

# WE THE PEOPLE

2022 Annual Report



*Ensure*  
**WE THE PEOPLE**  
*means all of us.*

*“Democracy just cannot flourish amid fear. Liberty cannot bloom amid hate. Justice cannot take root amid rage. America must get to work...America has no choice but to do better.”*

*Thurgood Marshall, Former Associate Justice  
of the Supreme Court of the United States*

We’re furious and we know you are, too. Let’s do something about it.

Our commitment remains: Despite the terrible *Dobbs* decision, the ACLU of Maryland will continue to support our communities, local partners, and member-donors to preserve abortion rights and access for any and all people who can get pregnant. We are focused and prepared to reinforce all the rights that together we have worked so hard to protect against threats – from the safety of LGBTQ+ people from harm to the rights of immigrants targeted by the deportation machine, and so many more.

Back in 2013, with the egregious *Shelby* decision, the Supreme Court started chipping away at our voting rights, when the majority invalidated two provisions of the *Voting Rights Act* (VRA) of 1965. Section 5 of the VRA contained key protections for Black and Brown voters in southern states with long histories of voter suppression. That dangerous decision currently is having serious consequences in the redistricting process



*Dana Vickers Shelley*



*Hodayra Ziad*

and voter laws and access more generally. But now the Supreme Court justices are even more “originalist” (which should never be a goal if you care about civil and human rights), meaning we have much more to fear in future decisions that imperil our voting rights and our democracy itself.

Thankfully, the ACLU of Maryland’s strategic priorities encompass many of these pivotal issues. We’re also ready to meet the evolving, intersectional demands that these attacks on our rights from the Supreme Court represent, particularly to Black and Brown individuals and communities that have long been denied full access to these rights, even before these devastating rulings.

We must keep in mind that we have never seen true democracy or full access to rights for all. These ideas remain elusive, both in Maryland and across America. But we must imagine it, and then work to realize our vision. We won’t back down, we won’t give up, and we won’t be silent.

Together, we are stronger. If you want to make sure everyone in our state can exercise their rights so the law values and uplifts their humanity, you need to vote.

That is why the ACLU of Maryland promotes voting rights information during every statewide election cycle.

All voters – including voters who have returned to their communities from incarceration and eligible voters who are currently in jail pre-trial or in prison for a misdemeanor – need to know their rights and have access to the ballot.

Decisions we make for representation at the state, county, district, and local levels determine if and how we can restore what has been lost, preserve what is essential, and advance rights for all in the future.

Yours in liberty and equity,



***Dana Vickers Shelley***

Executive Director  
ACLU of Maryland



***Hodayra Ziad***

President, Board of Directors  
ACLU of Maryland

**ANNUAL REPORT:** Content by Meredith Curtis Goode, Jenny Trust, and Craig Lee. Design by Nicole McCann.

**COVER:** ACLU of Maryland’s Eastern Shore Meet & Greet in Salisbury. Pictured, from left to right: Staff Attorney Nick Taichi Steiner, Board Member Richard Potter, Campaign Strategist Lorena Diaz, Legal Director Deborah Jeon, Legal Program Manager Amy Cruice, Executive Director Dana Vickers Shelley, Field Organizer Jared Schablein, Public Policy Director Yanet Amanuel, and Communications Director Meredith Curtis Goode. Photo credit: Megan Outten.



*Our goal is to have a public education system where all students can learn, thrive and are prepared to effectively engage in the social, political and economic life of their community.*

Maryland guarantees the right to education in our state constitution. That is why this year, families in Baltimore City Public Schools, with the support of the ACLU and our legal partners, were back in court seeking summary judgment against the State Board of Education for its chronic and continued failure to provide constitutionally adequate educational opportunities to all students. Over decades, courts have repeatedly found funding for Baltimore City schools to be constitutionally inadequate.

Yet, a permanent plan is still needed to realize structural equity for generations of Black and Brown children who have been denied adequate and equitable resources compared to school systems in districts with more wealth. The ACLU is also working in Annapolis to secure the right to education, advocating for the *Blueprint for Maryland's Future* increase targeted funding for jurisdictions with low wealth, as well as facilities funding for jurisdictions with the most outdated, deficient school buildings.

To address the dangerous school-to-prison pipeline, the ACLU also successfully advocated with partners to pass a law requiring schools to abide by existing school discipline policies if suspension or expulsion is proposed, which gives the student fair due process.

**LEFT:** *Virtual Symposium on Antiracist Education the ACLU co-hosted with Antiracism for Maryland Schools (ARMS). Pictured, clockwise from upper left, Dr. Khalilah M. Harris, managing director for K-12 Education Policy at Center for American Progress; Desiree Tucker, executive director of Women Solve and member of End Racism in Frederick County Public Schools; Jadi Omowale, co-director, Culturally Responsive Teaching and Learning program; Bobby Marvin Holmes, founder of Son of a Dream; and Edwin Pérez, Spanish teacher with Baltimore County Public Schools.*

# government accountability

*Our goal is to make government accountable by maximizing transparency, establishing limits on governmental power, and strengthening enforcement mechanisms, particularly where there is the greatest opportunity for abuse of power.*

This past year, the ACLU has worked closely with community partners across the state to try to secure strong local Police Accountability Boards (PABs), a key part of the *Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021*. While we did secure important victories in this campaign, it became clear that we needed to return to the General Assembly for a clear directive to local jurisdictions that they must grant independent investigatory powers to their PABs.

The ACLU has also worked collaboratively to enforce full implementation of *Anton's Law*, named for 19-year-old Anton Black, who was killed by police in Greensboro, MD. *Anton's Law* allows victims of police brutality to know about misconduct via a Maryland Public Information Act request. Again and again, we see the Fraternal Order of Police attempting to thwart public transparency. That is why community groups are challenging police contracts and lawsuits that seek to undermine transparency to the public about police misconduct investigations. The ultimate goal is community control of the police who are supposed to serve them.

**RIGHT:** *Activists rally in Annapolis to demand a strong, community-led Police Accountability Board for Anne Arundel County. Photo by Mary Ella Jourdak.*

Jeffrey Price  
22 YEARS OLD



Run Down by Police  
Washington DC – May, 2018

George Floyd  
Oct 14, 1973 – May 25, 2020



9 minutes 29 seconds

Murdered by Officer Derek Chauvin  
in Minneapolis on May 25, 2020

**POLICE  
ACCOUNTABILITY  
SAVES LIVES**

&

uphold justice  
#PoliceAccountabilityNow



KIN

**Police ACCO**

ANNE ARUNDEL COALITION FO



Wilbur Collins III  
23 YEARS OLD



Police  
Accountability

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

**BLACK LIVES MATTER**



JUNTOS  
SOMOS  
FUERTES

NO MAS FONDOS  
AI AIGUACII Y  
SU ALIANZA CON IA M

No Racismo  
No 287g

Don't  
shatter  
families

#LOVE THY  
NEIGHBOR  
(NO EXCEPTIONS)

# immigrants' rights

*Our goal is to ensure all Marylanders are empowered to fully participate in society regardless of citizenship or legal status.*

The ACLU of Maryland helped secure a huge victory this past year as part of a legal team that played a crucial part in the national effort to protect detained immigrants from COVID-19. Importantly, *Coreas v. Bounds* supported successful advocacy efforts that closed all immigrant detention facilities in Maryland.

The ACLU also continued to work with partners to end 287(g) agreements. These deals between local police and the federal government's deportation machine are dangerous to the lives and due process rights of immigrants, as well as the public safety for everyone.

This year, we also supported the RISE Coalition in a campaign prioritized by immigrants in Frederick to have a library built that is accessible to their community. And we began supporting partner efforts to create better access to healthcare for immigrants in Maryland. Both of these campaigns are part of our goal of ensuring immigrants can fully participate in our society.

**LEFT:** Car rally organized and led by the RISE Coalition's Latiné-led "Comité" in opposition to the Frederick County Sheriff's use of the racist and anti-immigrant 287(g) program. Photo by the RISE Coalition.

# individual autonomy

*Our goal is to make sure Marylanders can think and speak freely without indiscriminate surveillance and with equitable access to the public square.*

Our strategies for accomplishing this important work include removing legal barriers to incarcerated persons' contact and communication with family and others. We also work to ensure that communities across Maryland are free from warrantless mass surveillance. We successfully supported a lawsuit brought by Black leaders in Baltimore challenging the use of spy planes to surveil residents by the police department. And we have had another victory in a case brought by four residents of Baltimore's Harlem Park neighborhood who bravely sued the city and police department after their state and federal constitutional rights were violated during a six-day, multi-block lockdown of their neighborhood.

To reduce police violence, the ACLU strongly advocated with partners to change new regulations from the Maryland Police Training Commission, to ensure the regulations did not roll back recent wins on accountability for police use of force. This focus on reducing harms caused by police is a growing priority for the ACLU. And we are working to develop tools and information that will be useful to Marylanders who are directly impacted by police violence so that they can more powerfully demand officer accountability.

**RIGHT:** *Leaders with the Maryland Coalition for Justice and Police Accountability hold a press conference to expose proposed regulations from the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission that would undermine efforts to create police accountability for abuse of community members. Pictured at the podium is ACLU of Maryland Public Policy Director Yanet Amanuel. Photo by Meredith Curtis Goode.*



NOTHING FOR US  
WITHOUT US!  
— JEWS UNITED FOR JUSTICE  
WWW.JUJF.ORG

MARYLAND NEEDS  
STRONG  
POLICE  
OVERSIGHT  
JEWS UNITED  
FOR JUSTICE  
WWW.JUJF.ORG

CASA

CASA

CASA

GREATEST

NO CONFIDENTIALITY  
REQUIREMENTS FOR  
POLICE OVERSIGHT BOARDS!  
THINK JEWISHLY. ACT LOCALLY  
WWW.JUJF.ORG

JEWS UNITED  
FOR JUSTICE  
THINK JEWISHLY.  
ACT LOCALLY  
WWW.JUJF.ORG

AELR Committee -  
Call for a public  
hearing on MPTSC regulations  
now!  
THINK JEWISHLY. ACT LOCALLY  
WWW.JUJF.ORG

NOTHING FOR  
US  
WITHOUT US  
THINK JEWISHLY. ACT LOCALLY  
WWW.JUJF.ORG



# legal justice system

*Our goal is to realize an equitable system that prioritizes community-centered approaches to public safety and ends our primary reliance on incarceration.*

This past year, we focused on access to parole for Marylanders serving long sentences and marijuana legalization that centers racial justice. For too long, too many people who deserve to be home with their loved ones have stayed locked inside. Through the Maryland Parole Partnership, the ACLU has supported the release of many Marylanders denied the opportunity for release – often for decades – despite serving sentences that were supposed to afford them a second change through parole. In addition, we are working to correct a drafting error that left people who need medical release as the only group that still requires gubernatorial approval for parole.

This matters because Maryland has some of the worst racial disparities among those serving life with parole sentences (77 percent) – even worse than states like Alabama and Mississippi. This past year also saw voters approve a law passed to legalize marijuana for recreational use. Now, the vital work happens to ensure against continued targeting of Black and Brown people for enforcement, by ending police stops and searches based on the alleged smell of marijuana and eliminating criminal penalties for marijuana – which is now a legal substance.

**LEFT:** *Marylanders who helped lead efforts to restore second chances from behind the walls who have finally returned home from long sentences, along with their loved ones. Pictured clockwise from the bottom left are Kenneth Tucker, Stanley Mitchell, members of the Lifer Family Support Network, Martina and Eric Hazelton, Anthony Muhammad, Andrew Stewart, Calvin McNeill, and Nathaniel Foster.*

# voting rights

*Our goal is to have an election infrastructure that guarantees universal suffrage and robust access to the ballot.*

This past year, our focus has been educating voters about their rights during the statewide election and defending the racial justice protections in the Voting Rights Act as redistricting took place across Maryland following the U.S. Census. Ultimately, our state needs to restore the right to vote to all Marylanders, including those in jails and prisons. But even right now, people who have been released on parole and those in jail or incarcerated for misdemeanors still have the right to vote.

That is why a special focus of our Election Protection (EP) work is empowering those voters with information and access. Our EP program worked to improve election policy in the state and our hotline reached voters across the state with useful information and encouragement to cast their ballots. The ACLU has also been working closely with Black voters in Baltimore County, Federalsburg, and other localities around the state to challenge discriminatory election systems. And now we are working with partners to pass a *Maryland Voting Rights Act* that would proactively protect racial justice in voting, no matter what rulings come from an increasingly civil rights-hostile U.S. Supreme Court.

**RIGHT:** *Launch event for the Black Voters Matter campaign in Prince George's County, supported by the Expand the Ballot, Expand the Vote Coalition, and led by Qiana Johnson, founder of Life After Release. Photo credit: Meredith Curtis Goode.*



**END** voter disenfranchisement  
**SO EVERYONE CAN VOTE!** **EXPAND THE BALLOT**  
**EXPAND THE VOTE**

**BACK MATTERS MATTER!**  
**EXPAND THE VOTE NOW!**

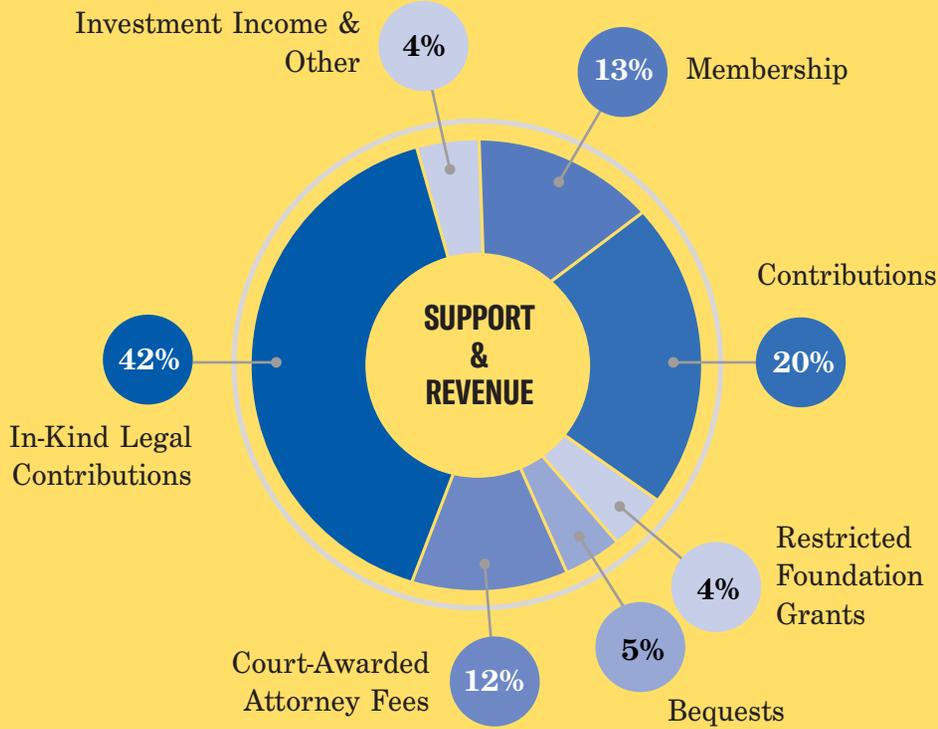
**STOP PLAYING**  
**START VOTING**

**LIFE AFTER RE...**

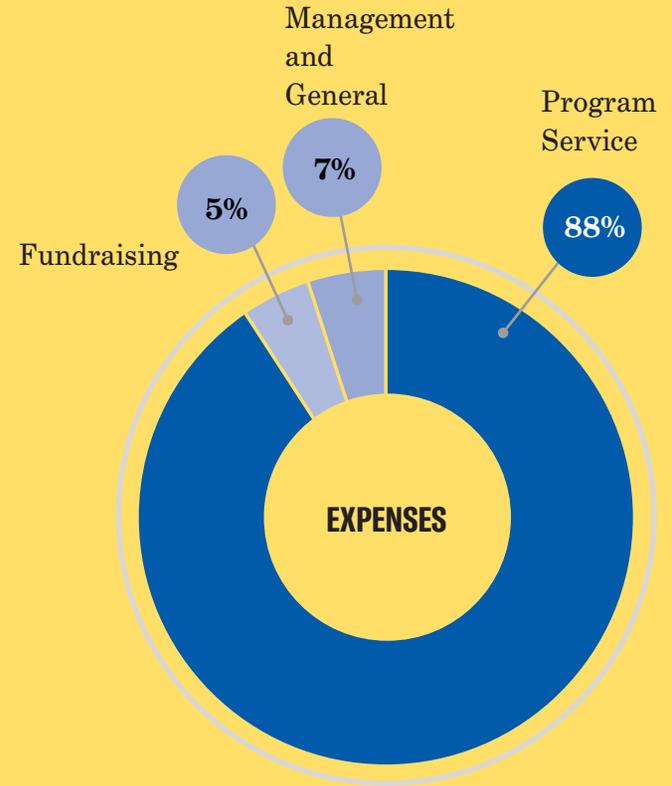
**EXPAND THE BALLOT**  
**EXPAND THE VOTE**

**EXPANDED**  
**IVES**

# audited financials



Membership	\$ 1,686,400
Contributions	2,514,286
Restricted Foundation Grants	561,770
Bequests	563,645
Court-Awarded Attorney Fees	1,454,637
In-Kind Legal Contributions	5,234,038
Investment Income and Other	529,073
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 12,543,849</b>



Program Service	\$ 9,340,323
Fundraising	480,391
Management and General	763,102
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 10,583,816</b>

*The ACLU of Maryland deeply appreciates all our member-donors, who partner with us to bring the promise of liberty and justice to life. Together, we work to empower Marylanders to exercise their rights so that the law values and uplifts their humanity. Thanks to all for your meaningful contributions!*

## **WE BELIEVE IN COMMUNITY-CENTRIC FUNDRAISING**

Traditional donor-centered fundraising elevates donors and wealth accumulated through historic and current injustice to hero status, valuing money above all other contributions. This way of fundraising does not align with who the ACLU of Maryland wants to be as an organization. Community-Centric Fundraising (CCF) takes a different approach. CCF is a movement grounded in equity and brings principles of racial, social, and economic justice into our fundraising work. CCF calls for a shift in our mindset.

### **Some of CCF's 10 principles are:**

- Fundraising must be grounded in race, equity, and social justice.
- Individual organizational missions are not as important as the collective community.
- Nonprofits are generous with and mutually supportive of one another.
- All who engage in strengthening the community are equally valued, whether volunteer, staff, donor, or board member.
- Time is valued equally as money.

To fulfill our commitment of centering race equity in all aspects of our work, now and increasingly in the future, we are devoting our time and resources to furthering the Community-Centric Fundraising movement. We look forward to collaborating with all of our many partners to grow this work! Learn more about our fundraising approach at our website: [www.aclu-md.org/news](http://www.aclu-md.org/news)

A vertical illustration on the left side of the page shows the faces of several diverse individuals, including a woman with long dark hair, a man with a beard, a woman with glasses, and a man with glasses. The style is a flat, colorful illustration.

# What will you give to ensure

## WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A MEMBERSHIP AND A DONATION?

The ACLU of Maryland consists of two sibling entities: the American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland and the ACLU Foundation of Maryland.

- The American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland is a 501(c)(4), which means that contributions are not tax-deductible and can be used for political lobbying. Membership contributions always fund the Union.
- The ACLU Foundation of Maryland is a 501(c)(3) charity, which means that contributions are tax-deductible and cannot be used for political lobbying. Gifts to the Foundation fund our litigation, communications, advocacy, and public education efforts in Maryland and across the country.

## WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DONATING TO THE ACLU OF MARYLAND AND THE NATIONAL ACLU?

At the ACLU of Maryland, we work closely with our colleagues at the National ACLU to defend civil liberties in our state and across the country. Gifts to the ACLU of Maryland are shared with the National ACLU, and vice versa.

# “WE THE PEOPLE” means all of us?

## ONLINE

To make an online membership donation, please go to [www.aclu-md.org](http://www.aclu-md.org) and click “DONATE” and then “JOIN”.

To make an online Foundation donation, please go to [www.aclu-md.org](http://www.aclu-md.org) and click “DONATE”.

## MAIL

ACLU of Maryland, Attn: Development, 3600 Clipper Mill Rd., Ste. 350, Baltimore, MD 21211

Checks should be made out to either the ACLU Foundation of Maryland (for tax-deductible donations) or the ACLU of Maryland (for membership contributions).

## STOCK/SECURITIES

Ask your broker to transfer the securities you wish to donate to the ACLU’s account (#30A121398) at T. Rowe Price (DTC# 0443).

Please email [development@aclu-md.org](mailto:development@aclu-md.org) or call us at (410) 889-8550 ext. 153 to inform us so that we can record and properly acknowledge your gift.

## IRA-QUALIFIED CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION

Make a donation to the ACLU Foundation of Maryland from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) and count it toward your Required Minimum Distribution.

Contact your IRA custodian to request a “Qualified Charitable Distribution” (QCD) to be made payable to the ACLU Foundation of Maryland – 3600 Clipper Mill Rd., Ste. 350, Baltimore, MD 21211. Our Tax ID # is 23-7209538.

## DONOR-ADVISED FUND / MORE INFO

Recommend a gift or recurring gifts from your donor-advised fund to the ACLU Foundation of Maryland.

Our Development staff welcomes the chance to meet and talk with you about supporting the work of the ACLU. For more information about additional giving opportunities, send an email us at [development@aclu-md.org](mailto:development@aclu-md.org) or call (410) 889-8550 ext. 153.



# our team

## FULL-TIME STAFF

**Dana Vickers Shelley**  
Executive Director

**Veronica Dunlap**  
Deputy Executive Director

**Yanet Amanuel**  
Public Policy Director

**Rosemary Ardman**  
Executive Assistant & Board Liaison

**Nehemiah Bester**  
Communications Strategist

**Gregory Brown**  
Public Policy Counsel

**Sebastian Brown**  
Campaign Strategist

**Carlos Childs**  
Regional Community Organizer

**Amy Cruice**  
Legal Program Manager

**Meredith Curtis Goode**  
Communications Director

**Lorena Diaz**  
Campaign Strategist

**Gina Elleby**  
Legal Advocacy Manager

**Sergio España**  
Engagement & Mobilization Director

**Ellen Hutton**  
Development Specialist

**Shaqué Ingram**  
Legal Administrative Assistant

**Deborah Jeon**  
Legal Director

**Jay Jimenez**  
Legal Program Specialist

**Dara Johnson**  
Legal Advocacy Coordinator

**Sonia Kumar**  
Senior Staff Attorney

**Craig Lee**  
Finance & Operations Director

**Nicole McCann**  
Senior Communications Strategist

**Neydin Milián**  
Communications Strategist

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Engagement Program Associate

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Senior Education Advocate

**Tierney Peprah**  
Staff Attorney

**David Rocah**  
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**Jared Schablein**  
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**Alicia Smith**  
Communications Strategist

**Olivia Spaccasi**  
Public Policy Program Associate

**Nick Taichi Steiner**  
Staff Attorney

**Ifrah Tariq**  
Finance & Operations Associate

**Jenny Trust**  
Development Director

## TEMPORARY STAFF & INTERNS

**Elshaday Aemero**

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**Jasmine Cooper**

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**Joy Griffin**

**Yaried Hailu**

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John Henderson

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Christy Lopez

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Boatemaa Ntiri-Reid

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Richard Potter

Seth Rosenthal

Elizabeth Samuels

Richard Simpson

Maureen Sweeney

Joshua R. Treem

Matt Vocci

Jessie Weber

Homayra Ziad

## PARTNER LAW CLINICS

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University of the District of Columbia  
David A. Clarke School of Law  
Criminal Law Clinic

University of Maryland School of Law  
Youth, Education & Justice Clinic

University of Maryland School of Law  
Justice for Victims of Crime Clinic

University of Maryland School of Law  
Gender Violence Clinic

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# our team



*ABOVE: ACLU of Maryland full-time staff, pictured from top left to right by row: Alicia Smith, Olivia Spacassi, Dana Vickers Shelley, Deborah Jeon, Amy Cruice, Rosemary Ardman, Sebastian Brown, Frank Patinella, Sonia Kumar, Dara Johnson, Carlos Childs, Yanet Amanuel, Craig Lee, and Shaqué Ingram.*



**ABOVE:** ACLU of Maryland full-time staff, pictured from top left to right by row: Veronica Dunlap, Nehemiah Bester, Meredith Curtis Goode, Nick Taichi Steiner, Sydney Moore, Neydin Milián, Jay Jimenez, Nicole McCann, Gregory Brown, Lorena Diaz, Tierney Peprah, Sergio España, Jared Schablein, Jenny Trust, and David Rocah. See the full team on our website.

# ACLU

Maryland

Since 1931, the ACLU of Maryland has been a champion for:

**LIBERTY, JUSTICE, AND EQUITY.**



## **DONATE ONLINE!**

Use your phone camera to hover over the QR code on the left. You will see a prompt to click to open a website. The QR code links to an ACLU of Maryland donation page.

## **THANK YOU FOR WORKING WITH US!**

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Baltimore, MD 21211  
[aclu@aclu-md.org](mailto:aclu@aclu-md.org)

