

**THE
AMERICAN
CIVIL LIBERTIES
UNION**

ANNUAL REPORT 2014



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Cover Photo: Alejandro Valenzuela, who is challenging the “show me your papers” provision of Arizona’s SB 1070 law, stands at the U.S.-Mexico border. The provision requires the police to demand the immigration status of anyone they suspect is undocumented, promoting unconstitutional racial profiling. (Photo: Dennis Welsh)

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MESSAGE FROM THE President



ACLU President Susan N. Herman
(Photo: Dennis Welsh)

Standing by our principles didn't make the ACLU popular in the early days after 9/11.

When we raised questions about the government's use of mass warrantless spying, critics advised us to just accept surrendering our freedom in the name of safety. Courts told us that we had no standing to challenge covert surveillance programs without proof that we were actually under surveillance—a real catch-22.

But Edward Snowden was watching. The courts' refusal to address our serious constitutional challenges was part of what triggered his decision to go public. When we first talked with Edward over a year ago, one of his first questions to us was, "Do you have standing now?" Thanks to his revelations exposing the government's mind-boggling spying activities, the answer was yes—and our litigation moved forward.

Our early efforts to expose U.S. complicity in torture also met with public criticism and persistent stonewalling in the courts. We began our litigation in 2003, months before the Abu Ghraib photos surfaced. And for years after that, our dogged pursuit of truth and accountability kept the torture issue alive in the media and ultimately uncovered the executive branch memos that showed torture to have been official government policy.

Today, those who initially condemned our actions are grateful for them, and the public's anger is now rightly focused on the government that betrayed their trust. Representative James Sensenbrenner, author of the Patriot Act, is now our ally in promoting reform legislation.

We've seen this kind of paradigm shift again and again, as the ACLU's principled stands have placed us on the frontlines of every major civil liberties battle from the past century to the present day. Most recently, our historic victory striking down the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act catalyzed freedom-to-marry triumphs for same-sex couples around the country.

On the pages of this report, you will find many more examples of our principles in action—from battling increasingly intrusive attacks on reproductive rights to opposing pernicious efforts to undermine the right to vote.

This work would not be possible without your generous support, and we hope you share our deep pride and satisfaction in fulfilling our mission as America's guardian of liberty.

Thank you for all you do.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan N. Herman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

An annual report by definition is a review of the year's achievements, but I also see it as a source of inspiration. Defeating the discriminatory Defense of Marriage Act in the U.S. Supreme Court last year, for example, gave us the momentum to chalk up over 40 court victories for the freedom to marry.

Likewise, this past year, we defeated opponents' last-ditch efforts to keep anti-immigrant laws alive after years of hard-fought litigation. And we won game-changing victories against the federal government's practice of asking local police to detain immigrants—and sometimes citizens—with scant due process; over 300 jurisdictions now refuse to blindly cooperate, and the number is growing.

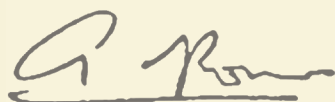
In the realm of criminal justice, we're getting people out of prison who don't belong there. Smart, effective reform is possible. Just ask Stephanie George, whose story is highlighted on page 12. Our headline-generating report on life without parole for nonviolent offenders—"A Living Death"—spurred President Obama to commute Stephanie's sentence and those of three other people we profiled. And more commutations are on the horizon.

We've succeeded on all these fronts because our commitment to the principles of freedom and fairness for everyone in America allows us to work across ideological lines and get things done. Add to that the ACLU's unique strength of affiliates in every state of the nation, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico—and the country's largest team of public interest lawyers, lobbyists, communication strategists, and dedicated members, supporters, and activists—and you begin to understand how we manage to achieve the seemingly impossible.

Many people thought our early challenge to the U.S. government's dragnet surveillance of Americans' communications was unlikely to succeed. But thanks to our client, whistleblower Edward Snowden, we have made tremendous progress.

From changing the national discourse to litigating years-long cases to mobilizing quickly when there's an opportunity or threat, the ACLU perseveres, changes the landscape of freedom, and changes lives. Those changes are reflected in this report.

This vital work would not be possible without you, our steadfast supporters. We are deeply grateful for your continued commitment.



MESSAGE FROM THE Executive Director



*ACLU Executive Director Anthony D. Romero
(Photo: Richard Corman)*

The NSA Exposed

Now we know the government collects information conveying the most intimate details of our lives—from our religion and our health issues to our friends and our hobbies.

Edward Snowden asked us, “Do you have standing now?”

Edward had followed the ACLU’s work. And he recognized that democracy was being subverted by a catch-22 legal paradox.

The National Security Agency (NSA) was secretly and illegally spying on Americans. But the U.S. Supreme Court wouldn’t let the ACLU sue to stop the NSA—unless we could already prove that our clients were among the secret surveillance targets.

In legal parlance, our clients didn’t have “standing” to sue. In lay language, we were up a creek without a paddle.

And the NSA remained impervious to the Constitution. The public, the media, and even many members of Congress were oblivious to the vast scope of NSA dragnet surveillance, far beyond what the law allowed.

Such was our collective dilemma before Edward blew the whistle.

Then the very first Snowden revelations showed that the ACLU itself was subject to NSA dragnet surveillance.

Suddenly, we had standing, with ourselves as the client. Within days, we again filed suit.

And over months of new revelations, Americans absorbed the stunning magnitude of the NSA’s capacity to survey our every move.

We learned the NSA is collecting our phone call information, meaning it has access to intimate details about each of us—from our religion and our health issues to our friends and our hobbies.

The NSA can track bank transactions, monitor text messages, and map social networks. It can remotely access a computer by setting up a fake wireless connection. It can track the communications of media organizations.

All without a warrant.

Suddenly, there was public outrage and robust national and international debate. And suddenly, after so many years of trying and failing to secure reforms, there was movement the ACLU could leverage.

Our new lawsuit against the NSA has received broad support, extending from members of Congress to the National Rifle Association. The



Edward Snowden blew the whistle on the NSA's mass surveillance of Americans. (Photo: Laura Poitras/ACLU)

case will likely be decided by the Supreme Court, perhaps as early as next year.

Seeking to force the NSA to reveal its activities, we've brought other new lawsuits. And we've published the "NSA Archive," a comprehensive and searchable online database of NSA-related documents.

We've also pushed vigorously for new federal legislation to rein in surveillance by enacting meaningful changes to the USA Patriot Act, which dramatically expanded the government's surveillance powers. And finally, Congress has responded.

Also, we've called on the United Nations to update its guidance on the "right to privacy," so that international law on privacy can withstand assaults from new technology.

Finally, we've joined forces with Edward Snowden. We represent this former-NSA-contract-employee-turned-whistleblower, who took seriously his oath to defend the Constitution and who now—unprotected by any whistleblower law—faces life in prison if he stands trial.

Like us, Edward cares urgently about democracy—and about the public's right to know what the government is doing in our name.

As he says, "Do we want to live in a country where every time we pick up the phone, every time we write an email, every time we make a purchase, that's recorded? I don't think that's good for Americans and I don't think that's good American government." ■

HIGHLIGHTS

Helped achieve passage in the House of the USA Freedom Act, the first piece of post-Patriot Act legislation to restrain NSA surveillance; we're working to strengthen the bill in the Senate.

Led the movement for surveillance reform through groundbreaking litigation and advocacy, testimony before Congress, support of legislation reining in the NSA, hundreds of appearances in the media, and representation of Edward Snowden.

Strengthened privacy protections through three court rulings against the practice of stripping away an individual's privacy of information once it is shared with a third party, such as a phone company or a state prescription drug database.

Helped trigger a wave of state legislation raising the legal bar for law enforcement to track a person's location by cell phone or GPS device, including seven laws in 2014 alone.

Exposed law enforcement's widespread use of automatic license plate readers (ALPRs) to track Americans' movements.

FAST FACT

The ACLU was founded in 1920.

When Religion Trumps Healthcare

Catholic hospitals are putting women's lives at risk. As more and more hospitals merge throughout the country, they are often the only option women have.

In Catholic hospitals, religion trumps healthcare.

Tamesha Means didn't know this. When her water broke at 18 weeks of pregnancy, she went to her local hospital. It was historically secular, but had recently been gobbled up by a large Catholic healthcare system.

What happened to her? She got sent home—more than once—with the hospital staff telling her there was nothing they could do.

They didn't tell her that, given her stage of pregnancy, there was almost no chance the fetus would survive; that attempting to continue the pregnancy would put her health and possibly even life at risk; or that, given these factors, the safest course of care would be to end the pregnancy. They didn't tell her any of that even in the face of her bleeding, pain, and signs of infection.

Tamesha's baby died within hours of being born. At 18 weeks, it never had a chance. Tamesha was lucky not to die from infection.

How could something like this happen? Because Mercy Health is a Catholic hospital, it adheres to religious directives from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) even when those directives run counter to medical standards.

Tamesha is not alone. Women across the country face similar mistreatment. As a result of hospital mergers, one in 10 acute-care hospitals is Catholic-sponsored or -affiliated, with the number increasing. And 10 of the 25 biggest health systems in the country are now Catholic.

Louise Melling, ACLU Deputy Legal Director, speaks at a rally outside the U.S. Supreme Court in support of the federal mandate requiring employer health plans to include birth control coverage.





Tamesha Means is suing the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for having not received appropriate medical care at a Catholic hospital.

This is why the ACLU filed a first-of-its-kind lawsuit against the USCCB. We charge the Catholic Bishops with ultimate responsibility for the unnecessary harm that Tamesha and other pregnant women experience at Catholic-sponsored hospitals. Medical standards, not religious rules, must govern the care that women receive.

As Tamesha says, “They should act like it’s their mother or sister or daughter they’re treating. I pray to God someone stops this from happening again. My life could have been taken.”

This lawsuit is part of the ACLU’s larger campaign to stop “religious refusals.” Businesses, insurance companies, pharmacies, and other institutions are denying access to birth control and abortion in the name of religion. Every person has the right to his or her own religious beliefs—but religion is not a free pass to impose these beliefs on others.

The ACLU is pushing back. After the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that certain businesses can use their religious beliefs to take away their employees’ birth control coverage, we are urging Congress to fix this egregious imposition of religion and working in the states to ensure that all women get the coverage they need. We are pressuring the federal government to take action against religiously affiliated hospitals that are not providing sufficient care to women. And we are generating outrage in the media, with top news outlets arguing that if restaurant owners cannot turn away black people based upon religious belief, then institutions similarly cannot use religion to deny women reproductive healthcare. ■

HIGHLIGHTS

Blocked restrictions on abortion access in Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, and Wisconsin—keeping clinics open and abortion services available around the country.

Mobilized thousands of people to attend a rally and take online action against an anti-abortion bill in Texas—elevating the legislative battle from a state skirmish to a national fight.

Launched a new, aggressive, politically sophisticated lobbying initiative to hit back hard against anti-choice bills in the state legislatures, winning key victories in four states.

Defeated a ballot measure in Albuquerque, New Mexico, that would have banned abortion beginning at 20 weeks of pregnancy.

Worked on the ground with abortion providers to keep clinics open and operating at full capacity in Michigan and Texas after bad anti-abortion laws passed.

FAST FACT

The ACLU is a nonpartisan organization.

Let Ruthelle Vote!

Ruthelle Frank brought the landmark Wisconsin lawsuit that could help bring down voter ID laws nationwide.

“I was about in tears.”

That’s how Ruthelle Frank describes her frustration when she, who had voted in every election since 1948, visited the Department of Motor Vehicles and was unable to get her voter identification card, newly required by Wisconsin in 2011.

Then 84, and an elected member of her Brokaw, Wisconsin town board, Ruthelle had never had a driver’s license. She was born at home and never had a birth certificate in her possession. And her birth record on file with the state misspelled her birth name. To get a voter ID, she would have had to pay combined legal and state fees of about \$200 to fix the problem.

Ruthelle could have paid those fees, but they violated her principles. She condemns them as a poll tax that “sends this country back decades...when it comes to civil rights.”

Ruthelle Frank became the lead plaintiff in our landmark federal challenge to Wisconsin’s voter ID law, *Frank v. Walker*.

Voter ID laws, which require a government-issued photo ID in order to vote, are increasingly common across the country and create barriers to voting for many Americans. Research shows that more than 21 million Americans do not have the required ID and that a disproportionate number of these Americans are low-income, racial and ethnic minorities, and the elderly.

We won our case at trial in May 2014, persuading the judge that the law places a unique burden on Wisconsin’s black and Latino voters, whose disproportionate poverty reflects ongoing discrimination.

He recognized that the overall impact of the law is huge: Approximately 9 percent of all registered voters in Wisconsin, or 300,000 people, lack the requisite government ID—and the 2010 race for governor was decided by 124,638 votes, meaning whether registered voters without proper ID can vote could change election outcomes.



Ruthelle Frank—a local elected official—could not vote under Wisconsin’s voter ID law passed in 2011 because she doesn’t have a birth certificate.

The judge explicitly rejected the specious claims for voter ID, including that it prevents voter fraud: “The evidence at trial established that virtually no voter impersonation occurs in Wisconsin. ... It is absolutely clear that [the law] will prevent more legitimate votes from being cast than fraudulent votes.”

Unfortunately, in October 2014, Wisconsin won its appeal of this great ruling, in part because the state made changes easing the burden on people who lack the required ID. But as this national battle rages, we’ve continued to build momentum.

For example, this spring, Pennsylvania’s governor decided not to appeal our January victory striking down that state’s voter ID law. And in October 2014, we struck down Arkansas’ voter ID law—with a unanimous opinion from the Arkansas Supreme Court.

We are also fiercely defending ACLU wins against voting rights rollbacks in North Carolina and Ohio. And in Kansas, we are going head to head with Secretary of State Kris Kobach, who last year instituted a new voter suppression tactic that blocked more than 21,000 Kansans from voting in the 2014 elections. ■

HIGHLIGHTS

Advocated fiercely in Congress for the passage of the Voting Rights Amendment Act, which would restore protections lost in the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Shelby* decision last year.

Persuaded, after years of advocacy, the deeply conservative state of Utah to create a pilot program that allows people to register to vote and vote on the same day. This program covers over 90 percent of the state population.

Challenged in court Ohio’s severe early voting cuts, which eliminate a week of early voting as well as evenings, Sundays, and the Monday before Election Day, and which will disproportionately affect low-income voters and people of color.

Convinced the state of California to comply with the National Voter Registration Act and offer voter registration to people participating in the state’s health benefits exchange, including the 3.8 million who are already enrolled.

Successfully challenged voting districts that gave predominantly white residents more voting power than American Indians in Wolf Point, Montana.

FAST FACT

The ACLU has offices in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and Washington, D.C.

Let the Wedding Bells Ring!

Two trailblazers helped forge a path for the freedom to marry in New Mexico, tying the knot just in time.

Jennifer Roper and Angelique Neuman, together for 22 years and the parents of three boys, urgently needed New Mexico to legalize marriage for same-sex couples.

There was no time for invitations or bridal showers. Nor was there time to travel beyond New Mexico, to another state where marriage was legal. Jen was dying of advanced, aggressive brain cancer, too sick to travel from her hospital bed in Santa Fe.

The couple feared that Angelique would be pushed out of Jen's medical care decisions, and their commitment to each other would never be recognized.

After surgery to remove part of her tumor, Jen had suffered a stroke. Her days were numbered, too few to accommodate the normal lengthy course of a lawsuit.

So, as part of the ACLU's existing freedom-to-marry lawsuit in New Mexico, we urged the state court to issue an emergency order to let the couple marry immediately. Two days later, the judge granted our request. And that same day, during a break from chemotherapy treatment, Jen and Angelique were married by a local justice of the peace, with the ink barely dry on their license.

Jen and Angelique paved the way for other New Mexico same-sex couples. Four months after the emergency decree and weeks after Jen's death, the New Mexico Supreme Court unanimously ruled for marriage equality in the state in December 2013.

Our New Mexico win was one of many—a chain reaction of extraordinary momentum.



Edie Windsor—on whose behalf the ACLU won a landmark lawsuit striking down the discriminatory Defense of Marriage Act—at New York City's LGBT Pride parade in June 2014.

The ACLU's victory in *United States v. Windsor*, last year's landmark U.S. Supreme Court case striking down the discriminatory Defense of Marriage Act, cleared the path to marriage equality—spurring more than 40 lower courts to rule in favor of the freedom to marry.



Angelique and Jen Neuman-Roper marked their 22nd anniversary as a couple with a wedding celebration. Days later, Jen went into hospice care. (Photo: The Albuquerque Journal)

Within months, strategic ACLU lobbying and lawsuits achieved marriage equality in Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Wisconsin. More than 30 states now recognize same-sex couples' right to marriage.

As to the rest of the country, we are currently litigating 10 cases in nine states.

One of those cases just triggered a split in the federal court system—meaning we're going before the U.S. Supreme Court. We just petitioned the Court to take our case, which almost surely it will do. This is the opportunity we have been building towards since the ACLU brought the first freedom-to-marry case in 1970.

And our work extends far beyond marriage. After all, there's no federal law protecting lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people from discrimination.

In most states, employers can still fire LGBT people simply because of who they are. Landlords can still deny housing to LGBT people with impunity. And our opponents are trying to carve out "religious exemptions" to existing laws—granting legitimacy to anti-gay bigotry by cloaking it in religion.

We're fighting back. With the same kind of step-by-step, innovative strategies that generated marriage momentum, we're advancing basic protections at the federal, state, and local levels—with the ultimate goal of achieving full equality in sight. ■

HIGHLIGHTS

Won the freedom to marry in Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Wisconsin, helping to bring marriage equality to 62 percent of the population.

Filed a challenge against Nebraska's ban on placing foster children with lesbians, gay men, or unmarried couples living together—one of three remaining state bans on foster parenting or adoption by gay people.

Defeated opponents trying to use religion as an excuse to discriminate against LGBT people in our case challenging a Colorado bakery's refusal to sell a wedding cake to our plaintiffs because they are gay.

Won, after decades of advocacy, an executive order from the Obama administration that bans workplace discrimination against LGBT employees of federal contractors.

Won a landmark ruling from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services lifting Medicare's 30-year blanket ban on coverage of gender transition-related surgery, paving the way for similar wins with other public and private insurers.

FAST FACT

The ACLU has 250 staff attorneys and thousands of volunteer attorneys across the country.

Free After 17 Years

People are sentenced to life in prison for offenses as trivial as shoplifting three belts from a department store.

Stephanie George was no drug kingpin. Even the judge knew Stephanie's small-time crime didn't deserve a sentence of life without parole.

But that's the sentence he imposed, while protesting the fact that federal sentencing mandates gave him no choice.

Stephanie's crime was that a boyfriend had used her attic to store drugs and cash in a lockbox. She'd been convicted twice before, for two small drug sales, so conviction number three automatically triggered a "lock her up and throw away the key" sentence.

Stephanie was just 26 at the time, a single mother on public assistance and food stamps struggling to feed her three young kids.

That was 1996. For 17 years behind bars, Stephanie tried to make the most of her life. She earned more than 30 skills certificates, took numerous counseling and self-improvement classes, and discovered faith through weekly Bible study classes and church services.

She grieved the loss of her father and then her youngest son, who was murdered two months before she received the news that would give her a new life.

In December 2013, President Obama commuted Stephanie's sentence.

The ACLU was thrilled—and proud.

One month earlier, we had launched the media blitz that triggered Stephanie's release. Our headline-generating report, "A Living Death," condemned the waste and cruelty of life without parole sentences handed out to nonviolent offenders—and profiled outrageous cases, including Stephanie's.

Indeed, of the eight people whose sentences were commuted by the president, four were profiled in our report.

These commuted few were the lucky ones. Our report documents a total of 3,278 nonviolent offenders sentenced to die in prison for offenses such as shoplifting three belts from a department store, breaking into a car to steal a bagged lunch, or serving as the middleman in a \$10 marijuana sale.

It costs an estimated \$1.784 billion in tax dollars to keep these nonviolent offenders incarcerated for the rest of their lives, a waste of both money and human potential.



Stephanie George (center)—whose sentence of life without parole for a nonviolent offense was commuted by President Obama—embraces her son and her sister upon being released from prison.

But finally, there is movement forward—a federal initiative to vastly increase commutations. At the request of the U.S. Department of Justice, we are helping to lead Clemency Project 2014. The Project will review the federal prison population to identify prisoners serving extreme sentences for low-level crimes who also meet other criteria for early release.

The first day the Bureau of Prisons made the application for clemency available, 8,000 inmates applied. We are engaging volunteer lawyers to help sort through applications and prepare clemency petitions.

At the same time, we are addressing the root cause of extreme sentencing: mandatory minimum sentencing laws.

On the federal level, we are aggressively lobbying Congress for the passage of the Smarter Sentencing Act, a bill that would reduce sentences for over 8,000 federal prisoners, make future drug sentences fairer, and save \$2.7 billion in tax dollars.

This work is part of the ACLU's Campaign to End Mass Incarceration. Today, mandatory minimum sentencing laws have pushed the number of people incarcerated in America to over 2.3 million—making us the world's largest jailor—with more than half imprisoned for nonviolent crimes. Alternatives to incarceration are more than humane—they're fiscally responsible and good public policy.

There are too many Stephanie Georges in prison, languishing behind bars at public expense. Overhauling the system that keeps them there is in everyone's interest. ■

HIGHLIGHTS

Co-founded Clemency Project 2014 at the behest of the U.S. Department of Justice to identify federal prisoners convicted of low-level crimes who are serving extreme sentences and are eligible for release under new policies.

Won, after years of advocacy, a decision by the U.S. Sentencing Commission to retroactively apply reduced sentencing guidelines to people who previously received extreme sentences for nonviolent offenses—about 46,000 prisoners will now be eligible for early release.

Won our lawsuit in Arizona on behalf of a family who faced prosecution for treating their son's seizure disorder with a marijuana extract, affirming that Arizona's medical marijuana law covers both the plant and its extracts.

Overtaken Florida's 2011 law requiring all applicants to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families welfare program to submit to a suspicionless drug test.

Advocated against the new scourge of debtors' prisons, the unconstitutional jailing of poor people because they can't afford to pay fines.

FAST FACT

The ACLU is involved in about 2,000 cases at any given time.

In Search of a Safe Home

Domestic violence victims shouldn't have to choose between safety and shelter.

Renting an apartment shouldn't put a bull's-eye on your back.

Hope Doe had escaped her abusive ex-partner, who still stalked her and her kids. When she and her kids fled to start a new life in Florida, she changed her name and her Social Security number.

But her kids' Social Security numbers remained the same. And when Hope tried to rent an Orlando apartment, the rental office insisted she provide her kids' numbers.

This was a dangerous proposition—disclosing this information could have revealed the family's location to Hope's ex.

Hope pushed back. She offered other documentation. But it wasn't enough. She was denied the apartment.

As Hope says, "I felt so helpless, afraid, and shameful. I felt less than. To refuse survivors, such as my children and myself, not only brought back feelings of being victimized, it literally victimized us again."

She called the ACLU.

We promptly challenged this dangerous and senseless policy with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, contending it violated federal law.

And we won. The apartment complex and the management company, Concord Management, agreed to adopt critical protections for survivors of domestic violence.



The ACLU filed a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission against UPS on behalf of Julie Desantis-Mayer, who was forced to take unpaid leave after she became pregnant.

Not only will Concord Management change its policies at all of its properties—over 130 properties in eight states—it will also compensate Hope and train its staff on housing and violence issues.

Survivors of domestic and sexual violence confront a shocking variety of discriminatory practices from the very institutions that should



Sandra Park, ACLU Staff Attorney, and Lenora Lapidus, ACLU Women’s Rights Project Director (left to right)—who work to advance gender equality and to advocate for domestic violence survivors like Hope Doe—stand outside the U.S. Supreme Court.

be keeping them safe, including the police, schools and universities, and the military.

The ACLU is shining a spotlight on this discrimination and holding these institutions accountable.

Among our activities, we are working with town councils and legislatures around the country to block the passage of “nuisance ordinances” as well as challenging them in court. Shockingly, these ordinances force the eviction of domestic violence victims who repeatedly call on the police for assistance.

Our clients include a domestic violence victim in Illinois, who, after years of experiencing abuse, decided to reach out to the police for the first time. The police charged her husband with domestic battery and resisting arrest. Yet only a few days later, the police department instructed the victim’s landlord to evict her under the local ordinance based on the arrest. The message was clear: calling the police leads to homelessness.

In other anti-violence work, we’ve uncovered records showing that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs discriminates against veterans who file disability claims based on post-traumatic stress disorder that resulted from military sexual violence. And recently, we filed suit against Carnegie Mellon University for failing to protect a student from her abuser, allowing the abuser to be in the same classes with her even after the abuser violated the university’s sexual assault policy. ■

HIGHLIGHTS

Successfully pressured President Obama to issue two executive orders combatting pay discrimination against working women.

Helped pass three state laws providing reasonable workplace pregnancy accommodations so that women don’t have to choose between their livelihoods and a healthy baby.

Advocated in Iowa, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania on behalf of women workers facing harassment for pumping breast milk at work.

Launched an online interactive guide that illustrates state-by-state what pregnancy protections exist for women workers.

Shut down a West Virginia single-sex education program that promoted harmful gender stereotypes, including the notion that boys learn best when moving around while girls need to sit still.

FAST FACT

The ACLU participates in more U.S. Supreme Court cases than any other organization besides the Department of Justice.

Post-9/11 Paranoia

Shoshana Hebshi had an uneventful flight—until her ethnic looks and the paranoid fantasies of her fellow passengers got her taken off the plane in handcuffs, strip searched, and detained for hours.

Forget tolerance and diversity. In post-9/11 America, Shoshana Hebshi's last name and ethnic looks were enough to get her led off a plane in handcuffs, strip-searched, and jailed for hours at Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

A journalist and 36-year-old mother of twin boys, Shoshana was flying home to Detroit from visiting her sister in California on the 10th anniversary of 9/11.

The daughter of a Jewish mother and Saudi Arabian father, her appearance apparently fueled the paranoid fantasies of her fellow passengers and the unconstitutional attentions of law enforcement.

Shoshana was sitting between two Indian men she'd never met and with whom she didn't talk. The men each used the bathroom during the flight, one shortly after the other.

As the ACLU later discovered, a few watchful and fearful passengers built those two successive bathroom trips into a suspicion that the three brown people in row 12 were engaged in a terrorist conspiracy, and alerted the crew, who alerted authorities.

After an otherwise uneventful flight, the plane was diverted upon landing to a remote area away from airport buildings and swarmed by police cars.

Men in fatigues carrying what Shoshana described as "the biggest machine guns I have ever seen" ran to board the plane. They stopped at Shoshana's row.

The three brown people, strangers to each other, were each handcuffed and taken off the plane at gunpoint. Shoshana was spread-eagled, asked if she was carrying explosives, and pushed into a squad car. No one would answer her pleas to be told what was happening, why they were being taken away, or where they were going.

She was locked into a dirty 6-by-10-foot concrete cell with a metal cot, an open toilet, and a video camera pointed at the toilet. A crying Shoshana was ordered to strip naked, squat down, and cough as an officer looked



Shoshana Hebshi is suing Frontier Airlines, Detroit Metropolitan Airport officials, and federal authorities for her unlawful arrest, detention, and strip search.

on. The officer then looked in Shoshana’s mouth, lifted her eyelids, and searched her hair.

Detained for hours in that cell, Shoshana was finally released. Terrified and humiliated by her first and only experience with racial profiling, Shoshana turned to the ACLU to vindicate her rights.

The ACLU sued Frontier Airlines and a wide array of federal government agencies on behalf of Shoshana. In July 2014, we won a great federal court decision. The judge ruled, “The fact that the events occurred on the tenth anniversary of September 11th...does not absolve the... Defendants, or any law enforcement officers, of their responsibility to conduct their police work in compliance with the United States Constitution.” He further wrote that the court would not “sacrifice these principles of liberty to the cause of hyper-vigilance.”

Shoshana’s case builds on ACLU work to expose and curtail the post-9/11 racial profiling of those perceived to be Muslim or South Asian. In addition to high-profile litigation, we continue vigorous advocacy, including pressure on the U.S. Department of Justice to close the gaping holes in the federal guidance prohibiting racial profiling and to stop allowing racial, religious, and ethnic profiling in national security investigations and at the nation’s borders. ■

HIGHLIGHTS

Won a landmark decision finding the government’s No Fly List redress process unconstitutional; our clients can now learn about—and contest—their inclusion on the list.

Successfully advocated for the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence to release the executive summary of a 6,000-page report on the use of torture and abuse by the CIA—a critical step towards transparency.

Supported military commission lawyers in winning an unprecedented decision ordering the CIA to turn over details of its detention and torture of a Guantánamo capital defendant at one of its black sites.

Won a unanimous court of appeals decision ordering the government to disclose a previously withheld memorandum justifying the targeted killing of an American citizen by drone.

Submitted a report to the United Nations Human Rights Committee highlighting U.S. human rights violations—a report the committee largely tracked in its own blistering assessment.

FAST FACT

The ACLU has nearly 60 federal and state lobbyists.

Condemned by Color

A police sweep of a school lands an honors student in a gang database. Why? Because he's black.

Kaleb Winston loved to draw. And before the gang sweep, the honor roll student drew constantly, hoping one day to be an architect like his grandfather.

That changed in December 2010, when two plainclothes police officers approached Kaleb in the cafeteria at Salt Lake City's West High School.

Kaleb thought perhaps he was being recognized for his hard work and good grades.

Instead, he found himself held in the school's detention room and accused—with other students of color within a school where half the students are white—of being a gang banger.

As evidence, the officers pointed to his backpack with a sketchpad in it. The backpack, a present from his parents, was emblazoned with graffiti-style writing. The sketches were homework assignments from art class.

Kaleb protested that he was no gang member. The officers declared that his backpack and sketches proved otherwise.

They held him for an hour and a half and questioned him for 45 minutes, calling him a liar and refusing his requests to call his mom.

Before he was released, the 14-year-old freshman was made to pose for a photo in which he held up a sign reading, "My name is Kaleb Winston and I am a gang tagger." The photo

was then entered into a Salt Lake City Police Department gang database, subjecting Kaleb to further scrutiny from local law enforcement despite his never having committed a crime.

When Kaleb was finally allowed to go home, all he said to his mother was, "I'm tired of being black."

Today, more than three years later, his parents' outrage is still fresh.

"When the police officers approached Kaleb, he was sitting



The police felt that sketches like this one, drawn by Kaleb for art class, proved he was a gang member.



Honors student Kaleb Winston—pictured with his parents, Lisa and Kevin Winston—was accused of being a gang member at age 14 by the police because he’s black.

in the cafeteria with two white kids and one Asian-American kid,” his father, Kevin, says. Although all four had backpacks—and another backpack also had graffiti—Kevin notes, “The only kid they detained was the one who had brown skin.”

Traumatized by the sweep, Kaleb has since graduated early, and will attend college on a scholarship.

His dad, Kevin, has become the lead plaintiff in an ACLU class-action lawsuit against the Salt Lake City School District and the wide array of regional law enforcement agencies involved in the sweep.

We’ve since discovered the gang database includes kids as young as four.

Nationally, more than 70 percent of students referred to law enforcement from schools are black or Latino. How many of those kids, like Kaleb, are victims of racial profiling?

The racial bias and systemic abuses of authority endemic to the criminal justice system have their counterpart in the school-to-prison pipeline, where overly harsh school disciplinary policies and practices channel kids, mostly of color, out of classrooms and into jails.

Ending the pipeline is an ACLU priority. Another ACLU lawsuit, soon to go to trial, challenges the over-criminalization of students by the New York City Police Department and the New York City Department of Education, which operates the largest school system in the country. In addition, we’re working closely with ACLU affiliates nationwide, seeking to limit the use of police in schools and to strike down the “zero tolerance” policies that push kids out of school for minor infractions. ■

HIGHLIGHTS

Secured major federal reforms to expose school discipline practices unfairly pushing minority kids out of school—schools will now be required to report, by race, incidents of corporal punishment and police sanctions against students.

Won a federal ruling in our ongoing case defending American Indian families—American Indian children are being removed from their parents in hearings that last just a few minutes, with parents given no chance to respond.

Proceeded with our landmark lawsuit against Morgan Stanley for employing financial practices that resulted in black communities in Detroit being targeted for predatory loans.

Issued a report on the militarization of policing—and the approximately 45,000 Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) raids that take place each year, overwhelmingly on homes and disproportionately on families of color.

Helped shutter a New York City Police Department (NYPD) unit that specifically mapped Muslim communities, part of the huge NYPD spying program targeting Muslims post-9/11.

FAST FACT

The ACLU has more than 500,000 dues-paying members.

Languishing in Limbo

Immigrants are arbitrarily separated from their families and locked up for years—costing taxpayers billions. The human cost is incalculable.

Alejandro Rodriguez lost years of his life locked in a detention cell, for no good reason.

Alejandro's parents brought him to the United States from Mexico when he was a baby. He earned his green card and was working as a dental assistant to support his two kids, both U.S. citizens.

Because of two minor and nonviolent convictions—joyriding when he was 19 and a misdemeanor drug possession when he was 24—he got caught up in the federal government's mass deportation machine.

Alejandro posed no flight risk or danger to the community. Yet Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) locked him up for more than three years without a bond hearing while he challenged his deportation case.

Bond hearings are a key safeguard of individual liberty where a judge determines if someone awaiting trial needs to be locked up.

Even defendants accused of the most heinous crimes get bond hearings. Immigrants awaiting deportation hearings don't.

Alejandro became the lead plaintiff in our historic class action lawsuit to get immigrants the right to a bond hearing.

Thousands of immigrants, like Alejandro, languish in detention only because their immigration status is in question and they await a deportation hearing. They pose no threat to public safety or of flight.



Benefiting from a successful ACLU lawsuit, Cesar joyfully reunites with his mother after being locked up for 14 months in immigration detention.

The cost to taxpayers of immigration detention is exorbitant—as much as \$2 billion a year. The human cost is incalculable.

Alejandro won his deportation hearing. And in 2013, we won a landmark ruling in the class action lawsuit a bearing his name. A federal court held that the government must provide automatic bond hearings to immigrants detained six months or longer in the Los Angeles area.



Alejandro Rodriguez became the lead plaintiff in a landmark ACLU class action lawsuit to free immigrants from arbitrary detention.

Our win has had an enormous immediate impact, with hundreds of immigrants released from detention and returned to their families, including Cesar (photo at left). Cesar was reunited with his mother after being locked up for 14 months in immigration detention.

We seek to build on this landmark win for immigrants across the country, most recently winning a similar court ruling for immigrants in Massachusetts. And we pursue other strategies to limit and reform immigration detention.

The ACLU has helped spark a revolt of cities and towns against federal immigration authorities. ICE pressures local governments to detain individuals, sometimes with no legal reason, just because their immigration status has been questioned. These ICE requests, known as detainers, indiscriminately ensnare many immigrants and citizens in the deportation system.

Thanks largely to ACLU advocacy and litigation, over 300 new localities across 26 states have either limited or completely ended their practice of holding an individual in jail or prison on the basis of ICE detainers. More than half of the nation's immigrant population now resides in a jurisdiction restricting the use of detainers.

We've also expanded immigrant detainees' right to counsel—starting with immigrant detainees with mental disabilities in Arizona, California, and Washington. We've defeated private prison plans to profiteer off immigrant detention. And we've helped secure critical policy changes to restrict the use of solitary confinement for immigrant detainees. ■

HIGHLIGHTS

Defeated opponents' last-ditch efforts to keep anti-immigrant laws alive in six states and two cities after years of hard-fought litigation.

Won a groundbreaking victory requiring the government to grant bond hearings to immigrants detained for over six months, leading to the release of thousands of immigrants.

Won game-changing victories against the federal government's practice of asking local police to detain immigrants—and sometimes citizens—for days, or even weeks, with scant due process; over 300 jurisdictions now refuse to blindly cooperate with ICE requests.

Ensured that the vast majority of states extend driver's licenses to Dreamers—undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children—who are granted relief under the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program.

Issued "Warehoused and Forgotten," a groundbreaking report that exposed the inhumane conditions and egregious mistreatment of immigrants awaiting deportation in prisons run by for-profit companies with little transparency or accountability.

FAST FACT

The ACLU has more than 1,000 employees nationwide.

Profiteering Off the American Dream

U.S. companies exploit a flawed federal program to dupe foreign workers like Hemant Khuttan. He was tricked into staggering debt and forced labor in a Mississippi shipyard.

Hemant Khuttan was lured into forced labor.

A skilled welder in New Delhi, India, 27-year-old Hemant had a job and a home—a modest but comfortable life. But he wanted a better future.

So in 2006, when his dad saw an ad in the *Hindustan Times* for shipbuilding jobs in the United States—promising green cards and permanent U.S. residency—the two jumped at the chance, risking everything for the promise of a permanent job in the United States.

To pay the more than \$20,000 in recruiting fees—a staggering sum in India—Hemant’s dad mortgaged the family home and emptied his retirement account while Hemant took out a loan with 18 percent interest.

The recruiter represented Signal International, a big U.S. shipbuilder seeking cheap skilled labor.

Signal and the recruiters promised—falsely—that workers like Hemant would get green cards once their temporary visas expired. In fact, they’d get no green cards and could only work legitimately in America for 10 months at a time, for a total of two and a half years.

Once in Signal’s Mississippi shipyard, Hemant could not hope to pay off his debt. He found himself caught in involuntary servitude.

Off the job, his living conditions were another company-sponsored scheme to profiteer from human misery.

Hemant was forced to pay \$1,050 a month for the privilege of living in a guarded, segregated, and squalid camp—which Signal staff referred to as the Indian “reservation”—where up to 24 men would share a 24-by-36-foot trailer with two toilets.

A Signal supervisor described the camp’s environment of filth and disease, writing, “Our Indians have been dropping with sickness like flies.”

The desperate workers tried to organize—and Signal rounded up and sought to deport the ringleaders. Terrified and faced with the prospect of being sent home to India in insurmountable debt, one of Hemant’s friends attempted suicide.



Indian workers march in protest against labor trafficking and abuse at a Signal facility in Pascagoula, Mississippi. (Photo: Ted Quant)

But word was out. Signal's treatment of the workers became a national scandal.

And with our co-counsel, in 2008, the ACLU filed a class-action lawsuit against Signal on behalf of Hemant and about 500 other Indian guest workers, charging the company with labor trafficking.

The court declined to treat Hemant and his coworkers as a class. Undaunted, we and our allies recruited top law firms to file a slew of suits against Signal on behalf of more than 200 former guest workers.

And we also helped trigger a race discrimination lawsuit against Signal by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, to which we are also a party.

Our own case on behalf of 12 workers, Hemant among them, is scheduled to go to trial first, in January 2015.

To fight for the rights of people like Hemant, we're advocating for new federal standards to require employers to pay for guest workers' recruitment and travel costs and to allow them once here to leave abusive employers, report violations, and seek employment elsewhere in the United States.

We're also confronting U.S. complicity in trafficking in other areas—most recently urging new regulations for federal contractors hiring foreign workers for U.S. government operations abroad.

The ACLU will continue to defend the rights of victims of trafficking like Hemant and pressure the government to change its flawed guest worker program. ■

HIGHLIGHTS

Brought U.S. human rights travesties—the sentencing of juveniles to life without parole and botched executions by lethal injection—before an international human rights adjudicatory body.

Launched an international advocacy program against dragnet surveillance, including advocacy with the United Nations Human Rights Committee and the publication of a major opinion piece framing privacy as a human rights issue.

Won legislation in Puerto Rico that extends protections against domestic violence to all persons in relationships, including same-sex couples and women in “adulterous” relationships, previously excluded.

Won adoption of a first-ever United Nations General Assembly resolution against overincarceration.

Galvanized national attention to thousands of nonviolent offenders serving life without parole in prison—our human rights documentation report spurred presidential commutations and a clemency project expected to generate thousands more.

FAST FACT

aclu.org gets over 38,000 visits and 75,000 page views a day.

A Private Hell for Prisoners

To a private prison company, each person locked away behind its walls represents about \$20,000 per year. Mass incarceration equals mass profits. While their earnings soar, our nation suffers.

When Christopher Lindsey arrived in 2009 at the East Mississippi Correctional Facility (EMCF), the state's special facility for prisoners with mental illness, he could see.

Not so now. Repeatedly denied the eye drops he needed to keep his glaucoma in check, 28-year-old Christopher is almost totally blind. He became a target, his every waking moment a struggle not to be beaten or robbed by other EMCF prisoners.

Christopher, a witness in a current ACLU class action suit challenging EMCF conditions, has been released, but others continue to suffer.

Mice climb over inmates' beds in the dark and crawl out of broken toilets. Prisoners spend months in near-total darkness. Stabbings, beatings, and other acts of violence are rampant.

Inmates in solitary confinement, locked down for months or years at a time, are largely abandoned by staff. Setting fires is often their only way to get medical attention in emergencies.

And with their mental illness left untreated, prisoners display extreme behavior—babbling, screaming, throwing excrement. Suicide attempts are frequent; some are successful.

EMCF is a hellhole for profit, run by Management and Training Corporation (MTC), the country's third largest private prison corporation.

Private prisons maximize profits by cutting corners, putting inmates at risk.



Doors in the solitary confinement zone of EMCF are charred from the fires that otherwise-ignored prisoners routinely set to get the attention of guards in emergencies.

Indeed, the nickname of the Idaho Correctional Center (ICC) is the "Gladiator School," a moniker earned because of the prison's rampant violence. ICC guards, employed by the for-profit Corrections Corporation of America (CCA), intentionally arranged assaults and used violence as a management tool.



Christopher Lindsey, who was denied glaucoma medicine by the East Mississippi Correctional Facility (EMCF), became a target of abuse by fellow prisoners as his vision deteriorated—he is now almost totally blind.

The ACLU sued to improve conditions at the facility, and CCA agreed to hire more staff. But instead, the company cooked its books, billing the state for thousands of hours of guard duty that did not take place.

We exposed the company's fraud in court, triggering a criminal investigation by the FBI. And we helped get CCA kicked out of Idaho—no mean feat, given the contributions CCA had made to the governor's campaign.

After all, CCA is big business. With more than 60 facilities nationwide, the country's oldest and largest for-profit prison company has annual revenues of \$1.7 billion.

Private prison companies like CCA and MTC profit most when they drive up inmate numbers and drive down conditions of accountability.

So the ACLU has private prisons in our sights.

We made our lawsuit against EMCF conditions a national scandal through a front page story in *The New York Times*. We released a report in June 2014 on five private prisons in Texas—wretched facilities where just complaining about the food could get inmates relegated to extreme isolation for 22 to 24 hours per day. And we've made Tennessee, where CCA is headquartered, the focal point of a national ACLU campaign to spur a public movement against private prison contracts across the country.

Idaho, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Texas have all walked away from their contracts with CCA. The ACLU is working hard to see that other states follow suit. ■

HIGHLIGHTS

Teamed up with *The Nation* and *Behind Bars* to create "Prison Profiteers," a video series that clearly demonstrates the harsh realities about private companies profiting off the country's incarceration system.

Persuaded, after years of advocacy, the state of Colorado to move all prisoners with serious mental illness out of solitary confinement.

Challenged grossly inadequate mental health and medical care, horrific conditions, and the overuse of solitary confinement in Arizona's jails through a statewide lawsuit.

Advocated with the United Nations and other international bodies to revise the "Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners."

Armed advocates across the nation with a comprehensive toolkit to bring state and local correctional facilities into compliance with the new federal Prison Rape Elimination Act regulations.

FAST FACT

The ACLU has 890,000 online activists.



Sharon and Scott Lane won a settlement against their son C.C.'s public school in Louisiana for relentlessly promoting Christianity and denouncing his Buddhist religion.

to proselytize students—and the principal read the letter over the public address system.

Scott and Sharon promptly transferred C.C. to Many Junior High. Unfortunately, that school also boasted official school prayer and Christmas festivities celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ.

Meanwhile, C.C.'s former teacher continued to proselytize, telling students that “scientists are slowly finding out that everything in the Bible is accurate.”

The ACLU filed suit on the Lanes’ behalf, asking the court to require the school district to refrain from unconstitutionally promoting or denigrating religion.

Within months, we prevailed. And the school board agreed to significant changes affecting the entire district—including teacher training and an end to classroom proselytizing.

This win not only protects C.C., it also sends a clear message to public schools that continue to flout the separation of church and state.

The ACLU protects religious expression—but real religious liberty also includes the right to be free from religious coercion. Real religious liberty means that every child in public school, regardless of faith, should feel welcome.

Among our current public school battles: In Oklahoma, we’re fighting a public school curriculum teaching the infallibility of the Bible. In South Carolina and Texas, we’re defending science classes from creationism. And in Tennessee, we’re tackling school-sponsored prayers at football games. ■

HIGHLIGHTS

Won a long-running court ruling that the government must remove an enormous, 43-foot cross towering over San Diego from the Mount Soledad Veterans Memorial.

Helped win a unanimous appeals court decision that a Tulsa, Oklahoma police officer does not have the religious right to refuse assignments simply because they require him to serve people of other faiths.

Secured inclusion of “Humanist” in the Army’s list of “faith codes,” ending a years-long quest by Humanists to end discrimination and ensure the same recognition, benefits, and treatment received by soldiers with different beliefs.

Struck down a New Hampshire tax-credit program that would have diverted taxpayer funds to private religious schools, sending a clear message to similar programs that have been proposed nationwide.

Ended a Virginia public high school’s practice of requiring seniors to sing “‘Til We Meet Again at Jesus’ Feet” at graduation and got the school to remove a plaque of the Ten Commandments from a hallway.

FAST FACT

The ACLU has more than 860,000 social media followers.

A Fatally Flawed System

Prosecutors paid for testimony that sent an innocent man to death row.

Montez Spradley used to believe the death penalty was reserved for “the worst of the worst,” dangerous criminals convicted based on overwhelming evidence.

That was before he spent three and a half years on death row himself—the flimsy case against him riddled with lies.

Even before facing false testimony, Montez had three strikes against him. He’s black. Black defendants routinely receive disproportionately harsh sentences compared with similarly situated whites.

Worse, the victim was white. Death sentences are more than three times as likely when victims are white.

Finally, he lived in Alabama, one of three states where judges can turn a jury’s life sentence into a death sentence—and the only one to do so regularly.

The evidence? Practically nonexistent. There were no eyewitnesses. Fingerprints found at the scene proved unusable. Forensic experts never found a ballistics match.

Police eventually cobbled together a theory that led to capital murder charges against a suspect—who turned out to have an airtight alibi. But he also had a friend, Montez Spradley, whom they tried to link to the crime.

The district attorney rejected a police request to arrest Montez for murder. There was no real evidence. For nearly two years, police had an unsolved murder with no one to pin it on.

Then came their lucky break: Montez’s ex-girlfriend, angry at their breakup, told police he had confessed. She soon regretted the lie and tried to withdraw her testimony.

Officials threatened to prosecute her and take away her children if she recanted. They sweetened the deal with a \$10,000 reward to stick with her original story.

Police later spoke with one of Montez’s fellow prisoners. They got what they wanted: another claim that Montez had confessed—something they never heard, despite wiring the prisoner to record Montez.

Though the prisoner was facing the death penalty himself for murder, he pled down to a mere five years in prison plus probation after coming forward with Montez’s supposed confession.



Montez Spradley (center), with his cousin and brother (left to right), spent three and a half years on death row in Alabama for a murder he did not commit.

Neither of Montez's alleged confessions recounted by these "witnesses" quite matched the crime, nor each other.

After Montez's trial—just as flawed as the police investigation—the jury voted 10-2 for a life sentence. But the judge overrode them and sentenced him to death.

Thanks to the ACLU, a unanimous appeals court reversed Montez's conviction, citing a "miscarriage of justice." When Alabama attempted to retry him, that's when we uncovered the reward payments to the "witnesses" and other misconduct.

We secured Montez a deal that saved him from the risk of another trial and guaranteed his freedom. He'll be home in May 2016.

The facts in Montez's case are unique, but the flaws painfully familiar. Dubious evidence. Racial discrimination. Incompetent lawyering. A jailhouse snitch with something to gain. Prosecutorial misconduct. A hanging judge. And, most of all, a system stacked against even innocent defendants like Montez from beginning to end.

The ACLU attacks these shortcomings on every front. We've successfully challenged racial bias in North Carolina's death penalty cases. We're targeting advocacy against a Florida state's attorney who sends more people to death row than any other state attorney in the country. We're leading the charge against lethal injection nationwide. And we're lobbying hard for abolition in remaining death penalty states. ■

HIGHLIGHTS

Successfully lobbied to end the death penalty in Maryland, and played a lead role in defeating a ballot initiative to bring it back.

Filed a request for emergency action with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, resulting in its request for the United States to halt two executions; both executions were stalled.

Drew international condemnation of botched lethal injections in Ohio and Oklahoma.

Helped remove four prisoners from death row.

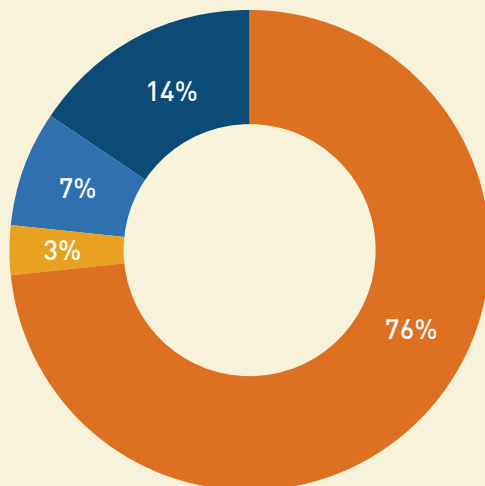
Put a media spotlight on the death penalty "hot spot" of northeast Florida, whose state's attorney leads the nation in death sentences; the frequency of death sentences has since gone down dramatically.

FAST FACT

The ACLU blog receives 11,000 visits a day.

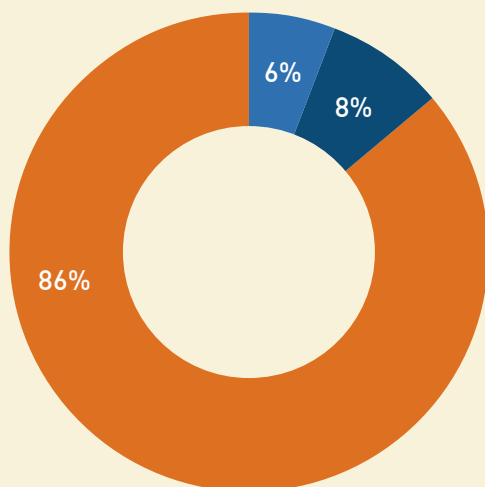
Financial Overview

The American Civil Liberties Union, the ACLU Foundation, and Subsidiary
 Fiscal Year 2014 (April 1, 2013 - March 31, 2014)



FY14 INCOME

- Grants and Contributions
- Bequests
- Donated Legal Services
- Other Income



FY14 EXPENSES

- Total Program Services
- Fundraising
- Management and General

NET ASSETS

Net Assets as of April 1, 2013	\$239,723,785
Change in Net Assets	(\$2,073,627)
Net Assets as of March 31, 2014	\$237,650,158

MESSAGE FROM THE Chief Operating Officer

The ACLU completed fiscal year 2014 on sound financial footing. Total net assets were \$237.7 million at the end of fiscal year 2014. This reflects a reduction of \$2 million from fiscal year 2013, which is partially the result of using the portion of previously raised multiyear gifts designated for fiscal year 2014. While receiving multiyear gifts allows us to better plan for the future, they cause our net assets to vary from year to year as we receive, spend down, and renew these gifts. In addition, the reduction relates to our use of unrestricted reserves to pay for our operations. The reduction in net assets was partially offset by positive investment results.

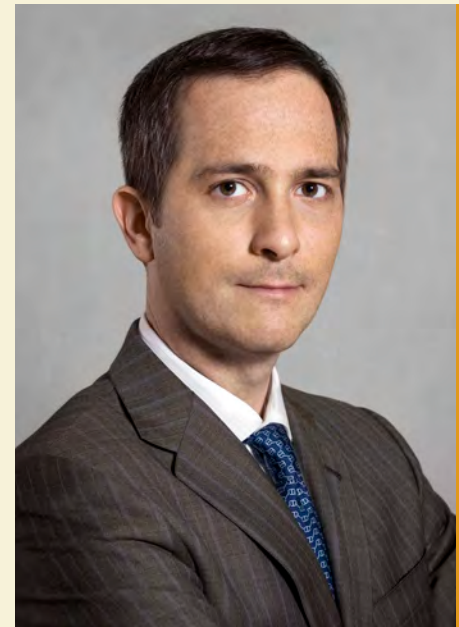
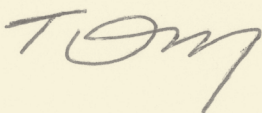
Total expenses for program and supporting services were \$133.4 million in fiscal year 2014, a 5.7 percent increase over the previous year. Program services accounted for 86 percent or \$115.0 million. Fundraising represented 8 percent of expenditures, while management and general administration was 6 percent.

Unrestricted support, revenue, and assets released from restrictions of \$113.3 million were used to pay for operations in fiscal year 2014. Grants, contributions, and net assets released from restrictions provided 76 percent of this amount, while bequests provided 14 percent and donated legal services provided 7 percent of this amount.

In addition, we received \$24.0 million in restricted support. While not counted in fiscal year 2014 operating income, this support reflects contributions from multiyear gifts and pledges for use in future years. These gifts play an increasingly important role in enabling us to plan our work, most of which involves multiyear efforts.

We report our results using Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), which require us to record income based on the year funds are raised, not in the year designated for use, among other requirements.

We are sincerely thankful for your wonderful support of our work, which enables us to achieve our ambitious program goals.



ACLU Chief Operating Officer Terence Dougherty

How to Become Involved

Take a stand now to protect freedom, justice, and equality.

MAKE A GIFT TODAY

The ACLU comprises two organizations.

- Gifts to the **American Civil Liberties Union** qualify for ACLU membership and support our legislative work, including lobbying in Congress and in state legislatures. Gifts are non-tax deductible.
- Gifts to the **ACLU Foundation** support our litigation and public education. Gifts are tax deductible.

To make an online donation to the American Civil Liberties Union, go to aclu.org/membership.

To make an online donation to the ACLU Foundation, go to aclu.org/donation.

To give by mail, make a check payable to “American Civil Liberties Union” or “ACLU Foundation” and send it to:

ACLU Office of Leadership Gifts
125 Broad St., 18th Floor
New York, NY 10004

For more information about other giving options, contact Jeff Vessels, ACLU Director of Leadership Gifts, at 212-549-2503 or jvessels@aclu.org.

MAKE A GIFT THROUGH YOUR WILL

Join a special group of ACLU supporters who have made liberty, fairness, and equality their personal legacy by including the ACLU in their wills.

For more information about making a gift through your will, trust, or retirement plan, contact our Gift Planning Office at 877-867-1025 or legacy@aclu.org, or visit aclu.org/legacy.

TAKE ACTION

To make your voice heard through our online action network—ACLU Action—and protect civil liberties in your community and across the country, check out ACLU Action’s grassroots campaigns and sign up today at aclu.org/action.

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