

1992

Comparative Health Law

Annals of Health Law

Follow this and additional works at: <http://lawcommons.luc.edu/annals>

 Part of the [Health Law and Policy Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Comparative Health Law, 1 Annals Health L. 155 (1992).

Available at: <http://lawcommons.luc.edu/annals/vol1/iss1/12>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by LAW eCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Annals of Health Law by an authorized administrator of LAW eCommons. For more information, please contact law-library@luc.edu.

The practice of health law focuses primarily on domestic issues, and, as yet, it is hardly the norm for practitioners to be concerned with the comparative or international aspects of the field. There are, however, compelling reasons for health lawyers to be aware of related developments in other nations. With the increasing globalization of legal practice, it is likely that health lawyers will be confronted with issues requiring knowledge of the health law of other nations. More important, an understanding of other nations' legal systems deal with comparable health problems will theoretical insights. In the broader context, as our nation searches for ways to reform and restructure health care, models from other nations are analyzed to understand the strengths and weaknesses inherent in these other systems. While it is not our intention to make comparative health law a primary focus of the *Annals of Health Law*, it is an area we are committed to covering in order to increase the narrow base of literature that currently exists in the area and, in the process, expand the horizons of the field.

Starting in the summer of 1990, the Loyola Institute for Health Law and the McGill University Centre for Medicine, Ethics and Law established a conference series on comparative health law. The initial conference dealt with a comparison of health care systems issues in the United States and Canada, focusing on AIDS policy, medical malpractice, health care financing, and bioethical policy-making. The 1991 conference addressed the issue of child abuse. At this conference, scholars and practitioners presented the scope of the problem in Canada and the United States, approaches to childhood advocacy, the child as medical research subject, reforming the legal process impacting on child abuse, and the legal aspects of teenage pregnancy.

This issue's comparative health law section contains three articles written by Canadian academics on various aspects of child abuse who presented valuable information at the 1991 Loyola McGill conference in Montreal. Also included are the remarks of Judge Francois Godbout from the Court of Quebec, Youth Court (Chambre de la Jeunesse). The three articles, *Recent Canadian Developments in the Treatment of Children and Their Evidence in Criminal Sexual Abuse Cases*, by Alison Harvison Young, *Child Sexual Abuse Prosecutions in Canada: A Measure of Progress*, by Nicholas Bala, and *Children's Rights to Equality: Protection Versus Paternalism*, by Colleen Sheppard, and Judge Godbout's remarks, *Closing the Gap Between Courts and Social Agencies—The Judge's Perspective*, provide valuable insights into how child abuse issues have been addressed in Canada. These articles and commentary are not only reflective of the status of law in Canada affecting children, but serve as valuable points of comparison to the expansive body of legal literature dealing with the many facets of child abuse from the American perspective.