



The ACLU of Northern California's 2009 YEAR IN REVIEW

Dear Friends,

2009 was a roller coaster ride for all of us.

The year began with some highs. President Obama banned our government's use of torture, closed secret CIA prisons around the world, and called for a new era of openness in government.

But we soon realized that our work to restore civil liberties was far from over. The new administration invoked the "state secrets" defense to thwart ACLU lawsuits, just as the Bush administration had done. Congress renewed the Patriot Act, allowing the government to continue spying on our phone calls, e-mails and library records. Reforms of immigration laws and advances for LGBT rights stalled.

And new challenges emerged, or we should say, resurfaced. A growing militant movement began spreading in the United States, stoking racial bias, homophobia and xenophobic impulses. As we write this letter, Arizona's Governor has signed into law an anti-immigrant bill reminiscent of California's Proposition 187, which passed in the recession of the 1990's.

We are daily reminded of a long-standing ACLU call: Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.

The ACLU argues more cases before the Supreme Court than any individual or organization other than the United States government. Yet the ACLU is much more than a formidable force in the courts. In state legislatures, cities and rural areas around the country and here in California, the ACLU pairs legal expertise with community organizing to spark and sustain change.

This annual report shares our impact in Northern California in 2009. Here are just three of many highlights you can find in these pages:

- ◆ We replaced abstinence-only sex education with comprehensive, medically accurate curricula in key school districts, ensuring instruction that is free of bias and religious ideology;
- ◆ Our advocacy demonstrated to lawmakers that opposition to the death penalty is stronger and more informed than ever — leading to a drop in death sentences in key counties;
- ◆ We won and enforced key settlements in rural and urban school districts to ensure that schools are fairer and more welcoming for Native American, African American and Latino students.
- ◆ We secured significant victories in our work on national security, in cases dealing with extraordinary rendition and discrimination against airline passengers.

We are proud of several new initiatives we have launched this year that show promise for the future. Our Racial Justice Project investigated the extra-judicial factors — such as lack of education, housing, and employment — that result in African American and Latino youth and adults being disproportionately overrepresented in the criminal justice system. In light of the state's continuing budget crisis, we are pressing for sensible criminal justice reforms that reduce costs and increase public safety.

We started a multi-faceted initiative to strengthen our ties to advocates in the Central Valley, knowing that impoverished and isolated communities there are rife with civil liberties violations that have remained unaddressed for too long. We have already taken steps to equip community partners with legal information — whether on the rights of LGBT families or of immigrant farmworkers.

2009 was also a year in which we marked important milestones.

We celebrated the 75th anniversary of the ACLU of Northern California, founded in response to the killing of workers in the San Francisco waterfront strike of July 1934. We also are near completion of our historic Campaign for the Future, which has enabled us to purchase our permanent home at 39 Drumm Street, one block away from the location of the strike that precipitated our founding.

Your belief in the mission of the ACLU is a tremendous source of confidence and pride. And your contribution makes the work of the ACLU possible, not only here but across the country.

We invite you to read the highlights of our work over the past calendar year. And we thank you so much for being a part of the ACLU.

Sincerely,

Abdi Soltani, *Executive Director*

Nancy Pemberton, *Board Chair*



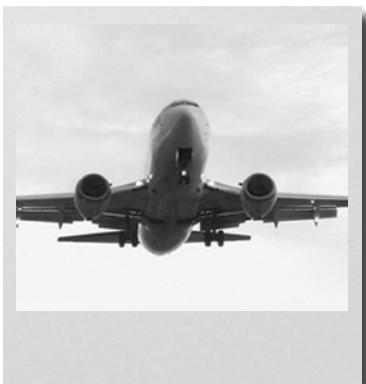
BOB HSIANG PHOTOGRAPHY

THE ACLU OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S



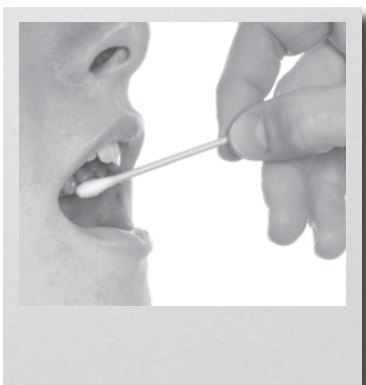
NO SECRETS ALLOWED

The ACLU won a landmark victory when the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in April that the government cannot dismiss an entire suit by invoking the state secrets privilege. Five torture victims await their day in court.



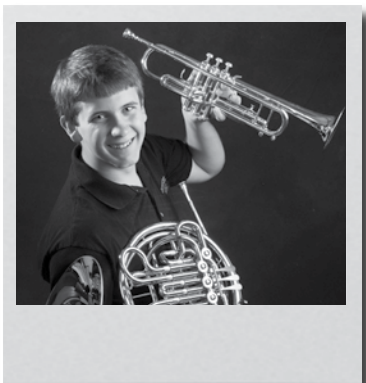
FLYING WHILE SIKH

The ACLU-NC, working in partnership with the group United Sikhs, won a settlement in November granting monetary damages to three internationally renowned Sikh musicians. The musicians had been ordered to leave a US Airways flight in Sacramento because other passengers had complained about them to the flight crew.



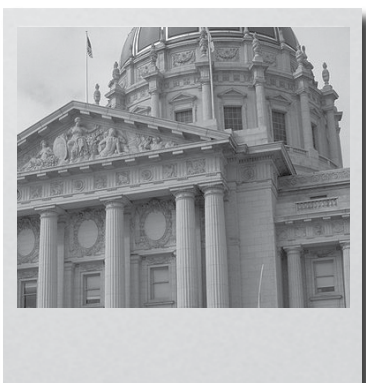
GENETIC JUSTICE

As of January 1, 2009, DNA can be collected in California from anyone arrested for a felony, regardless of whether that person is charged or convicted. The ACLU-NC is challenging the law as a violation of privacy and of freedom from unreasonable search and seizure.



STUDENT DRUG TESTING

Thanks to courageous students, parents and the ACLU-NC, students at Shasta Union High School District who want to join the school marching band and math club will no longer be pulled from class and required to urinate in a cup while a monitor listens outside the bathroom stall.



PRE-GAME PATDOWNS

The ACLU-NC cried "privacy foul" when the San Francisco 49ers required every man, woman, and child attending 49ers home games to submit to a pat-down search of their bodies. The California Supreme Court unanimously agreed.

PRIVACY RIGHTS IN THE DIGITAL ERA

Federal law to protect the privacy of electronic communications has not been updated since 1986! The ACLU-NC launched the Demand Your dotRights campaign to guarantee that individuals, not governments or corporations, control how and when others gain access to their personal information.



UN-CENSORING LIBRARIES

Along with the ACLU-NC, members of the ACLU-NC Santa Clara Valley Chapter and the grassroots group, Books Not Filters, secured an important victory against filtering software. San Jose library filters blocked important information about health care, art, sexuality, politics, and other topics.



IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

On behalf of two detainees and the Committee for Immigrant Rights, the ACLU-NC filed a federal lawsuit to prevent the Sonoma Sheriff's Department from collaborating with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to arrest and detain young Latino men merely based on suspicions about their immigration status.



RACIAL INTEGRATION IN SCHOOLS

Thanks to a major legal victory aided by the ACLU-NC, the Berkeley Unified School District is primed to serve as a model for other districts that want to promote welcoming, inclusive and integrated learning environments.



ENDING THE DEATH PENALTY

The death penalty policy project at the ACLU-NC objected to the new execution plan released this year by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). We were joined in public comment by 12,000 Californians.



75 YEARS **We see justice through**
1934 - 2009

2009 YEAR IN REVIEW

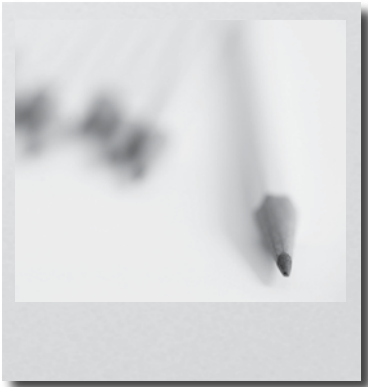
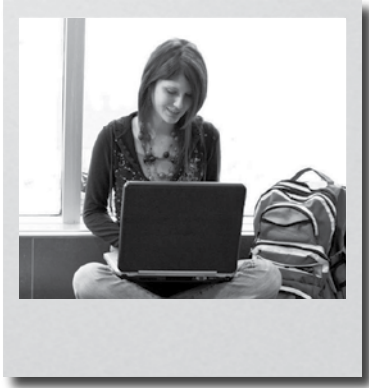


LGBT EQUALITY IN HOSPITALS

A lesbian couple faced discriminatory treatment at a Fresno hospital when the hospital did not allow Kristin Orbin's partner to give them medical information, leading to an adverse medical reaction. After receiving a demand letter from the ACLU, the hospital agreed to make policy changes to ensure that the rights of LGBT patients and family members are respected.

WHAT'S YOUR FACEBOOK IQ?

Facebook has over 400 million active users, many of whom don't realize that the default privacy settings on the online social networking site allow personal information to be shared with the world. When the ACLU-NC launched its own quiz about Facebook quizzes, more than 150,000 people learned more about their digital civil liberties.



SCHOOLS FOR ALL

A trend of schools imposing unduly harsh punishments, particularly on students of color, inspired our Know Your Rights: School Discipline manual for parents and students. And ACLU-NC's evidence of discrimination against Native American students led Del Norte County School District to refine its disciplinary procedures and update curricula to include Native American history and culture. Antioch Unified School District agreed to prevent discrimination against African American and Latino students in school discipline and to stem over-involvement of police.

ACTIVISM IS NOT TERRORISM

Until the ACLU stepped in, test takers at the Department of Defense were told that protests were "an example of low-level terrorist activity." After we asked the Pentagon to correct both its materials and its interpretation of First Amendment freedoms, the Department has stated publicly that it would correct its tests and explain the distinction between "lawful protests and unlawful violent protests" to its trainees.



REAL SEX ED

In Fremont, the ACLU-NC's advocacy for comprehensive sex education resulted in the district's replacement of a federally funded abstinence-only provider with a comprehensive curriculum that includes vital health information for teens. We're now taking this advocacy to other communities.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY CONTRACTING

As millions of dollars in stimulus funds are channeled into Caltrans and other public works projects, the ACLU-NC and other civil rights organizations have spoken out in court in support of minority- and women-owned small businesses that are seeking a fair shot at competing for contracts. A race and gender conscious approach to ensuring fair participation in public works is consistent with equal protection principles, and is in fact mandated by constitutional requirements.



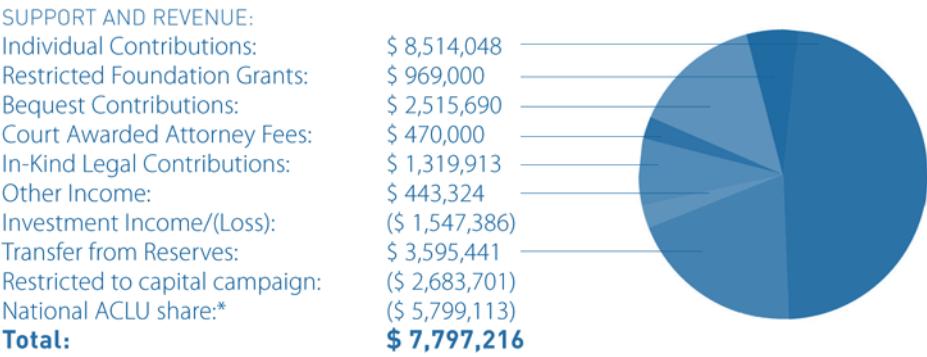
← ACLU-NC STAFF



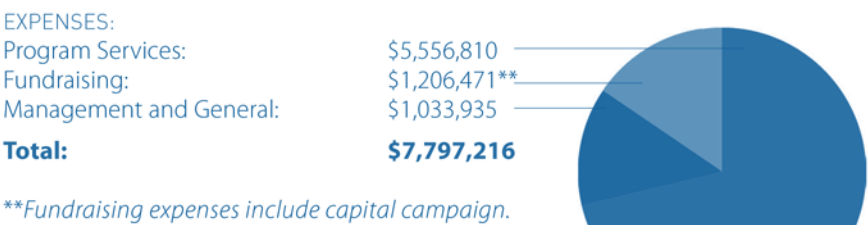
↑ SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE STAFF

FINANCIAL REPORT

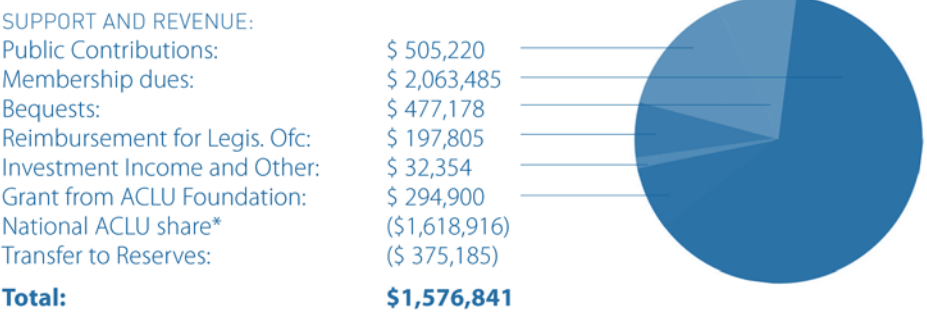
ACLU FOUNDATION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA Operating Income and Expenses 2008 - 2009



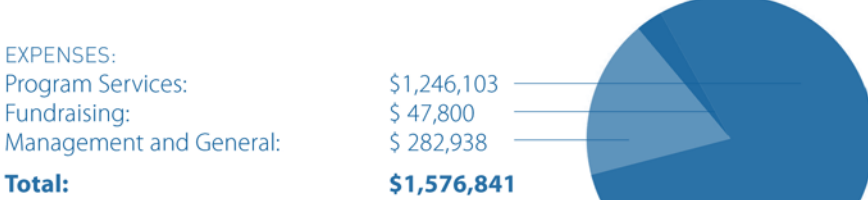
*Indicates sharing with National ACLU of contributions and bequests.



ACLU OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA Operating Income and Expenses 2008 - 2009



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SOURCE: AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 2009, BY HARRINGTON GROUP.
COMPLETE COPIES AVAILABLE AT WWW.ACLUNC.ORG OR BY WRITING: ACLU, 39 DRUMM STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111.

GIVING TO THE ACLU

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.

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 (415) 621-2493.