

GOVERNOR MOORE:
**VETO
HB814!**
#CareNotCages

#CareNotCages

CARE

NOT CAGES

ACLU Maryland

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

“Our Constitution is a remarkable, beautiful gift. But it’s really just a piece of parchment. It has no power on its own. We, the people, give it power.” –Former President Barack Obama

For the past 90 years, we have defended our Constitution and democracy, empowering Marylanders to raise their voices and claim their power. The coming year will be no different. The ACLU of Maryland (ACLU-MD) remains ready to center racial justice, invest in Maryland communities, and challenge government abuses.

Wherever our government initiates state-sponsored police violence, violates the rights of immigrant families and communities, or abuses our freedom of speech, ACLU-MD member-donors and friends will see us: urging people to march in the streets, launching effective lawsuits, and demanding necessary policy changes in Annapolis. **Together with directly impacted communities and other partners across Maryland, we WILL defend our democracy and each other.**

Moving forward is the only option. There is no other path to a better Maryland. It is difficult to overstate the challenges ahead. Our opponents are well organized and better funded. Yet our impact will be greater. Our spirit and vision are more powerful. This year, in collaboration with community partners to challenge the exploitation and dehumanization of incarcerated workers,



Dana Vickers Shelley



Corey Stottlemeyer

ANNUAL REPORT: *Writer: Neydin Milián. Designer: Nicole McCann. Contributors: Jenny Trust, Craig Lee, Shaqué Ingram, Dana Vickers Shelley, and Corey Stottlemeyer.*

Documents and information filed under the Maryland Charitable Organizations Solicitation Act may be obtained from the Maryland Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401.

we urged the Fourth Circuit to conclude that the *Fair Labor Standards Act* (the nation's leading minimum wage law) may sometimes apply when incarcerated workers work outside of jail walls. We will continue this racial justice advocacy so that the rights of incarcerated Marylanders are respected!

In an important Calvert County victory, we sued when the Calvert County sheriff attached a \$12,000 price tag to access records we requested under the *Maryland Public Information Act*, following a series of disturbing complaints from residents about invasive police searches. Our lawsuit prevailed!

This year, we championed the free speech rights of Towson University students who held a small "die-in" demonstration in support of Palestinians killed by Israel in Gaza and supported their efforts to write their school a letter challenging their mistreatment. In Howard County, we protected the rights of Arab and Muslim students and their parents to speak out against violence in Gaza when their school censored their speech. We urged Howard County school administrators to take measures to protect AMEMSA students from Islamophobia. Response from the school system was swift and conciliatory. In early September, we accompanied the impacted students and families to a meeting with the County

School Superintendent, who acknowledged the harms the school system had caused. The Superintendent apologized and committed to healing measures.

Finally, the Civil War-era law that denied control of the Baltimore Police Department (BPD) to its citizens was torn down this election year. Baltimore residents will finally be in the driver's seat for how BPD is managed. This hard-fought victory is a testament to over a decade of community power and organizing. **We are proud of you, friends, allies, and supporters, for never giving up on the dream of a better Maryland.** You protect the vision of a Maryland where every person can exercise their rights and have the law value their humanity.

Governmental efforts to shrink democracy are cynical, if not outright authoritarian. Your leadership is a testament to the power of people committed to justice and truth. Thank you for showing up for all of us. Please sign up online to become a member and join us at activities across the state!

With gratitude and in solidarity,



Dana Vickers Shelley

Executive Director
ACLU of Maryland



Corey Stottlemeyer

President, Board of Directors
ACLU of Maryland

COVER: *ACLU of Maryland staff joined the Maryland Youth Justice Coalition at a Care Not Cages rally in Annapolis to demand that Governor Moore veto HB 814. Pictured from left to right: Frank Patinella, Meredith Curtis Goode, Yanet Amanuel, Carlos Childs, Lorena Magdalena Diaz, Amy Cruice, and Olivia Spaccasi. Photo provided by: Meredith Curtis Goode.*



We will not stop until Maryland has a public education system where all students can learn, thrive, and effectively engage in their communities.

The State Board of Education has chronically failed to provide an adequate education to Black and Brown students, students from low-income households, and students who require special education. We raised the *Bradford v. State Board of Education* case to the Appellate Court of Maryland, which recently ruled to dismiss our lawsuit on procedural grounds and did not deliberate on the substance of our claim — that Baltimore City schools are underfunded. We are regrouping to determine the best path forward to ensure that the state holds fast to its constitutional obligation to provide adequate funding for staffing, services, and resources Maryland schools need to meet state-adopted educational standards.

Partnering with Community WELL, we secured an awesome victory to address the needs of multilingual learners in Maryland’s literacy policy. We also supported the passage of the *CALL Act*, awarding Maryland Multilingual Learners credit at any public institution of higher education in the state for completing English language courses.

This year, we championed the free speech rights of Towson University students and Howard County Arab and Muslim students and their parents who spoke out against violence in Gaza. In another free speech effort, the ACLU of Maryland supported the *Freedom to Read Act*, which establishes standards for all state-funded libraries — including those in public schools — to prevent banning books about people of color, race or racism, and LGBTQ+ themes.

LEFT: Following oral arguments at the Maryland Supreme Court, litigators, advocates, and Baltimore City students gathered in front of the building for a press conference to highlight the critical importance of this case for the future of Baltimore City schoolchildren. Photo credit: Nicole McCann.

government accountability

We will not stop until our government is accountable to the community it serves. Marylanders demand transparency, limits on government power, and enforcement mechanisms to prevent abuse of power.

This year, the ACLU of Maryland and partners continued to advocate to empower Police Accountability Boards across the state to hold their police departments accountable. Garnering strong community support during for the 2024 legislative session, we hope to ensure victories in Annapolis this upcoming session! We will continue our defense of *Anton's Law*, a hard-fought victory for police transparency, which for the first-time opened police misconduct records to public scrutiny. Montgomery County helped weaken *Anton's Law* through its agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Lodge 35 to undermine the law's disclosure obligations through union agreements. We intervened in FOP's challenge of *Anton's Law* to protect the community and promote police transparency.

We won an important victory in a disturbing Calvert County case. After a series of unsettling complaints from Black Calvert County residents about invasive police searches, we requested documents related to these searches under the *Maryland Public Information Act*. We sued when the sheriff attached a \$12,000 price tag to access the records, arguing that withholding public information is part of a troubling new statewide pattern, in response to *Anton's Law*. Our lawsuit prevailed! We hope this legal ruling will discourage the Calvert County Sheriff and other state actors from repeating this conduct, and ignoring the accountability that is required from law enforcement.

RIGHT: Victory stamp on the image of the first page of the filed complaint in the ACLU v. Calvert County case that challenged Calvert County Sheriff Evan's onerous use of fees to block our request for access to public policing records.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR BALTIMORE CITY, MARYLAND

**AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
OF MARYLAND**

3600 Clipper Mill Road – Suite 350
Baltimore, MD 21211

Plaintiff,

OFFICE
CALVERT
30 Church Street
Prince Frederick

-and-

MIKE EVANS in his official capacity as
Sheriff of Calvert County, MD
30 Church Street
Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Defendants.

VICTORY

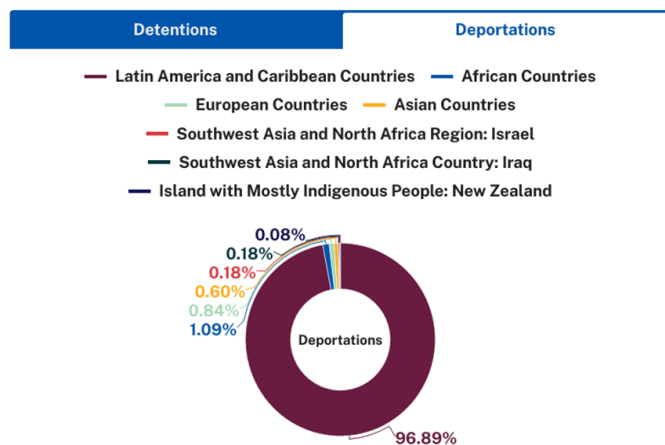
CIVIL DIVISION

2022 MAR -2 AM 10:09

RECEIVED
CIRCUIT COURT FOR
BALTIMORE CITY

BECAUSE OF RACIST 287(G) AGREEMENTS, local police have a license to abuse. Black and Brown immigrants are disproportionately detained and deported.

2022 ICE Detentions & Deportations by Country of Origin*



*We would love to have information on the races of people who were deported and detained, ICE only reported people's country of origin.

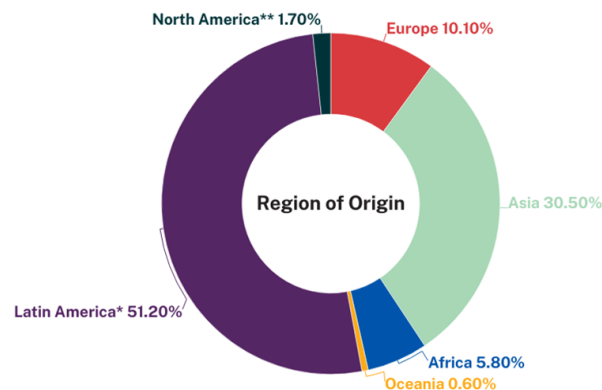
SOURCE: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, (n.d.), 287(g) End-of-Year Report, Department of Homeland Security, [https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2023-05/ICE-287\(g\)End-of-YearReport.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2023-05/ICE-287(g)End-of-YearReport.pdf)

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What's the 287(g) program? →

BECAUSE OF RACIST 287(G) AGREEMENTS, Black and Brown immigrants are disproportionately detained and deported compared to the makeup of immigrants in this country.

Geographic Diversity of Immigrants in the United States



*Including Mexico
**Only Canada, excluding Mexico

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023, S0502 American Community Survey, Selected Characteristics of the Foreign-Born Population by Period of Entry into the United States (filters used: "Place of Birth" and "United States") [https://data.census.gov/tables/ACSST1Y2023.S0502?q=immigrant&t=Place%20of%20Birth&g=010XX00UShttps://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2023-05/ICE-287\(g\)End-of-YearReport.pdf](https://data.census.gov/tables/ACSST1Y2023.S0502?q=immigrant&t=Place%20of%20Birth&g=010XX00UShttps://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2023-05/ICE-287(g)End-of-YearReport.pdf)

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Dignity for some or for all? →

We will not stop until we defend the civil rights and civil liberties of all Maryland immigrants so they can fully participate in society, regardless of citizenship or legal status.

At the ACLU of Maryland, we strive to limit the partnerships with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in local county jurisdictions by eliminating the 287(g) program with Maryland's sheriffs. Hindering ICE's ability to detain and remove Marylanders is of top priority.

In a case challenging one of the Trump Administration's practices of family separation, we defended Maryland families against ICE's cruel "bait and switch" tactic where ICE would lure undocumented immigrants to immigration offices with the promise of a Green Card, only to arrest them when they showed up. On the cusp of a second Trump presidency, we will continue to defend against these practices to protect Maryland's immigrant community.

This year, the ACLU of Maryland supported our partner CASA in passing the *Access to Care Act*. Prior to this law, undocumented residents in Maryland had been ineligible to purchase insurance through the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange, which provides a variety of services to Maryland residents such as helping individuals and families find affordable plans and the right kind of coverage. An estimated 250,000 people will now be able to access the benefits of this essential service. We also partnered with Frederick City residents to ensure access to the ballot on local city elections regardless of immigration status to ensure more effective representation and participation in local government.

LEFT: *Graphs of who is being deported and who is being detained by their country of origin. These graphs are featured in Neydin Milián's blog, [Dignity for Some or For All](#) on the ACLU of Maryland website. Image design credits: Nicole McCann. Research credit: Neydin Milián.*



ACLU of Maryland staff attended and tabled at summer PRIDE events across the state. Featured here are photos from Charles County, Annapolis, and Baltimore City. Photos credits in clockwise order: Carlos Childs, Gina Elleby, Sydney Moore, Amy Cruice, Lorena M. Diaz, Dana Vickers Shelley, and Lorena M. Diaz.





We will not stop until Maryland has an equitable system that prioritizes community-centered approaches to public safety and ends our primary reliance on incarceration.

This year, the ACLU of Maryland and partners successfully defended the *Child Interrogation Protection Act* against attacks to children's rights. We opposed the "Fox45 bill" that further criminalizes children, particularly Black and Brown children, who the police most often target. Human Rights for Kids ranked Maryland among the worst at protecting children from human rights violations. Research shows "tough on crime" laws are ineffective and worsen racial disparities.

We challenged the exploitation and dehumanization of incarcerated workers, working with partner advocates to submit a "friend of the court" brief tracing the racist history of such practices. We urged the Fourth Circuit to recognize that the *Fair and Labor Standards Act* (the nation's leading minimum wage law) may sometimes protect incarcerated workers working outside of jail walls. We will continue this advocacy until incarcerated Marylanders' rights are respected!

For nearly a decade, the ACLU of Maryland has partnered with families and activists to promote a fairer legal justice system, particularly for those serving extreme sentences. This year, we advocated for the *Second Look Act*, aimed at reducing race disparities and prison populations by ensuring people who have transformed over the years have second chances to return to their communities. Our greatest win is celebrating the many homecomings of people freed this year due to our work surrounding parole and their contributions.

LEFT: Together with our partners at the Maryland Parole Project, we've created a limited series titled Life After a Second Chance to highlight the incredible community work of six formerly incarcerated individuals on these topics: Medical Parole, Community Engagement, Restorative Justice, Supporting Survivors, Race Disparities, and Family Reunification. Pictured in clockwise order: Alonzo Turner-Bey, Autumn and John Woodland, Anthony Muhammad, Gordon Pack, Bobby Stewart, and Wayne Brewton-Bey. Nehemiah Bester directed and produced the videos in the series, and Nicole McCann took the portraits.

We will not stop until we have an election infrastructure that guarantees universal suffrage and robust access to the ballot.

Even if the U.S. Supreme Court chips away at the federal *Voting Rights Act*, we are committed to expanding voting rights here in Maryland. The ACLU of Maryland is working to encourage voter participation by advocating for a fully effective *Maryland Voting Rights Act*. To lead the nation in voting rights, we must secure protections for Black voters and voters of color, who have historically been disenfranchised.

In the courts, we challenged the discriminatory at-large component of the election system for Wicomico County Council and Board of Education. Black voters and local organizations are working collaboratively towards reform and resolution of the lawsuit to bring long-overdue racial fairness to Wicomico County in time for the next state elections.

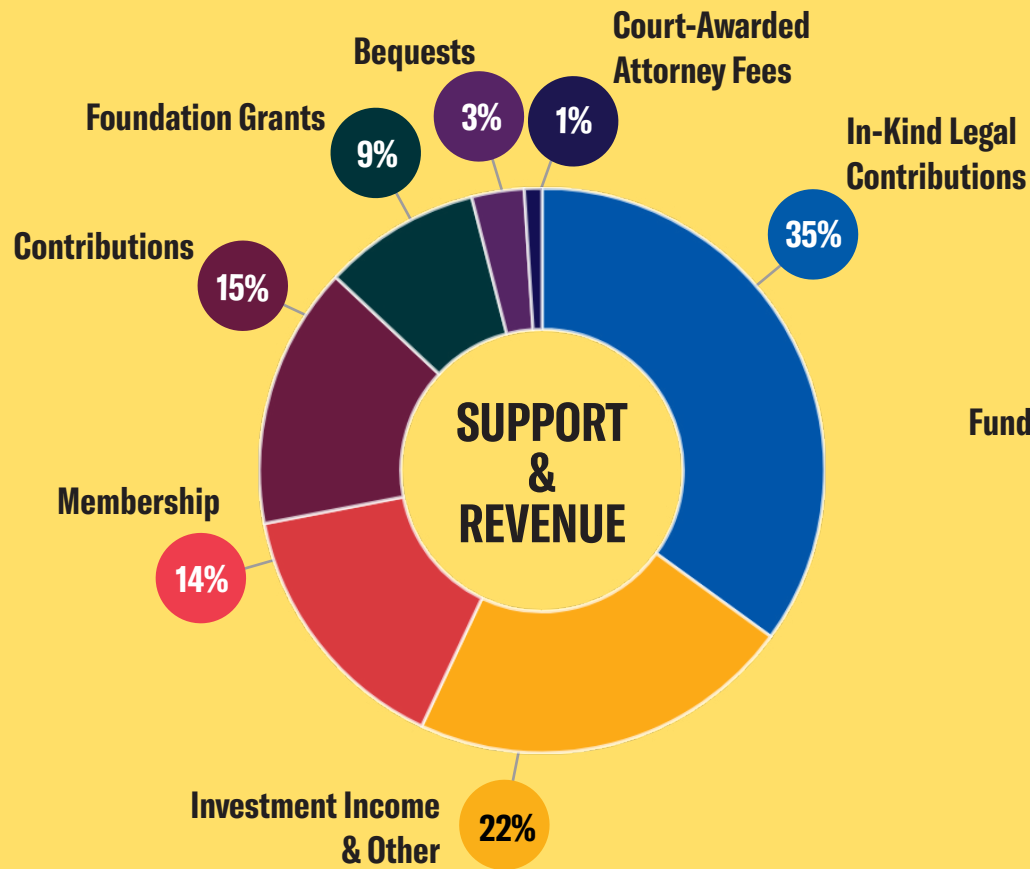
Finally, the historic settlement in our voting rights lawsuit against the Town of Federalsburg adds unprecedented reconciliation to its history-making election reform. The sweeping array of restorative measures includes an official apology for the historical racism, a street renaming, and community markers commemorating and celebrating the history and contributions of Black residents, among other measures.

RIGHT: *At the Federalsburg Unity Festival, a group gathers by the “From Protest to Progress” sign that was part of the landmark settlement in the historic voting rights case. In the photo are six people named on the sign (Rev. Jeffrey Butler, Elaine Hubbard, Roberta Butler, Dr. Willie G. Woods, Sherone Lewis, and Wanda Molock) and three other NAACP branch members (Elizabeth Pinkett, Janet Fountain, and Rev. Pearl Geter). Photo credit: Wanda Molock.*

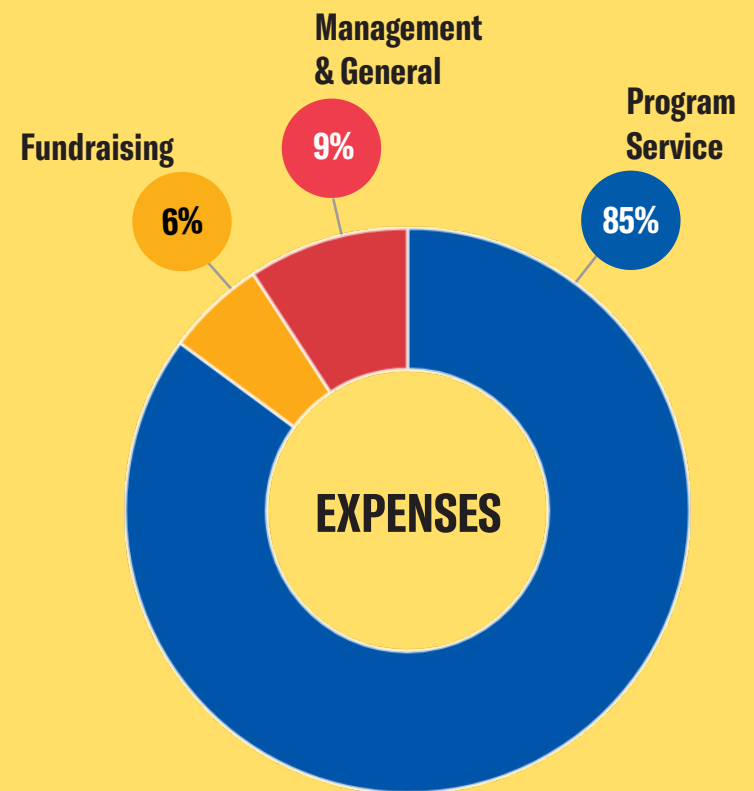


**FROM PROTEST TO PROGRESS:
EVENTS THAT CHANGED THE FACE OF FEDERALSBURG**

In the Town of Federalsburg's bicentennial year 2022, the culmination of efforts of Federalsburg's past: Wanda Motuck, Roberta Butler, Sherrie Loeck, Elaine Hubbard, Terlene Pitt, Harriett, Alexandra Borden, Ryan Haynes, Lavonda Johnson, and Rev. Jeffrey Butler, the Calvert County Branch of the NAACP, under the leadership of Dr. Willie Davis, and the Council of African American Leaders, under the leadership of Rev. Carl Snowden and Rev. James Jones, in collaboration with the Mayor and Council of Federalsburg, created the opportunity for Federalsburg's Black community to elect two representatives to the Federalsburg Town Council. Through their efforts, with support of the AGU of Maryland and the guidance from the United States District Court, the Town adopted and implemented a new and fair election system, ending the 200 year election of Black residents from their government. Federalsburg's history reflects on September 26, 2022 resulted in two Black women winning seats to the Town Council. Barbara Pitt Harriett and Brenda Jones. This day forever marks a turning point in Federalsburg, beginning a new chapter that celebrates Federalsburg's diverse community.



Membership	\$ 1,191,309
Contributions	1,154,117
Foundation Grants	677,000
Bequests	273,694
Court-Awarded Attorney Fees	115,303
In-Kind Legal Contributions	2,769,608
Investment Income and Other	1,740,782
Total	\$ 7,921,813



Program Service	\$ 7,027,433
Fundraising	473,376
Management and General	760,914
Total	\$ 8,261,723

The ACLU of Maryland deeply appreciates all of 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!

This is a critical moment to keep the pressure on our extreme anti-democracy opponents:

Please help us further the momentum we've already gained and tackle the most urgent challenges ahead with your generous contribution today.



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.

WHAT WILL YOU GIVE TO ENSURE...

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A MEMBERSHIP & 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.

Your investment in the ACLU's work is an investment in the protection and expansion of civil rights and liberties for all. Together, we can ensure that the values we hold dear are upheld and that our democracy remains strong. Thank you.

“We The People” MEANS ALL OF US?

ONLINE

Give securely at www.aclu-md.org.

MAIL

ACLU of Maryland, 3600 Clipper Mill Rd., Ste. 200,
Baltimore, MD 21211

Make checks out to ACLU Foundation of Maryland
(tax-deductible donations) or the ACLU of Maryland
(membership contributions).

DONOR-ADVISED FUND

Recommend a gift for immediate impact or set up
recurring donations to the ACLU Foundation of Maryland.

IRA QCD

Ask your IRA custodian to send a check to the ACLU
Foundation of Maryland (Tax ID: 23-7209538) at our
mailing address, specifying it's a QCD.

STOCK/SECURITIES

Transfer to the ACLU Foundation of Maryland's account
(30A121398) at T. Rowe Price (DTC# 0443).

BENEFICIARY DESIGNATIONS

Name the ACLU as a beneficiary for retirement
accounts, life insurance policies, or bank or
brokerage accounts.

Fill out your provider's beneficiary designation
form with the following details:

- Legal Name: American Civil Liberties Union
Foundation of Maryland, Inc.
- Tax ID: 23-7209538

WORKPLACE GIVING

ACLU Foundation of Maryland participates in the
Combined Federal Campaign (15328).

QUESTIONS?

In honor or memory, by will or trust, or for more
information about additional giving opportunities,
the ACLU of Maryland's Office of Development is
happy to provide resources to help you fulfill your
philanthropic interests and passions in a way that
is consistent with your values.

**Contact development@aclu-md.org or
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a champion for liberty, justice, and equality.



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WORKING WITH US!**

3600 Clipper Mill Road,
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Baltimore, MD 21211
aclu@aclu-md.org

