

ACLUnews

FALL 2015

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VOTING RIGHTS RESTORED TO THOUSANDS OF CALIFORNIANS

By Jess Jollett

When Sharron Bolden realized she could not participate in the 2012 presidential election, she felt frustrated and discouraged. “I have voted in the past and felt like I had suddenly been silenced,” said Bolden. “It was not right or fair.” The ACLU agreed. More than 50 years after the passage of the Voting Rights Act, we’re still fighting to protect the right to vote.

Last year, the American Civil Liberties Union of California, the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area, and Legal Services for Prisoners with Children filed a lawsuit on behalf of three people, including Bolden, who had lost their right to vote because of a past felony conviction. We also represented the League of Women Voters of California and All of Us or None, a nonprofit organization that advocates for the rights of formerly and currently incarcerated people and their families.

How did this right to vote get taken away in the first place? Then-Secretary of State Debra Bowen issued a directive to lo-



Plaintiff Sharron Bolden

cal elections officials in December 2011 stating that otherwise-eligible Californians are ineligible to vote if they are on post-release community supervision or mandatory supervision. Our lawsuit challenged this as a violation of state law.

Under the California Constitution and state election laws, only people imprisoned or on parole for conviction of a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

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SUNDAY, DEC. 13, 2015

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AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
of NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

BOARD NOMINEES 2015 CANDIDATE STATEMENTS



FARAH BRELVI

The assault on the Bill of Rights is continuing and the work of the ACLU remains fundamental to our democracy. I am especially proud of my relationship with the ACLU during election seasons, when the religious freedom of Muslim Americans has become a political football; the ACLU has never wavered in its defense of the First Amendment. I will also bring my previous non-profit experience to my ACLU-NC service: both as a vice-chair of the board of Amnesty International USA and as a founding board member of Muslim Advocates. I would be honored to serve an additional term.



MILTON ESTES

If elected, I will be honored to serve on the ACLU-NC Board of directors. I have a long history of passionate involvement with the ACLU, locally and nationally, since 1981. I helped write the ACLU-NC's policy on HIV and the HIV epidemic. I was the first openly gay chair of the ACLU-NC Board, served for four years as the board chair, and helped us direct more young people into significant roles in ACLU-NC. Establishing and maintaining a diverse board and a fiscally healthy organization has always been a priority for me, and I served as chair of the Development Committee of ACLU-NC for many years.



MARIA HEKKER

I am very honored to again be nominated as a candidate in the election of the ACLU-NC at-large Board of Directors. I am grateful for this opportunity to continue the ACLU's important work in protecting the civil liberties of Northern California's many diverse communities. I am excited to have the opportunity to add my background in the non-profit world, as well as my corporate, legal and finance experience, to the myriad talents already resident in the staff and on the Board of the ACLU-NC. Thank you for your vote.



COLIN LACON

I am a long-standing resident of the San Francisco Bay Area. My professional career has been spent in leadership roles in the local government and in the philanthropic community. Throughout my life, I have strived to make positive contributions to our society by using my experience, knowledge, and skills. At the center of my values, I believe that all people should be treated fairly and have opportunity to live a fulfilling life. I have chosen to work with the ACLU because I believe it works to advance these opportunities.



CARLA LOPEZ

It is an honor to be nominated to the Board of the ACLU-NC. I am currently a student at the USF School of Law and serve on the Board of ACCESS Women's

Health Justice, an organization challenging reproductive health barriers. Previously I worked as a program assistant at the National Center for Lesbian Rights helping LGBTQ immigrants seeking immigration relief through asylum and U nonimmigrant status. I identify as an undocumented queer woman of color and I look forward to contributing my experiences and passion towards immigrant, LGBTQ, and reproductive justice to the ACLU-NC. Thank you for considering my nomination.



SIMIN SHAMJI

Simin Shamji has worked at the San Francisco Public Defender's office for over 20 years. After practicing as a trial attorney for many years, she began working on criminal justice policy issues including bail and sentencing reform, implicit bias, racial disparities, and evidence-based alternatives to incarceration. Shamji was born in Tanzania and moved to Santa Monica, Calif. when she was 10 years old. After graduating from UCLA with a degree in political science, she attended the University of California, Hastings College of the Law where she earned her law degree in 1994. She has been on the ACLU-NC Board since 2011. She lives in Berkeley, CA with her husband and three kids.



SHALINI SWAROOP

Shalini Swaroop is an attorney advocating on clean energy, consumer protection, and environmental justice issues. She received her Juris Doctorate from Berkeley Law School, where she was elected student body president. During law school, Shalini was a summer associate at the ACLU Women's Rights Project in New York. She has a long history of advocating for international and domestic human rights with grassroots organizations, legal aid practitioners, and the United Nations. Shalini has been a proud member of the ACLU-NC board for two years, is currently a member of the Executive Committee, and is the Chair of the Legislative Policy Committee.



OLGA TOMCHIN

I am thrilled to continue serving on the board. I bring expertise in legal and organizing strategies. I am currently Deportation Defense Coordinator and Staff Attorney at the National Day Laborer Organizing Network, where I fight the idea that immigrants with convictions are disposable and work toward a world with no borders or cages. Previously, I was a Soros Justice Fellow at Transgender Law Center where I founded the Immigration Detention Project. I myself am a queer refugee from the former Soviet Union, grew up in Nebraska, and reside with my two wonderful partners and therapy teacup chihuahua in Oakland.



MARK TONEY

Mark Toney has served as executive director of TURN, The Utility Reform Network, since 2008, promoting affordable green energy and phone service through legal advocacy and grassroots

organizing. In the early 1980s, Mark was a named plaintiff represented by RI ACLU and won a landmark RI Supreme Court ruling releasing police brutality records under the Public Records Act, *The Rake v. Gorodetsky*, 1982. Mark has organized for social justice for 35 years, earned his B.A. in political science from Brown University, his Ph.D. in sociology from UC Berkeley, and has been recognized as a Kellogg National Leadership Fellow.



BEVERLY TUCKER

During my 30-year legal career working for government civil rights agencies and labor unions, the most rewarding work that I did involved securing and defending the civil and constitutional rights of workers, students, and disadvantaged people. My service on the ACLU-NC board and for the past nine months as board chair has allowed me to continue to pursue justice, equality, and opportunity for all Californians. I am excited at the prospect of continuing this important work for another three-year term along with my dedicated board colleagues and the committed and excellent staff members. Please allow me to do so.

Please see the instructions at right, then clip ballot below and send along with your address label to:

Elections Committee
ACLU of Northern California
39 Drumm Street
San Francisco, CA 94111

**Ballots must be received by noon on
Dec. 4, 2015**

ACLU-NC BOARD OF DIRECTORS BALLOT

Please vote by marking one square next to each candidate you support.

You may vote for up to 10 candidates on this ballot. If you share joint membership with another member, use both squares.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | FARAH BRELVI |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | MILTON ESTES |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | MARIA HEKKER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | COLIN LACON |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | CARLA LOPEZ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | SIMIN SHAMJI |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | SHALINI SWAROOP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | OLGA TOMCHIN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | MARK TONEY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | BEVERLY TUCKER |

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

VOTING INFORMATION

WHO CAN VOTE:

The by-laws of the ACLU of Northern California call for the “at large” directors to be elected by our general membership. The label affixed to this issue of the *ACLU News* indicates on the top line if you are a current member and thus eligible to vote. Your label states “VOTE” if you are eligible to vote or “INELIGIBLE” if you are not eligible to vote.

If your label states that you are ineligible to vote, but you have recently renewed your membership, please send in your ballot with a note that includes your name and phone number, so we can verify your status. If you are ineligible because you have not renewed your membership but would like to do so at this time, please enclose your membership renewal check in the same envelope as your ballot. (Please note that it is your membership dues payable to the ACLU, not tax-deductible donations to the ACLU Foundation, that make you eligible to vote.)

HOW THE CANDIDATES WERE NOMINATED:

As explained in the summer 2015 issue of the *ACLU News*, our by-laws specify two methods for nominating candidates for directorships. Candidates may be nominated by the current board of directors after the board considers recommendations from its nominating committee. Candidates may also be nominated by petition bearing the signatures of at least 15 of our members in good standing.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTING:

The candidates are listed in alphabetical order. We have 10 candidates running to fill 10 vacancies on our board of directors. You may vote for up to 10 candidates.

You cannot cast more than one vote for any candidate. That applies even if you vote for fewer than 10 candidates. If you share a joint membership with another member, each of you can vote for 10 candidates. Do so by using both of the two columns provided for that purpose.

After marking your ballot, clip it and enclose it in an envelope. Your address label (on the reverse side of this ballot) must be included to ensure voter eligibility.

ADDRESS THE ENVELOPE TO:

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
ACLU of Northern California
39 Drumm Street
San Francisco, CA 94111

If you prefer that your ballot be confidential, put your ballot in one envelope, then insert that envelope plus your address label in a second envelope and send to our Elections Committee at the address indicated above. In that case, we will separate your envelopes before we count your ballot.

In order for your ballot to be counted, we must receive it at the address shown above by noon on Dec. 4, 2015.

As required by our by-laws, in order to have a quorum for our election, we need at least 100 timely returned ballots from our members.

To help you assess this year’s candidates, we’re including brief statements submitted by the candidates (see page 2). We’ve also indicated how they were nominated.

ADVANCING ECONOMIC JUSTICE AS A CIVIL LIBERTIES ISSUE

In the wake of the ACLU-NC’s recent filing of a class action lawsuit on behalf of Fresno County residents charged with crimes and unable to afford an attorney, staff and Freedom Circle supporters gathered together to discuss the intersection of economic justice issues across different areas of our work. The evening program, *Gideon and Beyond: Advancing Economic Justice as a Civil Liberties Issue*, featured ACLU-NC Associate Director & Legal-Policy Director Christine Sun, Staff Attorney Novella Coleman, and Senior Organizer & Grassroots Advocacy Manager Ashley Morris.

**** If you would like information about the Freedom Circle, please contact Noah Maier at giving@aclunc.org ****



Ashley Morris, Novella Coleman, Christine Sun.



Helen Desai, Danika Desai, Monica Henderson.



Isabel Auerbach, Li-Hsia Wang.

PHOTOS BY MARSHALL DINOWITZ

ALEXANDER SAXTON'S LIFE AND LEGACY FOR LIBERTY

ACLU members and donors are generous and inspiring in the world beyond what they give to the ACLU. Here, a look at the life of one man who made a bequest to the ACLU-NC, reflecting a life of activism that will continue through his gift.

The civil liberties community lost an important advocate when Alexander Saxton, a prominent historian, activist, and novelist, died in 2012 at the age of 93. He was a longtime member of the ACLU and an inspirational leader in many movements for social justice.

Saxton was born in Great Barrington, Mass., and spent his childhood in the East Side of Manhattan in a middle-class, though unconventional, household, where regular dinner guests included well-known authors Aldous Huxley and Thornton Wilder. To the dismay of his parents and academic advisor, Saxton dropped out of Harvard in 1939 and hitched his way to the Midwest working on farms and staying in migrant labor camps. In Chicago, Saxton worked as a laborer and union organizer in railroad roundhouses, steel mills, shipyards and construction. Around this time, he joined the Communist Party and launched a literary career writing proletarian novels about this community.

Upon returning from World War II, Saxton and his wife relocated to Marin County, where he worked as a carpenter and wrote novels inspired by the racially diverse, working-class community of Marin City, which had been built to house those who were employed in the wartime shipbuilding industry. Here, Saxton observed the complete segregation between the residents of Marin City and the rest of affluent, white Marin County. During this period, Saxton became an active organizer of maritime workers and longshoremen in Marin and San Francisco, and waged the fight to integrate local labor unions.

In 1951, Saxton was called before the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC). His daughter, Catherine Steele, remembers his response when asked



Alexander Saxton with Catherine Steele and friend Mary Franke.

how things went at his interrogation: he said, "I stood on the Fifth Amendment." Saxton later enrolled at UC Berkeley, earning a doctorate in history. In 1968, Saxton joined the faculty at UCLA, where he helped to found the nation's first Asian American studies program, and fought to integrate the faculty of the history department. During his academic career, Saxton authored *The Indispensable Enemy: Labor and the Anti-Chinese Movement in California* (1975),

which demonstrates how labor unions relied on racism against Chinese immigrants to organize white union members; and *The Rise and Fall of the White Republic: Class Politics and Mass Culture in Nineteenth Century America* (2003), which was instrumental in estab-


lishing the academic field of "critical whiteness studies." His 1975 paper "Blackface Minstrelsy and Jacksonian Ideology" describes the ideology of white supremacy in the U.S.

His daughter remembers the ACLU having an important place in their family since childhood. "We grew up with the ACLU—it was a part of our household. We all held the ACLU close," she said. Saxton was particularly committed to supporting the ACLU's racial justice work. In his later years, he expressed his thoughts regarding money in a letter to Steele regarding his estate plans: "Of course, being a Marxist, I should be totally in favor of the inheritance tax, but given the way our government chooses to spend its money, I would rather contribute to non-profit organizations." Steele emphasizes that while her father stands out as an individual, "to accomplish significant political and social justice actions, he was more of a 'team player.' He would not tend to be a speaker but would be a panelist; he worked in a carpenter's crew; he would not take credit for himself but would look to what 'we' could accomplish by coming together."

Saxton retired from UCLA in 1990, but continued to write and publish works of cultural history. When his failing health prevented him from living independently, writing, and going for walks, he made the decision to end his life

with a self-inflicted gunshot at his home in Lone Pine, Calif. "He lived his life on his terms and ended his life on his terms," Steele said. "He didn't want to involve friends or family, because he knew that helping someone to end their life was considered a crime in California. If the state had allowed aid in dying, my father could have chosen a more peaceful way to end his life."

The ACLU believes that an individual's right to decide to end his or her life is a matter of personal privacy protected by the Fourth Amendment, another reflection of the values that her father shared with the organization, Steele noted. The "Aid in Dying" movement achieved an important victory in California this October when Gov. Jerry Brown signed into law the End-of-Life Option Act, which allows terminally ill Californians to request medication to bring about a peaceful end to suffering.

One of the many ways that Saxton's remarkable advocacy for civil liberties will continue is through the legacy gift that he made to the ACLU in his estate. The ACLU of Northern California is deeply grateful for his thoughtful and generous act, and to Steele, for ensuring that we received her father's bequest this year. 

ONE OF THE MANY WAYS
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THE ACLU IN HIS ESTATE.

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Right now, by adding the ACLU to your will, you can leave a legacy of liberty for generations to come and defend our freedom today.

Through the Legacy Challenge, simply including a gift in your future plans can qualify the ACLU to receive a 20% cash matching donation today from our generous challenge donor.

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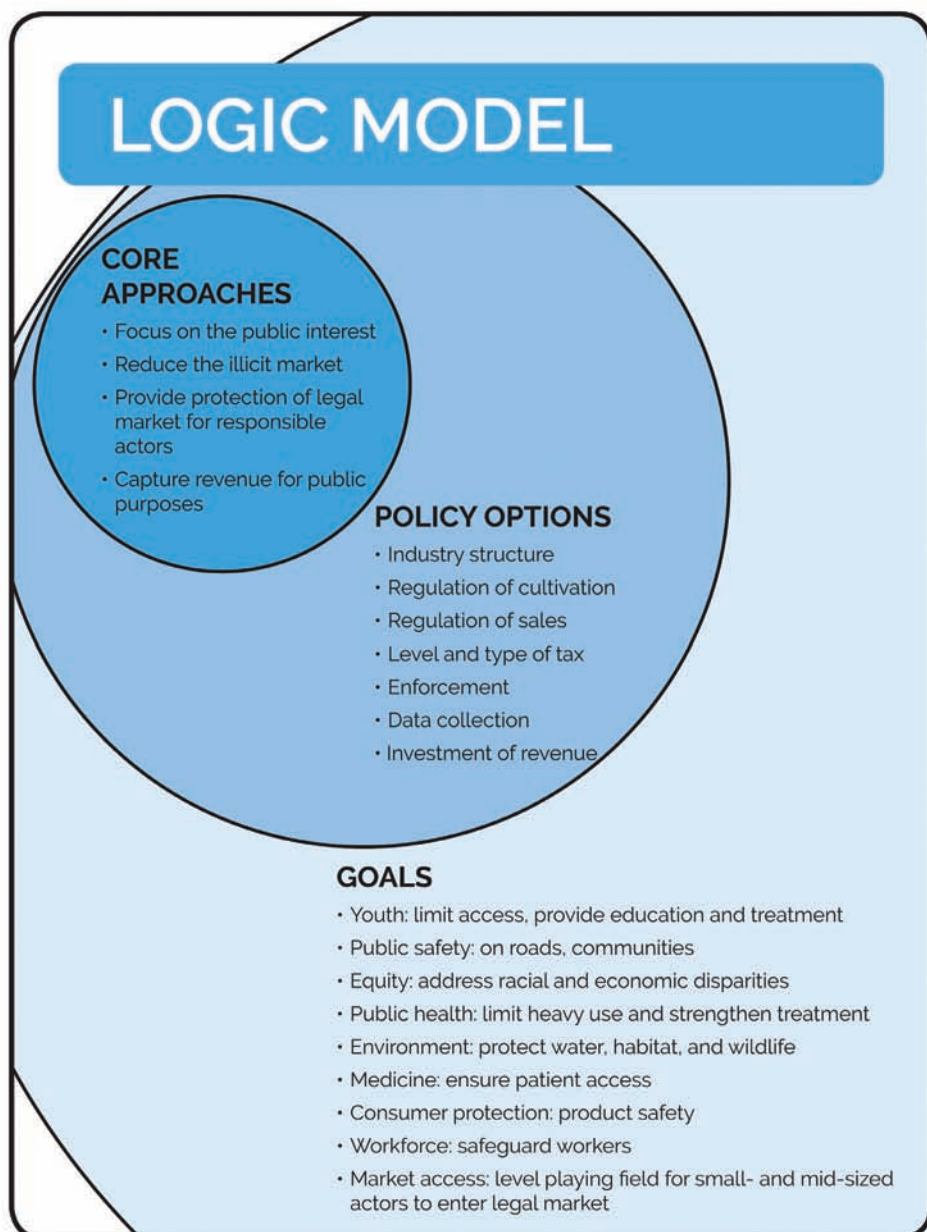
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THE ACLU TAKES ON MARIJUANA POLICY

The question of whether California should legalize adult use of marijuana beyond medical purposes may well appear on the 2016 statewide ballot. The ACLU got involved in marijuana policy with the goal of advancing racial justice and protecting constitutional rights, both of which have been under assault in the War on Drugs. ACLU-NC Executive Director Abdi Soltani, Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, and Stanford Professor Keith Humphreys led the 21-member Blue Ribbon Commission on Marijuana Policy to think through what legalization in California could look like. This summer, the Commission released its findings in the Pathways Report: Policy Options for Regulating Marijuana in California.



One of the major findings is that the legalization of marijuana would not be an event that happens in one election. Rather, it would be a process that unfolds over many years requiring sustained attention to implementation. That process of legalization and regulation will be dynamic. It requires using core approaches over time to promote the public interest, reduce the size of the illicit market, offer legal protection to responsible actors, and capture and invest tax revenue. There are a range of policy options and tools, but the report makes clear we have to define the goals we are trying to achieve.

Read the report at www.aclunc.org/brc-report.



HOWARD K. WATKINS

WE'RE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEER PHOTOGRAPHERS


Want to lend your talents to the ACLU once or twice a year?

We have events throughout Northern California, and the greatest current need is in the Central Valley.



For details, email
GPANDIAN@ACLUNC.ORG

THANK YOU SUMMER 2015 LAW & POLICY INTERNS

The ACLU of Northern California is committed to training the next generation of public interest lawyers and policy advocates. Our Law and Policy interns have an opportunity to engage in our litigation and policy advocacy throughout the summer. This summer, interns (pictured at right) joined in an inaugural tour of the Central Valley, led by Legal-Policy Department Manager & Attorney Evonne M. Silva and ACLU-NC staff attorney Angélica Salceda. The Central Valley tour contextualized the ACLU-NC's expanding work in the region, and the students witnessed the efforts of individuals and communities working toward justice across the Central Valley. 



VICTORY: THE ACLU STEPS IN AND A CATHOLIC HOSPITAL APPROVES A WOMAN'S PROCEDURE

By Elizabeth Gill

Under the threat of a potential lawsuit, a Catholic-affiliated hospital in one of California's largest hospital networks made an unexpected move. It approved a previously denied doctor's request to perform a post-partum tubal ligation, also known as "getting your tubes tied."

The approval from Mercy Medical Center came just days after the ACLU of Northern California sent a letter on behalf of client Rachel Miller, charging that the hospital had unlawfully denied her reproductive health care.

Miller and her husband had one small child in their family and were eagerly expecting the arrival of their second baby. They have always known that their family would be complete with two children, so at the recommendation of her doctor, Miller decided that she would like to get her tubes tied—a safe, standard, and highly effective form of contraception—after giving birth to their second child. Her doctor fully supported this plan, as performing the procedure at the time of a C-section is the standard of care.

However, the hospital where Miller was scheduled for delivery is part of a Catholic hospital system, and operates under ethical and religious directives issued by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Applying these directives, which refer to sterilization for the purpose of contraception as "intrinsically evil," the hospital denied Miller's doctor's request to perform this common procedure.

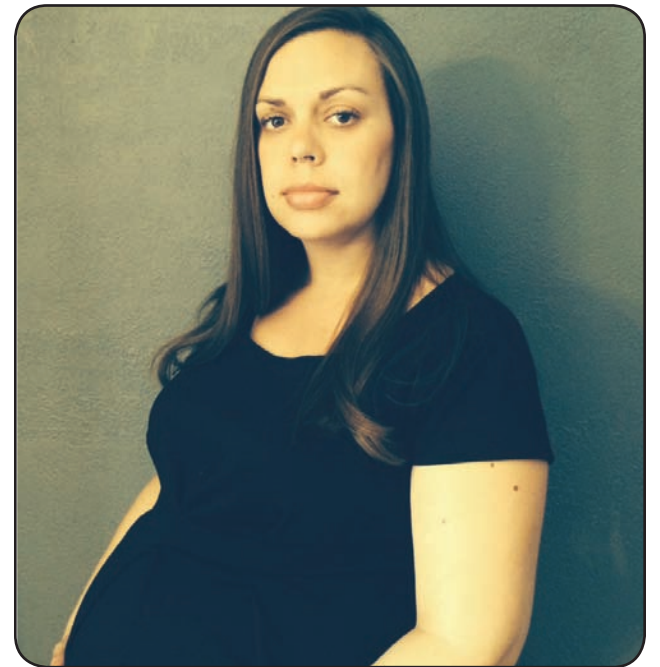
Miller was shocked that the hospital wouldn't allow her doctor to perform the procedure and tried to appeal, without success. She sought legal support from the ACLU. After we

sent a letter threatening to file a lawsuit if the hospital didn't allow Miller's doctor to perform the tubal ligation, the hospital agreed to grant an exception and Miller's doctor performed the procedure when she got her C-section.


While this is certainly a win for Miller, there remains a clear conflict between the best interests of patients and the directives of the Catholic hospital system. All women should be able to make the medical decisions that are best for them, in consultation with their doctors. And religious institutions that provide services to the general public—often with substantial public funds—should not be allowed to claim religion as an excuse to discriminate or deny important health care.

Catholic hospitals are increasingly ubiquitous in both California and across the United States, and they are often the only health care option for women, including in life-threatening emergencies. For instance, Miller's hospital is part of the Dignity Health hospital system, the fifth largest healthcare system in the country and the largest hospital provider in California, with 29 hospitals across the state. Because all of the surrounding hospitals with labor and delivery wards are also Catholic, Miller would have needed to travel over 160 miles to get her tubal ligation covered by her insurance at the same time as her C-section.

Miller is lucky—she stood up for herself, and she is getting



Plaintiff Rachel Miller

the health care that she and her doctor have decided is best for her. Miller gave birth to a healthy baby, and her doctor completed the tubal ligation. But as long as Catholic hospitals are allowed to apply the ethical and religious directives, many women will be denied care because Catholic bishops are telling medical professionals how to operate. 

Elizabeth Gill is a senior staff attorney with the ACLU of Northern California.

VOTING RIGHTS RESTORED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

felony are ineligible to vote; it has long been clear that people on other forms of supervision—such as felony probation or drug-diversion—have the right to vote.

Therefore, last spring, an Alameda County Superior Court judge ruled that Bowen's directive illegally stripped nearly 60,000 Californians of their voting rights. Bowen appealed and continued the fight to disenfranchise the formerly incarcerated.

However, this August, California Secretary of State Alex Padilla announced his withdrawal of the appeal, sending a clear message that voter discrimination is not welcome in California.

"It is not lost on me that many states in our nation are advancing legislation to roll back the clock on voting rights, not just for former offenders, but for all voters," Padilla said. "I believe that California can stand as a beacon of hope—a powerful example to those who would create barriers to voting."

Felony disenfranchisement laws proliferated during the Jim Crow era and were intended to bar people of color from voting. The impact of these laws continues today. An estimated 5.85 million American citizens cannot vote as a result of a criminal conviction. These laws have a disproportionate impact on African-Americans: nationwide, one in 13 African-Americans of voting age cannot cast a ballot—a rate four times the national average.


This reality is not lost on Bolden. "I want to vote because I am African American. I want my people to excel, but we are not going to if we cannot vote." By moving to re-enfranchise citizens, California is taking an affirmative step for voting rights.

Many in the formerly incarcerated community understand the power of voting. These Californians are often most impacted by decisions made by our legislators and politicians.

"I'm on probation so there are certain things I can't do," said Bolden. "For example, I have a problem with the student loan applications asking if you have been convicted for drugs but not for rape or murder. I want my right to vote on that. Voting can change things."

Sadly, felony disenfranchisement laws impact the broader community because many people mistakenly believe a prior conviction prohibits them from voting.

"We have always recognized that our voting rights are larger than the right to cast a vote. It's about the struggle for formerly—and in some cases currently—incarcerated people to be respected as citizens," said Dorsey Nunn, Executive Director of Legal Services for Prisoners with Children and a plaintiff in the lawsuit. "Our votes belong not just to us, but to our communities and families."

This is an historic opportunity for entire communities to understand the truth about who can vote in California: only people currently imprisoned in state prison or on parole (not probation or community supervision) are prohibited from voting. And once those people have completed their sentence, their right to vote is automatically restored—all they have to do is register to vote or re-register if they were previously a voter. 

Jess Jollett is a Communications Strategist at the ACLU of San Diego & Imperial Counties.



GIGI PANDIAN

Plaintiff Dorsey Nunn, who is being honored at the ACLU-NC's Bill of Rights Day celebration on Dec. 13 (see page 1 for details).

LEGAL UPDATES

By Bethany Woolman

Victory for Asylum Seekers: *Alfaro Garcia v. Johnson*

In July, the ACLU of Northern California and the ACLU of Southern California settled a nationwide class-action lawsuit on behalf of thousands of immigrants facing lengthy detention in the U.S. after fleeing persecution in their home countries.

Asylum seekers were being incarcerated in immigration jails for months while the government processed their reasonable fear determinations—a step in the application process that is only supposed to take 10 days.

Under the settlement, individuals who must go through the reasonable fear determination process will have their case referred to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services within an average of five days, and officials must make a determination within an average of 10 days from the time the case is referred.

“People seeking asylum have suffered enough trauma,” said Julia Harumi Mass, senior staff attorney at the ACLU-NC. “This settlement ensures that the government will not compound their suffering by unnecessarily holding them in indefinite detention while they simply seek refuge and safety.”

Win for Free Speech: *Christian Titman v. Clovis Unified School District*

Christian Titman was a senior at Clovis High School when his father presented him with an eagle feather to recognize his academic achievements and his upcoming graduation. Because the eagle feather carries cultural and spiritual meaning for Christian as a member of the Pit River Tribe, he planned to wear the feather on his cap during graduation.

But Clovis High School denied multiple requests from Christian’s family to allow him to wear the feather, claiming it violated the dress code. Not only does state and federal law protect freedom of expression for students, it recognizes religious freedom.

With only days to go before his graduation, the ACLU of Northern California, California Indian Legal Services, the Native American Rights Fund filed an emergency lawsuit on Christian’s behalf.

A settlement was reached in time to allow Christian to proudly wear the eagle feather during his graduation ceremony. As part of the settlement agreement, the district will work with Christian Titman and his family to discuss ways to better respond in the future to requests from students for religious expression during graduation.

“Schools should respect the requests of Native American students who want to wear an eagle feather during graduation,” said ACLU-NC Staff Attorney Novella Coleman.

Victory for Traffic Court Due Process

The ACLU of Northern California sent letters to eight California counties, notifying them they were violating constitutional guarantees of due process in traffic courts, and requesting an immediate change in policy.

Across California, traffic courts were withholding the right to contest a traffic citation until the fines and fees for the citation were paid in full. Not only was this practice against the law, it unfairly impacted low-income people and communities of color, who are disproportionately profiled for traffic stops.

Within weeks of the ACLU’s campaign to halt this practice, the Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court directed the state Judicial Council to immediately take emergency action. The Council later voted unanimously to make it clear that this violation of due process would not be tolerated in California courts. The Chief Justice also appointed a commission to take a broader look at the impact of excessive fines, fees, and penalties on court users in California.

“A person’s right to appear in court—even traffic court—should not depend on their ability to pay a fee,” said ACLU-NC Associate Director & Legal/Policy Director Christine P. Sun.

Victory for Sex Ed: *American Academy of Pediatrics, et al. v. Clovis Unified School District*

In 2012, the ACLU of Northern California sued the Clovis Unified School District for teaching biased and inaccurate sex ed that put students’ health at risk. This May, a Fresno County Superior Court judge ruled that the ACLU-NC suit was justified and that the District’s sex education curriculum was out of compliance with state law.

The ruling created a historic legal precedent that California students have a right to sex education that is complete, medically accurate, and free of bias.

“Teens deserve complete, accurate health information, which they’ll need at whatever point in their life they become sexually active. This ruling is a huge victory for students,” said Phyllida Burlingame, Reproductive Justice Policy Director for the ACLU-NC.

NEW CASE: *Stiavetti, et al. v. Ahlin, et al.*

The ACLU of Northern California filed a lawsuit against California’s Department of State Hospitals (DSH) and Department of Developmental Services (DDS) for violating the constitutional rights of mentally ill and developmentally disabled defendants who have been declared incompetent to stand trial.


Under state and federal law, people who lack the ability to understand the nature of criminal court proceedings cannot be tried or sentenced. They must be transferred out of jail and into a DSH or DDS facility in a timely manner so they can be evaluated, treated, and, if possible, restored to competency so they can return to court and address their charges. But in California, defendants wait in jail for several months—sometimes over a year—before they are transferred to a treatment facility.

“These defendants are exposed to dangerous jail conditions while they await transfer to a treatment facility—with devastating consequences to their health and well-being,” said ACLU-NC Staff Attorney Micaela Davis. “The state must reduce the lengthy delays that these defendants face in being transferred from county jail to the proper treatment facilities.”

NEW CASE: *Phillips v. State of California*

The ACLU of Northern California filed a lawsuit against Fresno County and the state of California, seeking to ensure that the county’s public defense system satisfies the requirements of the Constitution and provides actual assistance of counsel.

Public defenders represent more than 25,000 people each year in Fresno County, with each attorney shouldering up to four times the recommended number of clients. Consequently, thousands of Fresno County residents are forced to navigate the criminal justice system without the adequate legal representation that is guaranteed by the Constitution.

“Getting a fair trial should not depend on how much money you have in the bank,” said Novella Coleman, Staff Attorney with the ACLU-NC. “But in Fresno County, if you can’t pay for a private attorney, you must rely on a public defense system unequipped to meet even basic legal needs.” 

Read more legal updates online at www.aclunc.org/cases.

Bethany Woolman is a Communications Strategist at the ACLU of Northern California.

POLICE ABUSE LAWSUITS

National Lawyers Guild v. Hayward PD

In September, the ACLU of Northern California and the Law Offices of Amitai Schwartz filed a lawsuit against the City of Hayward and its Police Department for charging thousands of dollars for body camera footage requested under the California Public Records Act.


The footage requested shows officers patrolling Black Lives Matter demonstrations in 2014, during which a number of protestors were injured by police.

“The Public Records Act and police body cameras have one thing in common: both are intended to promote government transparency and accountability,” said Alan Schlosser, Senior Counsel with the ACLU of Northern California. “Prohibitive costs only serve to make these records unavailable to the public.”

Travis Hall v. San Francisco PD

Also in September, the ACLU of Northern California and the law firm of Kecker and Van Nest filed a lawsuit against the San Francisco Police Department for excessive force, unreasonable search and seizure, and false imprisonment on behalf of Travis Hall, a 23-year-old Black San Francisco graphic designer.

Travis Hall suffered a concussion and cuts and bruises to his neck and head after plainclothes police officers pulled him from a friend’s car while he was being dropped off at his mother’s house, and beat him on the sidewalk.

“No one should be treated the way Travis was treated,” said Nayna Gupta, who is representing Hall on behalf of the ACLU. “This case is a reminder of the abuse of police power that occurs regularly here in the Bay Area.” 

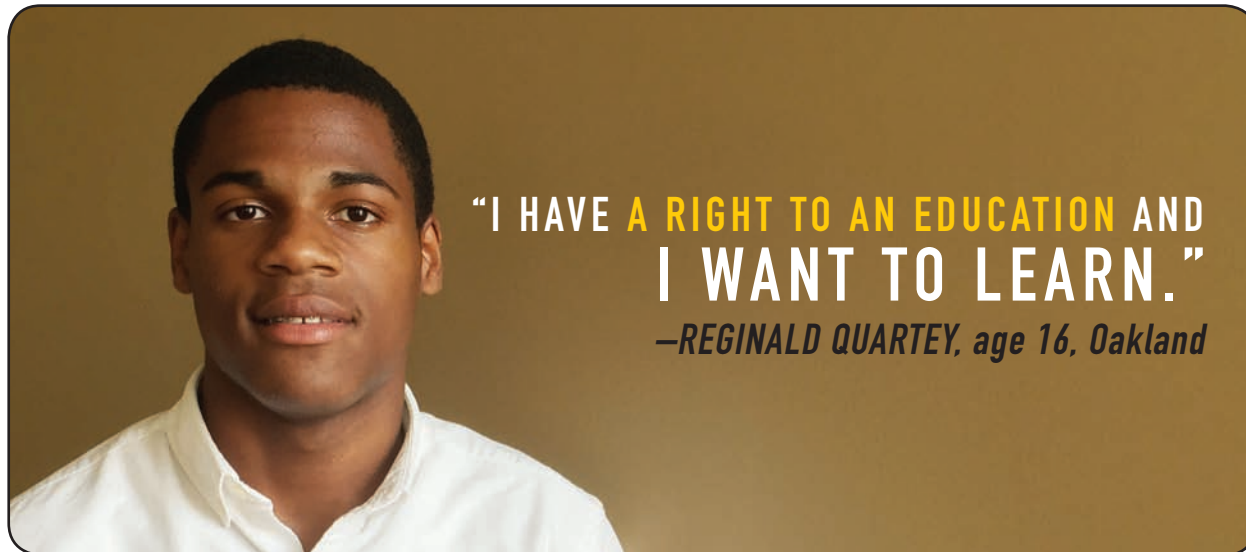


Travis Hall and his mother at the ACLU of Northern California press conference announcing the SFPD lawsuit

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

Students in California public schools have the right to be treated fairly and with respect by other students and school staff. For the start of the school year, the ACLU of California created the My School My Rights campaign, featuring Know Your Rights materials on seven issues facing students. Read more about the campaign and about other areas of student rights at www.myschoolmyrights.com.

SEARCHES OF STUDENTS



Do I have the right to refuse to be searched?

YES. You always have a right to refuse a search and you should make clear that a search is taking place over your objection. But you should not use physical resistance to stop a search.

Can my school search me without my consent?

YES, but only under certain circumstances. First, your school must have a reasonable suspicion that searching you will turn up evidence that you violated a school rule or law. Second, the way your school does its search should be reasonable based on what is being searched for and your age.

What is reasonable suspicion?

Unfortunately, there is no exact definition. But a reasonable suspicion should be based on facts specific to you or your situation. It cannot be based on a rumor, hunch, or curiosity. For example, a teacher cannot ask to search a bag for drugs based only on the look of the bag.

Can my school conduct a random search of students in my school?

YES. But these random searches must be based on special, school-wide needs such as ensuring school safety and should be truly random. A random search cannot be used to target any individual student.

Can my school strip search me?

NO.

Can my school search my locker?

SOMETIMES. If your locker is considered personal property, then your school may not search your locker unless it has a reasonable suspicion that it may find something against either the law or school rules. But if your locker is considered school property, then your locker can be

searched. Your school must give you notice that your locker is school property, such as in student handbooks or posted signs on campus.

Can my school use drug-sniffing dogs in my school?

YES, but there are limits. Your school may use dogs to search for drugs on campus, including unattended belongings like backpacks. But it must have a reasonable suspicion to search those belongings. If someone at your school tells you to leave the classroom while drug-sniffing dogs conduct a search, you should try to bring your things with you.

Can my school conduct general metal detector searches?

YES, so long as the students searched are picked randomly. For example, your school may put a metal detector at the front door to make all students pass through. But if your school wants to single you out for a metal detector search, it must have a reasonable suspicion that it will find something against the law or school rules.

Can my school make me take a random drug test?

USUALLY NOT. Your school may only conduct random drug testing of students who participate in extracurricular activities. Your school cannot force you to take a drug test under other circumstances.

Do I have the right to refuse a search conducted by a police officer in my school?

YES, you have the right to refuse a search just as you have that right with school officials.

Do regular police officers have to follow the same rules as school officials?

At a minimum, police officers must have reasonable suspicion to search you. And, under some circumstances, they need even more than that.

Can my school use evidence it finds in an illegal search against me in court?

NO. If school officials or police officers illegally search you, they cannot use what they find against you in court. But your school can use evidence from an illegal search in school disciplinary proceedings.



MY SCHOOL MY RIGHTS
KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

ALL STUDENTS IN CALIFORNIA HAVE A RIGHT TO AN EDUCATION.
But 1 in 5 high school students do not graduate in four years.
Stop the pushout of California students and stand up for your rights.

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ALL CALIFORNIA STUDENTS HAVE RIGHTS WHEN IT COMES TO:

- ♦ School discipline including suspensions, expulsions, and involuntary transfers
- ♦ Dress codes
- ♦ Student expression and protests
- ♦ Student searches including searches of your cell phone
- ♦ Student activity online and in social media
- ♦ Being a pregnant or parenting student
- ♦ Being an LGBTQ student

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MOBILE JUSTICE CA: THE PEOPLE'S BODY CAMERA

By Hector Villagra

Another man was dead, another man who could not challenge the police report on how he died. The official report in this case said North Charleston, S.C. Police Officer Michael T. Slager shot and killed Walter Scott, an unarmed black man, after Scott attempted to take the officer's Taser and use it on him.

But a bystander's video captured the deeply disturbing incident and showed that report to be a blatant fabrication. The whole world has now seen Slager firing eight times at Scott's back after he began running away. Slager has been charged with murder, but his false story would have gone unchallenged had it not been for the video.

Video images have clearly become a powerful tool in documenting encounters between the public and police. The ACLU of California wants to make it more likely that even more individuals will use their phones to record those incidents, enabling the public to hold officers accountable when they cross the line.

That's why the ACLU of California released the Mobile Justice app, a new smartphone app that allows users to effectively record law enforcement officers. Once the phone stops recording, the app quickly uploads a copy of the video to the local ACLU office. So it doesn't matter what the officer or anyone does with the phone or to the recording on the phone because the video will already have been transmitted.

Mobile Justice CA comes at a time when the public is demanding increased transparency and accountability. But law enforcement has been slow to respond. While transparency and accountability are not guaranteed, some departments have begun to equip their officers with body cameras. This reform promises to bring greater clarity to controversial encounters that often end with the only person who can dispute officers' accounts dead.

But body cameras are only one tool, and some departments seem intent on using them in ways that don't further accountability and transparency. Los Angeles police officers wearing body cameras were among those who fatally shot a



man on Skid Row in March. The department has refused to release the video, saying it will release it only when it is part of a criminal or civil case. Some police groups have recommended legislation that would exempt all police body camera footage from public records requests — even footage of police shootings.


Likewise, departments that give officers wide discretion to decide when to record or fail to provide sanctions for not using the cameras frustrate the cameras' purpose. Last year an Albuquerque, N.M. police officer shot Mary Hawkes, an unarmed 19 year old, in the back and killed her. Though equipped with a body camera, the officer didn't turn his camera on and record the shooting. He was later disciplined for failing to use his camera, but only after he had failed to turn it on five different times.

The ACLU's Mobile Justice CA app puts the power to ensure transparency in the hands of the people. With so many people carrying cell phones with cameras, the whole world could be watching with just a touch of the phone's screen.

THE ACLU OF CALIFORNIA RELEASED THE MOBILE JUSTICE APP, A NEW SMARTPHONE APP THAT ALLOWS USERS TO EFFECTIVELY RECORD LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.

ONCE THE PHONE STOPS RECORDING, THE APP QUICKLY UPLOADS A COPY OF THE VIDEO TO THE LOCAL ACLU OFFICE.

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT THE OFFICER OR ANYONE DOES WITH THE PHONE OR TO THE RECORDING ON THE PHONE BECAUSE THE VIDEO WILL ALREADY HAVE BEEN TRANSMITTED.

And that simple touch could be what makes the difference in holding law enforcement accountable. Police body cams may prove to be effective tools in curbing police abuse. But bystanders' cameras can be more powerful. Those images are not subject to police control, and like the Scott shooting, the footage they capture is immediately available for the whole world to see. 

Download the app at www.mobilejusticeca.org.

Hector Villagra is the Executive Director of the ACLU of Southern California.

SANDRA BLAND'S ONLY CRIME: SHE KNEW HER RIGHTS

By Nayna Gupta

Sandra Bland, the woman found dead in her Texas jail cell while in police custody this summer, had a constitutional right to give her arresting officer the middle finger. She could have even told him to f*** off. Nothing in the law prevented her from being rude.

The ACLU has long fought for the First Amendment right to express disagreement or even anger towards government officials, including police officers. And yet, when it comes to educating communities of color about their rights during interactions with the police, it would be irresponsible to ignore the harsh reality that openly asserting rights could lead to arrest or consequences much worse. Indeed, in our Know Your Rights guide we say: "Don't disrespect the officer. Although you have a constitutional right to do so, it could lead to your arrest."

This advice is not based on the law, but on the realities of decades of negative police interactions in communities of color. As multiple studies confirm, people of color are disproportionately stopped, frisked, searched, arrested, and victims of excessive use of force.

But the racial bias and other problems that infect police departments are not just issues in places like Prairie View, Texas, and Ferguson, Missouri. In fact, California leads the nation in police-involved killings—648 nationwide this year, with 115 from California. In San Jose, although Black and


Latino residents are a third of the population, they represent nearly two-thirds of individuals stopped. In San Francisco, a Black resident is seven times more likely to be arrested than a white resident.

So, it's no surprise that even as a staunch free speech advocate, we tailor our message to inform communities of color of their rights within context of the dangers posed by the status quo.

REDUCING SANDRA'S TRAGIC STORY TO A CAUTIONARY TALE ABOUT THE RISKS OF TALKING BACK TO POLICE OFFICERS MISSES THE POINT. WE SHOULDN'T HAVE TO TELL PEOPLE OF COLOR THAT THE BEST WAY TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM POLICE BRUTALITY AND STATE VIOLENCE IS TO ACT DEFERENTIALLY.

But Sandra Bland didn't follow the conventional advice. She wasn't deferential and she wasn't obsequious. She exercised her First Amendment rights and in doing so, objected to the status quo. In response, the police officer stopping her pulled out a taser, yanked her from the car, assaulted and then arrested her.

But reducing Sandra's tragic story to a cautionary tale about the risks of talking back to police officers misses the point. Advocates for civil rights and civil liberties shouldn't have to tell people of color that the best way to protect themselves from police brutality and state violence is to act deferentially. Or, that when it comes to the police, it's safer to forgo constitutional rights. After all, the freedom to verbally challenge police action without the fear of arrest is what distinguishes a free and democratic society from a police state.

Ultimately, police departments must also contribute to a cultural shift in how police officers interact with communities of color. Police chiefs and officers must take a lead not only because communities of color are worthy of fair policing, but also because police legitimacy in a democratic society like ours depends on it. 

Nayna Gupta is the Racial Justice Fellow at the ACLU of Northern California.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP FROM THE ACLU OF CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR ADVOCACY & POLICY

By Natasha Minsker

Last fall, the three ACLU affiliates in California launched our newly expanded Sacramento office: the ACLU of California Center for Advocacy & Policy. One year ago, we had a staff of four. Today, we have nine full-time and two part-time advocates. This tremendous increase in capacity translated into significant victories in the Legislature.

OUR GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS

California now has the strongest digital privacy law in the country

Working with a broad coalition of privacy advocates and technology companies, we sponsored and passed SB 178, the California Electronic Privacy Act. The law requires police to get a warrant before accessing email, cell phone content, location tracking information and more. We expect this victory to help move forward the federal Electronic Privacy Act.

California now has the strongest racial and identity profiling law in the country

Working with a coalition of community and faith based groups, we sponsored and passed AB 953, the Racial and Identity Profiling Act. The law strengthens and expands the definition of profiling and requires all law enforcement to report data on people who are stopped and searched. It is the first law in the country to require data collection on all pedestrian and vehicle stops. We also helped secure passage of a strong bill to require reporting on serious use of force by police, AB 71.

California now has the strongest sex education law in the country

With our partners in reproductive justice and LGBT equality, we sponsored and passed AB 329, to require comprehensive, medically accurate sex education in public schools. The bill requires instruction to be sensitive to LGBT students, requires instruction on healthy relationships, and modernizes the content to address prevention of sexually transmitted infections.

No more fake classes

We sponsored and successfully passed AB 1012 to end the practice of school administrations filling the schedules of students with “classes” that have no educational content, such as multiple study halls. The ACLU of California also filed a legal challenge to this practice, *Cruz v. State of California*.

OTHER SUCCESS THIS YEAR

Protected the voting rights of people under conservatorship

The ACLU of California Voting Rights Project collaborated with the national ACLU’s Disability Rights Project to draft, sponsor and pass a bill to protect the voting rights of people under conservatorship. SB 589 will become a national model.

Protected the rights of parenting teens

With California Latinas for Reproductive Justice, we sponsored and passed AB 302, to require schools to accommodate young parents who are breastfeeding.

Helped prevent deportation for minor drug crimes

In order to complete drug diversion in California, a person must plead guilty and then, if he or she completes the program, the conviction is reversed. Under federal law, immigrants face deportation because of the guilty plea, even if they complete the program. Working with Drug Policy Alliance and several immigrants’ rights groups, we sponsored and passed AB 1352, to allow people to wipe the guilty pleas off their record and avoid deportation.

Stopped Enhanced Drivers’ Licenses

SB 249 would have allowed “Enhanced Drivers’ Licenses” (EDLs). EDLs contain a tracking chip that can be read from a distance. This would allow police, and any anyone who builds a reader, to access personal information from 30 feet away. In addition, only U.S. citizens are eligible for these licenses. SB 249 would have allowed employers to require an EDL as a condition of employment, essentially giving employers a license to discriminate. We successfully persuaded the governor to veto the bill.

OUR GREATEST DISAPPOINTMENTS

Law enforcement lobby defeated asset forfeiture reform

Police can seize and permanently keep a person’s property based on nothing more than the suspicion of illegal activity. SB 443 would put an end to this practice and require a conviction before the property can be forfeited for good. After passing the Senate with only one vote against, the law enforcement lobby pulled out all the stops and SB 443 failed on the Assembly floor. But we haven’t given up: we will try again to end policing for profit in 2016.

Drug diversion participants must still plead guilty

Although we succeeded in passing AB 1352 to address the problem of people who face deportation because they participated in drug diversion in the past, the governor vetoed AB 1351, which would have shifted drug diversion into a pre-guilty plea program for everyone going forward. We clearly have more work to do to educate the governor on smart drug policies.

Body cameras remain unregulated


We started the year with a flurry of activity on the theme of body cameras and we were hopeful that we would pass a bill to require strong policies to protect privacy, while ensuring meaningful public access to the footage. Those hopes were dashed when the law enforcement lobby rallied to prevent any meaningful bill from passing. We will be back in 2016 to try again.



Natasha Minsker

STACY ANTONOPOULOS

OVERALL, AN INCREDIBLY SUCCESSFUL YEAR

Of the 66 bills we opposed this year, only 13 made it to the governor and only six were signed. Of the 16 sponsored bills we began the year with, seven were signed into law. We achieved some of our long-term goals for protecting and promoting civil rights and civil liberties in California, including passage of several bills that we had worked on for over ten years. We look forward to continuing to make California a national leader on civil rights and civil liberties next year. 

See page 12 for a highlight of bills signed by the governor.

Natasha Minsker is the Director of the ACLU of California Center for Advocacy & Policy.

SEPTEMBER 2 “DAY OF ACTION” IN SACRAMENTO



JERROLD B. BRAUNSTEIN

AB 953 Day of Action die-in



Sit-in at Gov. Jerry Brown’s office

UNWARRANTED SURVEILLANCE: NOT IN OUR TOWN!

By Tessa D'Arcangelew

In California, there are at least 180 known surveillance programs being used by local law enforcement agencies. This number is only the tip of the iceberg, as it only reflects the information publicly available to the ACLU in a first-of-its-kind assessment of surveillance technology. Several ACLU of Northern California chapters are working to bring surveillance programs to light, helping to make sure that community members can review any surveillance plans and that they are analyzed for privacy, free speech, and civil rights implications before ever going forward.

Surveillance technology and programs at the local level are rapidly growing. However, the vast majority of city and county decisions to acquire surveillance technologies lack meaningful public processes, careful analysis of costs and benefits, or any privacy and civil liberties safeguards. And there is virtually no oversight of these technologies once they are purchased to review fiscal and civil liberties costs, and to determine whether or not they actually keep people safe. As a result, cities and counties are adopting invasive equipment in secret, wasting vast sums of money on technologies that are often ineffective, and putting people's privacy and civil rights at risk.


The Berkeley-North East Bay, Greater Fresno, Mid-Peninsula, Paul Robeson Alameda County, Northern Sierra, and Santa Clara Valley ACLU Chapters are all working to pass a version of the ACLU's model Surveillance and Community Safety Ordinance in their local areas. This ordinance would require critical oversight, transparency, and accountability mechanisms by local governments whenever surveillance equipment is at issue.

Santa Clara County may soon be the first locality to pass an ordinance of this nature, making the heart of the Silicon Valley not only a leader on this issue in California, but a national leader as well.

Earlier this year, the Mid-Peninsula Chapter found an item on their local city council agenda indicating that a local sheriff was planning to purchase a StingRay Device—a highly invasive surveillance device that allows law enforcement to track a suspect's cell phone and, in the process, obtain a wide variety of information about the phones of all bystanders who happen to be within the device's significant range. This was happening without any oversight from the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors or any public debate.

Through the advocacy efforts of the Mid-Peninsula Chapter, Santa Clara Valley Chapter, and local coalitions, Supervisor Joe Simitian ensured the public had an opportunity to weigh in on this device and its potential to be used disproportionately in communities of color—resulting in high-tech

racial profiling—or to gobble up sensitive information about innocent people. As a result, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors decided that the county could not obtain the StingRay device without first creating a use-policy, something impossible in the case of this technology, because the manufacturer won't disclose details of how it works. As a result, the public process and community advocacy led to Santa Clara County not purchasing a StingRay device despite having funding—a first-of-its-kind victory!

To review the model ordinance and the community toolkit, *Making Smart Decisions About Surveillance*, visit www.aclunc.org/smartaboutsurance. If you would like to join your local chapter in supporting these efforts, please contact Tessa D'Arcangelew at tdarcangelew@aclunc.org. 

Tessa D'Arcangelew is the Leadership Development Manager and an Organizer at the ACLU of Northern California.

PROUD TO MARCH WITH THE ACLU



The ACLU of Northern California contingent at San Francisco Pride on June 26.



San Francisco Pride 2015: ACLU-NC Managing Director Shayna Gelender, Director of the ACLU's Center for Equality Matt Coles, Sr. Staff Attorney Elizabeth Gill, and Monterey County Chapter Board Members Kathy Stoner and Mickey Welsh.

GET INVOLVED WITH AN ACLU CHAPTER IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

Get more information at WWW.ACLUNC.ORG/CHAPTERS
or by calling (415) 621-2493 x355

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

I was at my son's soccer game on Saturday when I got a call from Chauncey Smith, our Racial Justice Advocate in Sacramento. "He signed the bill!" Gov. Jerry Brown had just signed AB 953, a huge step forward in our fight against racial profiling. I couldn't contain my excitement, and got a number of high-fives from parents on the sideline.

AB 953 helps us hold law enforcement agencies accountable for the over-policing of communities of color. It requires every law enforcement agency in California to record and report demographic information about who their officers stop, search, and arrest.

As we celebrate this victory, I'm reminded that it comes after nearly two decades of hard work. In the late 1990s, Michelle Alexander, who was then an ACLU-NC staff member, launched our Driving While Black or Brown campaign. We brought a similar bill to then-Gov. Gray Davis's desk. While he vetoed that bill, we didn't stop fighting against racial bias in policing—we see justice through.

The powerful Black Lives Matter movement that emerged from Ferguson and spread nationwide heightened the urgency of this issue. We were proud to partner with other advocates and community organizations to sponsor these bills and we're grateful to Assembly Member Shirley Weber, AB 953's author, for her leadership.



Abdi Soltani

After AB 953 passed the State Assembly, we faced a tough fight in the Senate and a potential veto from the governor. That's why I went to Sacramento last month with hundreds of activists from across California. This was a group of faith leaders, survivors of police violence, families of those who have been killed by officers, and many other advocates. Our community partners staged a "die-in" on the steps of the Capitol, and a sit-in outside of the governor's office. That direct action was really powerful, and it was a turning point in the fight to get this bill passed.

From the soccer field, I emailed Michelle Alexander, and she replied in all caps, not just to me, but also to you, "CONGRATULATIONS!" We've come this far in our work because you've been there to see it through with us. You and I both know that we still have a long way to go on the road to fair policing. The difference now is we will have data to drive change in communities across the state. You can count on us to continue demanding justice, and I'm thankful that we can count on you to be our partners in this work.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Abdi Soltani".

Abdi Soltani
Executive Director
ACLU of Northern California

A YEAR OF VICTORIES: GOV. BROWN SIGNS KEY ACLU OF CALIFORNIA BILLS

- ✓ **SIGNED AB 953: Racial Justice** This law will help curb racial profiling with a ground-breaking bill to collect, analyze, and make data public on all police stops.
- ✓ **SIGNED SB 178: Technology & Civil Liberties** This landmark victory for digital privacy requires law enforcement to get a warrant before accessing your digital information.
- ✓ **SIGNED AB 1012: Education Equity** This law ends the practice of assigning students to fake classes.
- ✓ **SIGNED AB 302: Reproductive Justice** This law makes sure that parenting students have a place to pump or breastfeed at school.
- ✓ **SIGNED AB 329: Reproductive Justice** This law ensures that sex education in California schools is comprehensive and free of bias.

See page 10 for more details on these bills and more.



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