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.

**IMMIGRANTS’ 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.

**EDUCATION 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.

**REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE + GENDER EQUITY**

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.

**FIRST AMENDMENT**

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**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.

**VOTING RIGHTS**

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.
Dear Friends,

Thank you! Your support is critical to the ACLU of Southern California’s mission to fight for justice and freedom for all Californians. Together, we aim to protect and advance civil liberties for every Californian, no matter who they are or where they live. We are grateful to our leadership supporters in Southern California whose generous contributions create opportunities for all. As of now, this year’s annual report, we aim to illustrate the impact of your support in Southern California and statewide, to show how the ACLU is working to secure consistent and robust investments in permanent supportive housing and affordable housing for vulnerable populations and our democracy.

We co-sponsored and championed bills signed into law by Governor Newsom that will repeal 23 of the most harmful laws that have hindered the ability of Californians to exercise their right to vote. We worked alongside Governor Newsom and the California Registrar of Voters to ensure that Californians can cast their ballots without restrictions or barriers. As part of our work to secure consistent and robust investments in permanent supportive housing and affordable housing for vulnerable populations and our democracy, we filed a class action lawsuit to force ICE agents to stop relying on deception to trick community members into opening their doors and allow agents into their homes without judicial warrants. We are grateful to our leadership supporters in Southern California whose generous contributions create opportunities for all.

We filed a class action lawsuit to force ICE agents to stop relying on deception to trick community members into opening their doors and allow agents into their homes without judicial warrants. We highlighted the harms of mail-in voting, and educate the community on the importance of voting down-ballot. As part of our work to secure consistent and robust investments in permanent supportive housing and affordable housing for vulnerable populations and our democracy, we filed 192 pandemic-related legal actions focused on making this work possible. In the face of this protracted crisis, the ACLU has filed 400 legal actions this year, and we’ve kept our promise and then some. Our team has filed 400 legal actions this year, and we’ve kept our promise and then some. Our team has filed 400 legal actions this year, and we’ve kept our promise and then some.

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
21 individuals provided with direct legal representation
3 events and projects sponsored
21 FOIA and California Public Records Act requests
31 amicus briefs
1 administrative legal matters

In solidarity with you,

Heather O’ Villagra
Executive Director

ACLU Foundation of Southern California

Total Support and Revenue

Thief/In-Kind Legal Contributions

Program Services

Total Expenditure

ACLU of Southern California

Total Support and Revenue

Thief/In-Kind Legal Contributions

Program Services

Total Expenditure

Reported figures are on an accrual basis and unaudited at the time of publication. Audited financial statements available by November 2020 at aclusocal.org/donate.

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