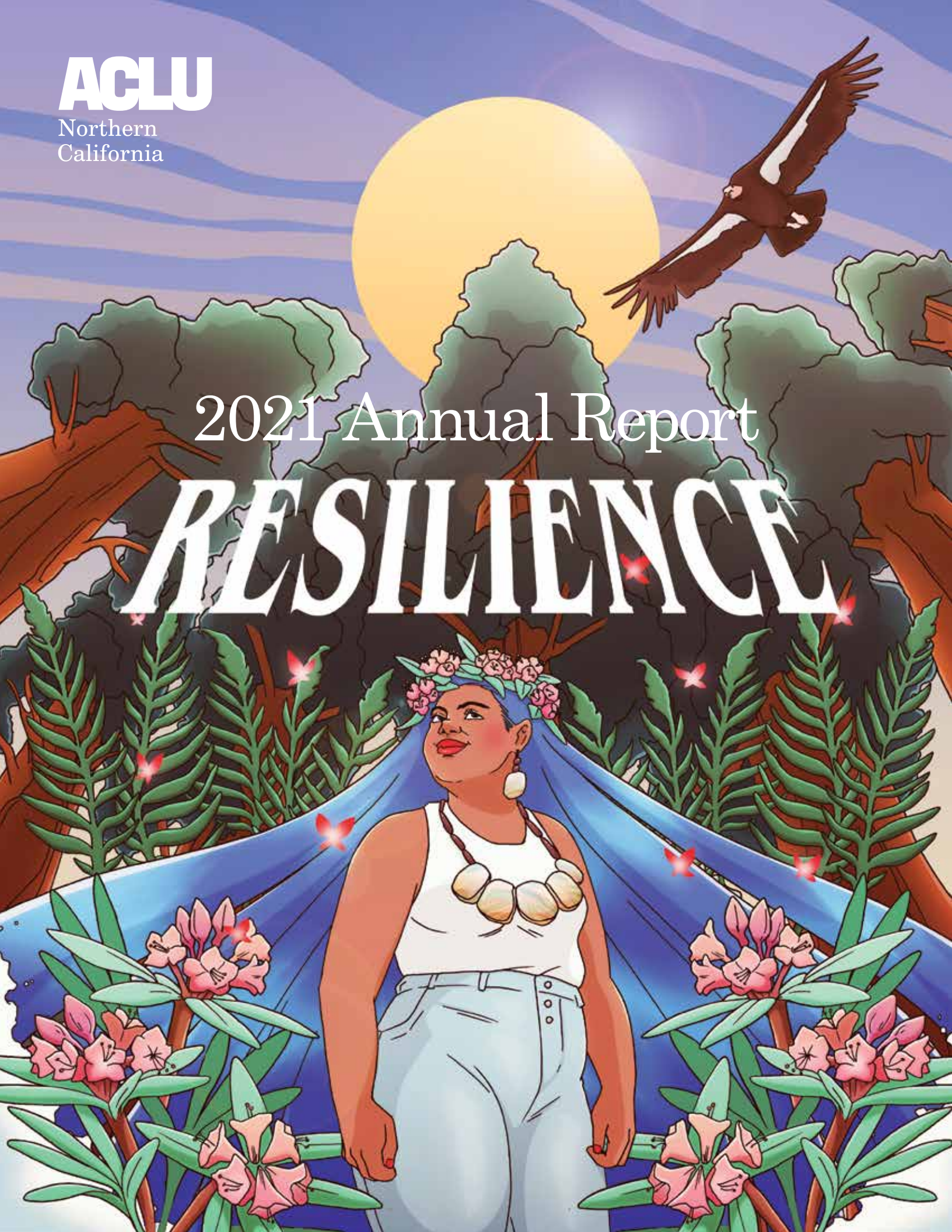


ACLU

Northern
California

2021 Annual Report

RESILIENCE



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We Are Resilient

Thank you for supporting the ACLU. Given the multiple crises our country has confronted during the past several years, we are especially grateful to you for your *support* and *resilience*. Your support allows the ACLU to be resilient—to tackle the daily threats to civil liberties, while also advancing proactive solutions for equality and justice.

This Annual Report shares a few highlights of ACLU's work nationwide (page 8) and stories of your impact here in Northern California:

- **Voting Rights:** The ACLU is doubling down to fight against systematic disenfranchisement. The violent insurrection last year in Washington, D.C. to overturn legitimate election results revealed the tenuousness of American democracy. Numerous states have restricted voting rights and have gerrymandered districts to disadvantage people of color—and the ACLU is challenging those in court. On page 22 of this Report, you can read about our work on redistricting in the Central Valley.
- **Racial and Economic Justice:** The COVID-19 pandemic—with its impacts on job losses, health, and housing—worsened the already wide racial and economic inequalities in our country. The escalating homelessness crisis—especially among Black people—is one manifestation. On page 18, you'll learn about our advocacy to end discriminatory ordinances that criminalize unhoused people and exacerbate racial and economic inequities.
- **Gender, Sexuality, and Reproductive Justice:** We're witnessing major attacks across the country on the rights of transgender youth and people seeking abortions. We're inspired by residents in states like Texas and Arkansas who are fighting for their dignity and freedom. While the ACLU fights those high-profile attacks on our rights in those states, we are working equally hard to stop the criminalization of pregnancy outcomes in California, which you can read about on page 20.

Recovering from the damage of the past several years and combating ongoing assaults on civil liberties will require all of our continued resilience.

We are deeply grateful to you for your partnership.

Thank you.

Abdi Soltani

Abdi Soltani
Executive Director



Farah Brelvi

Farah Brelvi
Chair of the Boards



In solidarity,

Cori Stell

Cori Stell
Director of Development, on behalf of the
ACLU NorCal Development Department



Thank You for Your Partnership

May 2022 marked the two-year anniversary of the murder of George Floyd and the widespread racial justice uprisings that followed. We continue to witness how racism and other forms of oppression fuel the injustices in our country—and as you read through these pages, you'll see that racial justice impacts every one of ACLU NorCal's issue areas.

The ACLU NorCal development team recognizes and supports the interdependence of our communities by aligning fundraising practices with our goals for racial, economic, and social justice. We continue to fundraise for the ACLU, and we also use our opportunities and resources to build stronger movements—and we invite you to join us.

We welcome you to learn alongside us about how inequity manifests—currently as well as historically—and about steps we each can take to realize our country's founding promises of freedom and justice for all:

- **Build your understanding for this work:** Taking informed action requires an understanding of structural racism, its roots, and the ways it's perpetuated today. ACLU NorCal's Gold Chains Project and ACLU's Systemic Equality agenda are great resources to broaden perspectives and deepen understanding.
- **Give to BIPOC-led organizations:** Support organizations that are led by and focused on those most directly impacted by structural racism, and therefore uniquely qualified to address it.
- **In the words of the late Rep. John Lewis, make "good trouble":** Whether it's calling your legislators to support transformative policies, phone banking to help turn out the vote, joining your local ACLU chapter, or getting involved with community-based organizations, there are many ways to put your learnings, power, and privilege into action.

For links to racial equity resources, ACLU NorCal's key organizational partners, and ways to take action, visit www.aclunc.org/racialequity.

The systemic change needed to advance equity truly requires all of us—ACLU clients and staff, community-based organizations, volunteers, activists, donors, and funders. Thank you for partnering with us in our shared fight for justice.

ACLU NorCal Land Acknowledgment

The ACLU of Northern California's work takes place on the occupied territory of over 100 tribes. This land has been stewarded by Indigenous people since time immemorial. **We acknowledge the critical importance of the land and water to the Indigenous peoples of California, and that the existence of tribal communities depends on secure and permanent land bases and the right of self-determination that is necessary to preserve traditional Indigenous customs and ways of life.**

We recognize the painful history upon which the state of California was created, and how these systems and structures continue to oppress and erase Indigenous peoples today. Beginning with the brutal Mission system during the Spanish colonial period, this history continued through genocide sanctioned and funded by the new state government as California entered the union.

Laws and policies sought to erase Indigenous peoples altogether. These included the malignant 1850 "Act for the Governance and Protection of Indians," termination and continued non-recognition of California tribes and tribal governments, and prohibition of traditional and cultural practices. For the past two centuries, tribal communities have been displaced from and dispossessed of their ancestral lands, sacred sites have been destroyed, and children have been forcibly removed from their families and communities through residential boarding school systems.

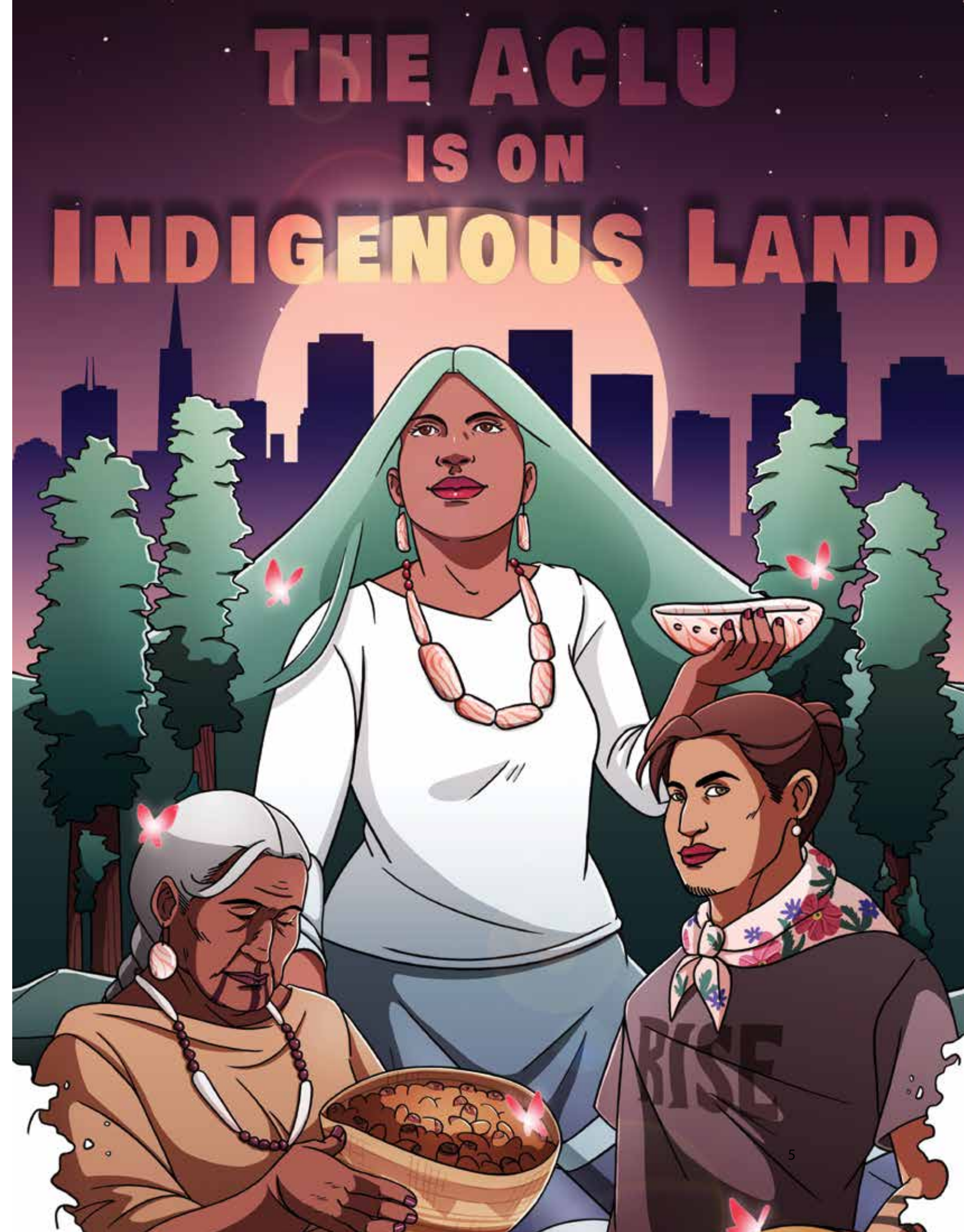
We further recognize the diverse Native American diaspora of California, including thousands who were brought here from other parts of the United States without their consent or through false promises of opportunity in an attempt to separate them from their ancestral lands and their culture and identity.

This history and current conditions compel us to take action to interrupt the legacies of colonialism and genocide and redress the continued erasure of Indigenous peoples.

The ACLU of Northern California is committed to working alongside Indigenous peoples—and following their lead—as they work to uphold their sovereignty, dignity, and identities. We support and defend the rights of all Indigenous peoples to retain their specific and unique cultural and religious traditions and practices. We strive to honor Indigenous cultures and traditions and, when possible and appropriate, integrate Indigenous worldviews and values into our approaches and strategies.

By committing ourselves to Indigenous justice, building authentic, mutual, and lasting relationships with tribes and Indigenous communities, we honor all Indigenous people who work tirelessly towards justice and healing.

We encourage members of the ACLU of Northern California community to honor the land and recognize the ancestral people of the place where we each live today.



2021

ACLU NORCAL BY THE NUMBERS

Filed 46 new legal actions,
adding to 45 cases still active from 2020

**Submitted 118 Public
Records Act requests**

to support civil rights litigation, publish
reports, and work with the media



Sent 115 advocacy letters

to local and state elected officials and agencies

Volunteer intake counselors responded to more than

**2,500 requests for legal
assistance through our Civil
Liberties Intake Program**

(see pages 12–13 for examples,
including how this program informs
our advocacy and litigation)



140,000 ACLU members

active in Northern California

**1,040 people participated in
ACLU NorCal community
organizing events and trainings**



**155 volunteer advocates participated
in 68 lobby visits with state legislators**



Monitored 659 bills (see page 10 for details)



**310,608 email subscribers and followers
on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter**



Our posts were viewed **2,969,332 times across
Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter**

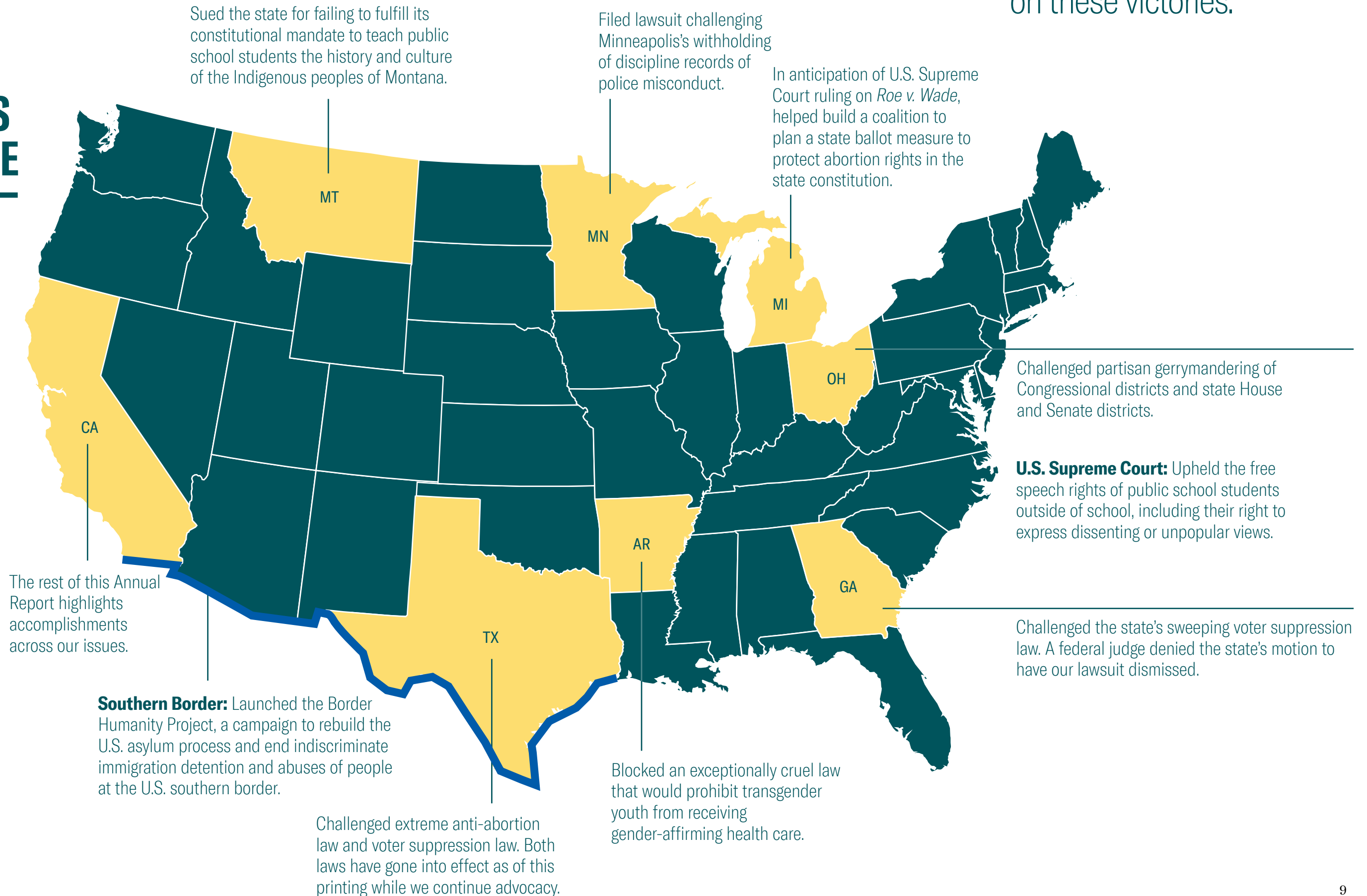
**765,905 visits to different pages
on the ACLU NorCal website**



2021

HIGHLIGHTS NATIONWIDE

Visit aclu.org for more info
on these victories.



2021

CALIFORNIA
LEGISLATIVE
SUMMARY



2,776 **BILLS INTRODUCED
IN THE CALIFORNIA
LEGISLATURE**



BILLS WE MONITORED 659



BILLS WE SUPPORTED 120



BILLS WE OPPOSED 54



**WE SPONSORED 16 BILLS AND
BUDGET MEASURES**

10 WENT TO THE GOVERNOR

9 WERE SIGNED INTO LAW →

Nine ACLU-Sponsored Bills
Signed into Law

POLICE DECERTIFICATION (SB 2): This bill was our highest priority measure, culminating a two-year effort to increase accountability for peace officers who commit serious misconduct and violations of civil rights. SB 2 brings California in line with the 46 other states that have a process to decertify officers who commit serious misconduct. SB 2 also updates state civil rights laws to provide a legal remedy to victims of police misconduct and their families.

CRISES ACT (AB 118): Establishes the landmark Community Response Initiative to Strengthen Emergency Systems (CRISES) Act grant program. This pilot program takes an innovative approach to emergency responses in California by strengthening, expanding, and promoting community-based responses to emergency situations instead of law enforcement. It focuses on vulnerable populations, including people who are unhoused, people experiencing a mental health crisis, people exposed to intimate partner or community violence, people dealing with substance use, and people involved in natural or climate disasters.

CRIMINAL PROCESS FEES (AB 177): Eliminates 17 onerous administrative fees imposed on people in our criminal legal system and discharges an estimated \$534 million in debt that falls most heavily on Black and Brown communities.

INDIGENT DEFENSE FUNDING (SB 189): Allocates \$50 million to all 58 California counties on an equitable basis to provide one-time support for indigent defense—in particular, public defenders and social workers—for the purpose of implementing recent post-conviction criminal justice and immigration reform statutes that, if fully implemented, will lower California’s prison population, keep our communities safe, and prevent the unjust deportation of non-citizens.

POST-CUSTODIAL RELIEF (AB 1259): Creates a post-conviction relief procedure allowing thousands of people who are facing mandatory immigration detention or deportation the ability to challenge unjust convictions based on a misunderstanding of immigration consequences or ineffective assistance of counsel.

TRIBAL REGALIA IN GRADUATION CEREMONIES (AB 945): Seeks to better ensure that students’ right to wear tribal regalia or other objects of religious or cultural significance at school graduation ceremonies is honored and protected.

SCHOOL INSPECTION (AB 599): Updates the Education Code requirements for determining schools to be annually inspected for adequate facilities, sufficient instructional materials, and appropriately assigned teachers.

MENSTRUAL EQUITY FOR ALL (AB 367): Requires college campuses and public schools from grades 6 to 12 to provide students with free menstrual products, affirming that menstrual products are a necessity not a luxury.

NEW MOTOR VOTER PROGRAM (AB 796): Improves the voter registration process at the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and enhances the consistency, uniformity, and fairness of voter registration in California.

Civil Liberties Intake Program

About the Civil Liberties Intake Program

The Civil Liberties Intake Program provides a way for community members to contact the ACLU of Northern California to request legal support via a hotline, online form, or written letters. Our 21 volunteer intake counselors processed, reviewed, and responded to more than 2,500 intakes in 2021. When our office cannot assist directly, we refer to direct service organizations, attorney referral services, and/or legal information resources.

The personal stories shared by community members can also inform the direction of our policy advocacy and public education, and they can sometimes lead to litigation. We also review longitudinal intake data, which can reveal patterns of discrimination in specific communities.

“I started volunteering at the ACLU in 2017 because it seemed that the country was moving in a direction that was repressive of and dismissive toward basic civil liberties such as voting rights, reproductive rights, and gender and racial equality. Working as a telephone intake counselor makes me feel as if I am helping.”

— Lynn Halcomb,
volunteer intake counselor

Examples of advocacy informed by stories from the Civil Liberties Intake Program:

1. **Intakes contributed to the creation of the new “Racial Equity & Student Expression in Schools” Know Your Rights page on our website.** The intake program elevated stories to the Racial and Economic Justice team about public schools restricting student expression relating to Black Lives Matter. This digital resource, which includes stories from intakes we received, provides students and families with tools to successfully challenge violations of their free speech rights, on and off-campus.
2. **Intakes prompted our investigation of complaints of anti-Asian racism by Siskiyou County officials,** including an ordinance affecting the ability to transport and access water; an officer-involved killing of a resident as he evacuated a fire zone; and pretextual stops where residents’ vehicles or properties are searched and seized.
3. **Intakes spurred our advocacy on the city of Chico’s treatment of unhoused people.** The intake program elevated stories of increasingly harsh treatment of unhoused people in Chico, including ordinances that effectively criminalized homelessness.

How intakes can help develop legal action:

A parent with a child in Contra Costa County’s Pittsburg United School District (PUSD) contacts the Civil Liberties Intake Program via our online form complaining of racial discrimination against their student by school administration.

ACLU NorCal begins its investigation and speaks with other PUSD families about their experiences. The team deepens their investigation and holds a Know Your Rights presentation in partnership with the Black Organizing Project. ACLU SoCal and Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF) join the investigation because of important student rights at stake, including the rights of disabled students.

INTAKE
1

ACLU NorCal sends a comprehensive Public Records Act request to PUSD regarding school climate and disciplinary outcomes for students, law enforcement interactions with students, special education, and budget information for all schools in the District.

Michell Redfoot contacts the Civil Liberties Intake Program. Michell is a special education teacher in Pittsburg USD who filed multiple administrative complaints on behalf of special education students and has information about District special education policies and practices, including inadequate training of school and District staff.

INTAKE
2

ACLU NorCal, ACLU SoCal, and DREDF continue to follow up with parents and other community members to gather facts regarding systemic discrimination against students of color, with and without disabilities.

ACLU NorCal, ACLU SoCal, and DREDF file a lawsuit in Contra Costa County Superior Court against the State of California and Pittsburg USD on behalf of current students, parents of former students, and a current teacher, calling for systemic reform to address pervasive discrimination against children whose constitutional rights to a basic education are being violated. Steptoe & Johnson, LLC, joins the co-counsel team shortly after the lawsuit is initiated. The case is ongoing.

“Having attended underfunded public schools myself, I understood the families’ and students’ frustration at what they were experiencing, and I was proud of the young students who had learned to advocate for themselves. I was happy to support them.”

— Aisha Rehman, former
volunteer intake counselor

Students with disabilities in the Pittsburg Unified School District were three times more likely than students without disabilities to receive a disciplinary removal, according to 2017–18 school year data obtained through the Public Records Act. At the intersection of race and disability, Black and multiracial disabled students in the District were excluded from school through these discipline practices at twice the rate of white and Latinx disabled students.

Technology & Civil Liberties



Video still of CHP arial surveillance footage of Black Lives Matter activists. ACLU NorCal's year-long public records investigation exposed the extent of this practice.

During the summer of 2020, while thousands of Californians took to the streets to peacefully protest for racial justice and against police brutality, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) took to the skies to spy on demonstrators exercising their First Amendment rights.

Through an exhaustive, year-long public records investigation, we uncovered high-resolution video and hundreds of pages of CHP flight logs documenting widespread surveillance of racial justice protests in dozens of communities up and down the state, including Berkeley, Oakland, Palo Alto, Placerville, San Luis Obispo, Sacramento, and San Francisco.

CHP used powerful cameras to record and zoom in on people peacefully exercising their free speech rights: speaking at vigils, making signs, and participating in die-ins.

CHP surveilled protests that were far from any highways and that it acknowledged were peaceful, with officers logging entries such as “patrol flight over peaceful protest.” The evidence we found also suggested the CHP specifically focused its cameras on the racial justice demonstrations.

The California Constitution guarantees the rights to privacy and free expression—and for good reason. Tech-powered surveillance is ripe to be used to intimidate, instill fear, and chill the exercise of rights. Surveillance has often been used to undermine movements for justice, target Black and Brown communities, and threaten the safety of immigrants.

“The protests were very peaceful, and it was mostly young people, kids in attendance... but many people got scared off by the police aggression and helicopters, and it felt like the goal of the low-flying choppers was to terrorize people.”

— Salisa Campos, racial justice protestor in Sacramento

When we released our investigation of CHP surveillance, thousands responded to our call to action and signed an ACLU petition to demand change. These community voices have bolstered our advocacy directly with the governor and attorney general to make sure this surveillance can never happen again.

Together, we are defending our communities and our democracy and building a just digital age—where technology is working for the people, not against us.

Criminal Justice

For decades, California has warehoused people with psychiatric and developmental disabilities in jails. Stephanie Stiavetti knows firsthand the pain this dysfunctional system inflicts on people with mental health conditions and their families. In 2014, police arrested her brother, who has severe mental health conditions, and incarcerated him at a Contra Costa County jail.

Repeatedly placed in solitary confinement, his mental health deteriorated. After a month in jail, an expert deemed him incompetent to stand trial (IST).

By law, he should have been promptly transferred to a state hospital for treatment. Instead, he languished in jail for another month. A contempt of court threat finally spurred officials to transfer him to a state hospital. But he was sent back to jail where he was once again determined to be IST.

In 2015, the ACLU Foundations of Northern and Southern California and the law firm of Sullivan & Cromwell LLP filed a lawsuit, *Stiavetti v. Clendenin*, on behalf of Stephanie and family members of others who were jailed despite having been declared IST. The suit charged the California Department of State Hospitals and Department of Developmental Services of violating the due process rights of these defendants.

In August 2021, the California Supreme Court refused to review lower court rulings that the state must provide these defendants with treatment within one month after a court notifies the appropriate state agency that an individual is IST.

The high court's decision compelled state officials to comply with the ruling, to provide more funding for state hospitals, and to re-evaluate how people with mental illnesses in the criminal justice system are treated.

While state hospitals are a far better option than jails, the ACLU believes that relying on these hospitals to treat IST defendants is an unacceptable long-term solution. So, we helped to create a coalition of legal experts; patients' rights groups; mental health, disability, and criminal justice organizations; and individuals directly impacted by mental illness to advocate for alternatives to keep people with mental health conditions out of the criminal justice system and institutionalized settings and instead placed in community-based treatment and diversion programs proven to be effective and far less expensive than inpatient treatment.

“As heartened as my family and I are by this ruling, we understand it is one step in a long journey towards lasting change.”

— Stephanie Stiavetti, plaintiff in a successful lawsuit against the state for violating the due process rights of people deemed incompetent to stand trial





Racial & Economic Justice

Racial and economic injustice intersect in many ways, including homelessness. Black people comprise 6 percent of California's population, but 40 percent of the unhoused population. This is neither incidental nor accidental.

In 2018, nearly half of Black Californians lived in households that spent more than 30 percent of their income on housing, a key metric that indicates difficulty to afford other necessities like food, clothing, transportation, and medical care. Black people are also overrepresented in the criminal justice system. Formerly incarcerated people are seven to nearly ten times more likely than the general public to be unhoused.

In November 2021, the ACLU Foundations of Northern California, Southern California, and San Diego & Imperial Counties issued a comprehensive report, “Outside the Law: The Legal War Against Unhoused People,” documenting discriminatory ordinances throughout California that criminalize unhoused populations and exacerbate racial and economic inequities.

These laws burden unhoused people with fines they cannot pay, placing them at risk of arrest and preventing them from accessing necessary services. Unhoused individuals are forced to either leave the jurisdiction or break the law. Humanitarian organizations that provide critical aid like food, water, clothing, and blankets are also targets of these ordinances.

We’ve shared our analysis with California’s Reparations Task Force, which is studying the state’s role in the enslavement of Black people and measures to address systemic discrimination. Our Racial and Economic Justice Director, Brandon Greene, testified that the persistent racial wealth gap and overrepresentation of Black people in the criminal justice system make homelessness a racial justice issue.

“We all, everyone one of us, are very small boats in a very large sea. And there’s no reason we cannot elevate all of our ships. . . This settlement represents positive first steps for the situation.”

— Sean Geary, commenting on a settlement between the city of Pacifica and RV-housed residents like him.

In November, we won a victory for unhoused people when we settled a class-action lawsuit against the city of Pacifica that we filed with Disability Rights Advocates and the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County. We challenged the city’s aggressive enforcement of an ordinance prohibiting “oversized vehicle” parking. The settlement requires Pacifica to provide RV-housed residents in Pacifica refunds on fines paid for previous violations of the ordinance, mobile dumping and garbage disposal services, clear information about where they can lawfully park in the city, and safe parking spaces for at least 13 vehicles.

Gender, Sexuality & Reproductive Justice

California should protect women from criminal prosecution for their pregnancy outcomes. Despite existing strong law and direct guidance from the California Attorney General, Kings County District Attorney Keith Fagundes prosecuted two Central Valley women, Adora Perez and Chelsea Becker, for murder, claiming that their drug use during pregnancy resulted in stillbirths—an allegation that is neither supported by science nor medicine.

On May 9, after serving nearly four years of an 11-year sentence, Adora’s case was reopened and the charges against her dropped. Chelsea’s case was dismissed last year after she spent more than a year in jail because she was unable to pay an outrageous \$2 million bail. Working in coalition with others, including National Advocates for Pregnant Women and Root and Rebound, we’ve supported both women, including filing “friend of the court” briefs, coordinating commutation support letters to Governor Newsom on Adora’s behalf, and introducing a bill, AB 2223, to ensure that what happened to Adora and Chelsea does not happen again.

These cases are part of a disturbing trend to regulate pregnant people’s bodies—one also reflected in the leaked draft opinion signaling the Supreme Court’s intent to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. Medical and public health experts agree that threatening pregnant people with criminal sentences pushes them into the shadows, away from resources and support. Unfortunately, miscarriages and stillbirths are common. Criminalizing pregnancy outcomes could open the door for prosecution of any action potentially linked to pregnancy loss, like jogging, drinking alcohol, taking prescription drugs, or working a stressful or physically demanding job.

Another flank of our work has been to protect the rights of pregnant people in carceral settings, who are regularly denied access to necessary medical care. We advocated for the release of three women with high-risk pregnancies from the Tulare County jail, who we learned about through our COVID conditions litigation in that jail. The jail’s refusal to provide critical medical care could have resulted in dangerous health consequences, including the deaths of the women or harm to their pregnancies. After the women were released, they received proper treatment and safely delivered their babies.

Fearing Tulare County jail officials were not alone in failing to provide essential prenatal care, we successfully advocated with the California Attorney General’s office to send all county sheriffs a letter about enforcing state law which ensures that incarcerated pregnant people receive adequate care.

Because people in marginalized communities, like many communities of color, are most likely to experience miscarriage and stillbirth, they are the most likely to be impacted by laws punishing pregnancy outcomes.





Voting Rights

A FOCUS OF OUR DEMOCRACY & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

Redistricting is a nationwide priority for the ACLU. In California, an independent commission oversees the once-a-decade process of determining Congressional and state legislative districts. So at ACLU NorCal, we put our focus on city and county redistricting, where local politicians still draw the maps.

We and California Common Cause released online resources and a legal “how-to” guide for organizations interested in engaging in redistricting to empower communities and to help ensure fair representation. We’ve also shared our legal expertise with advocacy organizations and local governments, and we’ve reminded officials of their obligation to follow the law, including the 2019 California Fair Maps Act, which requires local jurisdictions to follow specific criteria when they are redistricting.

Because gerrymandering has deep roots in the Central Valley, members of our Democracy and Civic Engagement Program team joined the Central Valley Equitable Maps Coalition, led by the Dolores Huerta Foundation. The Coalition has advocated for major shifts in the region’s redistricting so as not to dilute the voting power of people of color, limited-English-proficient communities, and other historically disenfranchised groups.

We’ve paid particular attention to Fresno County, where supervisorial districts have remained basically the same since 1990, despite the total county population increasing by more than 334,000 people between 1990 and 2020, and the Latinx community growing from 35 percent of the county’s population to nearly 54 percent during the same period.

The Coalition has advocated for a major shift in district lines to better reflect the changing demographics of the county. We wrote to the Fresno County Board of Supervisors reminding them of their legal requirements, informing them that minor changes to district lines would not be enough, and encouraging them to consider maps that the community was presenting.

The Supervisors adopted their own map, which protects all five incumbent supervisors. Undeterred, we’re supporting advocacy efforts to establish an independent redistricting commission for Fresno. With the broad network of community groups that worked together statewide, we are also documenting the shortcomings in the California Fair Maps Act to propose significant changes to the state’s requirements for redistricting.

“To live in a democracy, we have to engage in the redistricting process and not just let elected officials draw districts. Constituents need to draw the maps.”

— Camila Chávez, Executive Director, Dolores Huerta Foundation, which leads the Central Valley Equitable Maps Coalition

Immigrants' Rights

For more than a decade, the ACLU of Northern California has co-sponsored a series of state laws and filed lawsuits to disentangle local and state law enforcement agencies from federal immigration enforcement.

Misael Echeveste understands why local law enforcement collusion with ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) is harmful. The 27-year-old California resident should have returned to his Sacramento home after a six-week jail sentence in 2018. But because he was brought to the U.S. from Mexico at age four as an undocumented immigrant, Sacramento sheriff's deputies transferred him to ICE.

In November 2021, we filed a lawsuit, with Conrad | Metlitzky | Kane LLP, on behalf of Misael and two Sacramento-area nonprofit organizations, United Latinos and NorCal Resist, against Sacramento County Sheriff Scott Jones and Sacramento County for unlawfully transferring immigrants to ICE custody.

The Sheriff's actions violate state laws that the ACLU worked hard to pass: the California Values Act, which sharply limits when local police can transfer someone to ICE, and the TRUTH Act, which requires local law enforcement officials to provide immigrants written notification in advance of their transfer to ICE.

Almost immediately after the California Values Act became law, Sheriff Jones' department developed a system to illegally notify ICE of the date and time of immigrants' release from jail.

Sheriff Jones, an outspoken opponent of California's pro-immigrant policies, is not alone in flouting the law. His department's practices are part of a larger pattern of sheriffs throughout the Central Valley sidestepping and violating the law. We issued a report, based on extensive data, documenting how Central Valley sheriffs have held immigrants beyond periods legally allowed so ICE agents can pick them up, created shadow systems to transfer immigrants to ICE, and withheld information from immigrants about ICE pickups.

Local officials with an anti-immigrant agenda are exploiting the law in ways that harm communities and compound racial disparities in policing, immigration, and criminal justice systems.

Our long-term work to protect due process rights for immigrants continues with advocacy to strengthen California law by clearly prohibiting all state and local law enforcement agencies from transferring people to ICE.



“Just because we weren’t born here doesn’t mean we’re not human and that we’re not deserving of rights. I’m very lucky to have a lot of help in fighting this, and I want other people to be able to fight for their rights too.”

— Misael Echeveste, ACLU plaintiff in lawsuit challenging the Sacramento Sheriff’s collusion with ICE



“Humanity itself is born from Mother Earth. For many Indigenous people, their homeland is the center of their universe. Innumerable cultural, spiritual, and tribal connections are forged with the land on which they are born. The restoration of our humanity begins with changing the name of our homeland.”

— Roman C. Rain Tree, Dunlap Band of Mono Indians and Choinumni, Chair of the Rename Sq**w Valley Coalition

Indigenous Justice

A FOCUS OF OUR RACIAL & ECONOMIC JUSTICE PROGRAM

Working together, ACLU NorCal and the ACLU network nationwide are expanding our Indigenous Justice work significantly. In 2021, NorCal focused on supporting protection of land, sacred sites, and visibility and representation of Indigenous peoples, including through the following two campaigns.

We partner with Indigenous leadership to end the use of racial slurs in the community of Sqw Valley**

Since the time of contact¹, the term “sq**w” has been used to dehumanize and degrade Native American women and justify extreme violence against them. Among the 100 places in California that carry this racial and misogynist slur, Sq**w Valley in Fresno County is a rural community where Indigenous activists have encountered ferocious and entrenched resistance to change from some elected officials.

Building on generations of advocacy and activism, the Rename Sq**w Valley Coalition is working to remove this harmful name from their community. Throughout 2021, the coalition led extensive public education and outreach efforts, hosting virtual panels and town halls and meeting with student and community groups. The coalition attempted to engage the Fresno County Board of Supervisors in constructive dialogue, but despite broad community support for the rename campaign, the Board refused to take action. With ACLU NorCal support, the coalition submitted a renaming petition to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names and is advancing statewide legislation to prohibit the use of the word “sq**w” for places in California.

We support the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band’s “Protect Juristac” campaign

Juristac is the heart of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band’s (AMTB) ancestral lands and one of the Tribe’s last remaining sacred sites. Private developers are seeking permits to turn the site into a 320-acre open-pit sand and gravel mine, which would cause irreparable harm to Juristac and threaten the cultural, spiritual, and linguistic survival of the Amah Mutsun people.

ACLU NorCal has supported the Protect Juristac campaign for several years by advocating with local governmental bodies, providing public comment linking the proposed mine to civil rights and civil liberties issues, and helping raise the visibility of the campaign. In late 2021, the Santa Clara City Council and Santa Clara County Human Rights Commission voted to support the AMTB in their efforts to protect Juristac. These resolutions—similar to actions taken in Morgan Hill and Santa Cruz in 2020—send a strong message to Santa Clara County that local communities widely oppose the desecration of the sacred site.

¹ The first contact between Indigenous people and European settler colonizers

Thank You to Our Volunteers

Each year, hundreds of people volunteer their time with the ACLU of Northern California. Here we recognize some of the most dedicated volunteers who spent the most time with us in 2021.

CIVIL LIBERTIES COUNSELORS

Ayesha Ali	Gianna De Filippis	Lynn Halcomb	Courtney Patton	Alex Rodriguez
Grace Allen	Ricardo De Leon	Richard Idriss	Allyza Quintanilla	Anika Sanyal
Langston Buddenhagen	Maya Ebrahimpour	Kerin Khan	Aisha Rehman	Adele Sylar
Daniel Chagnon	Breanna V. Gingras	Patti Kouba	Katie Rivera	Leon Touch
Mari Chandy				

CHAPTERS

Alameda County	Fresno County	North Peninsula	Santa Clara Valley	Sonoma County
Paul Robeson	Kings County	Sacramento Area	Santa Cruz County	Stanislaus County
Berkeley North East Bay	Mid-Peninsula	San Francisco	Shasta-Tehama-Trinity	Tulare County
Chico	Monterey County	San Joaquin County	Solano County	Yolo County

LEGAL-POLICY INTERNS

Ja’Nya Banks	Priya Gambhir	Raya Koreh	Sunaya Padmanabhan	Kourtney Speer
Megan Bright	Kelsey Geiser	Fatima Ladha	Khrystan Nicole	Ali Stack
Rosamaria Cavalho	Ariya Haghighat	Celina Malave	Policarpio	Hanna Nuñez Tse
Isabella Corbo	Jelani Hayes	Kate Mather	Linsha Qi	Lizette Valles
Katelyn Feliciano	Maneesha Horshin	Steven Medeiros	Ardalan Raghian	Dillon Yang
Carly Finkle	Cathryn Howell	Briana Muñoz	Jordan Rogers	
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We thank the following law firms who donated services in 2021. The ACLU community deeply appreciates your hard work and commitment.

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BraunHagey & Borden	Covington & Burling LLP	Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP	Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP	Steptoe & Johnson LLP
Coblentz Patch Duffy & Bass LLP	DLA Piper	Morrison & Foerster LLP	Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila LLP	Sullivan & Cromwell LLP
Cooley LLP	Fenwick & West LLP	Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP	Rukin & Hyland LLP	Swanson & McNamara LLP
	Goodwin Procter			WilmerHale LLP
	Greenberg Glusker LLP			

Recognizing Our Board Members

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION FOUNDATION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

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AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Farah Brelvi, Chair	Naindeep Chann	Autumn Gonzalez	Matt Murray	Kim Warmesley
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For a list of ACLU NorCal staff, including photos and biographies, please visit www.aclunc.org/about/staff.



Ways of Giving



You may provide financial support for the work of the ACLU Foundation of Northern California (Foundation) or ACLU of Northern California (Union) in any of these ways:

- CASH OR CREDIT CARDS:** The Foundation and Union are pleased to accept your single donation or your recurring monthly or quarterly gift via cash, check, or credit card 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 of Northern California through your workplace giving campaign or via United Way Donor Option.
- GIFTS OF STOCK OR SECURITIES:** You may make a gift of appreciated stock, securities, or mutual fund shares to the Foundation or Union. Visit www.aclunc.org/gifts-stock for more information.
- INSURANCE AND RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS:** You may designate the ACLU Foundation of Northern California or ACLU of Northern California as beneficiary of your life insurance policy, IRA, retirement plan, or pension. Visit www.aclunc.org/beneficiary-designation for more information.
- BEQUESTS:** In your will or revocable living trust, you may designate the ACLU Foundation of Northern California or ACLU of Northern California as beneficiary of part or all of your estate. Visit www.aclunc.org/bequests for more information and suggested language for bequests.
- GIFT ANNUITIES:** You may use cash or securities to make a gift to the ACLU Foundation of Northern California and receive fixed annual payments (a portion of which can be tax-exempt) for life and a substantial tax deduction. Visit www.aclunc.org/donate/life-income-plans for more information.
- CHARITABLE TRUSTS:** You may establish a charitable trust that benefits the ACLU Foundation of Northern California while providing tax advantages and a variety of financial planning options for you and your family. Visit www.aclunc.org/donate/life-income-plans for more information.

For more information on any of these or other ways to support the ACLU, contact Director of Development Cori Stell at (415) 621-2493 or giving@aclunc.org.

Development and Financial Report



About Sources of Income and How We Advance Work in California and Nationwide

The ACLU Foundation of Northern California (Foundation) and the ACLU of Northern California (Union) are separately incorporated nonprofit organizations operating in Northern California. The Foundation conducts litigation and public education programs in support of civil liberties. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization, and contributions to it are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. The Union 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.

The majority of funding for the Foundation and the Union comes from individuals like you. The organizations’ effectiveness and impact depend upon our full community of stakeholders, which includes those contributing financial resources: private donations, foundation grants, bequests, and membership dues from individuals who are dedicated to advancing civil liberties for all. Neither the Foundation nor Union receive government funding, except the Foundation may receive court-awarded attorneys’ fees from successful cases. The Foundation never charges clients for legal representation.

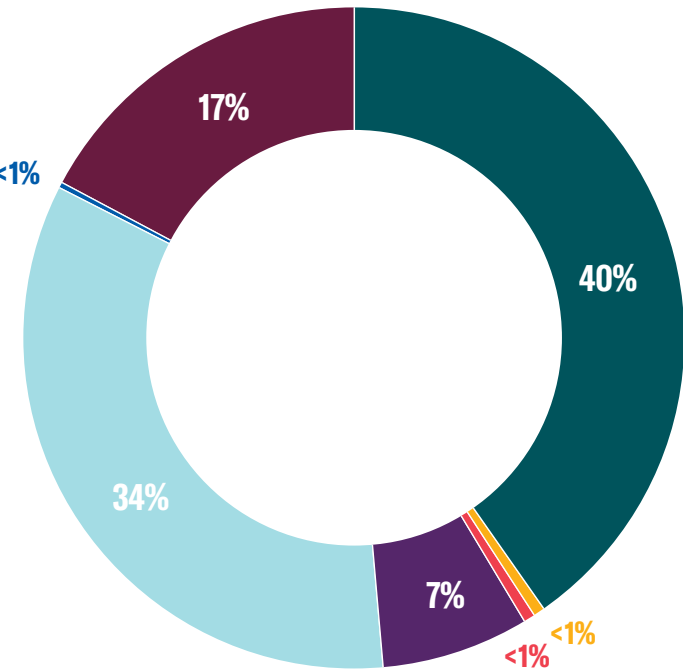
The national ACLU Foundation and the ACLU Foundation of Northern California share all tax-deductible donations. And the national ACLU and the ACLU of Northern California share all membership dues. A portion of the national share of gifts is allocated to help other ACLU affiliate offices around the country that otherwise would be unable to address the serious threats to civil liberties in their states.



ACLU FOUNDATION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

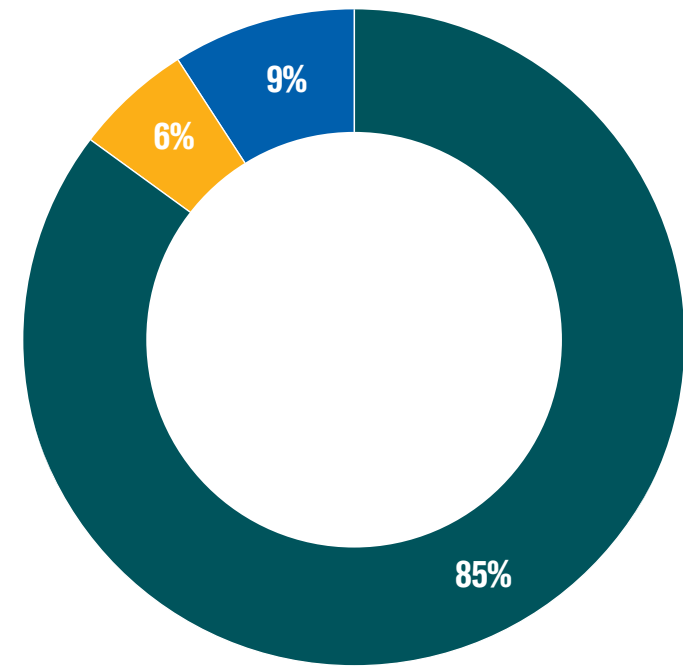
Operating Income and Expenses 2020–21

APRIL 1, 2020 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2021



SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Annual and Special Contributions	\$	13,212,498
Foundation Grants	\$	242,500
Bequests/Planned Gift Contributions	\$	159,754
Court Awarded Attorney Fees	\$	2,358,197
In-Kind Legal Contributions	\$	10,999,437
Other Income	\$	159,930
Investment Income	\$	5,546,014
Total	\$	32,678,330



EXPENSES

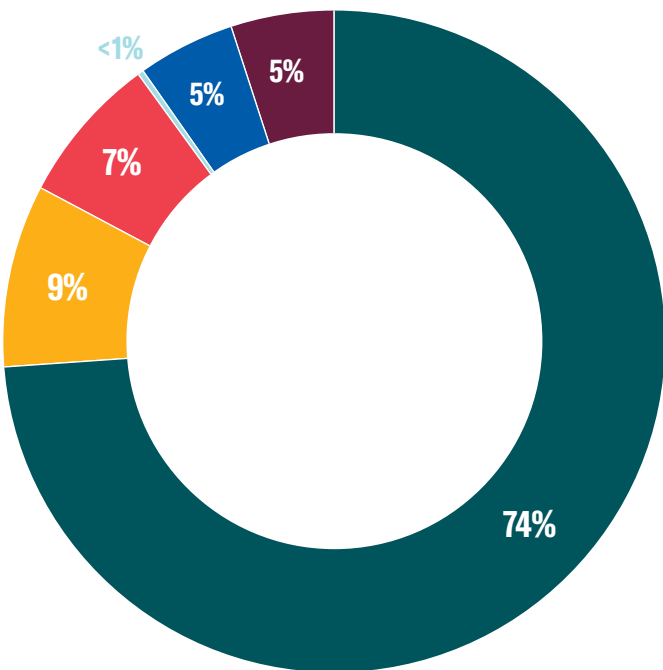
Program Services	\$	25,775,335
Fundraising	\$	1,810,511
Management and General	\$	2,628,370
Total	\$	30,214,216

Source: The charts on pages 32–33 are based on audited financial statements and underlying accounting data provided to the auditor, Leaf & Cole, LLP, for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2021. A complete copy of the FY2020–21 audited financial statements is available at www.aclunc.org/about/financial-info-reports or by writing: ACLU NorCal, 39 Drumm Street, San Francisco, CA 94111.

ACLU OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

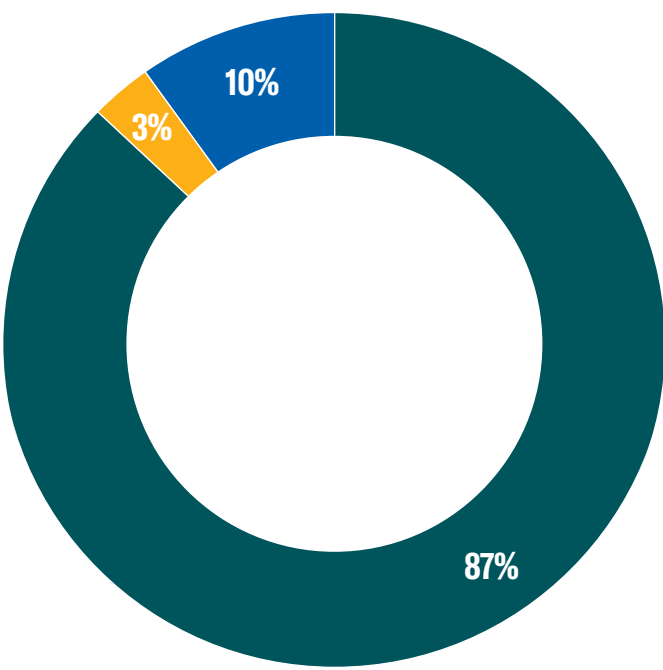
Operating Income and Expenses 2020–21

APRIL 1, 2020 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2021



SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Memberships	\$	6,772,564
Annual and Special Contributions	\$	861,970
Grant from ACLU Foundation of Northern California	\$	600,000
Bequests/Planned Gift Contributions	\$	16,490
Reimbursement for Legislative Office	\$	493,000
Investment Income and Other	\$	422,879
Total	\$	9,166,903



EXPENSES

Program Services	\$	5,664,201
Fundraising	\$	207,493
Management and General	\$	673,743
Total	\$	6,545,437

The costs of membership acquisition and renewals are reflected on the National ACLU financial statements.

Following the close of this fiscal year, thanks to your generous support, the ACLU NorCal board voted to transfer \$3 million to ACLU affiliates in battleground states to safeguard the 2022 and 2024 elections.

Universal Marvels by ASHA

This poem about resilience by ASHA was performed at our Bill of Rights Day celebration and ACLU Partners for Justice event.

Resilience of the Mind is a superpower
not to be overlooked. Internal capes reflecting pseudonyms of a name
given by my bloodline but only hold
ghost writing positions.

Because
too often the situation renames me as simply the other.

Mental convictions of strength
rally voices in my corner despite
the lack of physical presence.
If it's strong enough the mind
can replace an army. Arming me with the capacity to keep fighting on.

As worlds often crumble around me
using words to crumble bits of consciousness on to unrelenting souls who refused
to see the truth,
I gain power. Super power. Like Saiyans.
Like Wonder Womxn of Color.
Like Wakandan Dora Milaje protecting the Black Panther.
Like
vibranium shields to deflect idiocy. Like,
adamantium bones so they do not break
when you throw your shade. Like Gambit,
I got tricks up my sleeve
to defend against your ignorance. Got grace like the Phoenix.
Got protective gloves so my consciousness doesn't go rogue.
PowerUp mushrooms
in the form of Hindu kush mountains hiding away my
fortress of solitude to find serenity.

It takes a superpower to navigate this globe.
Glowing moons of different phases only seem to label us
as more and more
as the mutant.
And as this storm rages inside me,
sometimes my emotions turn me into this thing.
This beast.
That I swear I'm not
but I'm beginning to accept its presence.

It's simply a means of existence. Survival depending on the ability to feel some sense of jubilee.
It's a necessary superpower for convincing yourself that you belong. This colossus,
juggernaut of a world needs a strong mind.

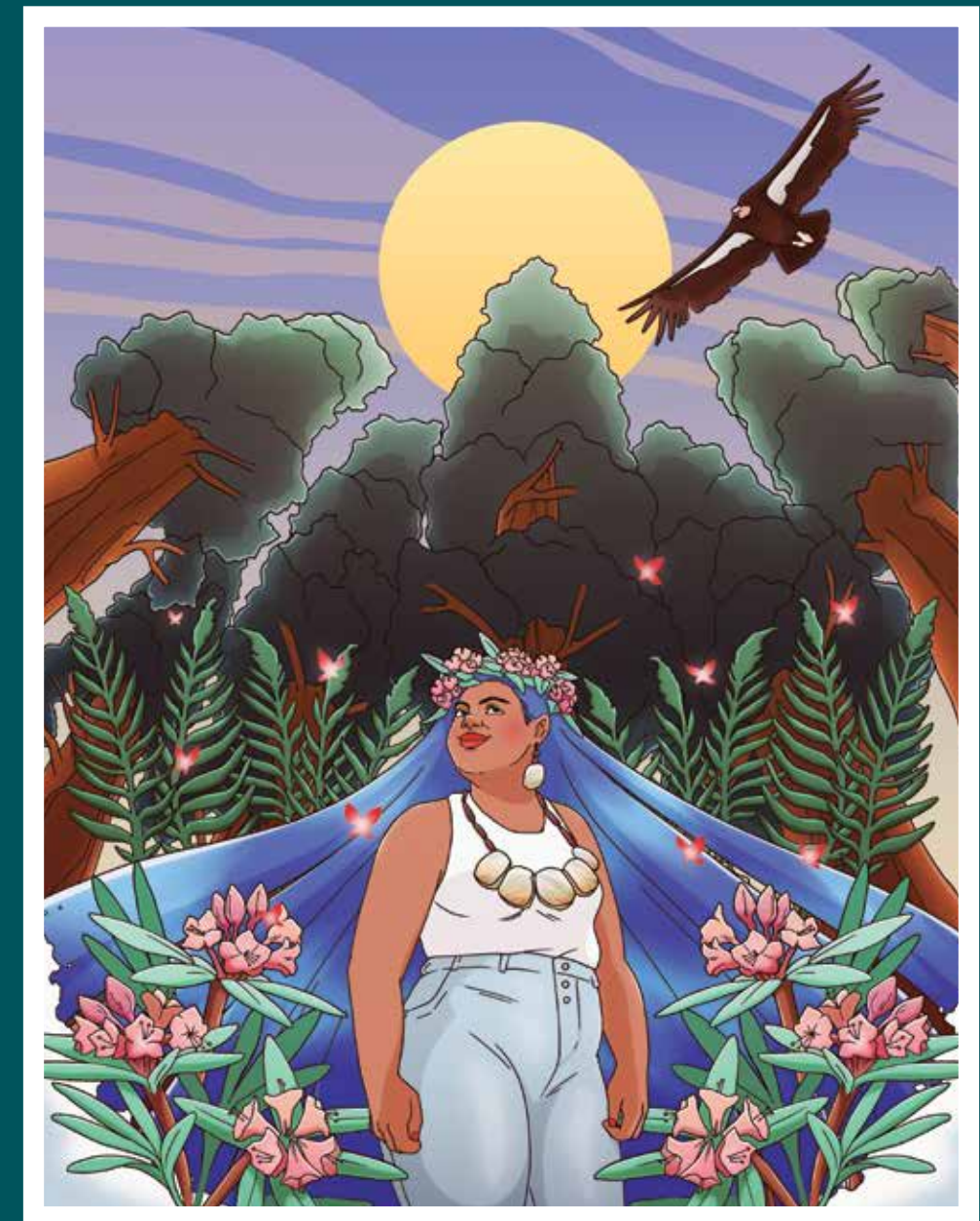
You can't rely on night crawling abilities your whole life.
Don't give into the mystic that you have to live
like Morlocks
in the shadows. This world is yours. believe in it as so.
Because when other folks push you down it's a direct reflection
of their lack of resilience. Lack of confidence.

Finding balance between what unknown professors
taught me about coexistence in nonviolence,
and the magnetic sensation I feel to just separate
by any means necessary is a constant struggle. But,
equipped with the superpowers of resilience I will keep going.
Keep calling for revolution
even when the world tells me no. I will not listen.
I will not give in to the conviction that I hold no power.

Even though my cape is hidden my superhero status emblem
is tattooed on my heart. And I'm ready in a flash.



Annual Report Artist Jackie Fawn



“This illustration was inspired from the sensation of resilience I get when I stand amongst the redwoods that have seen more than us. The last few years have taught me how to persevere and grow through this pandemic experience and I wanted to capture this moment amongst the redwoods with the Condor flying high above, leading the way.”

— Jackie Fawn

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