

75 Years for Justice

Celebrating Voices for Libert







he Maryland ACLU's 75th birthday calls to mind the words of our national fo ■ Baldwin: "No battle for civil liberties ever stays won."

In 1921, Elizabeth Gilman, daughter of Johns Hopkin's president, created the Maryland C Committee (precursor to the ACLU) to oppose arrests and deportations of Russian imm ers. In the wake of 9/11, the ACLU filed suits to stop the mass arrests, detention and d Middle Easterners.

In March 1931, a spate of lynchings occasioned Maryland ACLU's founding. In the '60 for desegregated juries and civilian review of police brutality against Baltimore's Africa This year, with NAACP as our lead plaintiff, we sued the Baltimore City police for detaining thousands of mostly African Americans without probable cause.

In the 30's, and again in the 80's, we fought to protect minority party access to the ballo elections. This year, amidst concerns about voter disenfranchisement, we are working all eligible voters can cast their ballots and have them counted.

In the 40's, we stood up for Planned Parenthood, when its "Marriage Counseling" meet celled because the Catholic Archdiocese opposed it. In 1992, we stood with Planned I pass by wide margins referendum "Question 6," securing abortion rights in Maryland.

In the 40s and 50s we fought loyalty oaths, including Maryland's extreme Ober Law. spurned the Combined Federal Campaign's required "oath" that none of our employees are

In 1977, we won official recognition for the Gay Student Alliance at Essex Community the 1990s, we got Maryland's sodomy statute (long used to single out gay men) overturne we got a state trial court to declare unconstitutional Maryland's marriage law, which deni riage protections to same-sex couples and their families.

And then there are the perennial free speech cases. In the 1960's, we defended picketers ers arrested for demonstrating against segregated conditions at parks and restaurants. In represented the National States Rights Party in the Supreme Court, to establish that prote in court before the government can ban their demonstrations. In the 1990s, we represen right to not have outside groups interfere with their message as they marched down a m Western Maryland. The First Amendment won in every case.

Thomas Jefferson was right: "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." After 75 years, we're still standing for (see inside!):

Another card-carrying member of the ACLU...

American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Maryland 3600 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 350 Baltimore, MD 21211

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75 YEARS FOR JUSTICE Celebrating Voices for Liberty and Equality



Donnie Wilson (pictured with a photo of his young son) was illegally arrested by the Baltimore City Police Department while sitting on the porch of his girlfriend's house.

"WHEN TRADITION IS THE GUISE UNDER WHICH PREJU-DICE OR ANIMOSITY HIDES, IT IS NOT A LEGITIMATE STATE **INTEREST.**"

> **—BALTIMORE CITY CIRCUIT** COURT JUDGE BROOKE MURDOCK, FROM DECISION IN ACLU'S MARRIAGE FAIR NESS CASE.



This June, the families ACLU represents in our marriage fairness case were honored as grand marshals of the Baltimore Pride Parade.

"WE BELIEVE THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS ENGAGING IN ILLEGAL AND IMMORAL ACTIONS, AND IF THEY ARE MONITORING OUR NON-VIO-LENT AND LOVING WORK, THEY ARE FURTHER UNDERMINING OUR **DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS."**

> —SISTER ARDETH PLATTE, A DOMINICAN NUN WITH JONAH HOUSE, A FAITH-BASED, NON-VIOLENT RESISTANCE COMMUNITY THAT ACLU REPRESENTS IN AN INFORMATION REQUEST REGARDING POSSIBLE ILLEGAL SURVEILLANCE.

FIGHTING ABUSE OF POWER

In the five years since 9/11, the Bush administration has eavesdropped on citizens' private conversations, monitored emails, and conducted searches-of our homes, our phone records, our reading activities and medical and financial information—without the required warrants. It has sent people to prison for years without ever charging them or holding a trial. It has authorized kidnapping people and flying them to other countries to torture them.

But ACLU's work has paid off. This year alone, federal courts twice reminded President Bush that no one, less NSA wiretapping program.

of political and religious groups. Following reports that the government has used fighting terrorism as a pretext information requests with federal and state authorities.

EQUAL RIGHTS AT THE BALLOT BOX

One person, one vote. This is the core of our democracy. With our "Election Protection" program, ACLU took a lead role to ensure that every eligible voter can cast a ballot and have their vote counted. ACLU's program is a major effort to educate voters about their rights, address any issues of voter intimidation or disen-

This year again we held an Election Hotline on Election Days and distributed over 10,000 Maryland Voter Empowerment Cards. We reached out to and received complaints from individual voters, get-out-the-vote **EQUAL JUSTICE IN OUR CLASSROOMS** organizations, candidate campaigns, and political parties active in Maryland. We also issued a report on the problems we saw and met with election officials to help build a stronger election system for the future.

Meanwhile, thanks to the ACLU's advocacy, this year voters in LaPlata will no longer have to present photo identification in order to vote in town elections—a policy that violated the federal Help America Vote Act.

SAVING LIVES, SAVING CHOICE

ACLU successfully defended the right of women not to be criminally prosecuted for conduct during pregnancy. We represented a young woman sitting in prison, found guilty of reckless endangerment of her fetus based on her alleged drug use during pregnancy—conduct not

actually a crime. Using the criminal justice system to address health care issues like drug addiction is a largely discredited practice.

In Annapolis, ACLU came close to securing a law allowing pharmacists to dispense emergency contraception over the counter. Since then, the FDA has decided to allow pharmacies to sell emergency contraception without a prescription to women 18 and over an arbitrary age restriction that ACLU will fight.

HOUSING CHOICES FOR FAMILIES

Following a January 2005 federal court ruling that including the President, is above the law. In June, the HUD had violated federal law by not taking into Supreme Court struck down his military commission account the entire Baltimore region in its assisted houssystem for detainee trials at Guantánamo Bay. In ing programs, the ACLU was back in court this year for August, a Michigan federal court rejected his warrant- a remedy hearing. In March, joined by the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and the firm of Morgan Lewis, we went to trial to determine what steps HUD must take to In Maryland, we're challenging government surveillance make the regional housing market work for the Thompson families and ultimately the whole region.

for targeting Maryland peace groups, we filed public The trial occurred amidst general concerns over a housing market that is seriously out of balance. Seniors worry about being able to keep their homes. Young families feel shut out of the housing market. And workers who keep the economy humming along find that the housing supply available to them is shrinking and ever further from new job growth.

The Thompson case—brought on behalf of 15,000 families who have lived in public housing that was confined franchisement, and solve problems voters have at the to the poorest, most segregated neighborhoods—is part of the key to restoring balance in the housing market. Indeed, it has already helped over 600 families move to communities of opportunity, where jobs are growing and families can get on their feet.

In 1954, Brown vs. Board of Education ushered in the promise of quality education for all. Over fifty years later, the ACLU and its allies are bringing Maryland one step closer to realizing that promise. Our 1994 classaction lawsuit, charging that the state has a constitutional responsibility educate all its children, continues to bear fruit. Since the case settled in 1996, more than \$500 million has flowed to the state's poorest school district in Baltimore City and hundreds of millions more to school districts statewide. Our return to court in 2000 netted a court order for even more funding through 2007.

Meanwhile, we are working to ensure that the school districts spend their funding wisely. This year we pressed both Baltimore City and the State to identify and repair dilapidated buildings that house low-performing schools.

Funding to remedy hazardous conditions, deficient building systems, and overcrowding in public schools across the state was increased to \$322 million from the \$281 million allocated last year.

FAIRNESS FOR GAYS AND LESBIANS

This January, a trial court judge ruled that denying thousands of same-sex couples and their families the many protections that come with a civil marriage license violates the Maryland constitution's Equal Rights Amendment to. "When tradition is the guise under which prejudice or animosity hides, it is not a legitimate state interest," said Circuit Court Judge Brooke Murdock in Deane & Polyak v. Conaway, ACLU's marriage case. This landmark decision brought our clients—nine couples and one widowed man—one step closer to fairness under the law. Following this landmark decision, we helped our legislative allies rebuff efforts to pass a constitutional amendment that would have banned any legal relationship between same-sex couples.

The ability of gay and lesbian students to learn was threatened in Allegany County Public Schools, where they were victims of rampant anti-gay harassment. ACLU pressed officials to address the bullying, which denies children basic safety and can lead to decreased attendance, declining grades, and behavior problems, with long range consequences.

RIGHT TO SPEAK YOUR (POLITICAL) MIND

In times of political strife the right to express political views and organize is most critical. Fortunately, the ACLU defended "Women in Black" who were able to hold silent street vigils across the state. We were there when President Bush's security officials forced demonstrators critical of him into "free speech zones" away from the President and the press.

Across the state, ACLU defended speech in the form of political signs. We stopped small towns to large counties, including Montgomery and Baltimore Counties, from curbing the display of signs on lawns and other legitimate public areas.

And ACLU protected the quintessential political act the right to vote—by stopping the Maryland Transportation Authority from banning Project VOTE and ACORN from registering low-income and minority voters on public property near buses and trains.

STANDING UP FOR STUDENTS' RIGHTS

Civil liberties are sometimes at risk even in the schools that teach our children their civic lessons. This year, ACLU came to the rescue of the First Amendment after the Carroll County Schools Superintendent decided to remove several award-winning books from school library shelves. Civil libertarians can be heartened by the vocal student protest sparked by the book ban.

organized by the ACLU's UM Law School Chapter,

went to Annapolis to fight for adequate education

funding for all students.

ACLU also stood for the First Amendment in the case of a student on the Eastern Shore who was banned from wearing a shirt with a small Confederate Flag insignia on the sleeve.

And we represent the families of two Kent County girls who were wrongly subjected to strip searches during a drug sweep in which students were locked in their classrooms while drug sniffing dogs searched the school, improperly questioned, and even drug tested without their parents' being present.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN SCHOOLS

Public schools are the first place where tolerance for diversity ought be modeled, and the last place where children of minority religions, or no particular religion, should be made to feel like outsiders. Nonetheless, we were again called upon to champion religious liberty. Upon inquiry by the ACLU, the Charles County school board agreed not to hold any more religious assemblies at which school children were invited to off-site pizza parties and urged to "make decisions for Christ."

In Howard County, the ACLU helped scrap a proposed public school policy changing the current practice of allowing Muslim students to be excused 20 minutes early on Fridays for off-campus congregational prayers. Schools need a compelling reason to override the religious liberty of students when absences are routinely granted for reasons like funerals, poor weather conditions, and lack of transportation.

In Maryland's General Assembly, ACLU beat back continued efforts to pass taxpayer subsidies for non-public schools, including tax credits to private school teachers who seek advanced education and funding for computers in private schools. New this year was a thinly-veiled attempt to enact private and religious school vouchers under the guise of reforming public schools.

PROTECTING PERSONAL PRIVACY

Because privacy is increasingly at risk in our electronic age, the ACLU joined a case to protect the rights of internet users to remain anonymous and the rights of internet publications to maintain the confidentiality of their sources and their subscribers. A reporter for an internet stock newsletter, Eyeshade Report, had written a piece critical of Matrixx Initiatives, Inc., which then demanded information about the reporter's sources and a list of the Eyeshade Report's individual subscribers.

Maryland ACLU also worked to stop a federal government Maryland Public Information Act. The court granted scheme to turn State driver's licenses into, for all practical this important right, especially important for those at purposes, federal identity papers. The REAL ID Act, if implemented, would create an unfunded mandate that dictates how state driver's licenses will look, who they can be

ACLU FIGHTS FOR EQUAL RIGHTS FOR... given to, and how personal driver's information will be managed and used. It forces states to link their databases containing every licensed driver's personal information with other states, with no guidelines as to who will have access to that information.

A JUST CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

The ACLU sued the Baltimore police, who each year unlawfully arrest tens of thousands of people-virtually all in poor, minority neighborhoods. Those swept into the net are taken to the state-run Central Booking. where they are illegally strip-searched and incarcerated —often for days—in grossly overcrowded, filthy, and inhumane conditions, before prosecutors routinely release them without charges (on grounds that prosecution is not viable, as no actual crime can be proven.) Records show that fully one-quarter of all persons arrested by Baltimore police are released by prosecutors without charges.

The ACLU is challenging both the arrests—which arise from Baltimore Police Department's adoption of the New York PD's discredited "zero tolerance" policingand the treatment of the arrestees at Central Booking. ACLU also offered a remedy plan that would ensure effective law enforcement without violating citizens'

The ACLU filed a lawsuit challenging the regulations that govern the state's administration of the death penalty, which are not in compliance with state law. For example, the Division of Corrections' Execution Operations Manual outlines a lethal injection cocktail that exposes death row inmates to cruel and usual pun-

OPEN GOVERNMENT TO ALL THE PEOPLE

A government of the people and by the people must be visible to the people. A new challenge to open meetings and public information laws is the growing number and power of quasi-governmental agencies like the Baltimore Development Corporation, the economic development arm of the city government. ACLU filed a friend-of-the-court brief asking the state's highest court to hold such agencies subject to both the Maryland Open Meetings Act and the state Public Information

ACLU weighed in on behalf of Western Correctional Institution prisoners who sought information under the

the mercy of the state.

African American Motorists "Driving While Black" ACLU's landmark case to stop "racial profiling" on the highways has entered a new chapter, as we forge ahead toward trial of our clients' claims for monetary damages. One of the first to call national attention to police targeting of motorists for "driving while black," our case was filed in 1993 on behalf of an African-American public defender and his family who were wrongfully stopped and searched in western Maryland by state troopers using a racial profile.

Under a 1995 settlement, the Maryland State Police agreed not to use racial profiles and to share detailed records of all motorist searches with the court and ACLU. In 1997, the court ruled that the police were still discriminating, prompting ACLU to file a classaction lawsuit on behalf of the Maryland NAACP and 18 individual motorists. In May 2003, the state agreed to make comprehensive changes in police policy, providing a national model for resolving racial profiling

Homebuyers ...

The ACLU supports and encourages efforts by local governments to enact and enforce laws aimed at preventing discrimination in the field of lending, as well as in other areas. That is why we took action this year to uphold Montgomery County's Fair Housing Law, which blocks lending practices that open the door to discrimination against prospective homebuyers. We filed a friend-of-the-court brief in support of the ordinance, after a lending institution trade association challenged

... And the Homeless

Everyone has the right to due process and humane treatment, which is never more important than for individuals at the margins of society who are vulnerable to the whims of elected officials. That is why ACLU is taking action on behalf of a group of homeless men living in the Elkton woods. Their campsite and all their personal property was "cleared" without warning by city employees who trashed their meager belongings. When the few men present at the time, many of them Vietnam veterans, tried to retrieve their belongings they were threatened with arrest.

The ACLU has also intervened on behalf of a homeless woman in Cumberland who has been denied access to



Youthful passion and dedication invigorates the ACLU's work here in Maryland. Interns, law clerks, and student volunteers play a vital role in protecting and expanding rights in the Free State.

the district court, the Circuit Court, the law library, and the many state offices and agencies in the district court building that are meant to service the public. And we successfully defended homeless individuals who had been wrongly banned from a shopping center in Dundalk, one of whom had been arrested while visiting the U.S. Post office inside the shopping center.

Prisoners

Since 2002, the Maryland ACLU and the national ACLU Prison Project have represented Baltimore City inmates in a class action suit against the State for deplorable conditions in the city jail. Inept medical services, aggravated by substandard living conditions (raw sewage flooding inmate dorms due to broken plumbing systems, a dysfunctional ventilation system, and food preparation in insect and mouse-infested kitchens), have caused numerous deaths. Our monitoring continues because constitutional violations are ongoing.

In 2006, we also represented a host of individual prisoners around the state on various constitutional claims, including medical negligence, substandard conditions, and abuse by prison guards. The ACLU contacted prison officials after receiving complaints from an Eastern Shore prison that inmates who require wheelchairs were confined to cells that were not wheelchair-accessible, leaving them without access to bathroom facilities. We are investigating charges that a male corrections officer at an Eastern Shore detention center sexually assaulted at least four female inmates. And we helped reform practices at several detention centers following outbreaks of drug-resistant MRSA, a highly transmissible bacterial infection that thrives in overcrowded living quarters, inadequate sanitation, and insufficient laundry practices.

Disabled Marylanders

The ACLU won a case protecting the right of individuals disabled by opiate addiction to get the medical treatment they need at a methadone treatment clinic in Baltimore County. The jury returned a verdict against the county for intentionally discriminating against the clinic and patients, in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Now that Maryland has rightfully moved away from incarceration and toward drug treatment, the ACLU is working to ensure that those seeking medical treatment are not discriminated against because of public distaste for their disability.

We are also in court to make sure that the state makes the Baltimore bus system accessible to blind riders. And we successfully encouraged Baltimore City officials to remedy a parking system that was inaccessible to mobility-impaired drivers.



and Justice

The ACLU of Maryland is deeply appreciative of all our donors who help us bring the promise of liberty and justice to life. The gifts acknowledged below are those \$1,000 and above made directly to the ACLU of Maryland. We also thank donors who made gifts to the national ACLU and below \$1,000. Every effort has been made to assure accurate and complete listings of contributors. Apologies are extended for any inadvertent errors or omissions. Please advise us of any corrections.

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ACLU OF MARYLAND

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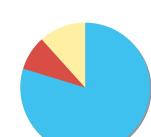
SUPPORT AND REVENUE:

Contributions \$4,427 \$224,738 Membership \$26,000 Restricted Grants Investment Income and Other \$1,363 \$0 Bequests \$(113,308) Transfer to Reserves National ACLU Share \$(2,214) Total

\$141,006

EXPENSES:

\$112,502 **Program Services** Fundraising \$12,014 Management and General \$16,490 \$141,006

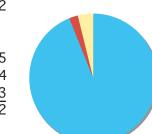


OPERATING INCOME AND EXPENSES 2005-2006

SUPPORT AND REVENUE: Contributions \$422,427 \$655,965 **Restricted Foundation Grants** \$80,159 **Bequests** \$177,928 Court Awarded Attorney Fees

ACLU FOUNDATION OF MARYLAND

\$3,668,833 In-Kind Legal Contrib. Investment Income and Other \$56,141 \$(296,643) Transfer to Reserves National ACLU Share (36,228)Total \$4,728,582



EXPENSES:

Program Services \$4,443,405 \$104,404 Fundraising Management and General \$180,773 \$4,728,582

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

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The ACLU and the ACLU Foundation are separately incorporated nonprofit organizations operating in Maryland. The ACLU Foundation conducts litigation and public education in support of civil liberties. The Foundation is a 501(c)3 tax-deductible organization, and contributions to it are deductible to the extent allowed by law. The ACLU conducts membership outreach and organizing, legislative advocacy and lobbying, and is supported primarily by membership dues. It is a 501(c)4 organization, which is taxexempt, but donations to it are not tax-deductible.

All gifts and membership dues are shared between the national ACLU Foundation and the ACLU Foundation of Maryland. A portion of the national ACLU's share is allocated to help smaller affiliate offices around the country.

You can support the work of the ACLU or ACLU Foundation in any of these ways:

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THANK YOU

The ACLU is vibrant and influential because of its creative and multifaceted strategies to protect freedom and because of the generous support of its card-carrying members. We accept no government support nor do we charge fees when we litigate. We depend instead on membership dues, individual gifts, foundation grants and court-awarded legal fees.

Our state membership has risen to 12,000 as concerns about post 9/11 threats to liberties have increased, demonstrating that core ACLU issues like privacy and freedom still hold sway.

As we celebrate the ACLU's successes and prepare for future challenges, we thank all our supporters, including volunteers who join us out of a deep sense of justice and fairness. The ACLU is much more than an organization – it is a movement of people fighting for a better society. Thanks for standing with us.

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