We are pleased to present you with our year in review, an overview of where and how we have invested the energy, brain power, and grassroots action that your contributions enable in Northern California.

2008 was as dynamic, challenging and fruitful as ever. Here are a handful of highlights:

- **We stood up for freedom of speech**, whether for the rights of Olympic torch protestors in San Francisco, library users in San Jose, or seekers of truth on the Internet.

- **We defended the right to privacy** by passing legislation to protect our personal data from high-tech thievery, and by challenging FBI snooping in library records.

- **We took a stand for fair treatment and equal opportunity** by exposing the racial profiling of Latinos in Sonoma and San Jose and the harassment of African American families in Antioch.

- **We protected the rights of the most vulnerable** by winning a landmark victory on behalf of homeless individuals in Fresno who had their rights and their dignity violated by the police.

We could not be more proud of our part in the historic victory in the California Supreme Court establishing marriage as a fundamental right belonging to all Californians. This is one chapter in the long story of full LGBT equality.

And we are gratified by our successful defense of the reproductive rights of teens through the solid defeat of Proposition 4. (Truth be told, we are also frustrated that we were forced to fight parental notification for the third time in four years.)

Our donors are incredibly loyal and generous, and we are most grateful. Your contribution to the ACLU stretches far and wide, across the entire country. Because the national ACLU and ACLU-NC share every dollar contributed from our community, you play a direct role in making possible the work of the ACLU in other states—like Ohio, Florida and Mississippi—where resources for defending civil rights are extremely scarce.

Throughout the year, leaders of our 23 local ACLU chapters across Northern California did their part by shining light on threats to civil liberties. Many chapters, including those spearheaded by undergraduate students and law students, worked long hours mobilizing opposition to Propositions 4 and 8.

It’s hard to overstate what a difference it makes for us to be doing what we do best in the new building—a home we could not have dreamed of just eight years ago. Everything we need is here, allowing us to focus on the work at hand, and to convene our partnerships and coalitions in a setting that is both efficient and welcoming.

2009 is the year that we celebrate the 75th Anniversary of our affiliate. We hope that you will join us in looking back and looking forward as we celebrate the commitment we share: to see justice through with courage and perseverance, in times of scarcity and prosperity, caution and optimism.

Sincerely,

Abdi Soltani, Executive Director

Nancy Pemberton, Board Chair
STANDING FOR THE RIGHTS OF PROTESTORS

In advance of the 2008 Beijing Olympics, the Olympic torch was to be carried along San Francisco’s Embassade- ro. But at the last minute, city officials secretly changed the torch route, ostensibly out of concern for public safe- ty—but with the end result of avoiding planned public protest. In response, we urged government transparency, filed Public Records Act requests, and trained and de- ployed volunteer legal observers to monitor interactions between protestors and police.

LAWSUIT YIELDS ICE RAIDS DOCUMENTS

When Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) failed to comply with a request for documents under the federal Freedom of Information Act, the ACLU-NC and the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights filed a lawsuit. Documents received to date reveal that ICE agents acted dangerously beyond their stated mission to target “criminal fugitives,” as the vast majority of arrests were of people without prior contact with any law enforcement, including parents taking their children to school.

FIGHTING UNLAWFUL DETentions AND RACIAL PROFILING

In California, the law is clear: local sheriffs and police are not permitted to make arrests for violations of im- migration law. But in recent years, Sonoma County deputy sheriffs have arrested and jailed suspected illegal immigrants with neither a warrant nor a criminal basis for arrest. What’s more, it appears that the officers used racial profiling to decide whom to detain and search. In September, we filed a lawsuit charging that the County Sheriff’s Department and the U.S. Bureau of Im- migration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) collaborated to target, arrest and detain Latino county residents.

RENTING WHILE BLACK: STANDING AGAINST POLICE ABUSE IN THE SUBURBS

A few weeks after Antioch resident Alyce Payne turned to police for help with a domestic violence incident, of- ficers arrived at her door to “check in” on her and ask whether she was a recipient of Section 8 housing assis- tance. Later, the police sent a letter to her landlord implying that she should be evicted. After many similar abuses were documented by the group Public Advocates, the ACLU and co-counsel filed a class-action lawsuit in federal court, charging that the city of Antioch and its police are engaged in a concerted campaign of harass- ment and discrimination against African Americans who receive Section 8 assistance.

DEFENDING THE RIGHTS OF HOMELESS PEOPLE

Everyone in this country—whether they sleep in a house, a tent or a cardboard box—is entitled to the protections of the Constitution, including freedom from unreason- able seizure of their personal property. In May 2008, Sonoma County Superior Court Judge Oliver Wanger echoed that right in a histor- ic decision that signaled a great victory for homeless people in Fresno. In Kincaid v. City of Fresno, the judge ruled in favor of homeless plaintiffs who had their be- longings destroyed in illegal police raids, he later award- ed them a multi-million dollar settlement to help meet basic needs, find housing and replace personal property. The plaintiffs were represented by a team of attorneys from the ACLU-NC, the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights and the law firm of Heller Ehrman LLP.

MUNICIPal ID ORDINANCE: EQUAL ACCESS FOR EVERY SF RESIDENT

In 2007, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted to issue municipal identification cards to city residents, an attempt to ensure that no one would be denied access to police protection and other essential city services. But in 2008, a lawsuit alleged that the program violated federal law because undocumented immi- grants would be eligible for the IDs. After the ACLU-NC and other advocates intervened, the San Francisco Supe- rior Court rejected the suit, and the city began issuing the IDs in early 2009.

ENDING NATURALIZATION DELAYS

Seeking to end the years-long backlog of citizenship applica- tions, the ACLU-NC and other immigrant rights advoca- tes filed a lawsuit in 2007. We settled the case last year after the government demonstrated the back- log had been cleared—and agreed to allow us to monitor compliance with federal laws requiring applications to be decided within 120 days of the naturalization test.

DEFENDING THE RIGHT TO PUBLISH

The website Wikileaks allows participants to anony- mously disclose documents of public interest. After an anonymous posting of confidential records from a Swiss bank, the bank requested an injunction to shut down the Wikileaks domain. At first, the federal district court in San Francisco granted the injunction. The ACLU- NC and the Electronic Frontier Foundation appeared as amicus to the case. Two weeks later, the court dissolved the injunction, saying it raised “serious questions of prior restraint” (or speech) and possible violations of the First Amendment.

CHALLENGING THE FBI’S SECRET DEMANDS FOR ACCESS TO PRIVATE RECORDS

By issuing a national security letter (NSL) to a telecom company or an internet service provider, including a digital or traditional library, the government can compel the recipient to hand over customer records. And almost invariably, recipients of the NSLs are forbidden from disclosing that they have received the letters. Last year the FBI issued an NSL to the Internet Archive, a digital library based in San Francisco— and then withdrew the NSL in response to a lawsuit by the ACLU and the Electronic Frontier Foundation. Only those NSL recipients who have ever challenged an NSL in court, each time, the recipient was represented by the ACLU and each time, the government has withdrawn its demand.

OUR EDUCATION IS OUR LIBERATION

The Howard A. Friedman Education Project of the ACLU-NC works with young people, ages 13-19, to help them make the connections between their rights and the issues they care about. In April 2008, hundreds of young people met at UC Berkeley for our 17th annual Youth Rights Conference. Youth-led workshops on topics including student rights, gender and justice, educational equity, and the myths of military recruitment made for an active and inspiring day. Then in August, 21 young people traveled the state to explore issues of educational equity and racial justice in our public schools—and published their impressions and analyses in It’s a Right or Privilege? A Youth Investigation into Educational Equity and Racial Justice in Schools.

PUSH TO SPOTLIGHT POLICE PRACTICES IN SAN JOSE

In October, a San Jose Mercury News story revealed that the city’s police were arresting far more people for public intoxication than was any other law enforcement agency in the state—and a disproportionate number were Latinos. In November, the SJPD declined our request to obtain arrest reports for public intoxication in 2007. Also in November, more than 60 residents at a public hearing told their personal stories of police abuse. In response, the city council formed a Public Intoxication Task Force. Members of the task force convinced the city to release approximately 200 of the arrest reports.

SECURING SEX ED VICTORIES AT STATE AND LOCAL LEVELS

For more than a decade, the ACLU-NC has been work- ing to ensure that sex education in public schools is science-based, free of bias, and age-appropriate. In the Fremont Unified School District, we worked intensively with parents and community members who sought to replace the federally funded abstinence-only middle school curriculum with a comprehensive, medically ac- curate curriculum. Despite entrenched opposition, we prevailed. At the state level, we collaborated with the California School Boards Association to develop a more robust model policy regarding sex education.

OUR EDUCATION IS OUR LIBERATION

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FOSTERING RESPECT AND ENDING PUSHOUT: THE SCHOOLS FOR ALL CAMPAIGN

The failure to address harassment and discrimination, in conjunction with excessive and discriminatory discipline, can make school life unbearable for youth of color. LGBT students, English learners, special education students, and others. These same students are routinely pushed out of school and into the criminal justice system. In response, the ACLU-NC has launched Schools for All, a multi-year advocacy and organizing initiative to press school districts to adopt policies that will foster respect, eliminate discriminatory discipline, and reduce pushout.

2008

The setbacks of 2008 are difficult to accept. But forging change—whether monumental or incremental—is never easy. In reflecting on the intensity of election seasons like the last one, we are reminded of what we are capable of accomplishing. And our organizing staff organized. Campuses and communities across Northern California became our make-shift field offices. Student leaders of ACLU chapters coordinated rallies, recruited volunteers, staffed phone banks and engaged in campus debates at San Francisco State, Stanford, UC Davis, UC Berkeley and Mills College.

ACLU-NC MEMBERSHIP

ACLU-NC STAFF

SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE STAFF

2008
You can help support the work of the ACLU or 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 or Mastercard) at any time. Gifts may be made via mail or online at www.aclunc.org.

**United Way Donor Option Gifts:** You may choose to designate the ACLU Foundation through your workplace giving campaign.

**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 transfer stock ownership.

**Insurance and Retirement Accounts:** You may designate the ACLU or ACLU Foundation as beneficiary of your life insurance policy, IRA plan or pension.

**Direct IRA Transfer:** If you are at least 70 1/2 years old, you can transfer up to $100,000 directly to the ACLU Foundation from your IRA. You would not be taxed for the transfer, and your contribution would satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution. This is a limited opportunity. You have until December 31, 2009 to transfer IRA assets directly to the ACLU Foundation.

**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. For estate planning information, contact our Director of Planned Giving, Stan Yogi.

**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.

**Liberty Fund Pooled Income gifts:** You can invest a gift of $5,000 or more in cash or securities in the ACLU Foundation’s pooled income fund, producing annual income payments for you as well as a future gift for our civil liberties work. If you contribute long-term appreciated securities you will avoid all capital gains taxes.

For more information on ways to support the ACLU, contact Director of Development Cheri Bryant at (415) 621-2493.