

Speaker Biographies



Impact of Abortion

TARA WICKER

State Director of Louisiana Black Advocates for Life

Tara Wicker is an activist and community leader in the fight for life, justice, and righteousness. Her conviction to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves has been a driving force that has fueled her passion for pro-life advocacy throughout her life. It is her fundamental belief that in the fight for justice we must first stand up for righteousness because it is righteousness that truly qualifies us to fight for justice. Tara brings a wealth of energy, excitement, and experience as she proudly takes on her new role as the State Director of Louisiana Black Advocates for Life. She is a native of Baton Rouge and is the

First Lady of Lighthouse Christian Fellowship Church, which she and her husband, Pastor Michael Wicker, founded in January 2014. Tara is a dedicated and passionate Christian who believes strongly in the value of the family unit. She has lived and worked throughout the capital city of Baton Rouge for most of her life and career. Tara holds a master's degree in Public Administration with an emphasis in Public Policy Analysis and has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science.

AMBER SIMS

Currently a 32-year-old resident of Lafayette, Amber Sims has been involved in the pro-life moment for several years. She is a graduate of ULL and a proud dog mom to Oliver. Amber currently works full-time as a Quality Control Specialist with a tech company and as a part-time youth minister at her local church. She is also the co-founder of Friendship Explored and is pursuing a Spiritual Direction certification through Divine Mercy University.



SEAN CORCORAN

Sean Corcoran lost his first child, Michael, to abortion when he was 19 years old. In an effort to cope with the loss, Sean attempted to fill the emotional, psychological, and spiritual hole caused by the abortion with anything he could get his hands on. At 27, Sean was homeless, unemployed, in the midst of a full-blown 7-year addiction to methamphetamines, and dying alone on a bathroom floor. Through the grace of God, today Sean is an attorney, married to his lifelong crush, and the father to five more children, ages 7, 6, 3, 3, & 2, three of whom are adopted. Sean has noticed an absence in the abortion conversation of men who have had their

children murdered in the womb, and is passionate about giving those fathers a voice and a sense of peace in their pain.

Hard Cases of Abortion

KIM HARDEY, MD

Dr. Kim Hardey is a 67 year old physician who graduated from Lafayette in 1976 and from LSU medical school in New Orleans in 1981. After completing his residency in obstetrics and gynecology he moved out of state for seven years, but moved to Lafayette in 1993 to start a pro-life practice. He has been on the board of the Womens Center of Lafayette for 20 years and has been a source of referral for abortion minded patients from the local crisis pregnancy center's for over 30 years.



3rd Party Reproduction

JOE ZALOT, PH.D

Staff Ethicist, National Catholic Bioethics Center

Dr. Zalot joined The National Catholic Bioethics Center as a staff ethicist in July 2017. He served from 2015 to 2017 as the regional director of ethics and spiritual care for Mercy Health–Cincinnati. He also served as a lecturer at the Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary's Seminary, where he taught courses in medical ethics and morality and justice in Catholic life. From 2004 to 2009, Dr. Zalot was an Associate Professor at Mount St. Joseph University in Cincinnati, and from 2009 to 2015 he was an Associate Professor (with tenure). At Mount St. Joseph, he taught courses in health care ethics, business ethics, sexual and reproductive ethics, introduction to Catholic theology, and marriage. Dr. Zalot earned a PhD from Marquette University in 2002, an MEd from Boston College in 1997, an MEd from Springfield College in 1991, and a BA from St. Anselm College in 1989. He has written two books and various articles and reviews, and he presents at academic conferences both domestically and internationally.

The Pro-Life Movement & YOU!

CHERILYN HOLLOWAY

Founder, Pro-Black Pro-Life

Cherilyn travels the country educating our community about the negative messaging they receive regarding Motherhood and the sanctity of life. Cherilyn is an author and a thought leader. Her point of view has been sought after by ABC as part of their series, "Soul of a Nation." Her candor about the state of Motherhood in the Black community brings stale and erroneous assumptions out into the open for examination and review.



HARLEE BARBIER

Summer Intern, Louisiana Right to Life

CLELIE CARPENTER

Baton Rouge Right to Life

Foster Care & The Adoption Option

SARAH ZAGORSKI

Communications Director & Director of Adoption, Louisiana Right to Life

Sarah is a seasoned pro-life strategist based in New Orleans, Louisiana. She currently serves as the Adoption Education and Communications Director for Louisiana Right to Life. She was rescued from abortion in 1990 and went on to spend nearly eight years in the Louisiana Foster Care System prior to her adoption at age 9. Read more about her story at SarahZagorski.com.



STACY MONTESANO

Stacy Montesano lives in Breaux Bridge, LA and is happily married to her husband Bruce Montesano for almost 37 years. Bruce and Stacy experienced heart-breaking infertility for 9 years before discerning adoption and choosing open adoption as the way to welcome children into their lives. They are the proud parents of three adopted children, Amanda, Stephanie, and Matthew who they lovingly adopted at birth through Catholic Charities in Lafayette. Along with their children, Bruce and Stacy actively advocate for open adoption for prospective adoptive couples through working with Catholic Charities in Baton Rouge. Bruce and Stacy are active within their Church and community and enjoy spending time with their family and friends.

AMANDA DAVIDSON

Amanda Davidson is one of three of Bruce and Stacy Montesano's adopted children. She was raised in Breaux Bridge, Louisiana, and graduated college in 2019 from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in Kinesiology. Amanda, like her siblings, was adopted at birth through Catholic Charities in Lafayette. It was in middle school when she first discovered how there was misinformation on adoption, specifically in private open adoption, and knew she had to help in some small way clear up this misinformation within her middle school for her siblings and adopted students that came after her. Amanda is married to her husband, Ethan Davidson, and they are excitedly awaiting the birth of their first baby early in 2023. In her spare time Amanda enjoys painting, spending time with her family, and volunteering for the pro-life



movement.

AND BOBBIE JONES

Pro-Life Art, Design, and Social Media Advocacy



CLAIRE SEYMOUR

Claire got started in the Pro-Life movement at the young age of 13 after attending a PULSE team meeting. Ever since then she's been passionate about being a voice for the unborn and continuing to grow in knowledge by attending many many PULSE camps and advocating in her own community. She has painted a mural in the LA Right To Life office in 2018, has sent submissions to various pro-life art contests, and has volunteered with LARTL a number of times. She is most passionate about using art as an alternate voice in the pro life conversation to beautifully portray the message and dignity of human life. Claire was adopted from South Korea and was raised in Louisiana her whole life along with her two brothers who were also adopted from Vietnam. She lived overseas in Saudi Arabia for 3 years and has gained much cultural knowledge having traveled the world. She recently graduated high school in 2020 as well as graduated Aveda Arts and Sciences in 2020 for Esthetics. She's a Makeup artist, Body painter, Esthetician, lover of horror, and loves to enjoy life in all its glorious details! There's so much beauty in life that she believes everyone, no matter the circumstances, should get to experience.

Abby Rose Nichols

Live to Love for Life

Youth Programs Director, Louisiana Right to Life

Mail Order Abortions and Current Pro-Life Politics

ANGIE THOMAS

Associate Director, Louisiana Right to Life

Angie Thomas serves as Associate Director for Louisiana Right to Life. Prior to this position, she served as CEO of the Woman's New Life Clinic, a professional counseling and medical clinic offering life-affirming services for women in unplanned pregnancies, post-abortive men and women, and women's health. She led the effort to expand authentic women's health services in South Louisiana, reclaiming reproductive healthcare and offering alternatives to Planned Parenthood. Her work includes legal education and training for pregnancy centers, development and outreach, legislative advocacy, education about

life issues, and implementing new programs in building a culture of life. Angie also serves as Attorney with National Institute of Family and Life Advocates. Angie is a graduate of the Manship School of Mass Communications at Louisiana State University (B.A. 2001, magna cum laude) and Loyola Law School (J.D. 2004, cum laude). She lives in New Orleans with her husband and four daughters.



Holistic Women's Healthcare

ANGELA MARIE PARISE, MD

Dr. Angela Marie Parise is a fellow in the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (OB/GYN). She earned her medical degree from SUNY Downstate in Brooklyn in 2001 and completed her residency at Ochsner Health in 2005 where she served as the Chief Administrative Resident. She received the Special Excellence Award in Endoscopic Procedures during her last year of training.

Dr. Parise practiced in Mobile, Alabama but had a strong desire to return to New Orleans and has recently joined the OB/GYN team at Ochsner. Her specialty includes minimally invasive procedures and robotic surgery with an interest in routine obstetric care, adolescent gynecology and advanced gynecologic surgery such as hysteroscopic endometrial ablation, total laparoscopic hysterectomy, and uterine fibroid surgery. Additionally, Dr. Parise works closely with women seeking natural planning pregnancy methods and contraceptive free solutions for gynecological issues associated with reasons of faith or a desire for healthy hormone-free options.

Euthanasia | A Life Taken Too Soon

BOBBY SCHINDLER, MS

President, Terri Schiavo Life and Hope Network

Bobby Schindler is president of the Terri Schiavo Life & Hope Network. Bobby advocates for the medically vulnerable in honor of Terri Schiavo, his sister. A full-time advocate, speaker, and writer, Bobby and the Terri Schiavo Life & Hope Network have been instrumental in providing resources and support to nearly 3,000 patients and families at risk of euthanasia, assisted suicide, and denial-of-care situations from physicians, hospitals, insurance companies, and others. Bobby is a member of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities, and his writings have appeared in the Wall Street Journal, Chicago Tribune, TIME, The Linacre Quarterly, National Review, Human Life Review, The Washington Times, and others.



Human Trafficking

Yvette Fouchi