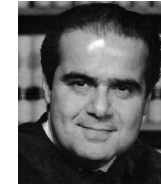


# Fetal Personhood

PHIL 102  
Ethics, Politics, & Law  
Spring 2008



# Change



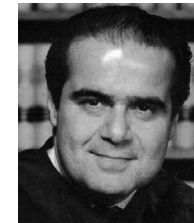
# Change



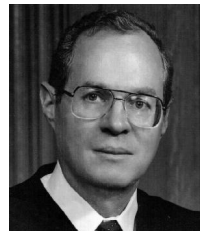
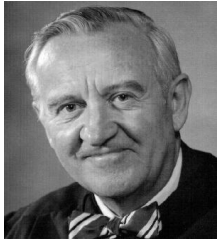
# Big change



Likely to overturn  
Abortion rights



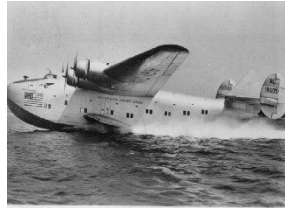
Likely to uphold  
abortion rights



## Philosophical Literature

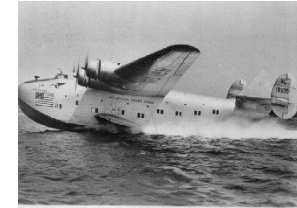
- Fetal personhood
  - Is the fetus a person?
- Judy Thomson's argument
- Mary Ann Warren's argument
- John Noonan's argument
- Arbitrary dividing-line argument

## Hard-line Conservative Argument



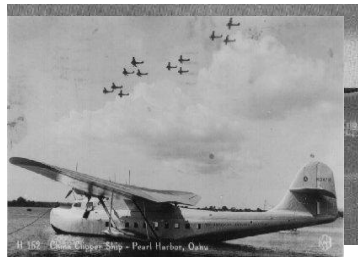
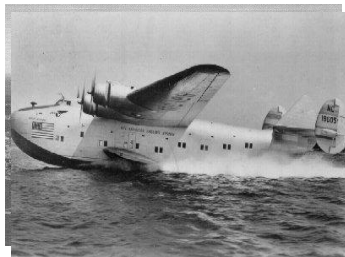
- Human fetus is a full-fledged moral, legal and constitutional person
- Fetus has a full-fledged right to life
- Abortion is murder
- The slippery-slope argument
- The unborn in American law
- The unborn in our culture
- What do we really think?

## Hard-line Liberal Argument

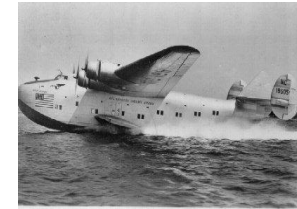


- Human fetus is living
- Human fetus is of the species *Homo Sapiens*
- Human fetus is not a moral person
- Fetus is a potential moral person
- Rights do not apply potentially
- Fetus has no right to life

## The "Flying Boat"

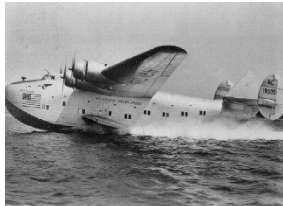


## Borderline Cases



- The Pan Am case
- Hard-line position by the island
- Hard-line position by Pan Am
- Border-line case hypothesis
- Is this an "X"?
  - Yes
  - No
  - You just can't say
- Resolving semantic disputes
- Resolving substantive disputes

## Fetal Personhood?



- Is the human fetus a person?
- Hard-line conservative - Absolutely yes!
- Hard-line liberal - Absolutely no!
- Borderline case of a person?
  - Very person-like in certain respects - genetics, morphology, etc.
  - Very unperson-like in certain respects - consciousness, self-consciousness, etc.
- Resolving semantic disputes
- Substantive resolution???????