

WELCOME

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

These have been called the most powerful and consequential words in American history. They are, but not just because they were thought, or said, or written. The words that hold us together as a people matter because individuals took them seriously - more seriously than the men profound enough to write but not live by them. Whether called abolitionists, suffragists, civil rights workers, or activists, they had one thing in common: they believed and showed their belief - not just with words and speech - but with truth and action.

This is the spirit that drives us at the ACLU of Southern California (ACLU SoCal) - everyone from donors and supporters to board and staff members. This is why the ACLU SoCal stands for justice - for everyone.

This is why this year has been so challenging. Even as we celebrate landmark successes – such as the long march to establish marriage equality, which has been marked from beginning to end by the work of the ACLU – we know the truth. We know there is more work ahead to affirm the dignity and rights of the LGBTQ community and especially transgender people. And the deaths of unarmed people of color at the hands of the police show just how painfully far our nation is from treating everyone equally.

This is why the work must continue and we must look for new and better ways to protect people and their rights. This is why we spearheaded the launch of MobileJusticeCA - an innovative and free smartphone app to preserve video of police encounters and teach people about their rights.

With your support, we can speak up and tell the truth, challenge unjust laws, and reform political institutions. We can make America live up to the words enshrined in the Declaration of Independence.

Hector O. Villagra

Executive Director • ACLU of Southern California

The ACLU of Southern California is comprised of two separate entities, the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California, principally responsible for legislative and lobbying work, and the ACLU Foundation of Southern California, responsible for litigation and public education. Throughout this report they will be jointly referred to as ACLU SoCal.





CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The "Land of the Free" has become the "Land of the Jailed," with an explosion in people behind bars, from roughly 200,000 in 1973 to some 2.2 million now.

The ACLU aims to turn that tide with its national campaign to cut mass incarceration in half by 2020.

California is leading the nation in shrinking its prison population with court-ordered realignment capping capacity and Prop. 47's reduction of some low-level felonies to misdemeanors.

The settlement of the ACLU SoCal's landmark class-action *Rosas v. Baca* ends decades of rampant corruption and deputy violence against inmates in the Los Angeles County Jail condoned by the Sheriff's Department leadership, and the County Board of Supervisors allocated funds to begin diverting inmates with mental illness from jail to treatment facilities.

A settlement in Johnson v. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department makes sure people in county jail are provided mobility assistance such as canes, wheelchairs, crutches, and grab bars along with access to jail programs and services, including those that may reduce time served.

The ACLU SoCal and its partners reach a historic consent decree in *Rosas v. Baca*, a federal class-action lawsuit alleging former Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca and his command staff condoned a long-standing and widespread pattern of violence by deputies against inmates in the jails. The Sheriff's Department, subject to federal court oversight and enforcement, must adopt a detailed plan to reform policies and practices on use of force.

Years of ACLU SoCal advocacy, research and reports play a major role in the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors' allocating \$70 million, the first step towards ending the practice of jailing people with mental illness or drug and alcohol issues and instead diverting them to more effective and less expensive community-based mental health treatment.

MAR. 2015 APR. **2015**

AUG. 2015

EDUCATION

California is ground zero for some of the most important education reforms in the nation. The ACLU SoCal has helped usher in many of those changes, including support for and monitoring of Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), a new law that promises to provide much needed resources to high-need students, including the more than 1.4 million children designated as English Learners. Our focus on litigation and advocacy ensures that fewer students are subject to expulsion, and that regardless of economic status or zip code, all children receive equal access to educational opportunities, as promised by California's Constitution.

After co-sponsoring AB 420, a measure that eliminates the suspensions of young students and expulsion for all students for minor misbehavior, the ACLU SoCal begins monitoring the law as it takes effect.

The ACLU SoCal and its partners sue the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) for circumventing its obligation under LCFF, and illegally diverting hundreds of millions of dollars that it must use to serve high-need students, including foster youth, English Learners, and low income youth. The case, *Community Coalition v. LAUSD*, is the first lawsuit filed to compel school districts to comply with LCFF since it became law.

The ACLU SoCal and its partners reach a settlement in *DJ v. State of California*, a landmark case brought against California education officials on behalf of thousands of students denied mandated instruction for the acquisition of English fluency skills. The agreement requires the state to create a watchdog system to monitor districts for compliance, among other safeguards.

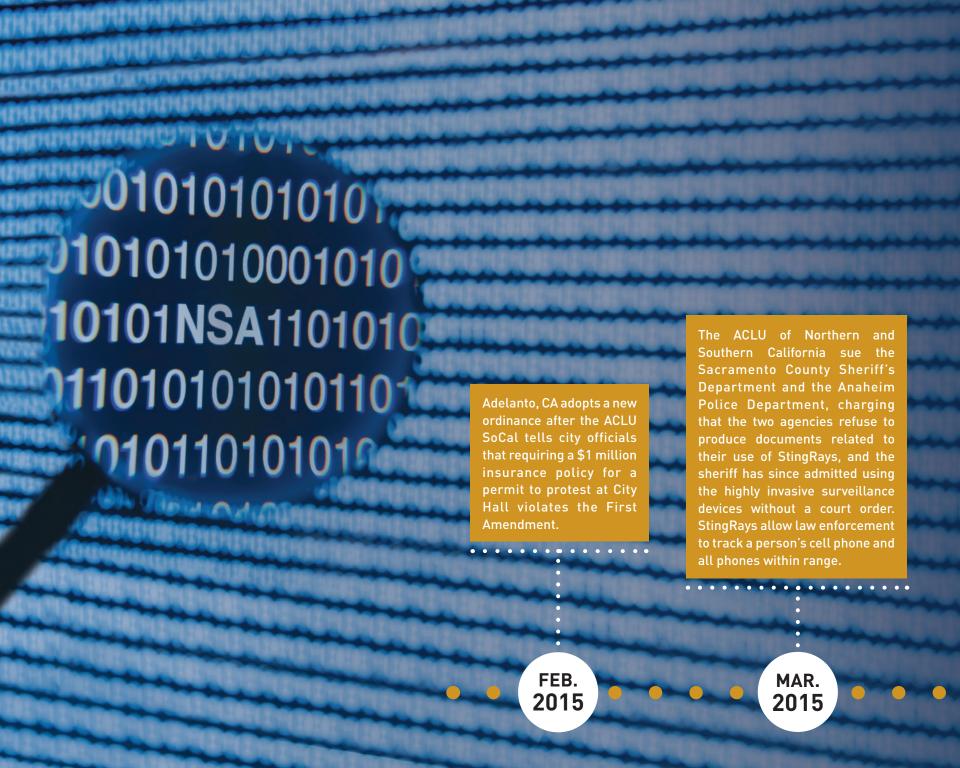
JAN. 2015 JULY 2015 SEPT. 2015

Gov. Jerry Brown signs AB 1012, a law that bans schools from assigning students to fake classes where nothing is taught, or warehousing them in auditoriums while officials address scheduling problems. The bill was introduced in response to several incidents at the center of a lawsuit that the ACLU SoCal and its partners filed against the state for allowing districts to deprive students of equal educational opportunities. The new law also creates a complaint process for parents to report problems.

The ACLU SoCal and its partners reach a settlement in *Cruz v. State of California*, a lawsuit filed against state education officials for failing to ensure school districts provide meaningful classes to students in six schools across the state. The agreement, along with AB 1012, will establish safeguards to limit the assignment of students at the schools to classes with no educational content.



ост. 2015 ост. **2015**



FIRST AMENDMENT & PRIVACY

Freedom of speech, the press, association, assembly, and petition: This set of guarantees, protected by the First Amendment, comprises what we refer to as freedom of expression. It is the foundation of a vibrant democracy.

The fight for freedom of speech has been a bedrock of the ACLU's mission since the organization was founded in 1920. Almost a century later, these battles have taken on new forms, but they persist.

The threat of mass government surveillance not only threatens privacy but chills the free expression of ordinary citizens. Any person hoping to approach the ACLU or media with proof of official misconduct would be understandably wary knowing that the government receives, almost in real-time, a record of every telephone call.

The ACLU is always on guard to ensure that the First Amendment's protections remain robust.

In a landmark decision in the case of ACLU v. Clapper, a federal appeals court unanimously rules that the federal government's phone-records surveillance program is unlawful because the Patriot Act does not permit the gathering of Americans' sensitive information on such a massive scale.

The state Supreme Court agrees to hear an appeal brought by the ACLU SoCal and other civil liberties groups to decide when the public can see records of high-tech police monitoring programs like the scanners officers use to record millions of license plate numbers.

The governor signs the California Electronic Communications Privacy Act, a new law requiring police to go to a judge and obtain a warrant before they can get access to emails, text messages and other electronic information about who we are, where we go, who we know and what we think. The law was supported by the ACLU, other civil rights organizations, technology companies and even law enforcement, and establishes some of the strongest protections for digital information in the nation.

MAY 2015 AUG. **2015** ост. **2015**

GENDER & REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

The ACLU is committed to protecting and expanding the rights of all women to make informed personal decisions about reproductive rights and sexual health, as well as to be free from discrimination in school and in the workplace. That steadfast pledge has led the ACLU SoCal to work across the state to challenge punitive policies that undermine the rights of incarcerated women, to contest hospital mergers that restrict a community's access to reproductive health care, and to demand accountability for women in Hollywood.

With support from the ACLU SoCal and its partners, the Confidential Health Information Act becomes law. The groundbreaking measure improves patient confidentiality by closing loopholes in existing state and federal laws that result in breaches of patient information through standard communication from health insurance providers.

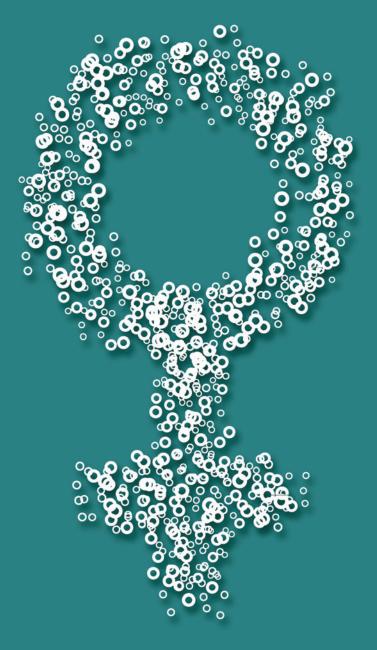
The ACLU SoCal, along with the national ACLU Women's Rights Project, demand that state and federal civil rights agencies investigate the systemic failure to hire women directors in the film and television industries. The requests include statistical evidence that reveals dramatic disparities in the hiring of women, along with anecdotal accounts gathered from 50 women directors by the ACLU SoCal.

The ACLU SoCal achieves significant reforms in how the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department meets the needs of pregnant and postpartum women. Due to our advocacy, the department removes illegal barriers to abortion access and illegal shackling practices, creates a new housing unit for pregnant women, adopts new policies to ensure pregnant women have access to the health care they need, sufficient and healthy food, comfort accommodations, and launches a pilot project allowing breastfeeding mothers to get pumped milk to their nursing children.

JAN. 2015

MAY 2015 JULY **2015**

After the ACLU SoCal and its partners threaten to sue a Catholic hospital for denying a pregnant woman post-birth sterilization, the hospital reverses its decision. The case is an important victory as a growing number of religious institutions across the state and nation move to deny important and medically appropriate health care services to women.







HOMELESSNESS

The ACLU SoCal has long fought to defend the civil and human rights of individuals experiencing homelessness. Whether it was suing the City of Los Angeles in 2003 to prevent police from ticketing and arresting individuals who sit, sleep or lie on public sidewalks, or going to court to hold the Veterans Administration accountable for discriminating against homeless veterans, or launching of the Dignity for All Project that combines advocacy and litigation to help bring about much needed policy changes, the ACLU SoCal remains committed to protecting the rights of the most vulnerable individuals.

The ACLU SoCal and its partners reach a historic settlement in *Valentini v. Shinseki*, a lawsuit filed against the Veterans Administration for misusing the West Los Angeles health campus for commercial use even as veterans with disabilities slept on the streets and failed to receive adequate care. Federal officials agree to create additional housing and development of a master plan as part of the agreement.

As part of the ACLU SoCal's Dignity for All Project, staff help create an educational video designed to train police on best practices for interacting with individuals who are homeless and often mentally ill. The video is distributed to police departments across the state.

The ACLU SoCal and its partners file Glover v. City of Laguna Beach, a class-action lawsuit challenging the seaside community's ineffective and discriminatory homelessness program. The lawsuit targets the city's failure to comply with protections guaranteed by the Americans with Disabilities Act because its lone emergency shelter is inaccessible to individuals with disabilities.

JAN. 2015 MAY 2015 AUG. 2015

IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS

The Constitution guarantees due process to every individual in the United States but for many immigrants caught in our deportation system, including legal residents, that promise goes unfulfilled.

The ACLU has long worked to ensure that immigrants receive a fair day in court. Indeed, on its founding, nearly one hundred years ago, the ACLU spoke out to protect the rights of European immigrants whom the government sought to detain and deport during the Palmer Raids. Sixty years later, the ACLU SoCal was at the forefront of efforts to roll back California's draconian Proposition 187, which attempted to deny basic rights and social services to undocumented immigrants. Most recently, the ACLU SoCal has sued the U.S. Department of Justice on behalf of child refugees who come to the U.S. seeking protection, but are forced to represent themselves in immigration court against a trained federal prosecutor seeking to deport them back to countries beset by drug and gang violence. In these and many other ways, the ACLU has been there demanding that the federal government live up to our laws and our values.

A California appellate court upholds a Los Angeles Police Department policy known as Special Order 7 that allows officers to exercise discretion when seizing the vehicles of unlicensed drivers without creating unfair hardship on poor immigrants who were too often disproportionately affected by harsh 30-day impounds. The ACLU SoCal, representing community groups affected by impounds, successfully intervened in the case and defended the policy on appeal.

Final approval is granted to a historic settlement in a class-action lawsuit filed by the ACLU SoCal and its partners against border patrol agents and Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The agreement will allow Mexican immigrants who had credible claims for relief but were deceived or coerced into signing forms that led to their "voluntary" departure to return to the U.S. to reopen their cases.

A federal judge in Seattle rebuffs a request by the Department of Justice to throw out *J.E.F.M v. Holder*, a lawsuit filed by the ACLU SoCal and its partners that seeks to guarantee that children, some as young as one year, receive legal representation in immigration court. The ruling offers hope to thousands of Central American refugee children who have fled to the United States, only to be placed into deportation proceedings without legal assistance.

DEC. 2014 FEB. 2015

APR. **2015**





LGBTQ RIGHTS

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in June that state-level prohibitions against same-sex marriage are unconstitutional. As ACLU client James Obergefell and his co-plaintiffs stood triumphantly on the court's steps, advocates across the country celebrated this victory and the decades of work that brought it to fruition.

From launching the Sexual Privacy Project in 1966, to fighting anti-gay discrimination and filing the first lawsuit arguing for the freedom to marry in 1970, to representing Edie Windsor in the case that took down the Defense of Marriage Act and sounded the death knell for marriage discrimination, the ACLU has been at the forefront of the fight for legal recognition of same-sex relationships.

The ACLU SoCal became the first ACLU affiliate to affirm the "right to privacy in sexual relations" 50 years ago and has proudly advocated for LGBTQ rights since.

Our goal is to ensure an America where LGBTQ people can live openly and LGBTQ identities, relationships and families are respected and treated fairly.

The ACLU SoCal and its partners release an advocacy toolkit on how to get school boards to adopt policies to comply with three key state laws that prohibit discrimination against transgender students, require schools to promptly address bullying and harassment in schools, prohibit instruction biased against LGBTQ students and require LGBTQ-inclusive history lessons.

In a friend of the court brief filed in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the ACLU SoCal and other civil rights organizations argue that the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation should be required to provide Michelle-Lael Norsworthy's medically necessary care for her gender dysphoria.

Governor Brown signs AB 329, a law written by the ACLU SoCal and coalition partners that for the first time mandates sexual health education in California's public schools. The legislation ensures students receive comprehensive, accurate, and unbiased sexual health and HIV education, and is the first law in the country to require teaching about sexual orientation, gender identity, and the negative effects of gender stereotyping.

JUNE 2015

JUNE 2015

ост. **2015**

POLICE PRACTICES

The ACLU is the leading watchdog against police abuse and corruption and one of the most outspoken advocates for police reform.

A big part of the recent public outcry over policing reflects the concern that when police violate the law, or shoot someone, the public doesn't get the full story.

Transparency is a basic principle of democracy. But California has one of the nation's most restrictive laws for public access to information about police officer misconduct. A statewide ACLU poll showed that state law is out of step with Californians' expectations.

Almost four in five California voters (79 percent) say that where police have engaged in misconduct, the public should have access to the findings and conclusions of investigations into that misconduct.

For years, the law enforcement lobby in Sacramento has stopped every effort to bring transparency to police misconduct investigations. Our elected leaders need to stand up for the voters or the voters will stand up for themselves.

The ACLU SoCal sues to get documents from the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department spelling out its policies and practices for using Tasers after several people who had been shocked with the electronic weapons died.

The ACLU SoCal withdraws its support for LAPD body worn video cameras and later asks the U.S. Justice Department to deny funds for the devices because department policies undermine transparency by requiring officers to view the video footage before making a report, and no footage will be released except in court cases.

The ACLU SoCal spearheads the release of Mobile Justice CA, a free smart phone app that has been downloaded more than 160,000 times and automatically transmits videos of possible police misconduct to the ACLU.

The City of Barstow reaches a settlement agreement with the ACLU SoCal on behalf of two brothers, calling for training the city's police officers to recognize that a refusal to identify is rarely sufficient reason to make an arrest.

MAR. 2015

APR. 2015

APR. **2015** MAY 2015



The governor signs AB 953 and AB 71, landmark bills to curb racial profiling and use of force tirelessly supported by the ACLU So Cal and its partners. The new laws require police to collect, analyze, and make available data on who officers stop, search or shoot, making California's laws on racial profiling the strongest in the nation.

ост. **2015**



RACIAL & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Since adopting an Economic Bill of Rights in 1983, the ACLU SoCal has been a champion of the right of every person to be assured a basic standard of living. Our advocacy has pushed city and county officials to establish essential rights for workers, including support for a living wage and paid sick days for all workers. And we remain committed to securing the expansion of healthcare coverage for working families, as well as helping remove barriers to employment that leave individuals struggling to escape poverty.

The ACLU SoCal and its partners join in launching Make It Fair CA, a campaign aimed at making commercial property taxes fair by reassessing the property at current market value so that communities can raise the revenue needed to fully fund schools and strengthen public services.

The ACLU SoCal and its partners successfully work to achieve a change in the minimum wage paid to hundreds of thousands of workers across the region. In a historic vote, the Los Angeles City Council boosts the basic wage paid hourly workers to \$15 by 2020. County officials are poised to adopt a similar plan.

The Healthy Workplace Healthy Family Act of 2014 takes effect. The law, which passed with support from the ACLU SoCal and its partners, will ensure that individuals who work at least 30 days a year will be able to take at least three paid sick days a year after 90 days on the job.

MAY 2015 JUNE 2015

JUNE 2015

VOTING RIGHTS

The Rev. George Lee and Lamar Smith are not as known as Medgar Evers, James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, Michael Schwerner, or Viola Liuzzo. But they and hundreds of others gave their lives to secure the vote for disenfranchised African-Americans in the South.

Those unceasing murders and the savage attack on peaceful marchers for voting rights in Selma, Alabama gave President Lyndon B. Johnson the momentum he needed to win passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

But two years ago, the U.S. Supreme Court gutted that act in *Shelby County v. Holder* by eliminating the requirement that nine states and jurisdictions with histories of discrimination, mainly in the South, get federal approval before changing their election laws.

Fast on the heels of that decision came scurrilous voter ID laws aimed at combating a problem that did not exist. It looked like poll taxes, literacy tests and racial gerrymandering by another name.

The ACLU has been fighting this rollback of voting rights across the country. Here in California, the ACLU SoCal is working to strengthen and expand the right to vote.

Anaheim voters pass two ballot measures changing city council elections from at-large to districts, ensuring that all voters in the city have a voice at city hall. The ACLU SoCal had sued the city for violating the California Voting Rights Act.

Like Anaheim, the City of Fullerton agrees to submit to voters a district-based system for electing its city council as part of a settlement of an ACLU SoCal lawsuit also charging that existing at-large elections violated the California Voting Rights Act.

Secretary of State Alex Padilla restores voting rights to the formerly incarcerated by dropping an appeal of a decision in a lawsuit brought by the ACLU SoCal and its partners on behalf of three individuals who had lost their right to vote.

NOV. 2014

JUL. 2015 AUG. 2015



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Peter Bibring	Director, Police Practices/Senior Staff Attorney	Carol Kaye	HR Coordinator
Ed Boyer	. Media Relations Manager	Jason Köhler	Database Manager
Joyce Bradberg	Executive Assistant	Christian Lebano	Manager of Special Projects & Partnerships
Ariel Bustamante	Education Justice Advocate	Victor Leung	Staff Attorney
Oscar Carpinteyro	Building Security	Esther Lim	Jails Project Director
Li Chia	Legal Assistant	Kim Lim	Senior Accountant
Jessica Colburn	Foundation Relations Manager	Maricela Lopez-Krulak	Senior Paralegal
Miguel Cruz	Chapter Manager	Elvia Meza	Director of Community Engagement
Ruth Dawson	. Staff Attorney	Luis Nolasco	Community Engagement & Policy Advocate, IE
Glen Eichenblatt	Director of Information Systems	Michelle Ochoa	Paralegal, OC
Peter Eliasberg	Legal Director/Manheim Family Attorney	Meegan Lee Ochs	Special Events Director
	for First Amendment Rights	Samuel Parker	Intake Coordinator
Belinda Escobosa Helzer	Director of Orange County & Inland Empire Offices	Jennie Pasquarella	Staff Attorney
Jennifer Fahey	Manager of Board Relations	Jessica Price	Staff Attorney
Jessica Farris	Policy & Advocacy Counsel	Ramona Ripston	Executive Director Emeritus
Vicki Fox	Director of Strategic Partnerships & Marketing	Jennifer Rojas	Community Engagement & Policy Advocate, OC
Eve Garrow	Homelessness Policy Analyst & Advocate,	Caitlin Sanderson	Staff Attorney, OC
	Dignity For All, OC	David Sapp	Director of Education Advocacy/Legal Counsel
James Gilliam	Deputy Executive Director	Shaleen Shanbhag	UCI Law Public Interest Fellow
Diana Gonzalez	Paralegal	Brenda Smith	Legal Librarian
Melissa Goodman	Director, LGBTQ, Gender Equity &	Courtney Spellacy	Director of Philanthropy
	Reproductive Justice Project	Geneva Tien	Senior Paralegal
Sandy Graham-Jones	Deputy Director of Philanthropy	Katie Traverso	Stanford Law Fellow
Hal Gunn	Associate Director of Gift Planning/Nat'l Office	Hector Villagra	Executive Director
Mario Guzman	Building Manager	Catherine Wagner	Legal Fellow
Brendan Hamme	Staff Attorney, OC	Erica Williams	Paralegal, IE
Sheila Harmon	Executive Assistant	Adrienna Wong	Staff Attorney, IE
Sandra Hernandez	Director of Communications	Clarissa Woo	Director of Policy Advocacy
Joey Hernández	Community Engagement & Policy Advocate		

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Elaine Wang Meyerhoffer Unai Montes

Cheryll Roberts Ken Ronney

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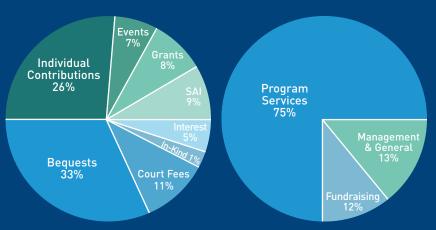
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Alvin S. Michaelson
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FINANCIAL OVERVIEW - FY14-15 ACLU FOUNDATION OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



SUPPORT & REVENUE

EXPENSES

SUPPORT & REVENUE	TOTAL	PERCENT
Individual Contributions	2,716,687	26%
Events	679,977	7%
Foundation Grants*	859,509	8%
ACLU Strategic Affiliate Initiative Grant	897,861	9%
Bequests**	3,400,369	33%
Court Awarded Fees	1,181,958	11%
Interest & Other***	537,093	5%
In-Kind Legal Contributions	145,878	1%
EXPENSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
Program Services	4,453,353	75%
Management & General Operations	741,110	13%
Fundraising	711.122	12%

FOOTNOTES:

National ACLU Foundation's revenue share of incentive income totals \$898,257.

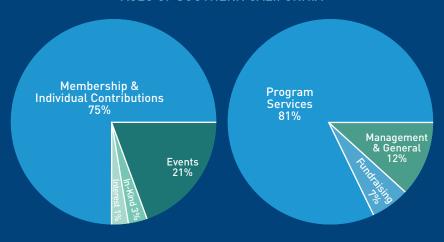
*Grants awarded to the ACLU Foundation of Southern California are restricted and earmarked for specific projects.

** National ACLU Foundation's revenue share of bequests totals \$1,195,447.

***Includes distributions of \$52,533 from the Watson Endowment, \$39,637 from the Permanent Endowment and \$34,813 from Trust for the Bill of Rights.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW - FY14-15

ACLU OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



SUPPORT & REVENUE

SUPPORT & REVENUE

EXPENSES

TOTAL PERCENT

Membership & Individual Contributions*	740,087	75%
Events	206,241	21%
Interest & Other	5,788	1%
In-Kind Legal Contributions	32,229	3%
EVENIOES		DEDOENE
EXPENSES	TOTAL	PERCENT
EXPENSES Program Services	TOTAL 1,072,248	PERCENT 81%

FOOTNOTE:

*Represents net sharing with National ACLU of dues and contributions.

All figures provided are unaudited at time of publication.

STAND FOR JUSTICE - STAND WITH THE ACLU

The ACLU needs your partnership. The ACLU's work is made possible by the financial support of over 500,000 members, activists, and philanthropists across the country who stand for justice, freedom, and equality.

THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS YOU CAN STAND WITH THE ACLU:

INVEST IN THE ACLU.

Make a tax-deductible donation to the ACLU Foundation of Southern California and help fund ACLU's litigation, public education, and community engagement work. You can also make a contribution to the ACLU of Southern California, though not tax-deductible, this critical support makes possible our legislative work and lobbying. The ACLU is able to accept donations via mail, online, or stock transfers.

ACLU Foundation of Southern California Stock Transfer:

DTC: Code 40, DTC #0164, Charles Schwab & Co. Inc., Attn: Transfer of Accounts, 101 Montgomery St, San Francisco, CA 94101

FBO: ACLU Foundation of Southern California, Account #1024-1241

You can make a tax-deductible gift online at www.aclusocal.org/donate or for more information about stock transfers, donations in honor of a loved one, or other gifts call: 213-977-5216.

Stock contributions via our broker do not identify the donor. In order for you to be credited with the correct contribution amount, please call 213-977-5216 to notify the ACLU of your gift.

LEAVE YOUR LEGACY.

Join thousands across Southern California who have become a member of ACLU's DeSilver Society, by naming the ACLU in their estate.

- Designate the ACLU as the beneficiary for part or all of your estate, through your will.
- Name the ACLU as a beneficiary on your insurance.
- Start a Charitable Gift Annuity.

For more information please call (213) 977-5282 or visit www.aclusocal.org/legacy.

BECOME A MEMBER.

Become an official card carrying member of the ACLU and connect to one of the largest advocate networks in Southern California and the nation. For more information about becoming a member visit www.aclusocal.org/join or call: (213) 977-5248.

The ACLU is a nationwide organization and donations to Southern California support the important work here as well as other ACLU affiliates in states where some of the most egregious civil rights and civil liberties violations occur and there is little financial support for their defense.

For more information about investing in the ACLU, charitable estate planning, or becoming a member you can also visit: www.aclusocal.org/support.

WHAT WE DO AND HOW

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 Constitution and 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, gender, 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 like 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.



