



LIBERTY JUSTICE EQUALITY

ACLU OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

2014

YEAR IN REVIEW

Dear members and supporters of the ACLU of Northern California,

It's a fascinating time in the movement for civil rights and civil liberties.

In fact, 2014 and 2015 have marked several anniversaries. It's been fifty years since the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act were signed into law. It has been fifty years since Freedom Summer volunteers registered voters in Mississippi and captured the attention of the nation. And it's been fifty years since Dr. King led the historic marches from Selma to Montgomery.

Fifty years. Some of you not only lived through that transformational time, you were an active part of the movement. And the movement isn't over. As you know, these anniversaries are a marker of the progress that our country has made. But they also remind us of the work that remains to be done.

Is it a contradiction to look at the current state of civil rights and be both heartbroken and heartened at the same time? This year marks a turning point. We've seen person after person—mostly black and brown—killed by the police despite being unarmed. We've witnessed increased militarization of law enforcement. But we've also seen the birth of the Black Lives Matter movement and an incredible grassroots uprising determined to change the system.

We believe this is a watershed moment for both racial and economic justice. Practices and policies are changing, with real tangible impacts on people and communities. Consider Proposition 47. In the 1980s, the war on drugs started chipping away at the progress of the civil rights movement. It ultimately led to a racist system of mass incarceration. That kind of entrenched system is hard to change. But determined people have staying power. The ACLU has staying power. We proactively took on drug policy reform and helped to pass Prop 47, an overhaul of the state's drug sentencing laws, after it stalled for several years in the legislature.

One of the many reasons we are challenging mass incarceration is because it feeds off, and fuels, economic inequality. And economic inequality denies our children equal access to the opportunities our society is supposed to provide. It creates a two-tiered education system that supports the school-to-prison pipeline. It traps people in a cycle of poverty that effectively excludes them from the benefits of our democracy. Some of these problems are at their worst in the Central Valley, which is why we have placed new emphasis on our work there in the last year. If the entirety of the Central Valley were a state of its own, it would have the highest poverty rate in the nation.

The ACLU-NC envisions a future in which California is a model for economic equity, racial justice, civil liberties, and civil rights. With your help, we are working towards that future.

Enjoy this Year in Review, which pulls out just a few highlights from the wide range of work we've been doing. And thank you for your support.



Abdi Soltani, Executive Director



Beverly Tucker, Board Chair

ACLU OF NORTHERN CA

Racial Justice & Criminal Justice

When we enter a courtroom or interact with police, we should expect we can count on our core constitutional values of due process and equal protection. But the harsh reality? It depends on who you are. Across the country, people of color are routinely targeted by police and failed by a broken criminal justice system. The ACLU of Northern California is working to curb racial profiling and police violence by addressing the specific ways that black and brown lives are impacted.

Last November, California voters passed an initiative to stop felony sentencing for some low-level offenses. The new law frees up tax dollars for spending on schools and public safety. For many years, the ACLU and our allies worked steadily and stealthily to undo the politics of fear, rallying community members and activists to become a new movement of leaders. Now, voters have made their message clear: Californians want smart criminal justice strategies. It's time for lawmakers to listen and to enact our values of fairness, equality, and justice in the legislature, in the courts, and on the streets.

Voting Rights

Defending the right to vote is about protecting the cornerstone of our democracy. Too many states—including our own—make it harder, not easier, for citizens to cast a ballot. California ranks way below other states for election administration and voter turnout. More than six million eligible Californians aren't registered to vote at all. The strongest defense of our voting rights is an informed and active citizenry. That's why the ACLU of California has been active in a nationwide campaign to make sure all Americans have the information they need in order to vote. We've hosted forums to educate voters and filed a successful lawsuit against Secretary of State Debra Bowen for denying felons the right to vote. We claimed a big win for voting rights when the Alameda County Superior Court Judge who ruled in the case agreed that Bowen's directive broke the law—and affirmed that here in California, we strive to give more people the opportunity to vote, not less.

Educational Equity

A high-quality education in a safe environment is the right of every student. The ACLU of Northern California insists on equal educational opportunity for all of California's schoolchildren, especially those being underserved and overly disciplined. Until last year, 43 percent of California school suspensions—about 350,000 per year—were issued for acts of “willful defiance,” like talking back and violating dress code. Black and Latino students were more likely than white students to be harshly disciplined for minor misbehaviors, making California's already woeful racial achievement gap far worse. Suspending and expelling



Dorsey Nunn, one of the plaintiffs in the ACLU-NC's *Scott v. Bowen* voting rights lawsuit.

PHOTO BY GIGI PANDIAN

kids for slight disruptions does nothing to help kids improve. Students who are suspended are twice as likely to drop out of school.

Religious Freedom

The people of California represent every possible shade and color of religious creed, conviction, belief, and non-belief. The right to practice the religion of our choosing, or none at all, is a deeply entrenched American value. In our state, that protection is doubly strong: not only does the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution establish a right to express religious

beliefs without interference or establishment by the government, but the California constitution even more clearly demands that our state government be neutral on matters of religion. Today, the ACLU-NC's commitment to religious freedom winds its way across nearly everything we do, from stopping lawmakers from wielding religion as a weapon to deny women safe reproductive health care; to ensuring LGBTQ youth aren't subjected to unfair treatment in their schools; to advocating for the free speech rights of members of unpopular religious groups.



Staff and interns of the ACLU of Northern California's San Francisco office

2014 YEAR IN REVIEW

Free Speech

No constitutional right is as fundamental to our American values as the right to free speech. It is through expressing our opinions that Americans participate in democracy. The ACLU has been the champion of free speech since our founding and remains so today. Last year, the ACLU of Northern California convinced the Fort Bragg Unified School District to lift a ban that prohibited players and spectators at a basketball tournament from wearing T-shirts saying “I can’t breathe.” In another victory, we upheld the free speech rights of street panhandlers. We have long criticized the Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs), the federal government program that results in racial and religious profiling, and recently filed a lawsuit to challenge the SAR program for violating federal privacy protections.

Immigrants’ Rights

The broken U.S. immigration system has torn countless immigrant families apart, but California leads the nation in many forward-thinking laws and policies. The ACLU of Northern California believes that when we take a stand for immigrants’ rights, all Californians stand to benefit. In 2014, state leaders—guided by the ACLU-NC and our allies—passed a dozen bills that protect and expand immigrants’ rights. From clearing a path so immigrants can obtain drivers’ licenses without discrimination, to protecting immigrant workers from wage theft, to ensuring legal representation for children in deportation proceedings, these new laws make California a safer place for all our families.

LGBTQ Rights

Our goal: an America where lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) people are safe, respected, and treated fairly in all aspects of their lives. We’re coming closer here in our state. The ACLU-NC has advocated for the rights of LGBTQ Californians in the courts of law and public opinion for decades, and

James Prigoff, the internationally renowned photographer who was contacted by the Joint Terrorism Task Force because of a photograph he took.



PHOTO BY EMERY JONES

our state now has broad legal protections for LGBTQ people. Though we just saw a watershed win in the freedom-to-marry cases at the U.S. Supreme Court, it is still legal in most states to fire someone for being gay. And this year we’ve seen a flurry of laws introduced around the country that would allow people to invoke their religion to discriminate against LGBTQ people. The ACLU has been at the forefront in defeating these laws, and we will continue to be.

Reproductive Justice

The ACLU-NC understands that every woman must be able to have control over her reproductive health. The stakes are higher for some women, including youth, low-income women, women of color, and incarcerated women, who are often targeted by government restrictions, but have fewer resources to overcome them. That’s why we supported a bill mandating that California employers provide paid sick leave. We successfully sued the Alameda County Sheriff last June to stop requiring invasive pregnancy tests. And we forced the Clovis Unified School District

to bring its sex education curriculum into compliance with state law. Last August, the California Department of Managed Health Care clarified that health plans sold in California must cover abortion. That decision affirms 40 years of work to protect California women and continues our state’s powerful legacy as a leader in the nation for upholding and expanding reproductive freedom.

Technology and Privacy


Technology changes constantly, but our right to privacy is steady and fundamental. The rise of new surveillance technologies, from body cameras to drones to facial recognition software, raises concerns and questions not only for individuals worried about their privacy, but also for communities weighing the costs of using them. Across the country, federal and state law enforcement agencies are using a powerful surveillance tool called a “StingRay” to locate and indiscriminately swoop up cell phone data. As revealed by the ACLU of Northern California in a 2014 report, the government has a policy of not disclosing information about this device, with dangerous implications for criminal defendants—and potentially anyone. The ACLU of California—ever at the national forefront of privacy protection in the digital age—is helping provide information with a first-of-its-kind handbook, Making Smart Decisions About Surveillance: A Guide For Communities. 



PHOTO BY STACY ANTONOPOULOS

Staff of the ACLU of California Center for Advocacy & Policy office

FINANCIAL REPORT

ACLU FOUNDATION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

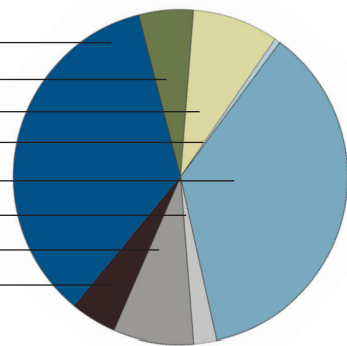
Operating Income and Expenses 2013 - 2014

SUPPORT AND REVENUE:

Individual Contributions:	\$	5,824,764
Foundation Grants:	\$	896,150
Bequest/Planned Gift Contributions:	\$	1,370,335
Court Awarded Attorney Fees:	\$	85,333
In-Kind Legal Contributions:	\$	6,057,424
Other Income:	\$	350,816
Investment Income/(Loss):	\$	1,325,052
Transfer to Reserves:	\$	699,420
National ACLU share:*	(\$	3,566,178)

Total: **\$ 13,043,116**

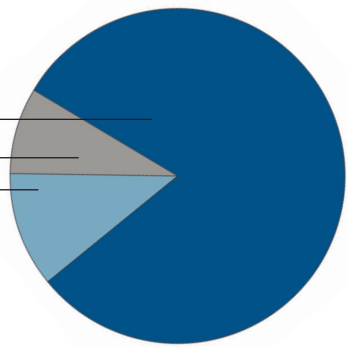
**Indicates sharing with National ACLU of contributions and bequests.*



EXPENSES:

Program Services:	\$	10,535,810
Fundraising:	\$	1,080,158
Management and General:	\$	1,427,148

Total: **\$13,043,116**



ACLU OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

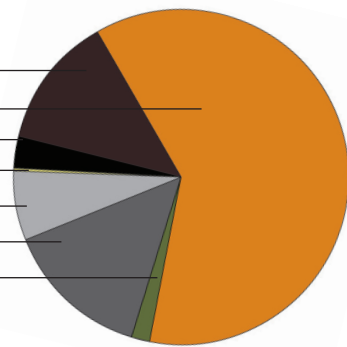
Operating Income and Expenses 2013 - 2014

SUPPORT AND REVENUE:

Public Contributions:	\$	488,865
Membership Dues:	\$	2,307,436
Foundation Grants:	\$	70,000
Investment Income and Other:	\$	4,174
Reimbursement for Legislative Office:	\$	253,519
Bequest/Planned Gift Contributions:	\$	527,445
Transfer from Reserves:	\$	114,792
National ACLU share*	(\$	1,717,268)

Total: **\$ 2,048,963**

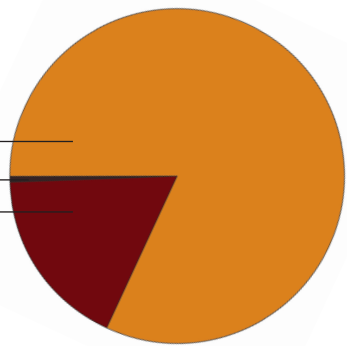
**Indicates sharing with National ACLU of contributions and dues.*



EXPENSES:

Program Services:	\$	1,679,669
Fundraising:	\$	11,511
Management and General:	\$	357,783

Total: **\$ 2,048,963**



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 grateful 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 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 Cheri Bryant (415) 621-2493 or at cbryant@aclunc.org. For information about making a bequest or other type of estate plan gift, contact our Planned Giving Associate, Rhiannon Lewis, at (415) 621-2493 or rlewis@aclunc.org.

** If you are considering a planned gift like any of these, you will be interested in our Legacy Challenge, which provides current matching funds to the ACLU now in exchange for your pledge of a new or increased planned gift. Please contact our Planned Giving Associate for information about how the Legacy Challenge increases the impact of your planned giving.*