

Correction

August 18, 2023

“The Economics and Politics of Women’s Rights,” Matthias Doepke, Michèle Tertilt and Alessandra Voena, *Annual Review of Economics*, July 2012, Vol. 4, 339-372.

Two entries in Table 2 in our survey paper above are incorrect.

Thanks to Claudia Goldin for pointing these out.

1. The 1965 entry incorrectly states that many restrictive labor laws were lifted in the *Weeks v. Southern Bell* ruling in 1965.

The first court decision in the *Weeks v. Southern Bell* case was in 1967 and Weeks in fact lost.¹ It was only in 1969 that she appealed and the court eventually found for her.² However, there is another case that was decided earlier and is therefore cited as the beginning of the end of protective legislation for women. Prior to Week’s case, Leah Rosenfeld sued her employer Southern Bell Company for sexual discrimination and won her case in 1968.³ The cases are similar, but *Rosenfeld v. Southern Pacific Company* is generally considered to be the landmark decision that ended restrictive labor laws in the US.

2. The 1981 entry incorrectly states that the Supreme Court ruled that excluding women from the draft was unconstitutional.

The opposite is correct. On June 25, 1981 the Supreme Court ruled in *Rostker v. Goldberg* that the practice of requiring only men to register for the draft was constitutional.⁴

¹ [Weeks v. Southern Bell Telephone & Telegraph Company, 277 F. Supp. 117 \(S.D. Ga. 1967\)](#)

² [Weeks v. Southern Bell Tel. and Tel. Co. \(decided 3-4-69, CA-5\) No. 25725 rev’g. and remanding \(S.D. Ga. 1967\) Civ. A No. 443.](#)

³ [Rosenfeld v. Southern Pacific Company, 293 F. Supp. 1219 \(C.D. Cal. 1968\)](#)

⁴ [Rostker v. Goldberg, 453 U.S. 57 \(1981\)](#)