



We Are  
**ACLU**  
SoCal  
2019 Annual Report





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# Dear Friends

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Thank you! Your generous support has been a powerful catalyst for justice this year. I hope this annual report lets you share my pride in what you're helping the ACLU accomplish.

Though it is our court cases that often make headlines, we have always been driven by people power, and we're looking for ways to grow it. We're investing new resources into a volunteer structure that will greatly strengthen our impact, including a leadership program for community activists to empower them to train and organize others.

We are also dedicated to educating people on confidently advocating for themselves. Every year, we distribute thousands of "Know Your Rights" guides on everything from immigrants' to students' rights. This report includes examples of those guides; I encourage you to pop open the ring and share them with family and friends.

I'm excited about finding strategic opportunities to mobilize ACLU supporters to help bring elected leaders into alignment with our values. Thanks to these efforts, California has made big changes this year—like historic reform on police use of force—and I know that together, we can continue to lead the nation in promoting liberty, equality, and justice for all.

In solidarity,

**Hector O. Villagra**  
ACLU SoCal Executive Director





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# Immigrants' Rights

The Trump administration has been defined by its war on immigrants and refugees, and the ACLU SoCal has been hard at work protecting them every step of the way. Last October, we successfully blocked Trump's plans to cancel Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for over 400,000 immigrants from six countries, most of whom have lived here legally for over a decade. Trump's infamous comment describing them as "people from sh\*t-hole countries" helped us demonstrate in court that TPS was canceled to further the president's racist agenda, in violation of the law. This August, we were back in court defending our victory on appeal.

This case is deeply connected to our lawsuits to prevent the Muslim Ban, protect DACA, and keep a citizenship question off the 2020 Census—they have all required us to prove that Trump's racially discriminatory statements are actually influencing government policy, making those policies illegal. This is a tough time for immigrants in America, but Trump's blatant racism has given us an opportunity to convince courts to apply anti-discrimination law to immigration policy. If we succeed, we will protect hundreds of thousands of immigrants and strengthen the rule of law during these dark times.

Photo: Crista, just 14, is leading the charge to protect TPS on behalf of people like her mother.



# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

...if you're an  
undocumented Californian.

[aclusocal.org/KYR](http://aclusocal.org/KYR)

Under SB 54, the California Values Act, police and sheriffs cannot:

- Ask about your immigration status
- Arrest you for having a deportation order, or most other immigration violations
- Use immigration agents\* as interpreters
- Share your personal information, like your home address, with immigration agents unless it's publicly available

If you have been arrested, police and sheriffs:

- Cannot hold you in jail for extra time so immigration agents can pick you up
- Cannot let immigration agents interview you without your voluntary written consent
- Can notify immigration agents of your release if:
  - you have been convicted of a high-level misdemeanor within five years, or a felony within 15 years
  - the information is already public

If you believe that your rights under SB 54 have been violated, please write to:

ACLU SoCal Jails Project

Attn: SB 54

1313 W. 8th St.

Los Angeles, CA 90017

or go online to [www.aclusocal.org/intake](http://www.aclusocal.org/intake)

\*Immigration agents are Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents



California

Southern California



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# Police Practices

Robert Mitchell, a Black man, was riding in a car stopped by Bakersfield Police on the ridiculous pretense that the air fresheners hanging from the rear-view mirror were illegal. Mitchell immediately began filming and stated clearly that he was invoking his constitutional right to remain silent. As retaliation for recording and exercising his rights, the police arrested Mitchell, forced him into the back of a police car, and hauled him off to jail where they held him overnight.

Mitchell spent 12 hours away from his wife and children and would not let the matter go quietly. “I should never have been arrested for asserting my constitutional rights,” Mitchell said. His protests led to a lawsuit filed on his behalf by the ACLU SoCal against the City of Bakersfield, arguing what Mitchell already knew: his rights had been violated under the First and Fourth Amendments. We’re proud to say Mitchell won a \$60,000 settlement from the City. Racial profiling is illegal in California, and the ACLU SoCal is committed to holding government agencies who break the law accountable.

Photo: Robert, pictured with his wife Tyanna, was recognized at our Annual Luncheon.



# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

...if you've been stopped  
by the police.

[aclusocal.org/KYR](https://aclusocal.org/KYR)







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# Women's Rights & Gender Equity

Captain Lauren Andrade is one of 14 women in a SoCal county fire department with over 1,000 employees. Many of this county's 80 fire stations do not have women's bathrooms, meaning that after responding to a call, women must wait up to an hour until men have finished showering before they can use facilities privately. Firefighters are often exposed to carcinogens and biohazards in the course of their work, and the extra time women spend waiting to shower is a risk to their health. Like all firefighters, Andrade and her female colleagues live at the fire station for two to four consecutive days a week, making consistent lack of access to facilities a serious obstacle to equitable treatment.

What started as advocacy around equal facility access has grown into a multi-pronged effort to change the status quo that treats women as an afterthought: the ACLU SoCal is helping ensure the county fire department provides safety equipment that fits women, implements equitable hiring and promotion practices, provides pregnancy and lactation accommodations, and more.

Photo: Lauren is speaking up to secure equal rights and opportunities for all female firefighters.

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

...if you've experienced sex  
discrimination at work.

[aclusocal.org/KYR](https://aclusocal.org/KYR)







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# Criminal Justice & Jails Reform

In August 2019, after seven years of relentless advocacy, the ACLU SoCal and partners won an enormous victory: Los Angeles County voted once and for all to cancel plans to replace Men's Central Jail with a new, \$1.7 billion incarceration complex disguised as a mental health treatment facility. "Jails—even new ones with supposed state-of-the-art treatment spaces—make people with mental illness sicker, and expose them to high risk of physical and sexual abuse from sheriff's personnel and other people in jail," said ACLU SoCal Chief Counsel Peter Eliasberg.

We will continue fighting to make sure that tax dollars will instead fund the County's Office of Diversion and Reentry to develop and implement community-based treatment programs that can safely treat and rehabilitate people and stem the tide of mass incarceration. This win is a major success for the ACLU's nationwide Campaign for Smart Justice.

Photo: People power came out in force at the County meeting to send a message loud and clear: end mass incarceration!

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

...if you want to be heard at  
a local government meeting.

[aclusocal.org/KYR](https://aclusocal.org/KYR)



As a member of the public, you have the right to:

- Attend a meeting without prior registration, or providing your name or identity
- View an agenda 72 hours ahead of the meeting, usually on the government body's website
- Speak about agenda items before or during the government body's consideration of the item
- Speak about any matter not on the agenda, if it relates to an issue upon which the governing body has authority to act
- Criticize the government agency, its policies or acts, and elected officials during your allotted time without retaliation
- Wear clothing or accessories that express a political message
- Film or photograph during a meeting, and obtain government records of the meeting within 30 days

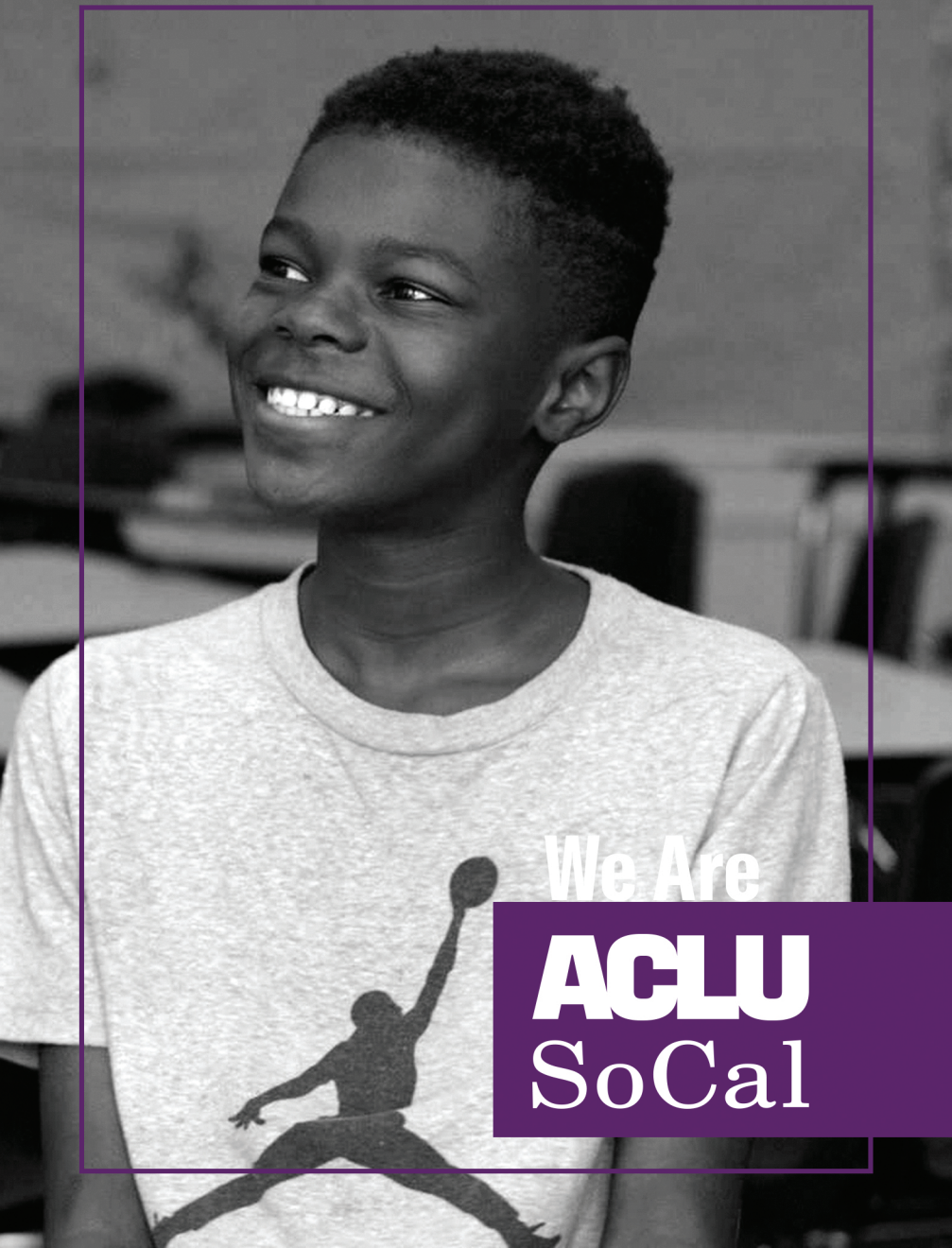
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1313 W. 8th St.

Los Angeles, CA 90017

or go online to [www.aclusocal.org/intake](http://www.aclusocal.org/intake)



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# Education Equity

In July 2019, the ACLU SoCal won a historic settlement against Riverside County Probation Department's behavioral surveillance scheme, the Youth Accountability Team (YAT) program. Since 2001, over 15,000 students with minor problems have been enrolled in this program that included surprise home visits, curfews, drug tests, and more. Our settlement means probation officers will no longer be stationed at Riverside schools, students previously referred to the YAT program for minor offenses will have their records expunged, and those referred for serious offenses will have a public defender. We also secured \$7 million in government funding for community-based organizations that provide support services for students—a huge win for vulnerable youth who will now get the guidance they need instead of being pushed into the criminal justice system.

This work joins the ACLU SoCal's other efforts such as our Students Not Suspects campaign, which recently ended daily metal detector searches in L.A. schools, to make campuses a place of learning and growth, not policing and fear.

Photo: Students like Gerrard deserve safety and compassion, not police interference, as they grow into young adults.

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

...if you're facing a search or  
disciplinary action at school.

[myschoolmyrights.com](http://myschoolmyrights.com)



As a student, you have the right to:

- Refuse to consent to a search, though police or school officials can search you or your locker if they have reasonable suspicion that they will find something against the law or school rules
- Refuse a strip search under all circumstances, and refuse a drug test unless you are participating in extracurricular activities
- Say no to a search of your cell phone or personal laptop without a warrant
- Behavioral interventions, such as parent conferences or counselor referrals, before suspension
- An informal pre-suspension conference with school staff, where you can tell your side of the story and present evidence to support your position, before you are suspended
- An expulsion hearing where you can bring advocates on your behalf and challenge the claims made against you

If you believe that your rights have been violated, please write to:

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1313 W. 8th St.

Los Angeles, CA 90017

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# Pro Bono Legal Partners

Thank you to our pro bono legal partners. At our 25th Annual Luncheon, we honored pro bono attorneys and firms who partnered with us to advance our shared vision of justice for all. Honorees included Davis Wright Tremaine, Arnold & Porter, Kaye McLane Bednarski & Litt, Sidley Austin, and Kirkland & Ellis. We also honored hundreds of attorneys and volunteers who participated in our attorney access lawsuit on behalf of immigrant detainees who were unlawfully denied access to legal services.

Pro bono partnership helped us accomplish:

25 IMPACT LITIGATION CASES  
FILED AS CO-COUNSEL

08 EVENTS &  
PROJECTS SPONSORED

20 LITIGATION & POLICY  
RESEARCH MEMOS

08 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT &  
CALIFORNIA PUBLIC RECORDS ACT REQUESTS

15 IMPACTED INDIVIDUALS PROVIDED  
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06 AMICUS  
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Photo: Mahdi, Policy Advocate & Organizer: "As someone who has experienced homelessness, I know the only difference between me and people sleeping on the street is that my grandpa had an extra couch. I'm honored to work towards ending homelessness as part of the ACLU SoCal's Economic Justice Project."



# ACLU SoCal Staff

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Jeff & Lorraine, ACLU supporters: "It's easy to sit on the sidelines or hide in the shadows, but there are times when you need to stand up for the things you believe in. We believe in fairness, justice, and the ACLU."

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Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and we apologize for any errors or omissions. Listing reflects gifts made during the fiscal year of April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019. Please send any corrections to [annualreport@aclusocal.org](mailto:annualreport@aclusocal.org).

\*Deceased



# DeSilver Society

By providing for the ACLU through their estate plans, members of the DeSilver Society help to ensure that the ACLU will have the means to keep protecting freedom well into the 21st century. We gratefully acknowledge the generosity and foresight of these very special individuals.

*In memoriam: John Renner, DeSilver Society member. John was a dedicated and compassionate partner in the fight for civil rights and civil liberties with the ACLU SoCal, particularly devoted to advancing and protecting human rights in his hometown of Palm Springs and beyond. By providing so generously for the ACLU in his estate, he established a strong and meaningful legacy of advancing justice for all, for generations to come.*

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Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and we apologize for any errors or omissions. This listing reflects DeSilver Society membership as of March 31, 2019. Please send any corrections to [annualreport@aclusocal.org](mailto:annualreport@aclusocal.org)

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The ACLU deeply appreciates the support of these individuals who are no longer with us but provided for our civil liberties and civil rights advocacy through their estate plans:

Sarah Bruch, Nina Byers, Ruben Carrillo & J.C. Moran, Sydney Curtis, Samuel Gendelman, Patrick Geoghegan, Richard Miles & Errol Jacobs, Nancy Jenkins, Natalie & Victor Magistrale, John Renner, Ramona Ripston, Ellie Spezell



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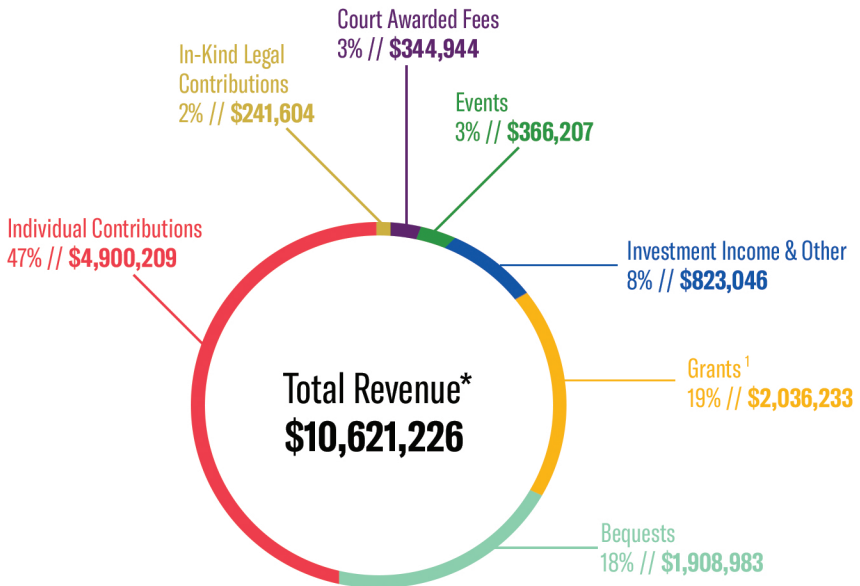
Matthew Weiner

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# Financial Overview 2018-2019

## ACLU Foundation of Southern California



Total Expenses **\$10,456,050**

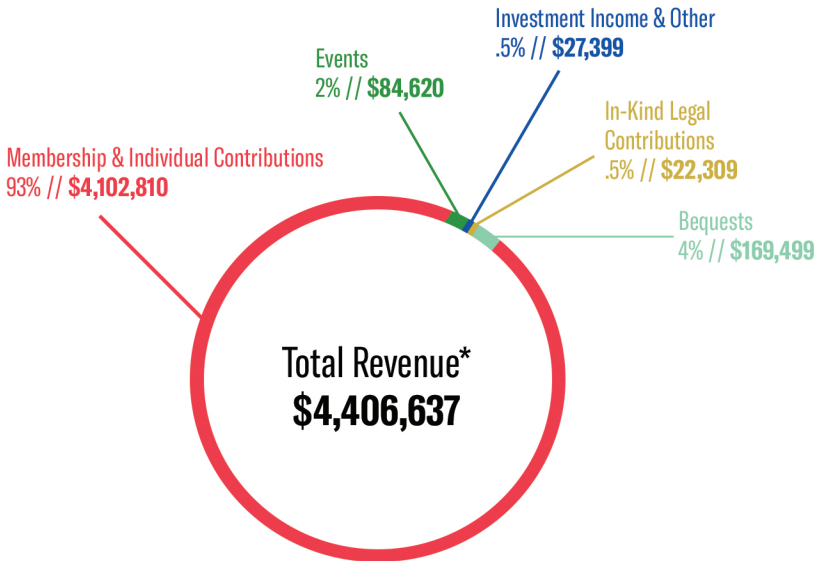


\*Total revenue includes gifts and pledges to be spent in future years

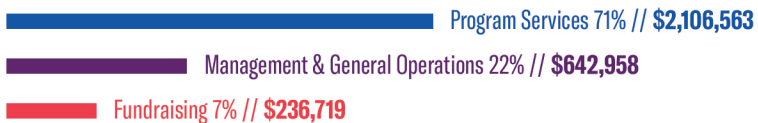
<sup>1</sup> Grants awarded to the ACLU Foundation are restricted and earmarked for specific purposes

# Financial Overview 2018-2019

## ACLU of Southern California



Total Expenses **\$2,986,240**



\*Total revenue includes gifts and pledges to be spent in future years

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