

DISSENT IS PATRIOTIC

Economic Justice
Voting Rights
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Technology & Privacy
RACIAL JUSTICE
Educational Equity

The Bill of Rights

FREE SPEECH

IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS

ACLU

OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

2016

ANNUAL REPORT

LOBI RIGHTS

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

Religious Freedom

THE CONSTITUTION

DISSENT IS PATRIOTIC

ACLU OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

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Dear friends,

The ACLU is fighting the Trump administration on every front. From lawsuits to protect sanctuary cities to mass protests against Trump's Muslim ban, ACLU lawyers, organizers, and members are speaking out against the greatest threat to civil liberties we've seen in a generation.

As we stand together against the politics of fear and division, a gift to the ACLU is more than just a statement of your values—it is an act of patriotism.

November 9, 2016 marked the dawn of a chilling new reality for all Americans. Racism, xenophobia, and misogyny cast a shadow emanating from the executive branch as the Trump administration attempts to deliver on the most hateful and misguided campaign promises of any modern American president. Fundamental tenets of American democracy—freedom of religion, a free press, equal protection, and the rule of law, among others—are treated with reckless disregard by Trump and his cabinet. We face these unprecedented challenges with unprecedented resolve.

The ACLU exists for moments like this.

Through 17 presidents, 50 sessions of congress, and countless Supreme Court cases, the ACLU's fearless and uncompromising vision has pushed the nation forward. In the last year alone, ACLU-led efforts protected and expanded voting rights for vulnerable populations in California, delivered landmark rulings to protect the due process rights of immigrants, and landed Trump his first defeat in court on his original Muslim ban.

We've come this far—and we're not going back.

For 97 years, the ACLU has served as a touchstone of American freedom. Our uncompromising vision—a vision of freedom, justice, and equal opportunity for all—has been a guiding light in some of our nation's darkest times. Each milestone in nearly a century of advocacy was made possible through the generosity of our supporters. In the months and years ahead, we will have exciting victories. We will also have setbacks—but with your help, we will continue to move the nation forward.

In solidarity,

Abdi Soltani *Magan Pritam Ray*

Abdi Soltani
Executive Director

Magan Pritam Ray
Board Chair



PHOTO BY MARTHA WINNACKER

CALIFORNIA V. TRUMP



PHOTO BY RACHAEL HERRON



Above, demonstrators at the San Francisco airport on the first day of Trump's Muslim Ban.

Below, Abdi Soltani and speakers at The Long March for Justice.



PHOTO BY MARTHA WINNACKER

From the spirited protests in our communities to the bold reforms championed by elected leaders in Sacramento, Californians have unequivocally rejected Trump's regressive vision for America.

Our state's rejection of the Trump agenda comes from experience: we have walked this path before, and we will not go back.

In the mid-1990s, California's own right-wing politicians rose to power using the same playbook Trump relied on throughout the 2016 election cycle: bigoted anti-immigrant rhetoric, "law and order" policies, and callous indifference toward the struggles of low-income residents.

Today, California stands for equality and justice.

Your support has allowed us to push forward with our own playbook for California—one that protects our most fundamental freedoms and deeply held values. But California is not an island—no wall separates our state from the rest of the nation. Our residents remain vulnerable to many of Trump's most harmful policies, and we care for our whole country.

We will resist Trump and his allies in Congress.

The Trump administration's central policy plans threaten to undermine many of our most basic rights. From executive orders on immigration to policy reforms that would strip access to healthcare, we are fighting to ensure that Trump's ideas never take hold—not in California, and not in our country.

With your support, we're fighting on all fronts.

The ACLU and our coalition partners have worked tirelessly to make California a national leader on immigrants' rights, reproductive justice, digital privacy, and more. We have an ambitious proactive agenda, and we won't set that aside just because Donald Trump is in the White House. Here is just one example: Well before the 2016 election, we designed a campaign to reform California's broken money bail system—and we're continuing that work. With continued investment from our long-term supporters and expanded capacity from our newest donors, we're able to stick with our critical long-term priorities while meeting the new challenges presented by the Trump administration.

Together, we will build a movement.

We're engaging with communities across the state to ensure that Californians know how to access, assert, and defend their rights. Whether we're building legal support networks to provide due process in the face of Trump's deportation machine or organizing local "know your rights" workshops, your support allows us to be there for the most important struggles. We have the people power to move California forward.

This is a report of the ACLU of Northern California. For updates on ACLU nationwide, please visit www.aclu.org.

ABOUT THE ACLU

For nearly 100 years, the ACLU has offered a simple and audacious vision for America: freedom, justice, and equality for all. Each day, we work in courts, legislatures, and communities to deliver on the promise that the protections guaranteed by our Constitution apply to all people, citizens and noncitizens alike.

We have played an integral role in some of the most transformational moments in American history.

We have fought for the separation of church and state, starting with the Scopes Monkey Trial (1925); we won the case that struck down all bans on interracial marriage, *Loving v. Virginia* (1967); we brought the first abortion case to ever reach the Supreme Court, *United States v. Vuitch* (1971), which paved the way for the landmark *Roe v. Wade* decision (1973); we protected digital free speech in *Reno v. ACLU* (1997), the first case to extend First Amendment protections to the Internet; and, after building on decades of work, we won the freedom to marry across the nation in *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015).

The work of defending freedom is unending, and the need for the ACLU's principled commitment to liberty is more urgent than ever.

"Fears and prejudices directed against minority communities are too easy to evoke and exaggerate, often to serve the political agendas of those who promote those fears. I know what it is like to be at the other end of such scapegoating and how difficult it is to clear one's name after unjustified suspicions are endorsed as fact by the government."

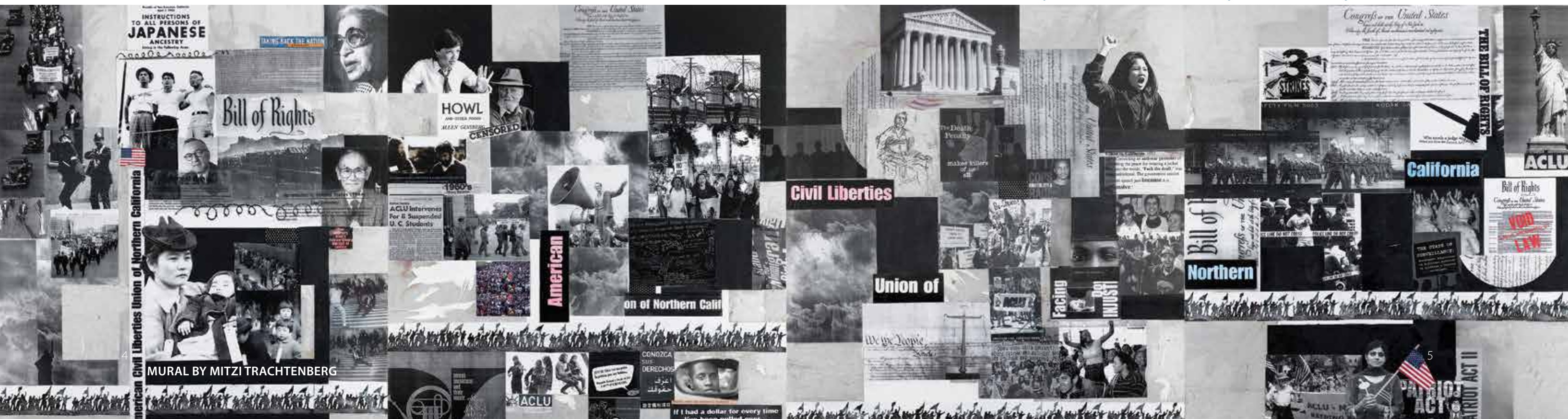
—Fred Korematsu, civil rights activist and ACLU plaintiff (Korematsu v. United States), speaking to the San Francisco Chronicle in 2004

Here at the ACLU of Northern California, we led many of the organization's boldest fights for justice: we represented Fred Korematsu in his challenge of the forced detention of Japanese-Americans during WWII; we defended the rights of poets and publishers against the oppressive anti-obscenity laws of the 1950s; and in the wake of 9/11, we pushed back on a wave of bigotry to protect the civil rights of Muslims and people of Middle Eastern and South Asian descent.

With offices in every state, the ACLU has hundreds of dedicated staff members, thousands of volunteer attorneys and grassroots activists, and 1.6 million members—and counting!—across the nation.

We fight to preserve the historic wins of each generation that came before us, and to advance freedom, justice, and equality for the generations ahead.

Below, a mural at the ACLU office in San Francisco. Come for a visit at one of our events!



FIGHTING TRUMP'S MUSLIM BAN

*Hadil
Al-Mowafak*



PHOTO BY AFRA POURDAD

On January 27, the newly inaugurated president took one of his first official actions: Executive Order 13769, commonly known as Trump's "Muslim ban." Chaos erupted in airports across the nation as hundreds of travelers—including many legal permanent residents—were stranded, detained, and interrogated under the order. ACLU lawyers immediately went to court, and thousands of Americans rallied at airports in every state in a remarkable show of solidarity. That weekend, tens of thousands of Americans also joined the ACLU for the first time.

It was not lost on us that all of this happened on the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066—the forced relocation and internment of Japanese-Americans—which invoked a flimsy national security premise to violate the rights of an entire group based on national origin and ancestry. The ACLU-NC represented Fred Korematsu in *Korematsu v. United States*, our bold and unapologetic challenge to the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II.

Echoes of Executive Order 9066 can be seen in Trump's Muslim ban, which targeted not just immigrants from seven Muslim-majority nations, but also all refugees. At an event marking the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066, Fred's daughter Karen Korematsu shared the stage with Hadil Al-Mowafak (pictured to the left), a Yemeni immigrant impacted by Trump's Muslim ban. Hadil just finished her first year at Stanford, and fears that she will be barred from re-entering if she returns to Yemen to renew her visa.

We're representing Hadil and similarly situated immigrants in *Al-Mowafak v. Trump*, one of 14 ACLU challenges to the Muslim ban. Executive Order 13769—like 9066 before it—is a moral and constitutional monstrosity. Trump's Muslim ban violates freedom of religion and the separation of church and state protected by the First Amendment, as well as the equal protection and due process rights granted by the Fifth Amendment. We know from the *Korematsu* case that Trump stands on the wrong side of history. We're fighting to make sure he doesn't bring the rest of America with him.

"Every dark cloud has a silver lining... that's you, and everyone who is choosing to resist when it's neither favorable nor comfortable. So thank you for your support. Thank you for being courageous. Thank you for standing on the right side of history."

—Hadil Al-Mowafak



*Audley
Lyon*

IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS

Our groundbreaking settlement in *Lyon v. ICE*, a class action lawsuit against the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE), guarantees adequate access to telephones for immigrant detainees in the four Northern California detention centers, including direct calling options that are free of charge and access to rooms that allow for private conversations with attorneys.

Throughout the nation, immigration detainees are held in remote facilities with extremely limited telephone access. In the four facilities that serve the San Francisco immigration court, detainees faced prohibitive telephone rates, technical obstacles, and a lack of privacy for legal calls that made it virtually impossible to consult with attorneys or gather evidence for their hearings. Lead plaintiff Audley Lyon needed a police report to support his application for a U-visa (available to victims of crime that cooperate in police investigations), but the collect-only calling option at the Contra Costa facility where he was detained made it impossible for him to call the police department to request the report.

Mr. Lyon managed to connect with the ACLU-NC legal team that ultimately brought the Lyon class action suit. Most detainees are not so lucky. Now that the case has been settled, immigrants held in Northern California detention facilities will have a shot at contacting their families and securing legal support to fight their deportation. With the Trump administration doubling down on its anti-immigrant policies, our work to strengthen and expand due process rights for immigrant detainees is even more urgent.

As we continue fighting for immigrant detainees in California, immigration-related arrests are on the rise across the nation. We partnered with immigrants' rights and legal services groups to create the Northern California Rapid Immigration Response Network, a new coalition that works to provide education and legal support to individuals and communities that are targeted by new immigration enforcement actions.

ACLU-NC plaintiff Audley Lyon (pictured) moved to the U.S. from Jamaica at just 10 years old. He grew up here, fell in love, married a U.S. citizen, and served honorably in the U.S. Air Force. When he was detained by ICE, harsh restrictions on telephone access made it nearly impossible to challenge the deportation charges and return home to his family.



*Kena
Cador*

CENTRAL VALLEY & INLAND CALIFORNIA

The story of Flint, Michigan's poisoned water rocked the nation when ACLU investigative reporter Curt Guyette helped expose the crisis in 2015. Since breaking the story, the ACLU has continued to work closely with community members in Flint to take legal action against the state of Michigan and deliver justice for those who have been impacted. As many as 100,000 people still lack access to clean water in Flint. Here in California, that number is much higher: over one million people in our state, with a high concentration in the Central Valley, lack access to clean water.

In Tulare County, where many residents live in poverty, families must use as much as 20 percent of their annual income to buy bottled water because wells have run dry. Children attending some rural schools in Fresno County cannot drink from water fountains because of arsenic poisoning. These communities—primarily made up of low-income immigrants and people of color—have suffered years of government neglect and inadequate infrastructure.

Residents in these Central Valley communities often experience a higher rate of food insecurity, lower access to educational opportunities, and lower air quality than the statewide average. The lack of access to clean water has dire consequences for the most vulnerable families, including health complications and economic difficulties.

Last year, ACLU-NC attorneys partnered with community leaders to bring the issue of water contamination before the State Water Resources Control Board, resulting in new regulations to prevent 1-2-3 Trichloropropane—a dangerous carcinogen discovered in hundreds of wells throughout the state—from contaminating local water sources. While this regulatory win was a critical step forward, much remains to be done. Our attorneys will continue working with impacted groups to develop tools and strategies for successful advocacy on water rights, access to municipal services, and other urgent community needs.

PHOTO BY MICHELLE MILLER

Kena Cador (pictured) is an Equal Justice Works Fellow, Sponsored by Apple Inc. and O'Melveny & Myers, based in the ACLU-NC's Fresno office. Kena works with leaders throughout the Central Valley to engage communities in activism and local advocacy for water access—a fundamental right that remains unrealized for far too many.

The U.S. has the largest prison population—by a large margin—of any nation on Earth. Driven by the failed war on drugs and “law and order” policies, the American prison population grew rapidly in the 1980s and 1990s—including here in California. Today, thanks in part to the leadership of the ACLU and our partners, California has begun to reverse this trend. Our state now has one of the nation’s fastest rates of de-incarceration.

At the same time, California’s prison population remains among the nation’s highest. We must now confront one of the most serious and deeply entrenched sources of injustice: money bail.

Every year, California’s money bail system keeps thousands of people in jail before they get their day in court—all because they cannot afford to post bail and buy their freedom.

Those who don’t have \$50,000 in cash—the average bail amount in California—must make an impossible choice: sit in jail while their case moves forward, plead guilty, or pay a bail bonds company a nonrefundable fee (usually 10 percent) to get out—all of this even if they are innocent. The impact on low-income Californians is devastating. Many are forced to sit in jail while they wait for their trial, tearing people from their jobs, families, and communities. Others take on crushing debt to pay the nonrefundable fee to the bail bonds company.

The ACLU and our coalition partners are working to end this unjust two-tiered system with a pair of bills in the California legislature. Backed by a statewide coalition with diverse member organizations—from advocacy groups to public defenders to labor unions—the campaign to move away from money bail has already redefined the conversation, bringing California one step closer to a smart justice system.

Melodie Henderson (pictured speaking at the state Capitol) is a San Diego resident and small business owner. Melodie was unable to afford the \$50,000 bail amount set in 2006 after her first and only arrest. Her family went into debt to secure her release while her case moved forward. “The burden that I had placed on my family was worst of all,” said Melodie. “Watching my grandmother write checks to the bail company for me broke my heart.” Even after her case was resolved and she completed community service and served a period of probation, her debt to the bail bonds industry continued for years.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Melodie Henderson



REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

Across the nation, reproductive health and rights are under attack. Since our founding, when ACLU lawyers defended the right to hand out leaflets on contraception, we've worked on reproductive rights. At the ACLU-NC, we use the framework of reproductive justice, which addresses how the ability to exercise one's reproductive rights intersects with other social and economic factors. Our goal is to ensure that everyone has the rights and resources to make the reproductive decisions that are right for them—whether that be to prevent pregnancy or to have a child.

Here in California, we won a remarkable victory for mothers and children when ACLU-NC policy advocates successfully repealed the Maximum Family Grant (MFG) rule. This little-known but deeply harmful policy began in the 1990s with the false and stigmatizing notion, particularly targeted at women of color, that poor women were having babies in order to receive additional welfare assistance. The MFG rule denied basic assistance to any child born into a family already receiving CalWORKs assistance, an attempt to coerce poor families to stop having children. This rule persisted for two decades, in spite of countless academic studies that disproved the premise and numerous others that showed the MFG rule actually exacerbated poverty and increased the risk of negative health outcomes for children. By withholding aid, California drove families deeper into poverty and endangered the well-being of approximately 130,000 of the state's most vulnerable children. Far from modeling reproductive justice, the MFG rule obligated poor women to disclose private medical information and punished them for their reproductive decisions.

After years of organizing and advocacy led by the ACLU-NC and partner organizations, California lawmakers funded repeal of the MFG rule through the state's 2016 budget. We will continue working to advance reproductive justice for all Californians.

Pictured: ACLU supporter Vivian Thorp and her daughters. Vivian lost her job when she became injured, and the MFG rule negatively impacted her family. "The MFG rule made it much more difficult to leave welfare and make it on my own. Today, not only have I been able to retain job security at a job where I help people, I have also raised three amazing girls who are happy, healthy, bright and already contributing to society. I couldn't be more proud of them and of California for finally repealing the MFG rule."

Vivian Thorp



ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Economic inequality is one of the defining characteristics of this era. The wealth gap produces deeply unequal outcomes throughout society in healthcare, education, immigration, and beyond. Economic disparities are further impacted by dimensions like race, gender, disability, and sexual orientation. In this context, policies that tie freedom, liberty, and due process to money must be challenged.

Here in California, the issue of driver's license suspensions gained statewide attention after reports issued by the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, the East Bay Community Law Center, and others. The reports exposed both the devastating impact license suspensions have on low-income communities and the deep racial disparities in license suspensions and arrests related to unpaid traffic fines. The ACLU-NC and a coalition of legal organizations engaged in an investigation and advocacy campaign that culminated in lawsuits brought against the State of California and against Solano County Superior Court.

Our case, *Hernandez v. California DMV*, was brought on behalf of drivers who have had their licenses suspended in violation of their statutory, due process, and equal protection rights. A driver's license is not a luxury—for many, the ability to drive is necessary keep a job, care for children or family members, and travel to doctor's appointments. While state law allowed the DMV to suspend the licenses of those who have willfully failed to pay traffic fines and fees, most traffic courts did not give drivers a meaningful opportunity to prove that their failure to pay is due to poverty, rather than willful non-compliance.

The litigation and concurrent legislative advocacy resulted in a legislative win with the Governor's 2017-18 Budget Bill eliminating the DMV's authority to suspend licenses for failure to pay. We continue to litigate in order to vindicate the rights of those with failure to pay suspensions that occurred prior to the change in law and those who have suspensions for failure to appear.



Our case Rubicon v. Solano County Superior Court, seeks robust procedures to ensure defendants are given a meaningful opportunity to demonstrate their inability to pay. It also seeks alternative penalties for low income individuals.

LGBTQ RIGHTS

As a nation, we've made tremendous progress on LGBTQ rights in recent years. With resounding Supreme Court wins in ACLU cases like *Windsor v. United States* (ending the Defense of Marriage Act) and *Obergefell v. Hodges* (nationwide marriage equality), decades of organizing, advocacy, and impact litigation brought historic protections to the LGBTQ community. At the same time, there is still a pressing need to defend LGBTQ rights.

Across the nation, the ACLU is fighting to end the use of religion to discriminate. We're bringing another critical LGBTQ rights case before the supreme court with *Charlie Craig and David Mullins v. Masterpiece Cakeshop*. Our case argues that Masterpiece Cakeshop unlawfully discriminated against David Mullins and Charlie Craig by refusing to sell them a wedding cake on religious grounds. The Supreme Court is set to hear the case later this year. We're also working to pass state-level anti-discrimination laws to protect LGBTQ people in the workplace—an urgent priority, since it is still legal to fire someone for identifying as LGBTQ in 28 states.

Here in California, our state's largest hospital chain uses religion to discriminate against transgender employees. Last year, we brought a lawsuit on behalf of Joe Robinson, an operating room nurse at a Dignity Health facility. Dignity denied Robinson's insurance coverage for transition-related care, sometimes referred to as gender dysphoria treatment. He was forced to pay thousands of dollars out of pocket for medically necessary care.

Our case, *Robinson v. Dignity Health*, argues that Dignity Health policies discriminate on the basis of sex, in violation of Title VII the Civil Rights Act and the Affordable Care Act. Employers cannot use religion as an excuse to deny insurance coverage to LGBTQ people. California is a national leader on LGBTQ rights, and we're fighting to keep it that way.

Joe Robinson, ACLU-NC Plaintiff: "All I want is the same health benefits other, non-transgender Dignity employees receive, which is coverage for medically necessary treatments."



*Joe
Robinson*

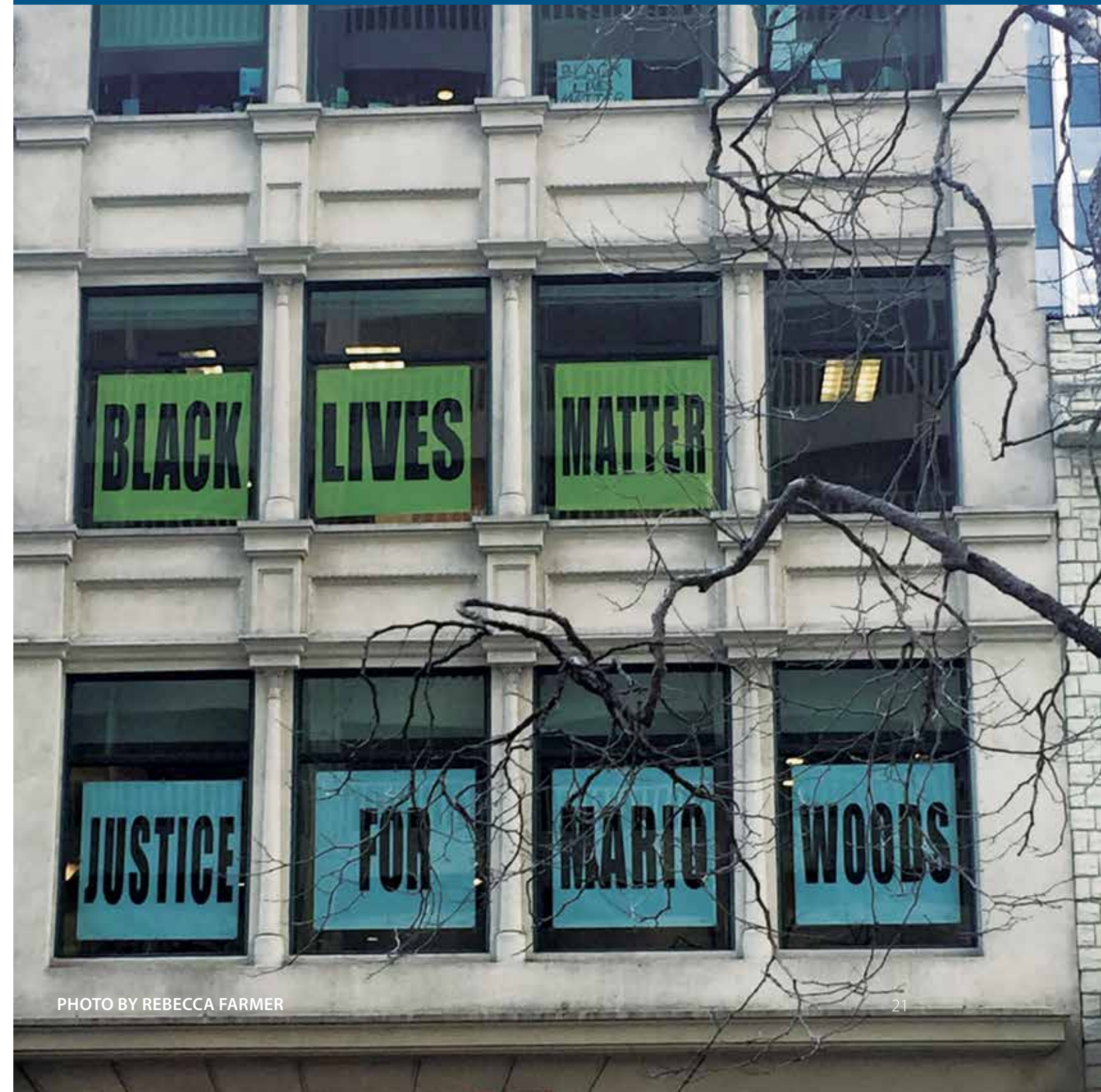
A nationwide movement led by Black Lives Matter has put a spotlight on the issue of racial bias in policing. The practice of racial profiling is prevalent in law enforcement agencies across the nation, resulting in heightened police violence targeting communities of color. The ACLU-NC and our coalition partners across the state won a huge victory in 2015 with the passage of AB 953, a state-level law designed to curb racial profiling and require the release of demographic data on who is stopped, searched, and arrested in California. Last year, ACLU-NC lawyers and policy advocates began the work to ensure successful implementation of the new law.

While racial profiling disproportionately puts people of color in law enforcement's crosshairs, a police culture that encourages use of force lies at the heart of today's epidemic of police-involved killings. Not long after AB 953 was signed into law, Mario Woods—a Black San Francisco resident—was killed in a hailstorm of police bullets. Vindicated by graphic footage of Woods' death at the hands of the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD), the "Justice for Mario Woods" coalition brought national attention to the story and demanded action in San Francisco.

ACLU-NC lawyers called for a federal Department of Justice investigation, and participated in a working group tasked with revising SFPD's use of force policy. Amid intense public pressure, the San Francisco Police Commission made its first change to the SFPD use of force policy in more than two decades. The new policy was unanimously approved, banning dangerous and sometimes lethal restraint methods and requiring any use of force to be minimal—a rule that goes further than the often ambiguous constitutional standard of "reasonable" force. From policies that prevent violence to laws that ensure officers must be held accountable, we are working to end racial profiling and police violence in California.

The ACLU-NC showed our support for the Justice for Mario Woods coalition with a bold, outward-facing message at our 39 Drumm Street building during the Super Bowl 50 activities hosted in San Francisco.

POLICE PRACTICES & RACIAL PROFILING



EDUCATION EQUITY

D'Abjanique Smiley



The egregious civil rights violations posed by unconstitutional policing don't stop on our streets—they reach into our public schools. Students come to school to receive an education, not a criminal record.

Our groundbreaking report, *The Right to Remain a Student: How California School Policies Fail to Protect and Serve*, found that students of color, students with disabilities, and low-income students at California public schools are disproportionately targeted for searches and arrests. Our analysis revealed that few districts have strong policies in place to define the role of police in schools and minimize contact with students.

On many campuses, officers regularly enter classrooms to interrupt lessons with invasive searches where students are forced to empty their pockets and backpacks. Police should only be called to schools when there is a real and immediate physical threat to students, teachers, or public safety. Instead, this heightened police presence creates a climate of fear and intimidation that leads many students to give up on school altogether.

At Cesar Chavez High School in Stockton, Richard* started his senior year with plans to go to college. Before too long, though, the heavy district police presence took its toll. Richard—a biracial Latino-Filipino student—faced ongoing police harassment due to his appearance. He regularly faced questioning and pat-downs when walking to class, was made to sit on the curb in handcuffs during a vehicle stop for expired tags, and was finally arrested for breaking up a scuffle between his 15-year-old brother and another freshman boy. Tired of the harassment, Richard decided that school was not for him anymore and dropped out.

Unfortunately, Richard's case is not an isolated incident. That's why we're working with local leaders and grassroots groups across the state to decrease the presence of law enforcement officers in California schools. By redirecting resources to programs that make a positive difference for vulnerable students—counselors, training on restorative strategies, and positive behavior intervention and support—we will build safe school environments where all students feel included and empowered.

**Richard's name has been changed to protect his privacy.*

D'Abjanique Smiley, a 2016 graduate of Cesar Chavez High School in Stockton, says the heavy police presence and invasive searches make students feel that police are “more there to scare us than to help us and to make us feel safe and comfortable.”



Victor Sin

ACLU member Victor Sin (Chair, ACLU-NC Santa Clara Chapter) advocating for the groundbreaking Surveillance Technology & Community Safety Ordinance in Santa Clara County. This first-of-its-kind law requires public debate and transparent cost and civil liberties impact analysis when any surveillance technology is being considered. The policy also requires robust oversight and accountability practices to protect the civil rights and civil liberties of the community.

TECHNOLOGY & CIVIL LIBERTIES

Innovations in technology continue to transform the way we live—allowing us to connect, communicate and mobilize for change in ways that were nearly unimaginable a generation ago. At the same time, these technologies—and the way governments or companies use them—can threaten civil liberties and target community members.

The ACLU has been at the center of many of our nation's most high-profile fights to safeguard rights in the digital world. Whether we're representing whistleblowers like Edward Snowden, litigating federal cases, or spearheading the passage of landmark electronic privacy laws like CalECPA, our work on this national issue transcends both state and party lines.

The fight to protect privacy and free speech rights is also being won on the local level. Last year, ACLU-NC lawyers discovered that thousands of government agencies in California and across the country were secretly using surveillance tools to target protesters and activists who used hashtags like #BlackLivesMatter, #PoliceBrutality, and #ItsTimeforChange. We also learned that Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram had data deals with the surveillance companies.

After the ACLU pushed this secret monitoring into the light, the social media giants acted quickly. They shut these surveillance side doors and reinforced their worldwide policies to clearly prohibit use of data for surveillance.

Our local campaigns are now working to stop all secret and discriminatory surveillance. An ACLU-NC-backed campaign in Santa Clara led to the nation's first county-level law requiring consistent transparency, accountability and oversight measures for all surveillance decisions. Now dozens of communities across the country are working to pass similar laws.

In the year ahead, we'll continue to push companies, march forward in the courts and legislature, and work with communities to ensure that as technology advances, rights are protected.

VOTING RIGHTS

Sharron Bolden's voting rights were restored by Scott v. Bowen. She became the face and voice of the ACLU's LetMeVote campaign, working tirelessly to educate the formerly incarcerated about their right to vote.

For over 50 years, the ACLU has been locked in a nationwide battle to protect voting rights. Four years ago, the Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act of 1965 in the landmark case *Shelby County v. Holder*. The Court's 5-4 ruling struck down key provisions that protected voters of color for nearly half a century, opening the floodgates for a wave of state-level voter suppression laws.

While other states move to restrict the right to vote, we're fighting each day to make California a model for expanding democracy. Our historic legal victory in *Scott v. Bowen* (2015) restored voting rights for nearly 60,000 formerly incarcerated Californians. Last year, we cemented this win and re-enfranchised tens of thousands more people with legislation that clarified who can and cannot vote with a criminal conviction (AB 2466, Weber).

After winning this fight in the courts and the state legislature, we face a much deeper challenge: to fully realize these legal and political wins, we must overcome the pervasive myth that individuals with a criminal conviction cannot vote. Far too often, this misconception prevents eligible Californians from participating in our democracy.

Prior to the 2016 election, we partnered with California Calls to recruit messengers in communities disproportionately impacted by the criminal justice system. Our innovative tele-town hall reached over 10,000 Californians—a critical first step toward overcoming the false narrative that plagues communities most affected by mass incarceration. Moving forward, we will continue our effort to combat misinformation about voting with a criminal conviction by working with grassroots organizations, government agencies, courts, and re-entry partners across the state to expand access to voting rights for formerly incarcerated citizens.

As we look to the 2018 election and beyond, ACLU-NC lawyers are also working to protect the voting rights of marginalized communities by increasing access for language minorities, people with disabilities, and young adults.



*Sharron
Bolden*

PHOTO BY REBECCA RAUBER

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Cooperating Law Firms

We thank the following firms who donated services during 2016. Your hard work and commitment are deeply appreciated by the ACLU community.

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The Law Offices of Amitai Schwartz

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Volunteers

Each year, hundreds of people volunteer their time with ACLU-NC. Here we recognize some the dedicated volunteers who spent the most time with us in 2016.

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James Berg

Barbara Briggs

Julie De Witt

Danny Gifford

Brenden Karaffa

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Pierre Laurent

Karen Laslo

Susana Millman

Lauren Reid

Martha Winnacker

Pro Bono General Counsel

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, LLP

Interns and Fellows

Thank you to students and recent law graduates who worked with us in 2016.

LAW AND POLICY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Kena Cador
Jonathan Francis
Katherine Lin
Nayna Gupta

LAW AND POLICY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

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Dylan Tonti
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Elisabeth Bolaza
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James Thuerwachter
Laura Douglas
Mei-Wah Lee
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Sarah Kamenir
Sophie Lyons
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Each year, our Board of Directors and other philanthropic development volunteers serve as ambassadors who strengthen relationships with ACLU supporters. Their commitment is vital to the ACLU's success.

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ACLU-NC staff and bios are available at www.aclunc.org.



THANK YOU, DONORS



From all of us here at the ACLU of Northern California: *thank you.*

This is a moment unlike any other in the ACLU's long history. For nearly a century, our organization stood—sometimes alone—as an uncompromising guardian of our nation's most fundamental values. With those values under siege in an unprecedented way, we now find ourselves at the center of a nationwide resistance. This new political reality called on ACLU staff, members, and donors to rise to the occasion—and rise we did.

To our longtime donors: thanks to your generosity, the ACLU was strong, unwavering, and ready to act the moment Trump took office. Long before the 2016 election, you were the wind at our backs.

To our new donors: the Trump administration is unlike anything we've faced. Overnight, your support and energy allowed the ACLU to bring the legal and political firepower necessary to stop Trump's most dangerous proposals in their tracks.

To all of our members and donors: *thank you.* Our work—everything you are in reading these pages—happens with your support. Whether reflecting on our past triumphs and struggles or envisioning the victories ahead, I hope you share our pride in the movement we are building together.

It's an honor to follow in the footsteps of my predecessor and mentor, Cheri Bryant. Serving in this role, at such an extraordinary moment for the ACLU, is both an incredible privilege and an awesome responsibility. As we work to ensure that your gifts are translated into action—that funds are used wisely, and with ambition—I'm also challenging myself to imagine new pathways toward deeper engagement for you, our members and donors.

At this moment, we are responding to the Trump Administration and fighting back in courtrooms, legislatures, and in the streets. Your financial support allows the ACLU to be present on the most pressing issues in the most important ways. At the same time, we are building a movement—a multigenerational resistance built on a shared vision of freedom and justice for all. ACLU supporters are donors, activists, civic leaders, teachers, healers—and so many other roles and identities critical to sustaining and growing the resistance.

We are in this together.

On behalf of our staff, Board, and the communities with which we work, I share that we remain profoundly grateful for your investment in the ACLU and the trust you've placed in this organization by providing your support. We couldn't do this without you.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cori Stell".

Cori Stell, Director of Development

SPECIAL TRIBUTES



Honoring Longtime ACLU Activist Emily Skolnick

When Emily Skolnick joined the ACLU in the 1950s, she brought with her a remarkable history of social change work and an indomitable fighting spirit. From antiwar marches, to research on contraception, to protests against segregation, Emily's devotion to humanitarian causes was inspiring. She came to the ACLU at the height of the McCarthy era, standing up against the demands for "loyalty oaths" from faculty and staff at local colleges. Emily co-founded the San Mateo Chapter of the ACLU-NC, serving as a board member for six years and hosting chapter meetings at her home for decades. She is remembered by friends and family as an exceptional activist and a true force of nature. Emily died peacefully at home in Santa Cruz on January 29, 2017 at 101 years of age, with her family at her side. We are grateful to Emily's family for directing gifts made in her honor to the ACLU-NC.

In Memoriam: Nick Walrath

At 31 years old, Nick Walrath had earned a level of respect and admiration that few can hope to achieve in a lifetime. Universally recognized among friends, family, and peers as a brilliant and deeply compassionate individual, Nick was driven to help others in his life's work. After graduating from New York University School of Law with honors, he began his career as a lawyer in San Francisco. Nick worked as a clerk in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and a federal district court before moving into private practice with the firm Durie Tangri. Ultimately, he hoped to work for the ACLU—a goal he undoubtedly would have achieved had his life not been tragically cut short. Nick was one of 36 victims who died in the devastating Ghost Ship warehouse fire in Oakland on December 2, 2016. He is remembered as a kind, loving, and extraordinary individual. We are grateful to the Walrath family for directing gifts made in Nick's honor to the ACLU, and to his colleagues at Durie Tangri and to the alumni of the New York University Law Review who so generously contributed in honor of Nick.

DEVELOPMENT & FINANCIAL REPORT

The majority of funding for the ACLU and ACLU Foundation comes from individuals like you. The ACLU receives no government funding and never charges its clients for legal representation. Its effectiveness and impact depend entirely upon private donations, foundation grants, court-awarded legal fees from successful cases, bequests, and membership dues from individuals who are dedicated to preserving the fundamental liberties written in the Constitution and its Bill of Rights.

The ACLU and the ACLU Foundation are separately incorporated nonprofit organizations operating in Northern California. The ACLU Foundation conducts litigation and public education programs in support of civil liberties. The Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization, so contributions to it are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. The ACLU conducts membership outreach and organizing, legislative advocacy, and lobbying. It is supported primarily by membership dues. It is a 501(c)4 organization, which means that donations to it are not tax-deductible.

Fundraising Campaigns and Volunteers

Individual contributions to the ACLU and the ACLU Foundation provide the resources necessary for a vigorous defense of liberty and justice. Founded on the firm belief that one-on-one conversations are the most efficient and friendly way to raise funds, our fundraising activities allow us to maintain strong ties with our supporters and remain informed about their civil liberties concerns.

Joint Fundraising and Sharing

All gifts and membership dues are shared between the national ACLU and the ACLU of Northern California. A portion of the national ACLU's share is allocated to help smaller affiliate offices around the country that otherwise would be unable to address the serious civil liberties needs in their states.

Ways of Giving

You can help support the work of the ACLU or the ACLU Foundation in any of these ways:

CASH OR CREDIT CARDS: The organization is pleased to accept your donation, or your monthly, quarterly or annual pledge via cash, check, or credit card (Visa, Discover, Mastercard or American Express) at any time. Gifts may be made via mail or online at www.aclunc.org.

WORKPLACE GIVING/PAYROLL DEDUCTION: You may choose to designate the ACLU Foundation through your workplace giving campaign or via United Way Donor Option.

GIFTS OF STOCK OR SECURITIES: Making a gift of appreciated stock, securities, or mutual fund shares can be very advantageous from a tax point of view. Call the Development Department for information for the easiest ways to make stock gifts.

INSURANCE AND RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS: You may designate the ACLU or ACLU Foundation as beneficiary of your life insurance policy, IRA, retirement plan, or pension.

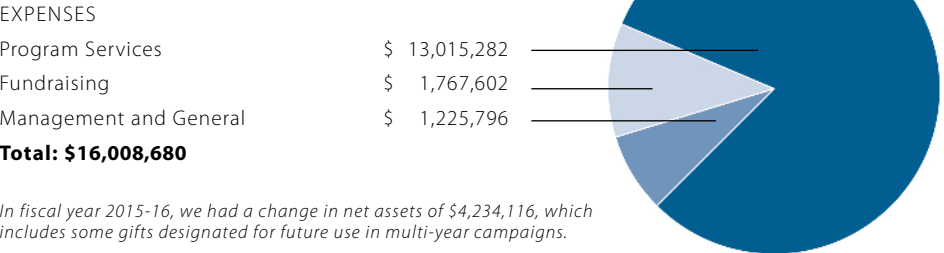
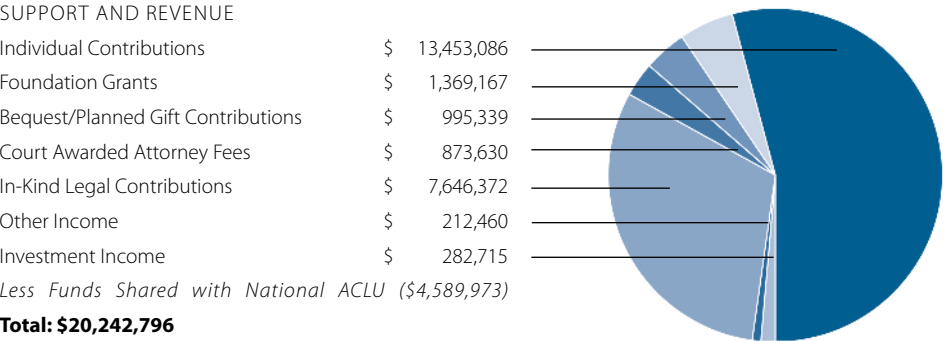
BEQUESTS: In your will or revocable living trust, you may designate the ACLU or ACLU Foundation as beneficiary of part or all of your estate.

GIFT ANNUITIES: You may use cash or securities to make a gift to the ACLU Foundation and receive fixed annual payments (a portion of which can be tax-exempt) for life and a substantial tax deduction.

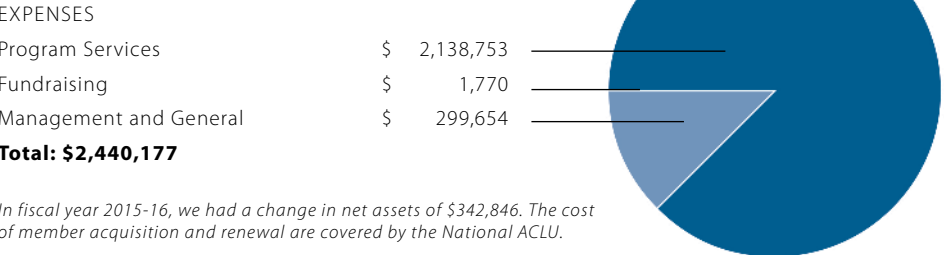
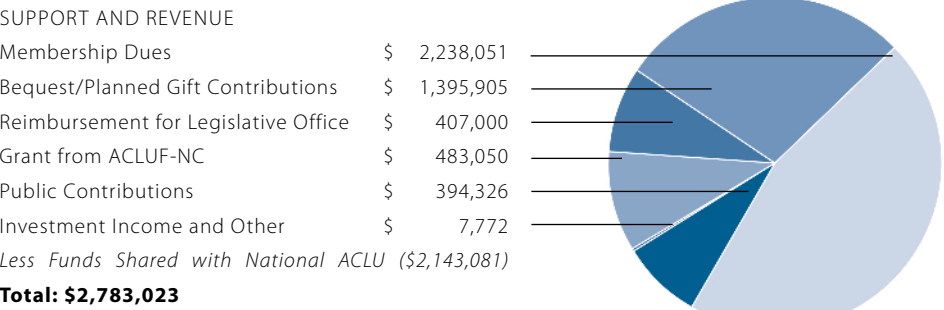
CHARITABLE TRUSTS: You can establish a charitable trust which benefits the ACLU Foundation while providing tax advantages and a variety of financial planning options for you and your family.

For more information on ways to support the ACLU, contact Director of Development Cori Stell at (415) 621-2493 or cstell@aclunc.org, or for planned giving information, contact our Director of Gift Planning Bill Ambrunn at (415) 621-2493 or bambrunn@aclunc.org.

ACLU FOUNDATION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA Operating Income and Expenses 2015-16



ACLU OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA Operating Income and Expenses 2015-16



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