



JANE'S DUE PROCESS

Ensuring legal representation for pregnant minors in Texas

Summer News
2019

It's been a busy
summer at Jane's
Due Process

We are excited to announce that Rosann Mariappuram has joined Jane's Due Process as our new Executive Director! Tina Hester retired from JDP this past May after over a decade of incredible service. Rosann is an attorney and advocate who has served on the boards of the Lilith Fund and NARAL Pro-Choice Texas. Most recently she was an If/When/How Reproductive Justice Fellow in Seattle, WA. Want to chat with Rosann? Feel free to email her at rosann@janesdueprocess.org.



Outgoing executive director Tina Hester (far left) with incoming executive director Rosann Mariappuram (middle left) as well as Stephanie Toti and former Jane's Due Process staff member Amanda Bennett.



This past June, our former client and abortion storyteller HK Gray testified before the U.S. House Judiciary Committee on the state of reproductive rights in America. Through her powerful testimony, HK shared her experience of seeking an abortion through the judicial bypass process in Texas as a minor.

Jane's Due Process client HK Gray (middle) preparing to testify in front of Congress on reproductive rights in America



Our Client Services Manager, Irma Garcia, wrote a piece for wearemitu.com about helping teens who are being detained by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) access abortion. “Shelters are required to reach out to me as soon as the unaccompanied minor mentions that she is interested in terminating her pregnancy. At that point, I speak with the minor to get a sense of her situation, and then reach out to clinics and local attorneys to set her appointments.” Access is especially hard because most ORR shelters are in South Texas, which only has one abortion clinic. Irma explains, “I am in constant communication with Jane to prep for her hearing. She then goes before a judge to prove that obtaining an abortion is in her best interest or that she’s mature enough to make the decision to terminate. Once the bypass gets approved, I reach out to the clinic to notify and set her appointments. Then, I reach out to abortion funds to cover her abortion costs and lastly, confirm with the shelter that transportation is set.”

In July, former Jane's Due Process client CoWanda Rusk was featured in a piece at POPSUGAR about abortion funds. “When I found out I was pregnant, immediately I just started to pray,” CoWanda told POPSUGAR. “Like, 'What am I going to do?' I didn't have that kind of relationship with my parents where I felt comfortable enough to go tell them.” CoWanda relied on her faith, talking to God and carefully considering the kind of life she wanted for herself. “I was in school, thinking about it, on my computer, doing some applications. And then I was like, 'You're planning your future right now. And this one thing could possibly change the way that you navigate that.’”



“MY ROLE IS TO
MAKE SURE THAT
EVERY PERSON WHO
CALLS US SEEKING
AN ABORTION
CAN OBTAIN ONE.”

Irma Garcia
Director of Client Services



Your support makes all of this work possible.
Thank you for supporting Texas teens' reproductive rights and the movement for abortion access!
Make sure to keep up with Jane's Due Process at www.janesdueprocess.org!