

Edith House Lecture



Focuses on Reproductive Rights

On the heels of the 30th anniversary of the Supreme Court's controversial *Roe v. Wade* decision,

Kathy Hall-Martinez, director of the International Program of the Center for Reproductive Law and Policy in New York City, delivered the 21st annual Edith House Lecture, titled "Using Legal Strategies to Promote Women's Reproductive Rights: Achievements and Challenges."

"The legal system fails women," Hall-Martinez said, noting that governments often take women's issues lightly because they are underrepresented in positions of power. She said reproductive rights encompass the ability to have safe pregnancies, access contraceptives, be protected from genital mutilation and have access to comprehensive female healthcare - including abortions.

At the CRLP, Hall-Martinez focuses on reproductive health and rights issues from both comparative legal and international human rights perspectives. She has worked with non-governmental organizations to ensure the United Nations committees that monitor compliance with international human rights treaties hold national governments accountable for their reproductive

rights obligations. She is a frequent speaker on reproductive rights issues at conferences in North America, Latin America, Europe and Africa.

Hall-Martinez has also collaborated on numerous publications including *Reproductive Rights 2000: Moving Forward*, *Reproductive Rights are Human Rights*, and the CRLP's signature *Women of the World* series.

She received her Bachelor of Arts in Comparative Literature from Princeton University and her Juris Doctor from the Columbia University School of Law.