



2005-2006

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

ACLU OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

2005-2006

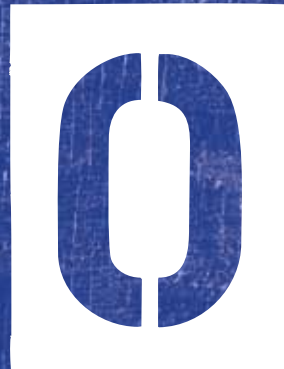
ANNUAL
REPORT

ACLU OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



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ON NEARLY EVERY FRONT,
this has been one of the ACLU of
Southern California's most difficult

years in our duty to protect civil rights and
civil liberties. Our scope of work this year
– from protecting bedrock human rights of
detainees here and abroad to guarding First
Amendment protections throughout the
region – has required monumental effort and
unprecedented levels of action.

We face an administration that has been shameless in its grab for ever-expanding spheres of power regardless of core constitutional rights. But with your help, we have been able to say what many do not want to hear; we have compelled them to listen and we have effected change.

Where those in power sought to hide the fact and scope of torture committed in the name of America, we challenged that silence, relentless in our demand for accountability until power was forced to cede. We won some of those skirmishes; others we continue to pursue vigorously.

Where our opponents would use racial angst to sow seeds of division and push through draconian immigration laws that would turn ordinary people into felons and shatter families, we stand for a humane approach to immigration reform. We continue to lead the effort advocating for a comprehensive path to legal residency, one that would preserve individual rights and liberties while affirming the principles of fairness with which this nation should be imbued.

When the authorities who provided no safe options to the homeless decided sleeping in the streets was a criminal act, our work resulted in a historic ruling that will force our leaders to deal with homelessness as a social ill, rather than a criminal act.

We have been trailblazers in the effort for marriage equity, continually fighting to gain ground so that all who love may have the same guarantees of equality, liberty and privacy when choosing their life partner. When some federal leaders began doubting the need for and vitality of the Voting Rights Act, our swift, comprehensive action preserved that landmark of Civil Rights-era legislation for future Americans.

We stand in those courtrooms taking sometimes unpopular positions because someone must. Our Constitution is not a casual tool of sloganeering. It is a living document that must be protected.

In these pages of the ACLU of Southern California 2005-2006 Annual Report, we showcase just a fraction of the outstanding work our staff has accomplished under the guidance of our boards of directors. We hope you will share in the pride of these accomplishments. It is because of your direct support and activism that the ACLU/SC has been able to put the principles we share into action, bringing our shared hope for a just nation that much closer to reality.

{ Isabelle R. Gunning — President
ACLU of Southern California

{ Jarl Mohn — Chair
ACLU Foundation of Southern California

{ Ramona Ripston — Chief Executive Officer
ACLU of Southern California & ACLU Foundation of Southern California


Historic Victory for Family Rights and Teen Safety

OUR DEFEAT OF PROP. 73, which would have amended the state constitution to require parents of teenagers to be notified 48 hours before an abortion, putting teen health and safety at risk, was nothing short of historic.

The ACLU of Southern California was part of a coalition that included the Planned Parenthood affiliates of California, the California Medical Association, the California Nurses Association, the League of Women Voters and civil and community rights groups. We were charged with everything from conducting opinion research and drafting the ballot arguments to pulling together a statewide field campaign about this emotionally charged issue.

The “No on 73: Campaign for Teen Safety” coalition started with a 12-point deficit in the polls and a fraction of the opposition’s budget- just \$3.5 million to reach a harried electorate, while voters were bombarded with \$250 million worth of competing messages about various ballot initiatives.

Still, we managed to claim victory on Election Day, through teamwork, strategy and razor-keen use of available resources. Though more than 30 states have laws requiring parental involvement in a minor’s decision to obtain an abortion, California voters rejected such restrictions, choosing instead to put the health and safety of these young women first.

We used targeted direct voter contact with television ads, radio spots and automated telephone calls to cut through the noise. Thousands of volunteers and activists throughout the state who served as the heart of the campaign made tens of thousands of phone calls through regionally-coordinated phone banks to get the message out. 



Part of the ACLU/SC team whose hard work helped defeat Prop. 73.

THIS FIGHT CONTINUES. Prop. 85, another attempt at parental notification, is already on the ballot for the fall election. It is a virtual duplicate of Prop. 73, lacking only 300 words of the previous attempt. The real answer to preventing teen pregnancy and abortion is through strong, caring families and comprehensive sex education – not dangerous initiatives. That’s why it’s critical for ACLU/SC member activists to continue their hands-on efforts to protect the health, safety and reproductive choices of young women. Prop 85 threatens teens and a whole lot more. Help protect teen safety and the right to choose. Join parents, doctors, nurses, teachers, Planned Parenthood and The League of Women Voters in this fight.

Fighting Sanctioned Bias

WHEN CHARLENE NGUON was singled out for harassment by administrators at Santiago High School in Orange County, she turned to the ACLU of Southern California and fought back.



Charlene Nguon films a segment for MTV News.

Nguon did something youth on her campus did every day, hold hands, snuggle and share the occasional kiss with her significant other. But the fact that Charlene's significant other was another young woman didn't sit well with her principal or other school administrators and they unleashed a campaign of harassment against her, including twice suspending her from school and outing her to her mother.

Before the discriminatory actions were taken by her principal, Charlene was ranked within the top five percent of her class, was a candidate for the National Honor Society and had no disciplinary record. Intense harassment from school administrators included an ultimatum: either she had to transfer to another school, or her girlfriend did. Charlene switched to another school located miles instead of blocks away from her home. Her grades suffered.

All the while, heterosexual students on campus were not punished for doing the exact same thing. Finally, Charlene had enough and sought help from the ACLU/SC. The case garnered wide media attention, including national coverage in *The*



New York Times, MTV, ABC's "World News Tonight" and CNN's "Anderson Cooper 360."

A federal judge ultimately ruled that she could sue her principal and other officials in the Garden Grove Unified School District for violating her privacy. The lawsuit also seeks to create a district-wide policy ensuring equal treatment of lesbian and gay students.

"It's not right to discriminate," was the simple message Charlene wanted delivered to the world. "I want other young people to know they can stand up for their rights, too."


LGBT Rights Are Family Rights

Our work to protect the rights of LGBT persons was far ranging this year. Due to our efforts, an adoption agency was forced to stop discriminating against gay and lesbian applicants based on sexual orientation.

The fight took two years, but in the end the Olive Crest Foster Family and Adoption Agency finally signed a binding agreement with the state agreeing to eliminate its policy of favoring so-called nuclear families and to stop discriminating based on sexual orientation.

We acted on behalf of Jane Brooks and Shannon Rose, a doctor and law student who had passed numerous background checks and were "pre-certified" by an Olive Crest social worker. The couple had applied to be foster parents with the intent to adopt in July 2002.

But Olive Crest abruptly dashed their hopes, modifying their adoption process by creating a new policy preferring "nuclear families." The couple was later told by their social worker, who quit her job over the handling of this case, that the policy was implemented to discriminate against lesbian and gay applicants.

Olive Crest contracts with numerous counties in Southern California, including Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego, to provide foster care and adoption services. If the agency violates the agreement during the two-year probation that is part of the agreement, its license will be automatically revoked. 

Abuse of Power in the Bush Era

ONE OF THE ACLU OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA's largest efforts has been a constant challenge to the administration's rampant abuses of power under the long shadow of the Patriot Act and other post 9/11 law enforcement policies and practices. From our representation of immigration detainees held in federal custody without just cause to demanding accountability about the state of California's spying on First Amendment-protected activities, your support has helped us demand adherence to fundamental constitutional rights for everyone.

Held Without Just Cause

Saluja Thangaraja and Ahilan Nadarajah, two ACLU/SC clients, are examples of asylum seekers trapped in a Byzantine world of post-9/11 "justice." They came, as so many have, seeking the spirit of America. In desperate flight from persecution of thought and body, they came for refuge, but instead of extending hope, America threw them in prison for years.

Both of these young people were fleeing persecution and torture by the government of Sri Lanka when they were stopped at the United States border with Mexico. Both were held for more than four years in a detention facility outside of San Diego with little recourse until we stepped up to help.

Nadarajah was raised on his family's farm in Sri Lanka, working the land until invasions by the Sri Lankan army in the mid-1990s began a long period of civil unrest and turmoil. Nadarajah was persecuted by the Sri Lankan army because of his minority ethnic status. He was kidnapped, tortured and eventually fled his country to escape the ordeal. After one torture session – where he was hung by his ankles and had gasoline poured over him – Nadarajah was told he would be killed the next time he was spotted.

“... they came for refuge, but instead of extending hope, America threw them in prison for years.”



Ahilan Nadarajah relaxes at a cafe near his Lancaster home.

He managed to get out of the country, but in October 2001 he was detained as he crossed the Mexican border. Despite an immigration judge twice rejecting allegations that Nadarajah is a national security risk and ordering him protected under the Geneva Convention Against Torture, decisions that were affirmed by the Board of Immigration Appeals, the government refused to release him until a March 2006 order from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Thangaraja, released due to the ripple effect of that case, had a similar story. Also a member of the Tamil minority ethnic group, she and her family lived in displaced persons camps for many months due to the civil unrest. In July 2000 she was kidnapped by Sri Lankan army officials, imprisoned and mistreated on false accusations she was part of a rebel group. Only a hefty bribe paid by her family secured her release. After she was kidnapped a second time, her family,

fearing for her safety, arranged to have her smuggled out of the country. U.S. immigration officials stopped her as she attempted to cross the Mexican border. Despite a 2004 court order granting her relief from deportation, the government refused to release her for nearly two more years.

We fight aggressively to obtain information about detainees at home and abroad, with the ACLU leading an international effort to hold our leaders accountable to the principles and spirit of our Constitution in the operation of its detention facilities.

Kidnapped by the CIA

When a German citizen was kidnapped, beaten, drugged, taken overseas and imprisoned for five months only to be left stranded on a hill in Afghanistan after government officials realized they



Saluja Thangaraja, right, celebrates with ACLU/SC staff attorney Ranjana Natarajan.

Through the Freedom of Information Act we pried free thousands of documents about torture at U.S.-run detention facilities in Guantánamo, Iraq and Afghanistan. Through a protracted, difficult fight, more than 25,000 pages of documents were released showing that officials knew abuses were afoot, yet did little to stop them, garnering international press coverage and the concern of everyday people. The truth came out because of your tireless support for our work.

had the wrong person, the ACLU stepped up to file suit on his behalf against the former head of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Our lawsuit charged that former CIA head George Tenet and other officials in that agency violated U.S. and universal human rights laws when they authorized the abduction of this middle-aged man who has never been charged with a crime. Khaled el-Masri, a German citizen and Lebanese native, was taken while on vacation in Macedonia and forbidden from contacting a lawyer or any member of his family. Tenet was notified about the mistake, yet el-Masri remained in detention for two more months before he was flown to Afghanistan and left on the side of the road.

El-Masri, a former used car salesman and father of five children, was snatched under the CIA's policy of extraordinary rendition, an intelligence gathering program that has been running since the early 1990s. It involves the transfer of foreign nationals suspected of involvement in terrorism to detention and interrogation in countries where, in the CIA's view, federal and international legal safeguards do not apply. Suspects are detained and interrogated either by U.S. personnel at U.S.-run detention facilities outside U.S. sovereign territory, or are handed over to the custody of foreign agents for interrogation. In both instances, interrogation methods are employed that do not comport with federal and internationally-recognized standards.

Our work on behalf of el-Masri – who sought only minor damages, an apology and explicit recognition from an American court that what happened to him was not only illegal, but should not happen to others – garnered attention throughout the world, raising troubling questions about the true state of American justice.

Domestic Spying

When news broke that the state Office of Homeland Security was monitoring political protest activity throughout California, the ACLU/SC immediately stepped up with Public Records Act requests designed to reveal the full scope of the surveillance.

Local news outlets revealed that anti-war protests in Walnut Creek and Santa Barbara were included in Office of Homeland Security anti-terrorism briefs, as was a rally for animal rights. Though the Attorney General publicly supported the idea that residents can exercise their First Amendment rights without being subject to government surveillance, the public records act requests seek to determine the extent to which his office knew about the bulletins and acted to stop the further reoccurrences.

It is only by zealously guarding the absolute right of citizens to engage in political discourse without fear of government monitoring that the ACLU/SC can continue to protect the privacy and constitutional rights of all California citizens. **AR**



Frank Terreri of the Federal Air Marshals Service, whose identity cannot be revealed, about to board a flight at LAX.

WE SCORED A KEY VICTORY when the Department of Homeland Security agreed to restore free speech rights of whistleblowers employed by the Federal Air Marshals Service (FAMS) who wish to speak out about issues of public safety.

It took nearly a year of litigation before federal officials confirmed that our client, Frank Terreri, should retain his First Amendment rights while employed with the agency. Terreri, an Army veteran with a 17-year law enforcement career, joined the air marshals in response to the attacks of September 11. As he became concerned with security lapses within the service, he discovered an overly-broad policy so restrictive that he could not speak publicly about necessary improvements. Air marshals could not make any public statements about the agency including writing a letter to congress about improving air safety or commenting on legislation related to the airline industry.

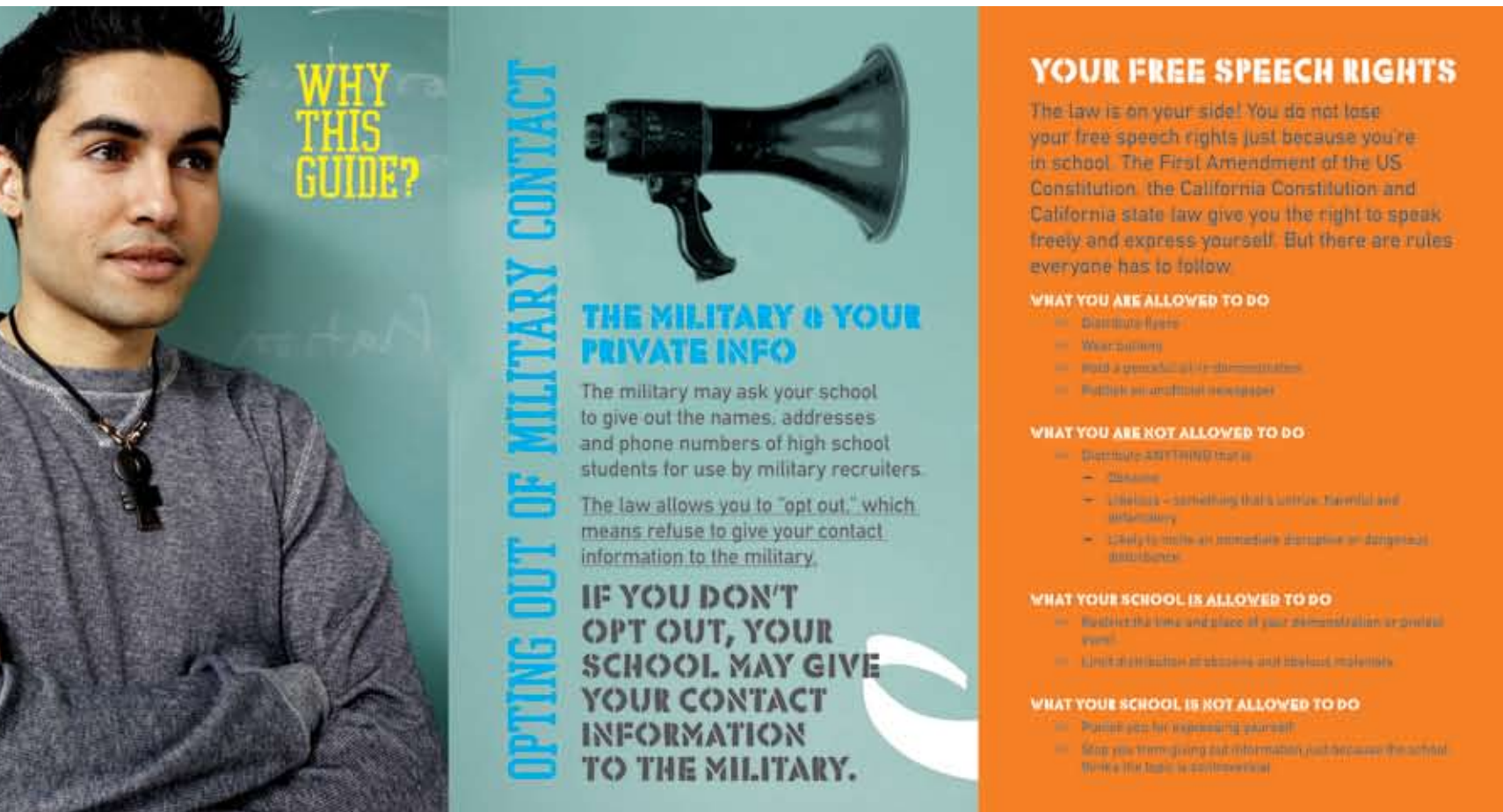
The policy effectively silenced those directly responsible for protecting airline passengers and prohibited the marshals from contributing their

expertise to improving security. But the government was reluctant to change and a revision of the rules still muted whistleblowers. A district judge rejected the government's attempts to have the case dismissed and finally we persuaded the government to amend the policy.

As part of the agreement, FAMS informed its employees that while the personnel policy prohibits employees from undermining teamwork or public confidence, "nothing in the (directive) is intended to limit the free public expression of an employee's personal opinions about matters of public concern relating to the FAMS - provided the individual complies with all laws and policies safeguarding the unauthorized disclosure of official information."

Terreri, who is also president of the FAMS chapter of the Federal Law Enforcement Officer's Association, now plans to testify before Congress and meet with the director of air marshal service about security and other issues related to airline safety.

Along with the ACLU/SC, this air marshal whistleblower prevented the government from stifling debate about vital national security issues. **AR**



An image from our action guide, *Military Recruiting in Our Public Schools*.

WHenever a military recruiter at Garfield High School enters a classroom to pitch the armed forces, student Fal Garcia is ready with a counter-message and an activist guide created by the ACLU/SC specifically for high school students.

Military Recruiting In Our Public Schools: Action Guide for California Public High School Students is a popular and successful tool that is in the hands of more than 3,000 students throughout Southern California. The portable, "street level" rights guide and its companion website provide student protestors and their parents with concise information answering their concerns about speaking out or demonstrating against military recruiting on campus. The guide helps students and parents "opt out" or remove their personal information from a giant military recruiting database.

The website contains in-depth information about military recruiting, federal rules under "No Child Left Behind" and tools students and adults can take to their local educators in an attempt to effect change on a district level.

In addition to the guides and website, ACLU/SC staff trained parents, teachers and students throughout the region on their speech rights when dealing with military recruiters. Our legal team sent letters to 88 local school districts providing suggestions and sample "opt-out" guides, resulting in several positive responses. We also joined with a coalition of teachers, parents and students to file a Freedom of Information Act demand with the Department of Defense, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy and the National Guard for details about how the military recruits and targets public school students, especially low-income youth and students of color.

AR

Fighting for the Right to Speak Up



The Kernal's staff celebrate its victory with ACLU/SC staff attorney Christine Sun (second from right).

THE ACLU OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA helped a group of students at East Bakersfield High School emerge victorious against attempts by school administrators to censor a series of articles about gay students. The articles and a story about the courageous fight finally ran last fall in the student-run monthly newspaper.

The staff of *The Kernal* put together a series of articles about LGBT students at the school who wanted to share their experiences to counter homophobia and help the student body better understand the need for tolerance.

The Kernal's staff obtained written permission from students interviewed and the parents of participants who were minors. When pressured by school administrators, they agreed to blur the faces of the students photographed for the series and to use pseudonyms in place of real names. But despite those compromises, administrators reneged and axed the stories at the eleventh hour, claiming that the articles had the potential to incite violence on campus.

The students contacted the ACLU with the help of a Bakersfield member and we filed a lawsuit that generated national media attention. Due to our intervention, the stories were eventually published in the newspaper, but we didn't stop there. To ensure the free speech rights of students are protected in the future, we are fighting for a court order clarifying the role a school must play in guarding those rights. AR

Lifting the Orange Curtain

WHEN THE ACLU OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA opened its long-planned Orange County office, the new staff hit the ground running. With more than 5,000 active members, the OC has one of the highest concentrations of ACLU/SC members. As the county's population continues to diversify, challenges to civil rights and civil liberties emerge that we can now respond to quickly and effectively.

Protecting Public Safety

The OC office led the ACLU/SC's strong opposition to Sheriff Michael Carona's plan to deputize 150 to 200 of his officers as de facto immigration enforcers in the department's investigation unit and jail operations, with plans to expand the program to the patrol division. His plan is the most sweeping of all jurisdictions nationwide that have so far entered into immigration agreements with federal authorities. It would have a near-fatal effect on the relationship between law enforcement and immigrant communities, undermining public safety.

The OC office held community forums about the issue, both to educate and to listen to resident concerns. Staff spoke out against the City of Costa Mesa's plans to allow city police to enter into an agreement with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, enabling officers to enforce



The office is headed by Hector Villagra, formerly regional counsel for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund. He is joined by Nora Preciado, staff attorney and Equal Justice Works fellow, Meera Manek, community outreach administrator, and Belinda Escobosa Helzer, staff attorney.

federal immigration law and become part of Carona's immigration enforcer network. We continue to fight these proposals.

Tackling Health Care

The OC office is working on the issue of health care access for non-English speakers. Health care providers that get funding from the government are required by state and federal law to provide language interpreters. Through community outreach and surveys, we are discovering that some Orange County residents are not being provided interpreters and instead are being told they cannot receive service unless they bring their own interpreter. Many do not know such a requirement is against the law, and had no idea they have the right to interpretation service.

Equity in Education

The OC office was able to reach an agreement with the Fullerton School District allowing students equal access to computers in the "Laptops for Learning" program. Under the agreement, if a majority of families at a school decide to implement "Laptops for Learning," parents may then either purchase a \$1,500 Macintosh G4 laptop outright, or borrow one from the district.

That victory was an about-face for the district. When the pilot program was initially announced, parents who did not meet the strict requirements for financial aid were forced to either transfer their children to alternate schools or buy the computers whether they could afford them or not.



In this series of screen grabs from the Costa Mesa City Council meeting, Benito Acosta is prevented from speaking and removed by police.



Photo by Peter Holderness

The fight for fair immigration reform has extended throughout Southern California, including massive rallies on May 1.

“As Orange County diversifies, challenges to civil rights and civil liberties emerge which we must be able to respond quickly and effectively.”

Freedom of Speech

When Costa Mesa resident Benito Acosta spoke at a city council meeting about a dangerous immigration policy proposed in the city, he was cut off by the mayor after barely two minutes, surrounded by cops, dragged out of the council chambers, beaten, placed under arrest and then taken to the hospital for treatment of his injuries.

Other activists selected him to address the city council during the public speaking portion of its meeting and to share concerns over a divisive proposal to allow police to also enforce federal immigration law. Though council members allowed others praising their actions to speak for the full three-minute allotment, including a leader of the Minuteman group, such equity was not granted to Acosta.

The Orange County office filed a First Amendment lawsuit on Acosta’s behalf.

Acosta is co-founder of Colectivo Tonantzin, a group working to ensure immigrant families in Orange County receive equal treatment under the law. In addition to speaking out against the city’s immigration plan, the group protested the city’s plans to close a job center that helped the community’s immigrant population.

It is because of support from ACLU/SC member activists that we have been able to expand our reach directly into the heart of Orange County and work to ensure all can enjoy the freedoms and opportunities to which they are legally and morally entitled. **AR**

Bringing Change to Inmate Lives

THE ACLU OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA’s work to improve conditions in Los Angeles County jails came to a dramatic head this year when a federal judge, dismayed by what he saw in Men’s Central Jail, immediately ordered the development of a comprehensive plan to improve conditions.

U.S. District Judge Dean D. Pregerson oversees the ACLU/SC’s decades-long jails lawsuit, *Rutherford v. Baca*. In May, we requested that he establish a collaborative process between agencies to develop and implement a strategic plan to improve jail conditions. Part of that request was that he conduct a tour of the jail. The tour happened to take place after widespread unrest throughout jail facilities resulting in the sheriff locking down the entire system.

Pregerson described what he witnessed on the tour as “not consistent with human values” and conditions that “should not be permitted to exist.” In June he issued an order creating a panel to develop recommendations to bring about “immediate improvement measures.” He wanted a plan that could be implemented within six months and development of two more improvement plans in the next several years.

Pregerson ordered the panel to be composed of representatives from the ACLU/SC, the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, the county administrative office and criminal justice experts.

Men’s Central is the largest jail in the country and its rife with ongoing tension, violence and a general lack of safety for inmates and deputies. Contributing to



ACLU/SC Chief Executive Officer Ramona Ripston discusses jail safety issues during a press conference.

that are the poor conditions of the jail itself – ranging from overcrowding to chronic staffing shortages to insufficient fire safety measures. Developing a master plan to eliminate these horrible conditions has been a major undertaking of the ACLU/SC. **AR**

Holding Schools Accountable



A spread from our report detailing the implementation phase of Williams v. California.

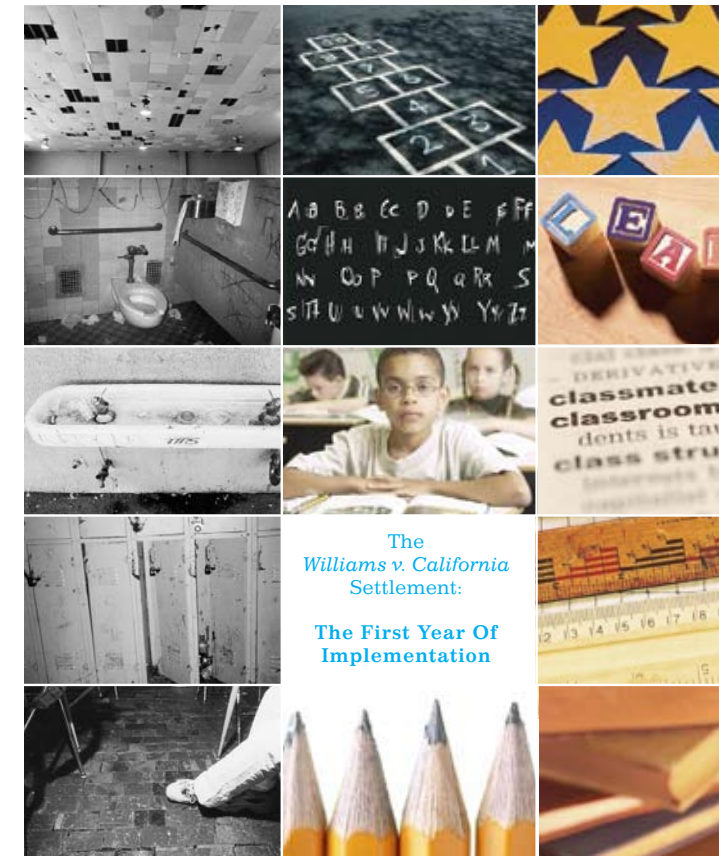
ONE YEAR AFTER THE LANDMARK SETTLEMENT of *Williams v. California*, the ACLU of Southern California has been hard at work helping parents, teachers and students begin the effort of holding schools accountable to serve the state's most vulnerable students.

Williams provided nearly \$1 billion toward fixing California's most troubled schools. The money is to be used for emergency repairs, for new instructional materials for schools ranked in the bottom two tiers, for evaluating facilities needs of the worst schools and creating a system for county superintendents to provide accountability oversight of the school system.

Our goal was to make the state provide students with critical basics for education: clean and safe schools,

up-to-date textbooks and qualified teachers. Now our goal is to empower communities to manifest these changes.

Staff has traveled throughout the region with a multimedia presentation for community groups, parent organizations and students about how to navigate the complaints system. Available in English and Spanish, our presentations, brochures and peer training have helped empower many.



Overall reports from around the state indicate that implementation of the settlement legislation is proceeding on schedule and with increasingly positive results. Teachers, principals, district officials, parents and students have expressed appreciation for the new standards and accountability systems. Now, when a student needs a textbook, a school facility needs repair, or a teacher is misassigned, the new legal standards leave no room for debate; the problem must be fixed. The Uniform Complaint Process and county superintendent visits have also demonstrated the critical value of external oversight. Not only have both processes provided added incentive for districts and schools to perform self-evaluations, they have also helped districts and schools identify and address insufficiencies, needed repairs and misassignments that they did not catch themselves.

In December we issued *Williams v. California Settlement: First Year of Implementation*, a report detailing how new accountability systems are helping communities bring positive change to their schools. The report also shows where further work is needed for improvement.

Every state legislator and key committee staff member received a copy, as did state education officials, county office of education staff, superintendents, education reporters, community leaders and organizations, along with key education advocates such as union leaders and Parent Teacher Association chapters.

The report had an immediate policy impact. We highlighted the Emergency Repair Program in the report's *Looking Ahead* section. Legislators and state officials echoed our concerns in public hearings. The state agency that administers the program worked with us in the following months to address concerns and work toward improvement. The California School Boards Association and other education organizations posted links to our report on their websites, and numerous media outlets provided coverage of the report and its findings. [AIR](#)

What We Do & How We Do It

The government of the United States is built on two basic principles: (1) majority rule through democratic elections; and (2) protection of individuals from any attempts by the majority to curtail individual liberties and rights, as spelled out in the Bill of Rights.

The Constitution and Bill of Rights set the ground rules for individual liberty, which include the freedoms of speech, association, and religion, freedom of the press, and the right to privacy, to equal protection of the laws and to due process of law.

The ACLU was founded to defend and secure these rights and to extend them to people who have been excluded from their protection.

Our work can be categorized as follows:

First Amendment — The rights of free speech, free association, and assembly, freedom of the press and religious freedom, including the strict separation of church and state.

Equal Protection — The right not to be discriminated against on the basis of certain classifications, such as race, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, age, disability, etc.

Due Process — The right to be treated fairly, including fair procedures when facing accusations of criminal conduct or other serious accusations that can lead to results such as loss of employment, exclusion from school, denial of housing, cut-off of certain benefits or various punitive measures taken by the government.

Privacy — The right to a zone of personal privacy and autonomy.

Groups and Individuals That Continue to Struggle For Civil Liberties — The extension of all the rights described above to those who are still fighting for the full protections of the Bill of Rights, including women; immigrants; the poor; people of color; transgender people; members of minority religions; people with disabilities; lesbian, gay, or bisexual people; the homeless; prisoners; and children in the custody of the state.

We accomplish the above by lobbying, public education, and litigation.

Former National ACLU Executive Director Ira Glasser first penned the basic version of the above framework in 1982.

How You Can Help

The ACLU of Southern California needs your help in protecting the civil rights and civil liberties of all Southern Californians. This important work is made possible by thousands of members and supporters across the region. These generous individuals comprise an unparalleled force of activists, unified in their commitment to civil rights and civil liberties.

There are many ways you can support the ACLU of Southern California:

Become an ACLU member.

Add your voice to the more than 50,000 members in Southern California and 500,000 ACLU members across the nation! Annual memberships cost \$20 (\$30 for a joint or family membership) and connect you to one of the largest activist networks in Southern California. Call (213) 977-5216 or join on our website, www.aclu-sc.org.

Become an ACLU Foundation of Southern California supporter.

The ACLU Foundation of Southern California depends on contributions, both large and small, to fund the dozens of cases and public policy campaigns it supports each year. The ACLU Foundation of Southern California is a 501(c)(3) organization, making your contributions tax deductible. Your contributions can be made in cash, by check or credit card, in stock or bonds, and can be made in honor of someone else through a 'tribute gift.'

Call (213) 977-5222 for more information.

Designate the ACLU Foundation as a beneficiary in your will.

Join other members of the ACLU DeSilver Society in providing for the ACLU of Southern California in your estate plans. You can:

- Name the ACLU as a beneficiary on your insurance.
- Designate the ACLU as the beneficiary for part or all of your estate.
- Start an annuity plan that pays you income in exchange for your gift of \$10,000 or more.

For more information on charitable estate planning, please call 213.413.4000 x105

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