

# 2022

## YEAR END REPORT

ACLU  
SoCal



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## FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

I am honored to share our 2021-2022 Year End Report, featuring illustrations from a California artist and Los Angeles-based illustrator, Ketu Ikediuba. Your steadfast support has allowed the ACLU rise to meet the biggest challenges of our time, fighting for civil rights and civil liberties in Southern California and nationwide.

This year has often been painful. The Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, with devastating results—especially for Black women and girls. Voting rights, freedom of speech, and the rights of LGBTQ+ people are under siege. Our democracy feels fragile, its future uncertain. Yet, thanks to your partnership, the ACLU today is stronger and nimbler than ever before. We are equipped to face the most powerful opponents and protect the most vulnerable people.

**Beyond our defensive efforts, we continue to achieve proactive wins, vindicating the rights of our clients and their communities while helping to reshape unjust systems.**

As you read on, I hope you feel especially proud of all we have built together in Southern California, where our victories not only impact tens of millions of people but reverberate throughout the country as models for change.



In addition to the highlights in this report, your partnership has fueled critical wins on:

### **FIGHTING FOR ABORTION RIGHTS.**

The ACLU helped defeat an anti-abortion ballot measure in Kansas, demonstrating the public's support for abortion access—and the power of our movement. We also led a groundbreaking ballot-measure campaign to enshrine abortion rights in the Michigan State Constitution. We launched a midterms campaign spotlighting reproductive rights and encouraging Americans to vote their values. In California, we championed a ballot measure to make our state a haven for abortion access.



### **PROTECTING VOTING RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY.**

From Georgia, to Pennsylvania, to Texas, the ACLU went to court to curb voter suppression and gerrymandering, while shoring up election administration by recruiting poll workers, building alliances with pro-democracy election officials, and educating voters about key Secretary of State and State Supreme Court races. Our nonpartisan get-out-the-vote efforts helped voters understand what was at stake this midterm election. In Southern California, we challenged discriminatory maps at the local level—establishing Orange County's first Latinx-majority supervisorial district and suing on behalf of Latinx voters in Riverside County.

### **DEFENDING AND EXPANDING**

**LGBTQ+ RIGHTS.** The ACLU is fighting back against attacks on the lives and dignity of LGBTQ+ people, suing to block laws such as Alabama's ban on gender-affirming care, Florida's gag rule censoring classroom discussions, and Texas' cruel policy of investigating the families of transgender youth. In California, we continue to expand LGBTQ+ rights in health care, jails and prisons, and schools—for instance, by ensuring that schools provide inclusive sex education and respect the rights of transgender and nonbinary students.

### **DEMANDING TRUE PUBLIC SAFETY.**

Throughout the country, the ACLU continues to champion policies to stop police abuse, end mass incarceration, and create true public safety for all. In Los Angeles County, this November we secured a historic ballot measure victory which will increase accountability for the sheriff. We also recently won an emergency court order requiring the county to fix the horrific conditions at its Inmate Reception Center—the entry point for the nation's largest jail system. Conditions at the center included lack of access to clean water and people with mental illnesses being chained to chairs for days.

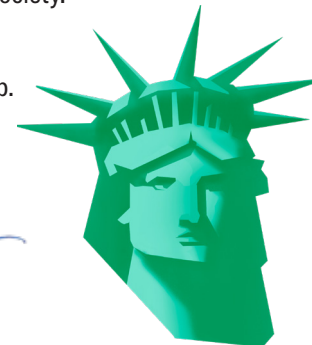
**As we continue to confront the forces of white supremacy, misogyny, and nativism, we must remain energized and fully committed.**

Your ongoing and increased investment ensures that the ACLU can hold the line for democracy, move the needle for civil rights and civil liberties, and realize our shared vision of a truly just society.

Thank you for your continued partnership.

Onward,

Hector Villagra





Abdirahman Aden Kariye

## FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY

Religious questioning by border officials is unconstitutional. We are representing three Muslim Americans in a federal lawsuit after Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) officers at LAX asked them intrusive and discriminatory questions about their religious beliefs and practices, including whether they are Muslim, whether they attend a mosque, which mosque they attend, whether they are Sunni or Shi'a, and how often they pray.

This kind of questioning often occurs in a small, windowless room with two border officers. Our client Abdirahman Aden Kariye described it as “a psychological and traumatic experience. For days and weeks, that experience lingers in my mind.”

In March 2022, the ACLU SoCal, ACLU National, and the ACLU of Minnesota joined together in a federal lawsuit, *Kariye v. Mayorkas*. Our suit seeks to establish that CBP’s religious questioning violated the Constitution and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. We are also asking the court to expunge our clients’ records and issue an injunction barring the Department of Homeland Security and CBP from questioning our clients at ports of entry in the future.

**The government’s discriminatory scrutiny of Muslim travelers must end now.**

## IMMIGRANTS’ RIGHTS

For a decade, the federal government’s failure to naturalize immigrants serving in the U.S. military has led to the deportation of untold numbers of veterans, all of whom were entitled to become citizens because of their service. Since 2015, the ACLU SoCal and the ACLU of San Diego and Imperial Counties have partnered with the Deported Veterans Support House in Tijuana to urge the government to repatriate deported veterans to the U.S., end the deportation of veterans, and improve access to military naturalization.

In 2021, in response to our longstanding advocacy, the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Veterans Affairs launched an interagency initiative to bring home veterans who have been unjustly deported. To date, we and our partners have helped return more than 30 veterans to the

U.S.—including Spc. Mauricio Hernandez-Mata, who completed over 160 missions and, despite having lived in the U.S. from the age of seven, was deported in 2010.

**Thanks to our advocacy, Mauricio finally returned home this year to reunite with his family.**

In addition to supporting Mauricio and other clients, we instituted a first-of-its-kind database of impacted veterans—connecting veterans in need of pro bono representation to a collective of volunteer lawyers to provide legal advocacy and support through the repatriation process.



Spc. Mauricio Hernandez-Mata reuniting with family



# Bakersfield

## REDISTRICTING

The ACLU SoCal has been fighting alongside communities of color to ensure fair representation in the redistricting process. Over the past two years, we have sent demand letters to public officials in 25 jurisdictions across Southern California, pushing them to stand up against gerrymandering and adopt fair and transparent processes for redistricting.

Leveraging our expertise, we have been providing legal and technical support to partners in the cities of Fullerton, Santa Ana, Bakersfield, Long Beach, and Duarte, as well as in Kern, Riverside, and Orange counties. In March 2022, our support of grassroots efforts by the Punjabi and Latinx communities in Bakersfield made history when the city council adopted a map that included three Latinx-majority districts and

two districts uniting the Punjabi and Sikh communities. This victory was secured after months of advocacy alongside community organizations, such as the Dolores Huerta Foundation and the Jakarta Movement, and will ensure fair representation for generations to come.

Where necessary, we are suing. In June 2022, we filed a federal lawsuit challenging the discriminatory and unrepresentative redistricting plan adopted by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors. Our lawsuit seeks to force the Board to redraw its map to include two Latinx-majority districts. If successful, it will completely change Riverside County's political landscape, finally providing Latinx residents the opportunity to elect supervisors who reflect their needs.

## EDUCATION EQUITY

### California students have a right to arts education under state law.

Yet the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) has failed to provide students, especially those in low-income communities, with adequate arts offerings. Alongside our Youth Liberty Squad (YLS)—a student activist development program we launched in 2019—the ACLU SoCal is advocating for improved access to the arts, especially for students of color, students with disabilities, English learners, and other marginalized students.

This spring, YLS student activists organized a month-long celebration of arts education with an exhibit in Los Angeles' Silverlake neighborhood featuring 100+ student

artworks, performances, workshops, and panels, as well as a student film festival. The students rallied support around two ACLU SoCal campaigns: a statewide petition calling on Governor Newsom to prioritize student mental health, wellness, and arts in the 2022-2023 state budget, and a campaign introducing our student-drafted LAUSD resolution: Arts Justice – Access and Equity Across the Disciplines and District.

In May 2022, the LAUSD board adopted our arts justice resolution. The new resolution requires LAUSD to include student input and leadership in its arts education planning process, to adopt accountability metrics, and to increase funding for arts education.



Lindsey Weatherspoon, a member of the 2022 Youth Liberty Squad cohort

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Orange County jails served poor quality food with little nutritional value, but offered at least two hot meals daily. At the onset of the pandemic in March 2020, hot meals were suspended. Over the next two years, incarcerated people in Orange County were fed primarily cold bologna sandwiches. Hundreds of people inside the jails reported that the bologna was often served slimy, discolored, or rotting, and on moldy bread. “You can watch people becoming sicker,” an incarcerated individual shared. “I’ve heard of people who are becoming hypoglycemic or were told that they are in danger of thyroid disease because of weight gain.”

In December 2021, the ACLU SoCal worked in coalition with incarcerated organizers and their loved ones to publish a new report, “Cold, Rotting, & Moldy Meals: Food Oppression in the Orange County Jails.” We also hosted public education workshops and presentations, and mobilized letter-writing campaigns and public comment, to advocate for hot meals. In April 2022, community members gathered outside the Theo Lacy jail to protest food conditions. Within days, the Orange County Sheriff’s Department reopened the hot kitchens in the jails and began serving hot meals.

**We will continue to hold Orange County accountable as we fight for the safety and dignity of incarcerated people.**





## LGBTQ RIGHTS, GENDER EQUITY AND REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

Working alongside our partners in the DecrimSexWorkCA Coalition—led by current and former sex workers to advance the human rights, safety, and wellbeing of people in the sex trade—the ACLU SoCal advocates to end the criminalization of sex work in California while working to reduce the harms of criminalization.

This year, the coalition successfully championed Senate Bill 357, The Safer Streets for All Act, which repealed a vague and overbroad California law that made it a crime to loiter for the intent to engage in sex work. For far too long, this law had been used to disproportionately target, harass, and criminalize Black and Brown women and LGBTQ communities.

We trained coalition members who testified in support of the bill, supported members with media interviews and op-eds, and connected the coalition to our statewide legislative office for technical expertise. In July 2022, after two years of sustained advocacy, Governor Newsom signed SB 357 into law.

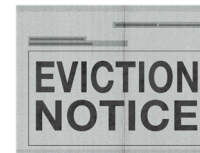
A significant step in the right direction, this coalition victory will help protect people from discriminatory arrests. The bill also allows people who have been convicted of loitering to petition the trial court for resentencing or dismissal, and the sealing of records.

**The new law—the first legislative initiative of the DecrimSexWorkCA Coalition—takes effect January 2, 2023.**



## ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Jurisdictions across the state have responded to houselessness not with affordable housing, but with draconian tactics that target, harass, cite, imprison, and even banish unhoused people. Our *Equal Rights for Every Neighbor* campaign aims to change the narrative about housing displacement in California—and ultimately to vindicate the rights of our unhoused neighbors.



Although unhoused people are routinely discriminated against, California law does not recognize discrimination due to housing status. We are challenging ordinances, policies, and practices that make it a crime to exist in public places, where everybody has a right to exist.

In December 2021, in collaboration with ACLU affiliates in California, we published, “Outside the Law: The Legal War Against Unhoused People,” a report highlighting how municipalities discriminate against and target people due to their housing status. Some cities have gone as far as withholding lifesaving public services from unhoused people and targeting the organizations that try to help them. Our report earned wide coverage, including in *The New York Times*.

Alongside the report release, we provided storytelling training for our coalition partners and other advocates who have lived experience with houselessness. Together, we are leveraging the report and engaging in media advocacy to call for the protection of unhoused people under California’s anti-discrimination laws.



## POLICE PRACTICES

Before the ACLU SoCal helped pass a new police transparency law, SB 1421, in 2018, law enforcement agencies were allowed to keep all records of police discipline and investigations secret, even for deadly shootings and serious misconduct. Just before the new police transparency law went into effect, the City of Inglewood shredded hundreds of police records to deny the public access.

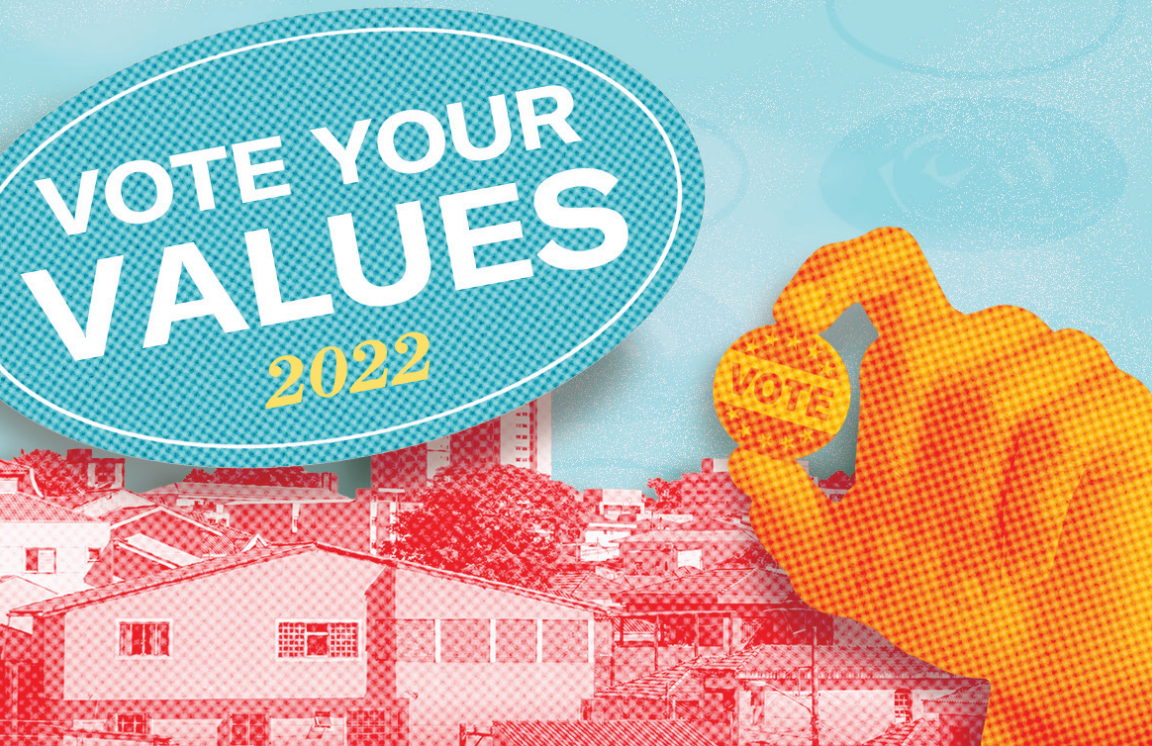
On January 1, 2019, we filed a Public Records Act request (PRA) for the Inglewood Police Department's remaining documents on police shootings, serious uses of force, and serious misconduct. For over three and a half years, Inglewood PD failed to produce any records. The Inglewood City Council even adopted a resolution authorizing the destruction of the kinds of records we had requested—a move we blocked with a restraining order.

In January 2022, we filed suit alongside the Peace and Justice Law Center. In September, Inglewood PD finally produced some documents—but deliberately omitted critical records related to several cases that had garnered public outcry and media attention.

**Our ongoing lawsuit continues as we seek not only withheld police records, but also policy changes within Inglewood PD mandating proactive disclosure of officer misconduct and use of force records.**







## MOBILIZING ACTIVISTS AND VOTERS FOR JUSTICE

This fall, we helped voters support civil rights and liberties at the polls. While the ACLU does not endorse or oppose candidates, our nonpartisan voter education helped ensure that Southern Californians had the information they needed to cast their votes and make their voices heard this midterm election.

**For weeks leading up to the midterms, SoCal activists gathered to text voters—sharing important deadlines, voting rights information, and raising awareness about important races, measures, and propositions.**

Our volunteers connected thousands of voters to crucial information about where to vote, what races were on the ballot, and how they can find more information. From abortion access and reproductive health for all, to permanent, supportive housing and care for all of our neighbors, among our resources we circulated our 2022 Ballot Guide to help Southern California voters exercise their power and enact local and statewide policies that reflect our values. Most rewarding of all, more people in our community are ultimately able to vote because of our conversations. In our most ambitious GOTV effort to date, we reached out to 270,000+ SoCal voters ahead of Election Day.

## PHILANTHROPY IN ACTION

Jarl Mohn (far right), and his spouse, Pamela (right), and their daughters Larkin (top left) and Katrina (lower middle), recently committed to making our organization's largest outright gift in honor of the ACLU SoCal's upcoming 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2023. As a longtime supporter, he shares that he was initially drawn to the ACLU for upholding "creative freedoms and freedom of speech," strong beliefs of his. As Jarl's involvement deepened over time, he learned more about how important is to help people with the least protected rights, especially individuals experiencing houselessness, low-income communities, and communities of color.

**"Today, the ACLU is more important than we ever imagined before."**

Reflecting on their recent philanthropic investment, he shares, "Our whole family was committed to make a large gift, and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary felt like the right time to do it. Given recent years' political events and the assaults on women's rights, voting rights, and democracy, the timing was imperative. One of my biggest hopes is coming true as I've watched my two daughters become activists and supportive of the ACLU."

*We offer deep appreciation to Jarl, ACLU member and former Foundation Board Chair of the ACLU SoCal, Pamela, and the entire Mohn family for their philanthropic leadership in this historic moment.*



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## PRO BONO LEGAL PARTNERS

Thank you to our pro bono partners! They helped us accomplish the following over the last year:

3	Events and projects sponsored	11	Litigation and policy research memos	4	Amicus briefs
9	Impact litigation cases filed as co-counsel	7	Administrative legal matters		
3	Freedom of Information Act and California Public Records Act requests	16	Individuals provided with direct legal representation		

Over 100 pro bono attorneys collaborated with the ACLU SoCal this past year, including:

Alexander Morrison + Fehr LLP	Hoq Law	Paul Hastings
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## YOUR 2021-2022 INVESTMENT

### ACLU OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

**We are grateful to our philanthropic partners in Southern California whose generous contributions create significant impact for millions of people nationwide. The following pages reflect summaries of financial figures reported on an accrual basis and audited at the time of publication.**

In order to follow current Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, the ACLU SoCal revenue also includes in-kind services, such as legal services and contributions. One key strategy we use to carry out our mission is partnering with law firms who provide pro bono services for our impact litigation. In FY22, we reported more than \$4.47 million in in-kind revenue—a value which is reflected in both our revenue and expenses for a total net change of zero.

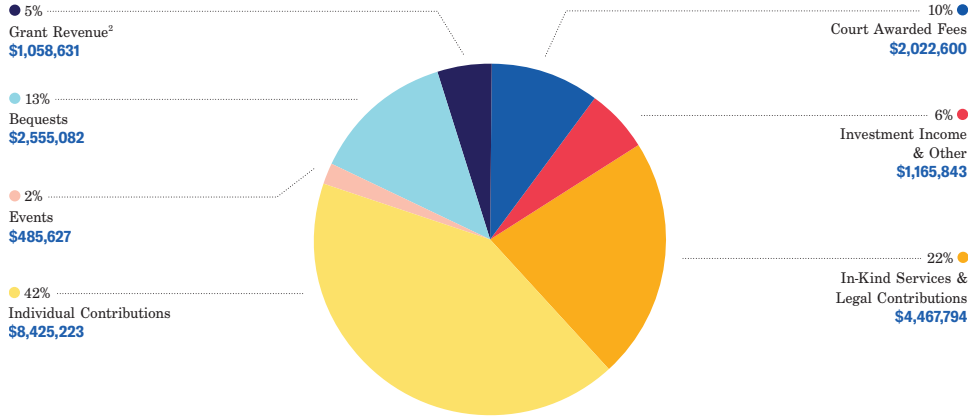
Full audited financial statements are available at [aclusocal.org/annualreport](https://aclusocal.org/annualreport).

In the last 5 years, the ACLU SoCal experienced tremendous growth and invested in hiring significantly more staff needed to resource the fight against sustained attacks on civil rights and civil liberties. As the pages in this report reflect, our work is far from over. For FY22, our revenue surplus includes funds earmarked for specific purposes to be spent in future years, as well as funds designated to maintaining the scope and reach of our mission at current levels.

ACLU FOUNDATION OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA | SUPPORT & REVENUE

**\$20,086,053**

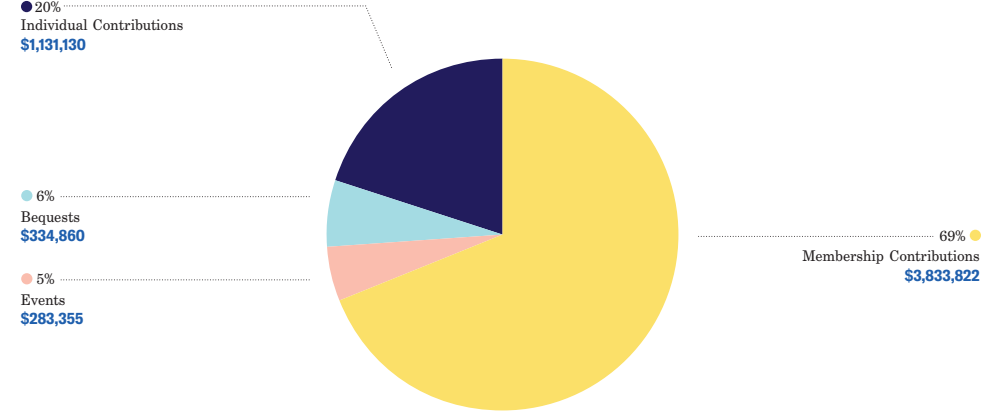
(100%) TOTAL REVENUE<sup>1</sup>



ACLU OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA | SUPPORT & REVENUE

**\$5,545,274**

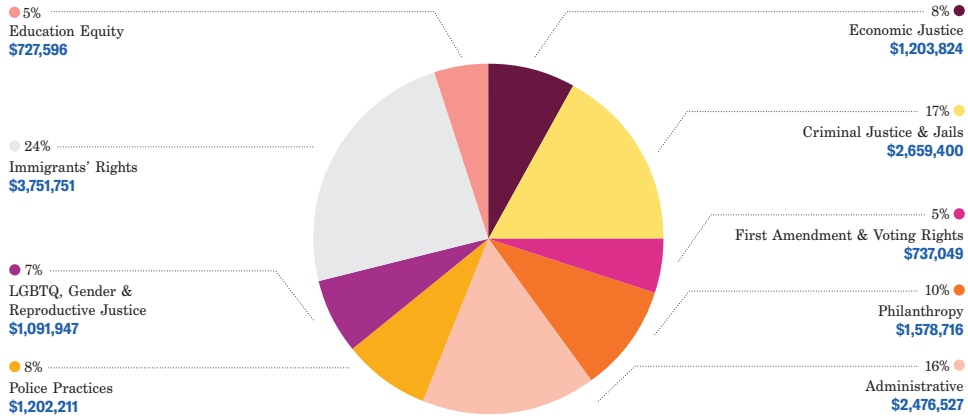
(100%) TOTAL REVENUE<sup>5</sup>



ACLU FOUNDATION OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA | EXPENSES

**\$15,506,234**

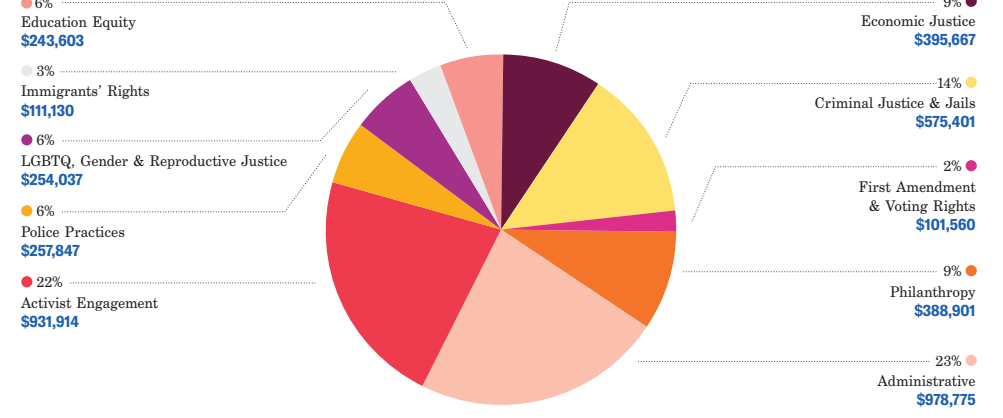
(100%) TOTAL EXPENSES<sup>3</sup>



ACLU OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA | EXPENSES

**\$4,238,835**

(100%) TOTAL EXPENSES



<sup>1</sup> Not represented in the above pie chart is <1% decrease in rental income (-\$94,747).

<sup>2</sup> Grants awarded to the ACLU Foundation are restricted and earmarked for specific purposes and time periods.

<sup>3</sup> The above pie chart does not include <1% (\$75,836) for Activist Engagement & Development expenses.

<sup>5</sup> Not represented in the above pie chart is <1% (\$428) in in-kind services and legal contributions, <1% (\$738) in miscellaneous income, and a <1% (-\$39,059) decrease in investment and other income.

**More than 50% of our state's  
nearly 40 million people  
reside in the eight counties  
the ACLU SoCal serves.**



The art in this report is by **Anthony Ketuor Imediuba**, who is known as Ketu (@ketuikediuba), an artist and graphic designer/ animator, living in Los Angeles, CA.

# PHILANTHROPY IS A POWERFUL FORM OF ACTIVISM



**The ACLU needs your partnership. Your generosity enables us to carry out this critical work.**

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Become an official card-carrying member of the ACLU and connect to one of the largest advocate networks in Southern California and the nation.

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Make a tax-deductible donation to the ACLU Foundation of Southern California and help fund our litigation, public education, and community engagement work. Call (213)-977-5289, go to [aclusocal.org/donate](http://aclusocal.org/donate), or mail your contribution to the Development Department at 1313 W 8th St., Los Angeles, CA 90017.

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## **MAKE A GIFT OF STOCK**

Stock contributions via our broker do not identify the donor. To be credited with the correct contribution amount, or for more information, please call (213) 977-5216. See table below.

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**BROKER** Charles Schwab & Co. Inc.

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**DTC** 0164 Code 40

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**CORPORATION** ACLU Foundation of Southern California

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**CHARLES SCHWAB ONE ACCOUNT** #1024-1241

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**IRS EIN** 95-2673361