WELCOME TO THE RESISTANCE

We have our work cut out for us—as the ACLU, and as the American people.

The rights of so many of us—all of us—are on the line. And so are the hard-fought victories that have been won by so many of our ancestors.

America has had at least three revolutions—our founding, which established the Constitution; the revolution of abolition and reconstruction, which established equal protection; and the modern civil rights movement, which made many of these rights real.

Our job now is to keep Donald Trump’s so-called revolution from undoing the progress we have made.

Among the original American revolutionaries I admire most is Thomas Paine, and his pamphlet *Common Sense*. Reflecting on an earlier rebellion by the colonists that failed, he notes:

“We had experience, but wanted numbers; and forty or fifty years hence, we should have numbers but without experience; wherefore, the proper point between the two extremes, [is one] in which a sufficiency of [experience] remains, and a proper increase in [numbers] is obtained. And that point in time is the present time.”

We have to protect our democracy with the same urgency that Paine expressed in 1776. That point in time is the present time.

We have the experience of representative government, of the separation of powers, the Bill of Rights, and all of our movements for justice. And we have the numbers. We still have members from the generation that came of age during WWII. We have Boomers, Generation X, and Millennials—and the youth coming up behind them. And since the election of Trump, as this newsletter goes to print the ACLU’s membership has tripled in Northern California. We have experience. And we have growing numbers.

What do we do with our experience and with our numbers?

**FIRST, WE GO TO COURT.** It didn’t take long for Trump to pursue his unconstitutional policies, or for the ACLU to follow through on our pledge that if he did, we would see him in court. The ACLU immediately challenged Trump’s Muslim ban executive order—and won a stay that blocks a key piece of the discriminatory policy (read more on page 4). In California, we’re representing three students from majority-Muslim countries and a Jewish organization that resettles refugees (read more on page 5).

**SECOND, WE HAVE PEOPLE POWER.** Thousands of people have asked the ACLU what they can do. We are excited to announce a new flank of the ACLU called [peoplepower.org](http://peoplepower.org), launched on March 11. The ACLU has organized people for decades, and peoplepower.org is a new way we will work directly with people throughout the country.

This current administration has a playbook of fear. We have a playbook of freedom—the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and our nation’s civil rights laws.

We have the experience. We have the numbers. And we have the Constitution.

Abdi Soltani
Executive Director of the ACLU of Northern California
The California Historical Society serves as the official repository of the records of the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California. This collection documents the ACLU-NC's legislative, legal, and educational efforts to protect and extend individual liberties in California, beginning in 1934, when the affiliate was established, until the present day.

One of the main collections is of the Fred Korematsu case. ACLU-NC intervened on behalf of Korematsu and against the wartime determinations and relocation of 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II. The collection includes poignant correspondence between Korematsu and the indefatigable Ernest Boig, who served as the ACLU-NC's executive director from 1935 to 1971.

It is co-written by the ACLU-NC's former staff member Stan Yogi. The records are available for research at the California Historical Society's North Baker Research Library. The library is open to the public, free of charge, Wednesday through Friday from 10 to 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.californiahistoricalsociety.org.

By Julia Harumi Mass

My mother was seven years old when she and her family were evacuated from the West Coast and forced to live in an Army barracks behind barbed wire in an internment camp in Heart Mountain, Wyoming. Born in Los Angeles, she had been taught in school to be a proud and loyal American citizen, so the wholesale exclusion and relocation of her community was both terrifying and confusing.

On the journey to Wyoming, the prisoners were ordered to keep their shades down when the train passed through towns; my mother thought that it must be because they hated her and her community so much that they didn't want to see their faces. She was incarcerated at Heart Mountain for three years before she and her family were permitted to return to their home in Los Angeles.

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THE ACLU’S PLAN TO FIGHT TRUMP’S POLICIES

When President Donald Trump won the election, we warned him that if he implemented the policies he proposed, we’d see him in court. He did, and we sued.

Since then, we’ve received a surge in donations that will fund sustained litigation, grassroots mobilization, and increased advocacy in battleground states. “This is what we do. It’s why the ACLU was created,” said ACLU Executive Director Anthony D. Romero, calling the public response “amazing.” From the election to Feb. 8, almost a million dollars in online donations were made, totalling 375 million, and membership has more than doubled. Where is the money going?

$40 million to build up our state offices with 100 new staff positions.

$13 million to build a grassroots member-mobilization program.

$21 million to hire new lawyers, advocates, and other staff in ACLU headquarters.

ACLU BLOCKS TRUMP’S MUSLIM BAN

President Trump’s executive order restricts resettlement of refugees and bans the entry of nationals from seven Muslim-majority countries. It is a Muslim ban wrapped in paper-thin national security rationale. The ACLU immediately challenged Trump’s executive order in court. Federal District Court Judge James Donnelly issued a temporary restraining order blocking Trump’s Muslim ban. These documents will help us find out how its officials are interpreting and executing the president’s Muslim ban. We also joined ACLU affiliates across the country in filing Freedom of Information Act requests with Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to find out how its officials are interpreting and executing the president’s Muslim ban.
SANCHEZ V. CALTRANS
LAWSUIT TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF HOMELESS CALIFORNIANS

Filed in December, this suit charges the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) with violating the constitutional rights of homeless people by confiscating and destroying their property in ongoing groups. On multiple occasions, Caltrans has given prior notice or misleading notice before raiding encampments—often frightening plaintiffs to move away or threatening them in real time—without seizing their belongings. “We can’t tell people to pull themselves up by their bootstraps if we’ve confiscated and destroyed their boots,” said ACLU of Northern California Senior Staff Attorney Michael Risher. The suit requests a permanent statewide injunction against Caltrans from continuing to violate the law, as well as damages to those whose property has been illegally taken and destroyed in Oakland, Emeryville, and Berkeley.

Hernandez v. California DMV CHALLENGE TO THE DMV’S SUSPENSION OF DRIVER’S LICENSES

The ACLU of Northern California said the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) improperly suspended the driving license of low-income Californians. Many Californians who do not have valid driver’s licenses are unable to pay the court fines and fees associated with a routine traffic citation. State law allows the DMV to suspend the licenses of people who willfully refuse to pay fines and fees. Said ACLU of Northern California Legal Director Christine Sun, “But most California traffic courts do not give drivers a meaningful opportunity to prove that their failure to pay is due to poverty, rather than willful non-compliance.” The ACLU of Northern California also has an ongoing lawsuit against Solano County due to the unconstitutional court policies that disproportionately affect low-income residents.

Social Media Monitoring Software
PUBLIC RECORDS ACT REQUEST REVEALS POLICE SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY

The technology and civil liberties team at the ACLU of California filed a Public Records Act request last year seeking information from 63 California law enforcement agencies about any acquisition or use of social media monitoring software. “The government’s tracking findings reveal that police departments, district attorneys, sheriff departments, and federal fusion centers across the state had acquired this powerful software, and with no public notice or input,” said ACLU of Northern California Technology and Civil Liberties Policy Attorney Matt Capge. The records also showed that marketing materials for this software referred to unions and activist groups as “threat actors,” and showed use of the technology to monitor activities promoting illegal immigration in Fresno, Mo., and Baltimore, Md. In response to the ACLU’s advocacy, Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram ended their data-sharing relationships with one of the more egregious software companies. Analysis of the records is ongoing.

Bay Area Affordable Housing
COMMUNITY ADVOCACY AFTER FACEBOOK’S PROPOSED HEADQUARTERS EXPANSION

Last December, the ACLU of Northern California partnered with a coalition of community groups in East Palo Alto to negotiate a groundbreaking agreement with Facebook. The agreement creates an unprecedented partnership between the tech company and community groups, Facebook, and the cities of East Palo Alto and Menlo Park—developing innovative solutions to tackle affordable housing, displacement, and economic opportunity in the Bay Area. The result is a community compact under which Facebook will make an initial contribution valued at more than $20 million. It finances benefits for low-income families, a housing fund to develop and preserve affordable housing, and a tenancy assistance fund to prevent local and state rental and eviction crises from escalating into economic justice issues but also a civil rights issue,” said ACLU of Northern California Staff Attorney Novella Coleman. The former federal HUD secretary, Julián Castro, led the agreement as a prime example of an affordable housing partnership between the tech sector and the community.

SIMs vs. CDPR SUIT CHALLENGING UNCONSTITUTIONAL DEATH PENALTY LAW

This November, the ACLU of Northern California filed a lawsuit challenging a California death penalty statute that gives the California Department of Corrections, unbridled discretion to develop an execution protocol. “The department has a repeated history of developing policies that have been declared unlawful and cruel,” said Senior Staff Attorney Linda Ivey. “The current law shielded legislators from accountability on the death penalty process.”

In Memoriam: Aileen Hernandez

As the first woman appointed to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, she served on the board of the National Organization for Women and its second president, and the vice chairperson of the ACLU’s National Advisory Council for more than two decades. Passed away on Feb. 13 in San Francisco, CA, at the age of 90.

Hernandez’s life embodied the movement for women and people of color. She was found by the ACLU of Northern California with our annual civil liberty awards in 1989 for her decades of work for equality and justice.

Emilly Salinas with Jennifer Selsky-ANC Executive Director Dorothy Ehrlich and Rosa Parks

Thank you to each of our donors

We are profoundly grateful for the outpouring of support for this cause with so many kind messages. One example comes from San Francisco’s City Lights bookstore owner Lawrence Ferlinghetti in an anti-censorship case in 1957, when Ferlinghetti was prosecuted for obscenity in publishing Allen Ginsberg’s famous poem Howl.

Thank you for the goodwill, Emily, and from all of us at the ACLU of Northern California.

Emily Salinas with Jennifer Selsky-ANC Executive Director Dorothy Ehrlich and Rosa Parks

Remembering an ACLU member who joined in the 1950s: Dedicated activist Emilly Skolnick

Emilly Skolnick began volunteering with the ACLU during the age of McCarthyism, first fighting the demands for “loyalty oaths” from faculty and staff at local colleges. She helped found the local San Mateo chapter of the ACLU of California and served on its board for six years.

When the San Mateo chapter could not afford to pay their phone bill, Emily offered her home number to serve in the organization’s hotline. She housed chapter meetings at her home for decades, continuing to do so into her 90s.

She died peacefully at home in Santa Cruz on Jan. 29, 101 years of age, with her family by her side.

Emilly Skolnick with Jennifer Selsky-ANC Executive Director Dorothy Ehrlich and Rosa Parks

How an idea becomes a bill and then a law

By Natasha Minuk

Since 1950, our Sacramento office has played a key role in supporting legislation to protect and advance the civil rights and civil liberties of every Californian. Last year alone, the ACLU kept track of over 600 bills, many of which we sponsored.

What does it mean to sponsor a bill?

When the ACLU signs up to sponsor a bill, it means we are involved in drafting the bill and providing guidance to help drafters的权利 are not being respected. We are involved in drafting the bill and providing guidance to help drafters rights are not being respected. We are involved in drafting the bill and providing guidance to help drafters.

When we sponsor a bill, we also provide resources for how to address legal questions arising out of a bill, supporting litigants in court, testifying in support of the bill during hearings, seeking support from other groups, drafting fact sheets and sample support letters, and providing communications support. We encourage you to get involved in the legislative process by participating in our action alerts and our annual Conference & Lobby Day.

Sign up for email action alerts to support ACLU-sponsored bills: www.aclunc.org/email.

Here are some of the bills we’re prioritizing this year:

Ball reform

Assemblymember Bob Rita (D-Oakland) and Nena-ta Huu (D-Napa) are working on bills that would limit the number of people who can be re-deported even if they are innocent. This would be a significant step toward helping prevent deportations, and ensure that all Californians are able to practice their religion freely.

SB 54 (Leoni) will ensure that state and local resources are not used to carry out mass deportations and that our schools, hospitals, and courthouses are safe spaces for each member in our communities.

SB 31 (Lara) would provide a legal defense to those facing deportations from the Trump administration.

Finally, AB 3 (Bonta) would make sure that no Californian ever faces deportation on the basis of their immigration status.

Immigrants rights and religious freedom

In January, President Trump announced a series of draconian and discriminatory immigration actions, ignoring the facts of the last 30 years. These actions, based on faulty assumptions, are not only anti-American, but also unconstitu- tionally retroactive to cover people who have spent their lives here-

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WHAT YOU CAN DO

We have work to do here in California. Join the ACLU of Northern California in supporting that work by signing up to volunteer. You can volunteer within your own community to help build relationships, host or speak at educational events, or be a Know Your Rights canvasser at rallies and protests.

To volunteer, please fill out the form at www.aclunc.org/volunteer. Here are a few activities you can participate in where you live:

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS CANVASSER  Canvassers engage in one-minute conversations with participants at rallies and protests, passing out Know Your Rights wallet cards.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS WORKSHOP FACILITATOR  Become trained to teach people about their rights in a classroom-like setting. There are various curricula you can learn, such as Know Your Rights with the Police, Know Your Rights with ICE or the FBI, and Know Your Rights to Demonstrate.

JOIN A CHAPTER  Chapters are groups of volunteers that engage in building community through public education events, collaboration with and support of local community partners, and participation in community events on behalf of the ACLU.

JOIN AN ADVOCACY LEADERSHIP TEAM  Gain an in-depth understanding of key civil liberties issues being worked on in California and carry out critical organizing strategies in partnership with staff to help us achieve our policy goals.

A FREEDOM LOST FOR ONE... IS A FREEDOM LOST FOR ALL

That’s why the ACLU is in all 50 states, where we are the first line of defense against America’s most serious civil liberties challenges.

By planning a bequest or other planned gift, you become a partner in our strategic efforts at the federal, state, and local levels around the country.

To learn more about making a gift through a beneficiary designation, will, or trust, please visit www.aclu.org/legacy or contact the Office of Gift Planning, toll free, at 877-867-1025 or by email at legacy@aclu.org.

WHY I’M A MEMBER

GREG ASAY

“I FIRST JOINED THE ACLU ALMOST 25 YEARS AGO after I learned about its historic role in desegregating schools, protecting free speech, and much more. My commitment has strengthened as the organization has been on the front lines of fighting for marriage equality, protecting the rights of vulnerable populations, and opposing the post-9/11 expansion of federal surveillance programs. We the people—stronger when we work together—must be on the front lines.”

JESSICA CABRERA CARMONA

“I joined the ACLU after seeing how much it has helped my city of Stockton grow its support of immigrant rights. THE ORGANIZATION HAS LONG SUPPORTED PEOPLE IN THE CENTRAL VALLEY FROM FARM WORKERS TO LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES. My top civil liberties concerns are fighting against racial profiling, immigrant justice in all aspects, reproductive justice, Muslim justice and livable wage.”