by saying that the woman had problems before the abortion and she, not the abortion, is to blame. How convenient. This has the effect of blackmailing women (and men) from talking about their abortion related pain and keeps them from getting help as it sends the clear message that something is wrong with anyone grieving over or experiencing emotional and psychological problems from an abortion.

But the study undermines this dehumanizing pro-abortion argument because it found that women who aborted an "unplanned" pregnancy were 55 percent more likely to experience mental health problems than those who did not abort an unplanned pregnancy."

The increased risks should be disclosed immediately as part of informed consent so that women, as long as abortion is legal, can make an informed choice. Abortion advocates' resistance to scientific and medically accurate informed consent and their unwillingness to screen women at risk for mental health problems associated with abortion shows that "choice" is a mere euphemism and that their "counseling" is salesmanship in guise of counseling.

Whether anyone is pro-life or pro-choice on abortion, the futures of women considering an abortion are too important to be sacrificed for abortion profits.

Student Corner

By Maddie Lopez

I felt compelled to say thank you once again for all the wonderful supplies, because today they were extremely helpful! We had a club fair at my school, and our table's attraction was it's pro-life wristbands that you gave me when I last saw you! The ones that said, "A man's strength is his character" were perfect, since the club fair was at De La Salle, the all guys school! Next week is the girl's club fair, and I'm stoked! Thank you sooo much!

Also, I'm proud to announce that my club is extremely more organized this year! We Are eager to come reach out to the greater community through the information mall table, we'd be honored to help! My plan is to have a sign up sheet and everything to insure that we have people! And from what I've seen, our group is excited to get started!

And of course we are looking forward to the annual Walk for Life West Coast in January 2012.

Anyway, thank you so much for all you gave me. It is still getting great use! :)

Around the Office

Cecelia Cody, Administrative Director

As reported in the last newsletter, September is the kickoff for the Combined Federal Campaign and other employee payroll charity giving programs. We were honored to be invited to several events in September.

One moment will be forever etched into my memory. It was the last event of the week. A woman approached the table, and I stamped her meal ticket with a hand of the 10-12 week baby in the womb, and then showed her the precious feet pin, followed by the precious preborn. She screamed, "It's a baby!" and then said, "I didn't know. I really thought it was just a blob of tissue, that what they told me! I even counseled my niece to have an abortion!" I was able to talk to her for few minutes and gave her information on the Rachel's Vineyard healing retreat program and also the "Silent no More Awareness" campaign.

I was also able to talk to a number of people about "End of Life Issues" and the Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care (more on that in our November newsletter) and the importance of having a "surrogate" assigned and documented in case you are unable to express your health care wishes. People were surprised at the many facets of the right to life arena, and very open to our message on these end of life matters.

Looking forward... In October, we have been invited to set up an information table at a Pro-Life Boot Camp in Oakland in which the coordinators hope to have 300 teenagers! The supplies for this event alone have cost over \$1,000.

Thank you for your ongoing donations, through payroll deductions, newsletter envelopes and online banking. It is solely through your donations that we are able to proclaim the message of life in these various arenas.

Upcoming Events

Annual St. Like's Mass and Banquet

Saturday November 12 5PM-9PM

Mass 5:00PM - St. Thomas More Church 1300 Junipero Serra Blvd San Francisco. Banquet 6-9PM Alma Via of San Francisco 1 Thomas More Way San Francisco, CA 94132. Banquet \$25.

Speaker will be Michael A DeNunzio, Commissioner California Commission on Aging "The Need to Protect Seniors from Elder Abuse and Assisted Suicide"

For further information contact George Maloof M.D.

gemaloof2003@yahoo.com or 415-305-2408

First Ever Historic INTERNATIONAL Pro-Life

Youth Conference November 11-13, 2011, in Los Angeles. Speakers include Father Pavone, Pastor Walter Hoye, and Lila Rose! See their website <http://internationalprolifeyouth.com/> for all the details.

Saturday - January 21, 2012 – 8th Annual Walk for Life. Mark your calendars now (if you haven't already) for the largest gathering of Pro-Lifers on the West Coast. Visit: <http://www.walkforlifewc.com/>

Remember www.calendarforlife.org

For the latest and most up to date listing of activities and events happening in your area.

WHO IS CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE?

This is the newsletter of **California Right to Life Education Fund**, a 501-c-3 organization established to educate the public about pro-life issues. Donations to the EDUCATION FUND are **tax-deductible** and can be sent to P.O. Box 4343, Walnut Creek, CA 94596-0343.

California Right to Life **Committee, Inc.** is a 501-c-4 organization providing information on legislative issues affecting the right to life, and pro-life political advocacy. **CRLC, Inc. is not permitted**, under IRS regulations, to offer a tax deduction for donations. \$24.99 annually is requested for a subscription to the CRLC legislative email updates list and can be sent to 1920 Monument Blvd #309, Concord, CA 94520.

Both are affiliates of American Life League, headed by Judie Brown, and share the same "no-exceptions, no excuses" beliefs and the same dedication to promoting the Culture of Life, respecting all innocent human life from the single-cell stage to natural death.

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