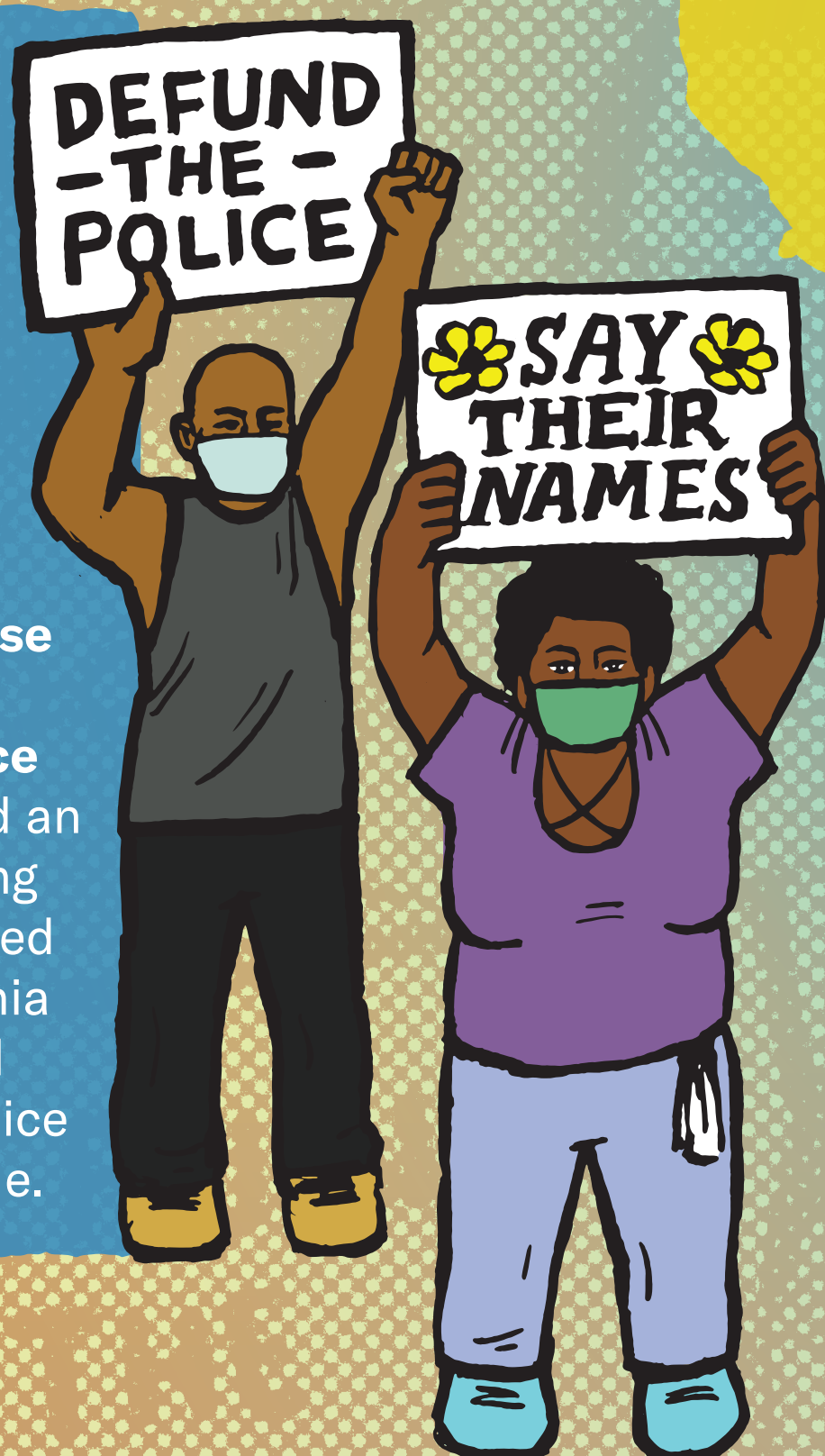


## POLICE PRACTICES

In coalition with grassroots organizations, the ACLU SoCal is invested in passing laws and regulations that significantly limit police enforcement authority, decreasing funding of police departments based on this new limited role, and urging policymakers to **reinvest those savings in communities historically harmed by police action**. In June 2020, we filed an emergency lawsuit challenging the draconian curfews imposed throughout Southern California to crack down on widespread protests against systemic police violence towards Black people.

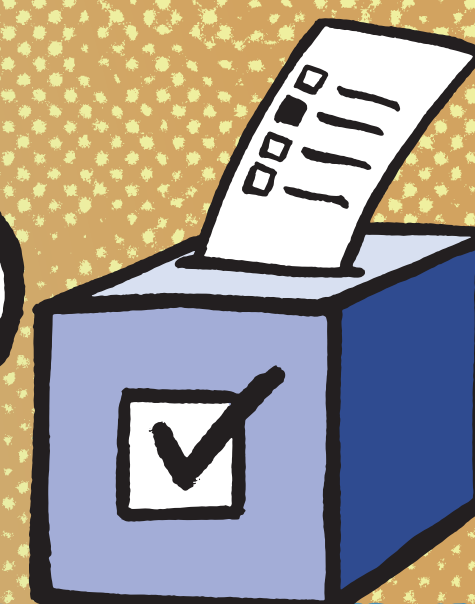


ACLU  
SoCal

# Annual Report 2020

ACLU  
Offices in  
California

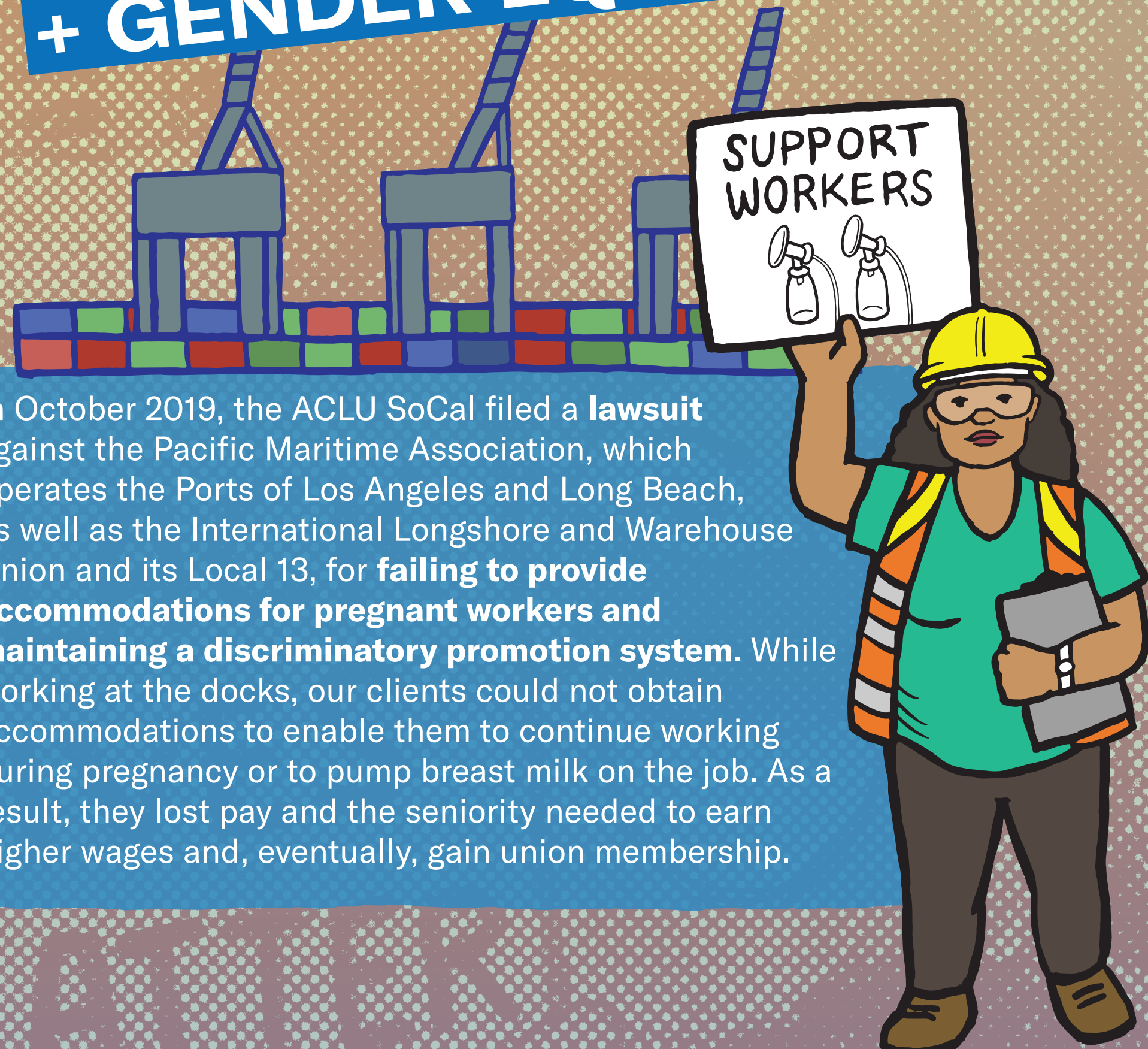
## VOTING RIGHTS



On the 2020 ballot, the ACLU SoCal is championing Proposition 17 to **restore the vote for Californians on parole**. This state constitutional amendment will restore voting rights to over 50,000 Californians after their release from prison. Tens of thousands of parolees throughout the state are working, paying taxes, and contributing to their communities, but cannot vote. As we work to reimagine law enforcement and end mass incarceration, it is critical to also end voter suppression tactics that keep people impacted by the legal system out of the voting booth.

## REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE + GENDER EQUITY

In October 2019, the ACLU SoCal filed a **lawsuit** against the Pacific Maritime Association, which operates the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, as well as the International Longshore and Warehouse Union and its Local 13, for **failing to provide accommodations for pregnant workers and maintaining a discriminatory promotion system**. While working at the docks, our clients could not obtain accommodations to enable them to continue working during pregnancy or to pump breast milk on the job. As a result, they lost pay and the seniority needed to earn higher wages and, eventually, gain union membership.



## IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS



The dramatic over-incarceration of immigrants and asylum-seekers has created a vast system of overcrowded, often squalid detention centers—many run by private, for-profit contractors. In the midst of a pandemic, this already horrific situation has put **thousands of people in even graver danger**. The ACLU SoCal filed several lawsuits in 2020 on behalf of detained immigrants at the Adelanto and Mesa Verde Detention Centers and Yuba County Jail. After filing hundreds of individualized bail applications, we **secured the release of at least 116 individuals** from Mesa Verde and Yuba, and over 50 from Adelanto. Additionally, the court urged ICE to voluntarily release hundreds of other class members to the community.

## EDUCATION EQUITY



In March 2020, the ACLU SoCal partnered with youth organizations to publish Our Right to Resources: School Districts are Cheating High-Need Students by Funding Law Enforcement. The report describes how dozens of Southern California school districts **illegally spend tens of millions of dollars** intended for high-need students, foster youth, and English-language learners on police and other disciplinary measures. In June 2020, we filed an administrative complaint against the San Bernardino County Office of Education for diverting millions of dollars in funds earmarked for high-need students of color to law enforcement.

## FIRST AMENDMENT



In July 2019, the ACLU SoCal sued CBP, ICE, and the FBI over their **secret watchlist program targeting almost 60 humanitarian activists** operating around the U.S.-Mexico border, including two attorneys who direct non-profit legal aid programs. The government placed them under surveillance, tracked their movements and actions, and even put alerts on their passports, leading to their harassment and detention at the border. We defeated the government's motion to dismiss the case in March 2020 and our litigation continues.



Dear Friends,

**Thank you!** Your continued investment in the ACLU proved more critical than ever this past year: 2019 brought unprecedented challenges, and 2020 has forced us to be increasingly nimble and strategic as we combat systems of oppression during this time of extreme uncertainty. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the lives of all Californians. Like many of you, ACLU staff have been working remotely since mid-March, while still carrying out a robust agenda to protect and advance civil rights and civil liberties here in Southern California and across the country.

As the map on the front of this poster demonstrates, the ACLU's reach within the nation's most populous state is immense. The ACLU of Southern California and our fellow affiliates in Northern California and San Diego together have 9 offices throughout the state serving the nearly 40 million people who call California home. For this year's annual report, we aim to illustrate the impact of your support in Southern California and statewide, highlighting six key examples of the people you are helping and the systems you are transforming through your generosity. Your partnership also secured these hard-fought wins this past year:

- We co-sponsored and championed bills signed into law by Governor Newsom that will repeal 23 of the most harmful criminal system fees in California, and ensure job-protected leave for Californians who work for an employer with five or more employees to bond with a newborn or care for a seriously ill family member or themselves.
- We filed lawsuits in two county jails and two federal prisons in Southern California to reduce their populations and ensure proper social distancing and sanitation in response to COVID-19.
- After years of advocacy, and in partnership with a broad coalition, we secured an end to transfers of people in custody of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department to immigration authorities.
- In our litigation against Dignity Health on behalf of Evan Minton, a transgender man who was denied medical care because of his gender identity, we received a positive ruling from the California Court of Appeal confirming that it is illegal discrimination for a hospital to deny someone care simply because they are transgender.
- As part of our work to secure consistent and robust investments in permanent supportive housing and affordable housing to end homelessness in California, we helped lead advocacy for the state and counties to use COVID-19 emergency housing investments to expand safe housing options.
- We filed a class action lawsuit to force ICE agents to stop relying on deception to trick community members to open their doors and allow agents into their homes without judicial warrants.

In addition to pivoting our advocacy to virtual settings, including video court arguments and meetings with legislators, we also engaged with our membership base virtually — and saw historic turnout. Our online training sessions and advocacy briefings garnered greater turnout than in pre-COVID times as many ACLU members and supporters sought ways to engage while social distancing. Despite COVID, we also leveraged our People Power in Sacramento: our Virtual Lobby Day in August yielded 162 participants from across California who engaged in 28 lobby visits on ACLU priority bills!

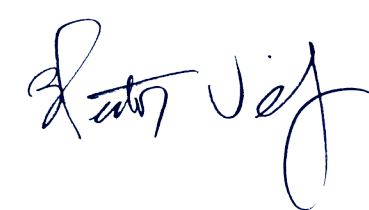
Nationwide, we said we would see the Trump administration in court, and we've kept our promise and then some. Our team has filed 400 legal actions, and counting, since Inauguration Day. When COVID hit, ACLU staff responded swiftly, recognizing the profound danger the pandemic posed to vulnerable populations and our democracy. In the face of this protracted crisis, the ACLU has filed 192 pandemic-related legal actions focused on securing the release of vulnerable populations in detention, protecting our right to vote, demanding equal access to education, ensuring free speech, and stopping government authorities from preventing abortion care under the guise of public health.

This pandemic has laid bare the systemic oppression that is at the root of inequality in America. In the wake of the murders of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd and countless other Black, brown, and Indigenous people, the ACLU deepened support of and partnership with grassroots Black-led organizations to elevate the national spotlight on policing and protests and reimagine what public safety looks like. The ACLU remains dedicated to ending the nightmare of police brutality once and for all.

The stakes this November could not be higher. The ACLU has committed its full might to protecting voting rights and holding accountable the political leaders and lawmakers who cynically refuse to authorize or fund no-excuse mail-in voting, thereby forcing people to choose between their right to vote and their health. Here in California, we are working hard to target low propensity voters with information about how to vote, combat negative and harmful messages about mail-in voting, and educate the community on the importance of voting down-ballot.

The future remains uncertain, but the ACLU's vision is crystal clear. As we have every day in our 100 year history, we will respond effectively to emerging challenges while continuing to push forward our proactive agenda of a more just and fair America for everyone. Thank you for standing with the ACLU and making this work possible.

In solidarity, with gratitude,



**Hector O. Villagra**  
Executive Director



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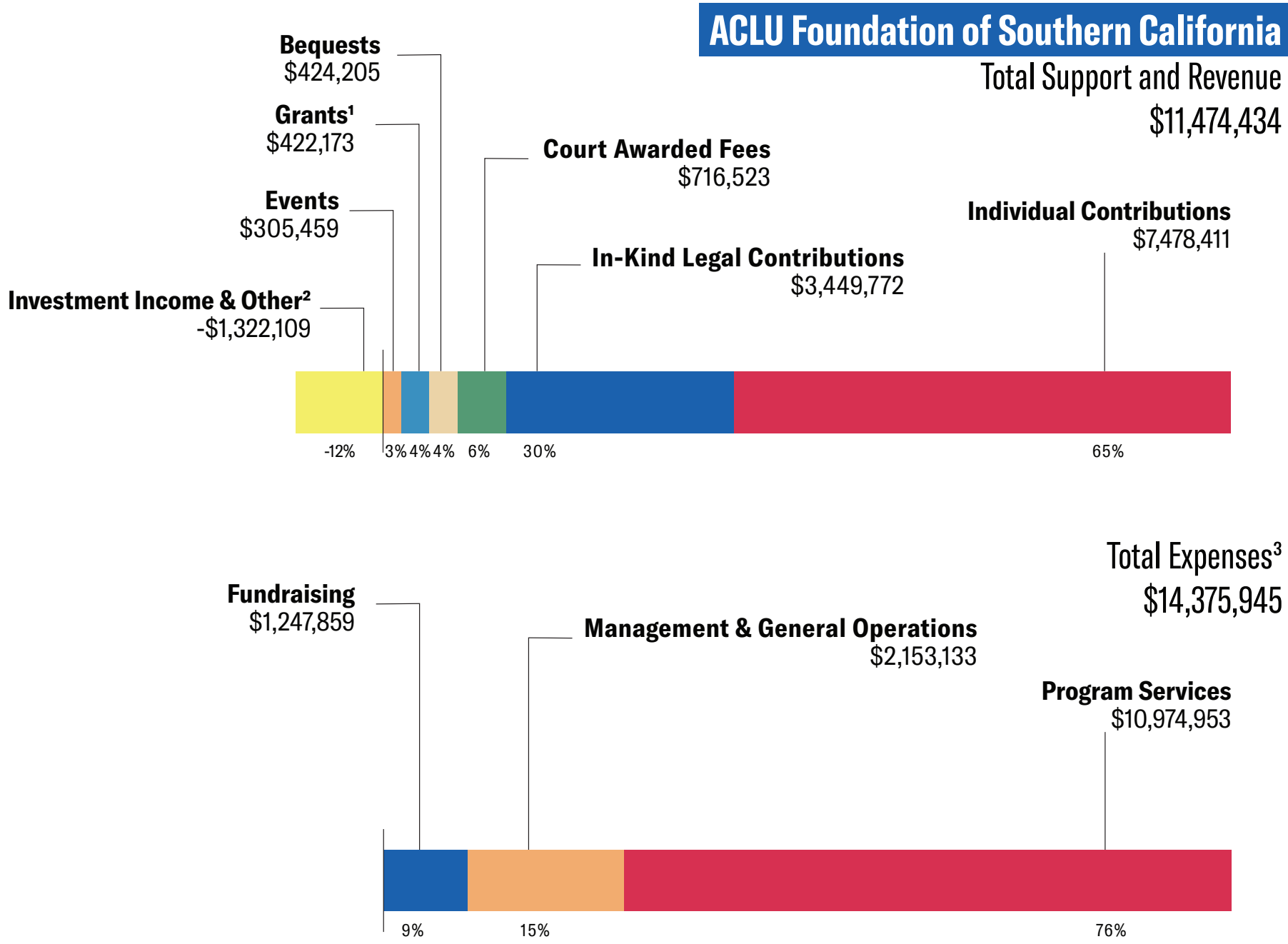
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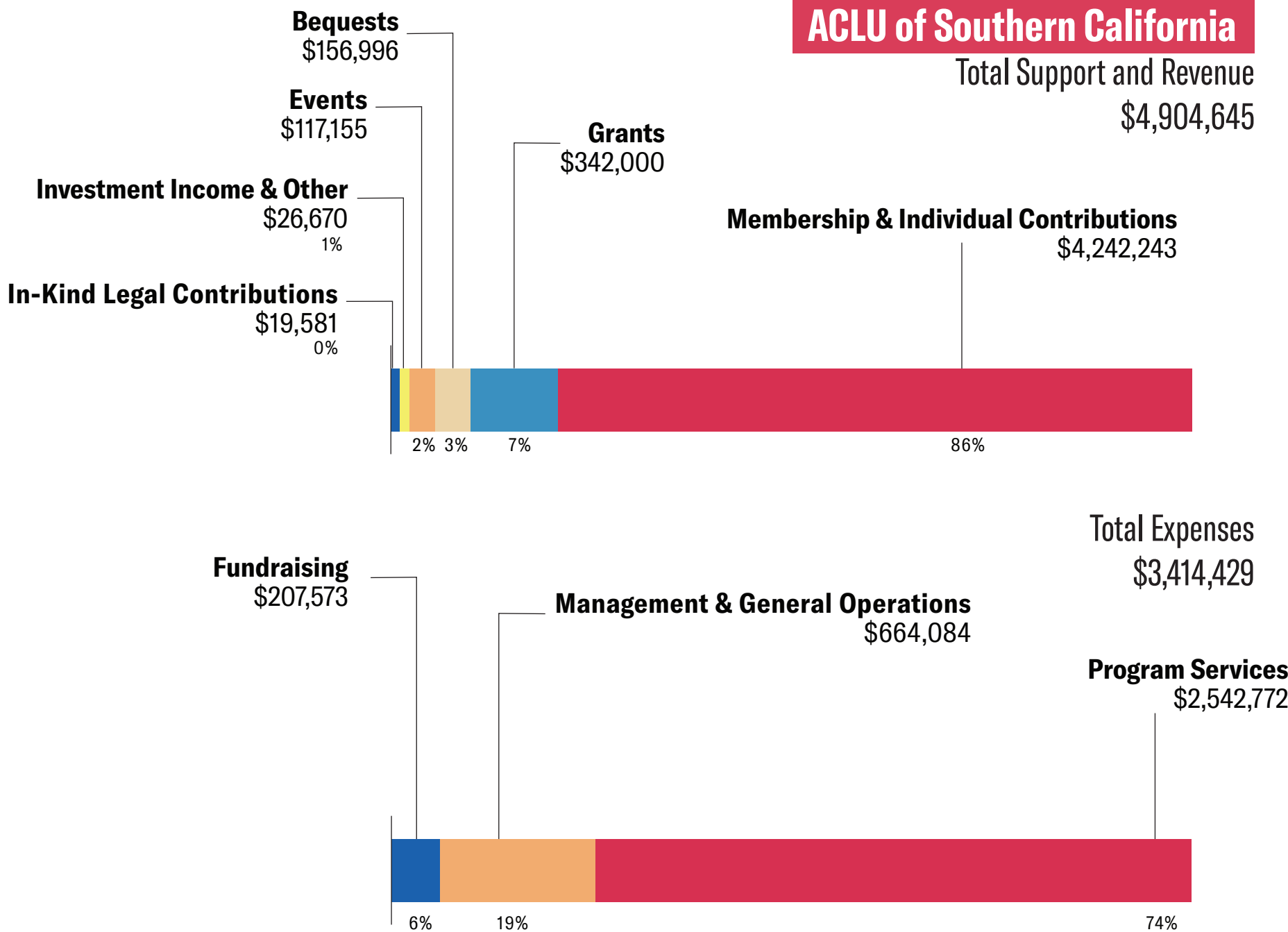
# THANK YOU TO OUR PRO BONO PARTNERS

Our pro bono legal partners helped us accomplish the following this past year:

- 13** impact litigation cases filed as co-counsel
- 21** litigation & policy research memos
- 13** individuals provided with direct legal representation
- 3** events and projects sponsored
- 3** FOIA and California Public Records Act requests
- 3** amicus briefs
- 6** administrative legal matters



<sup>1</sup> Grants awarded to the ACLU Foundation are restricted and earmarked for specific purposes  
<sup>2</sup> 12% decrease in investment income due to market fluctuations  
<sup>3</sup> Total expenses include expenditures of grants and pledges made in prior years for FY19-20



Reported figures are on an accrual basis and unaudited at the time of publication. Audited financial statements available by November 2020 at [aclusocal.org/annualreport2020](https://aclusocal.org/annualreport2020)

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