For nearly 100 years, the ACLU has been the champion of liberty, justice, and equality.

Thank You For Standing with Us.
2015: Thinking Big and Standing Strong for Rights

FRONT COVER: ACLU of Maryland staff members Aisha Springer, Gary Therkildsen, Arletta Bussiere (now at law school), and Sonia Kumar, joined by volunteer Georgia Parker, center, demonstrate for justice following the death in police custody of Freddie Gray.
Dear Members and Supporters:

As 2015 draws to a close, the American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland prepares to celebrate its 85th year. Since March 8, 1931, the ACLU of Maryland has been on a mission to breathe life into the U.S. Bill of Rights, the Maryland Declaration of Rights, and civil rights laws. This year we reflect on lessons learned.

In 1931, no criminally accused person in any state court had the right to appointed counsel. Threats of lynching were rampant on Maryland’s Eastern Shore. A fledgling Maryland ACLU represented Euel Lee, a Black man charged with murder, threatened with lynching, and denied counsel. The ACLU won a change of venue, though sadly he was executed. The 1940s saw our first Supreme Court case, in which we argued that Smith Betts, a Black man who was tried and found guilty of robbery, should have had benefit of counsel. The court disagreed. Not until 1963 did it overturn Betts v. Brady.

Securing rights through the courts can be an important foundation for a civil rights movement. In 1939, the National ACLU convinced the Supreme Court in the case Hague v. CIO that a ban on political meetings violated the First Amendment. That early First Amendment case was a foundation for ACLU of Maryland victories in the 1960s and 1970s when we represented:

• Maryland Planned Parenthood, which was forced to cancel a meeting because the Catholic archdiocese objected;
• Protesters, including Jane Fonda, soliciting signatures on an anti-war petition among soldiers at Fort Meade;
• United Farm Workers picketing for a grape boycott;
• People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals protesting a circus;
• Students forced to say the Pledge of Allegiance;
• Homeowners touting political yard signs; and
• One fledgling filmmaker, John Waters, who was sprung from jail by ACLU Legal Counsel Elsbeth Bothe after filming a nude scene for the film Mondo Trasho.

We’ve learned that it’s important to think big. Until the 1970s, our successes were largely modeled on vindicating individual rights. But Maryland’s legacy of Jim Crow perpetuates institutional racism even in the absence of racist individuals. Beginning in the 1980s, the ACLU mounted cases on behalf of thousands of Black Marylanders, addressing institutional racism:

• Challenging the state police policy of stopping motorists for “driving while black;”
• Securing more than $1.1 billion in additional state funding to help the state’s poorest children get educated;
• Pressing HUD to cease decades of discrimination against Black families in public housing;
• Bringing voting rights suits that enabled Black candidates on the Eastern Shore to win elected seats for the first time.

ACLU founder Roger Baldwin warned “No battle for civil liberties ever stays won.” The ACLU of Maryland was birthed amid abuses of power. Now we face new abuses in the form of police-involved killings, lack of police accountability, government secrecy, and more.

We are actors in a rerun, with many rights won in previous generations now threatened again. ACLU stands on the front lines, strong and edified by lessons learned over 85 years.

Coleman Bazelon, Board President
Susan Goering, Executive Director
Standing up for your right to speak out for change

Ongoing
ACLU defended the First Amendment rights of those across the state forced to say the Pledge of Allegiance.

1949-50
ACLU fought the Maryland Subversive Activities Act of 1949 (aka the Ober Law), the most stringent loyalty test in the United States.

1960s
ACLU defended many picketers arrested for demonstrating against segregated conditions at parks, restaurants, and other public venues.

1970s
ACLU defended the right of Black Panthers to distribute printed materials that advocated the overthrow of government.

1988
John Norfolk won the right to secular alternative to Alcoholics Anonymous as part of judge’s DWI sentencing.
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1995-2014
ACLU successfully – and repeatedly – sued to defend the rights of entertainers to perform for beachgoers on Ocean City's famous Boardwalk.

2003-2013
ACLU sued on behalf of peace group Women in Black, reaching settlement that greatly expanded the right to protest in Baltimore.

2011
ACLU saved the production of a high school play in Harford County that had censored a scene that featured a same-sex couple.

2015
ACLU called on Baltimore mayor to lift citywide curfew following the police-involved death of Freddie Gray and subsequent protests.

Protestors rally for justice following the police-involved death of Freddie Gray in Baltimore. The ACLU of Maryland strongly opposed a citywide curfew that was being enforced in a biased way.
Fighting for the dreams of New Americans

1931
Maryland Civil Liberties Committee formed partly in response to arrests and deportations of immigrant workers (particularly Russians) for labor organizing activity.

1992-1993
ACLU successfully represented 13 Mexican migrants who were exploited by their crab-packer employer, who threatened them with deportation for complaining.

2002
ACLU monitored “special registration” of immigrants from predominantly Muslim countries in the wake of post-9/11 “War on Terror” activities.

2005-2013
ACLU helped ensure that as many immigrants as possible have access to driver licenses under the federal “REAL ID” Act.

2011-2012
ACLU supported the DREAM Act, allowing some undocumented resident students access to in-state tuition rates.
2011-2012
ACLU supported the DREAM Act, allowing some undocumented resident students access to in-state tuition rates.

2013-Present
ACLU issued report, “Restoring Trust,” and initiated a statewide campaign to end enforcement of immigration detainers by local police agencies in Maryland.

2014
ACLU successfully persuaded many local police departments to heed federal court advice making clear that they may not arrest or detain individuals solely based on a civil immigration warrant.

2013-2015
ACLU successfully advocated for Maryland counties to stop participating in ICE detentions without a warrant.

2015-Present
ACLU represents individuals being held in detention for long periods and threatened with deportation, all for minor infractions.

ACLU of Maryland staff attorney Sirine Shebaya (smiling below), who directs our immigrant’s rights advocacy, joined dozens of friends, family members and community members at immigration court to celebrate the release of a Montgomery County resident who has lived in Maryland for more than 30 years but who was detained by ICE for more than a year. Our habeas petition played a large part in winning his release.
Advocating for justice that restores communities

1931
ACLU won change of venue for Orphan Jones (aka Yule Lee), a Black man charged with murder, threatened with lynching in jail, and denied counsel.

1942
ACLU challenged denial of counsel for Smith Betts, a Black man charged with robbery.

1970s
ACLU sued Prince George’s County jail for overcrowding, censorship, poor conditions.

1987–90
ACLU got three Eastern Shore jails closed down, two of which dated back to the civil war and one of which once imprisoned Frederick Douglass.

1991
ACLU brought one of the nation’s first cases under the Americans with Disabilities Act by representing inmates at a Hagerstown prison.
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1992
ACLU challenged Maryland’s first execution in 32 years.

1992-2013
ACLU and allies successfully pushed for a state study on racial disparities in death sentences, which led to temporary moratorium. Death penalty was abolished in 2013.

2013
The ACLU began work to reform Maryland’s system of solitary confinement, especially for individuals suffering from mental illness.

2015
ACLU won the release of Odell Newton, sentenced at 16 to life with the possibility of parole, but still in prison decades after he was first recommended for parole.

Clara Newton holds a picture of her son, ACLU of Maryland client Odell Newton, a man who suffered severe lead poisoning as a child and who was sentenced at 16 years old to life with the possibility of parole. Despite being recommended for parole many times over decades, he was not released until this year because of Maryland’s politicized parole system. Photo used with the permission of The Atlantic Magazine, taken by Greg Kahn.
March 8, 1931
ACLU founded as Maryland Civil Liberties Committee partly in response to several police complicit lynchings on the Eastern Shore.

1970s
ACLU represented people jailed for violating Baltimore City-imposed curfew following the death of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the uprising that occurred.

1993–2006
ACLU sued Maryland State Police for written policy and practice of racial profiling of African American motorists (“Driving While Black”).

2006
ACLU sued Baltimore Police Department over the “illegal arrests” of tens of thousands of individuals, mostly Black.

2008
ACLU exposed Maryland State Police’s spying on peaceful protestors and illegally gathering information about them in databases shared by federal agencies.

Reforming police practices, educating about your rights
Reforming police practices, educating about your rights


2015 ACLU published a briefing paper detailing 109 deaths in police encounters in Maryland over a 5 year period, 70 percent of whom were Black and 40 percent of whom were unarmed.

2011 ACLU successfully challenged Baltimore police officers’ seizure of a man’s phone, which contained video of misconduct. The case set a national precedent.

2010 ACLU sued on behalf of Eastern Shore woman unable to find out what discipline the Maryland State Police imposed on a trooper who left racial slurs on her phone.

2008 ACLU exposed Maryland State Police’s spying on peaceful protestors and illegally gathering information about them in databases shared by federal agencies.

ACLU of Maryland’s “Know Your Rights” trainers, including volunteer Kelly McGraw, board member Aaron DeGraffenreidt, and Legal Program Administrator Amy Cruice, conduct workshops across the state.
Defending the privacy and autonomy of women

1944-45
ACLU represented Maryland League for Planned Parenthood after it was forced to cancel a Baltimore City-funded “Marriage Counseling” meeting due to Catholic opposition.

1987-90
ACLU pressed large and influential private clubs to cease discriminating on the basis of gender, race and religion.

1992
ACLU successfully helped defend against the “Question 6” referendum, which challenged a recent Maryland law supporting a woman’s right to make abortion decisions.

2002-2003
ACLU sues to keep women detainees from dying in overheated Baltimore City jail.
Defending the privacy and autonomy of women

2006-2012
ACLU successfully advocated for marriage equality for lesbian (and gay) couples and their families in the courts, the legislature, and ultimately at the ballot box.

2010
ACLU published “Caged Birds Sing,” a report by girls detained in the dangerous Waxter facility in Laurel.

2013-Present
ACLU fights to protect pregnant workers from discrimination in the workplace.

2014
ACLU won reform of Maryland’s practice of shackling pregnant incarcerated women during labor, delivery and post-partum recovery.

ACLU helped push for state law protecting transgender women (and men) from discrimination in employment, housing, places of public accommodation.

ACLU client Natalie Hesselgrave with her newborn infant. Hesselgrave, a medical student, was told that she would be denied a safe, hygienic place to pump breastmilk when she took an all-day medical board exam. The testing company suggested that she pump in the bathroom or her car – in August.
Realizing a future of opportunity for families

Thousands of families have applied for and successfully moved through the Baltimore Housing Mobility Program, which provides access to quality housing in mixed-income neighborhoods with low poverty rates, quality schools and access to employment and increased quality of life throughout the region.

1995
ACLU sued HUD. Baltimore City and Housing Authority to remedy nearly a century of government–imposed segregation in public housing.

1996
That lawsuit partially settled with a plan to demolish high rise projects and create replacement housing throughout the Baltimore region.

2003
The Baltimore Housing Mobility Program launched to provide low-income families with new housing choices and greater mobility throughout the Baltimore region.

2005
Federal court held HUD responsible, ruling that racial segregation is “a regional problem.”

2006
ACLU and NAACP Legal Defense Fund went to court seeking regional housing solutions.
2006
ACLU and NAACP Legal Defense Fund went to court seeking regional housing solutions.

2011
The ACLU and allies filed a complaint against state use of federal affordable housing funding in ways that perpetuate segregation in the Baltimore region.

2011
The ACLU and allies challenged Baltimore County's longstanding exclusion of affordable housing that serves African Americans, families with children, people with disabilities.

2012
The settlement of ACLU's long-running fair housing lawsuit, Thompson v. HUD, ensured the continuation of the successful Baltimore Housing Mobility Program.

2015
The Supreme Court upheld Fair Housing Act protections that make possible diverse, prosperous, inclusive communities.
1992-1997
ACLU successfully sued Somerset County after the contract with its first African-American school superintendent was not renewed, with no reason given.

1994
ACLU brought class action lawsuit, *Bradford v. Maryland State Board of Education*, under the state constitution for failure to provide an adequate education to children in Baltimore City, whose test scores and graduation rates were far below state standards.

1998-Present
ACLU formed “Public Funds for Public Schools Coalition” and spearheaded effort to fight state-subsidized texts, other government funds for private/religious schools.

2002
The ACLU’s success in the *Bradford* lawsuit propelled passage of the historic $1.3 billion Bridge to Excellence in Education Act (“Thornton” formula).

2010

Families attend a brainstorming meeting at John Eager Howard Elementary School in Baltimore to decide how to allocate resources in the design of their new school building. Such meetings are a key part of the $1 billion school construction and renovation plan spurred by the ACLU’s report, “Buildings for Academic Excellence,” and a massive coalition campaign.
Envisioning a bright education for all children

2010

2012
ACLU played a key role in passage of new state school discipline regulations that seek to eliminate zero tolerance policies.

2013
The ACLU celebrated victory when landmark $1 billion Baltimore City public school construction bill was passed by General Assembly.

2014
ACLU joined the State Stakeholder Group to advise on a study re-evaluating Maryland's education funding formula.

2015
ACLU called for restorative justice approach to student discipline in wake of Freddie Gray uprising and challenged arming the Baltimore school police with guns.
2007
ACLU opposed HIV testing without consent.

2008-Present
ACLU opposed law mandating that DNA be collected without a warrant whenever an individual is arrested.

2009
ACLU fought for privacy protections in Maryland’s electronic health records program.

2011
ACLU spoke out against web programs in government schools that filter out LGBT content.

2012
ACLU fought for privacy of social media accounts after state worker is forced to divulge private passwords during an interview.
Championing privacy from government surveillance

2012
ACLU fought for the privacy of social media accounts after a state worker was forced to divulge private passwords during an interview.

2013
ACLU exposed widespread, unconstitutional data collection of millions of motorists through the use of license plate scanners.

2014
ACLU passed legislation requiring warrants whenever law enforcement sought to track a person's location using an electronic device such as a cell phone.

2014
ACLU challenged warrantless use of "stingray" surveillance technology by Baltimore Police Department.

2015
ACLU sued the National Security Agency over the mass interception and searching of Americans' international internet communications.

Former ACLU of Maryland staffer and aviation buff Pete Cimbolic figured out that there were suspicious flights being conducted over protests during the aftermath of the police-involved death of Freddie Gray in Baltimore. Turns out the FBI was spying on demonstrations with powerful surveillance technologies similar to those developed by defense contractors for the Pentagon.
## 2014-2015 FINANCIAL REPORT

### ACLU OF MARYLAND FOUNDATION

#### SUPPORT & REVENUE

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### ACLU OF MARYLAND

#### SUPPORT & REVENUE

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## EXPENSES

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### Make a Gift

A contribution to the ACLU of Maryland is a powerful action. It ensures the defense of justice, liberty, and the freedoms guaranteed by THE BILL OF RIGHTS. You support it. We defend it.

The ACLU of Maryland comprises two organizations:

- Gifts to the American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland qualify for ACLU membership and for support of our legislative work, including the lobbying of the Maryland State Legislature and of Congress. These gifts are not tax deductible. To make an online membership donation, please go to: aclu-md.org and click, “BECOME A MEMBER.”

- Gifts to the American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland Foundation support our litigation, public education, and non-public policy advocacy. These gifts are tax deductible. To make an online Foundation donation please go to: aclu-md.org and click, DONATE NOW.

To donate via mail, please make your check payable to American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland or American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland Foundation and send to: ACLU of Maryland Ste. 350, 3600 Clipper Mill Rd. Baltimore, MD 21211-1995.

To give a gift of stock via DTC transfer, please ask your broker to send securities to our Foundation account (30A121398) at T. Rowe Price, DTC #0443 or to our Union account (30Q051390) at T. Rowe Price. DTC #0443. Please contact the ACLU of Maryland office (410-889-8550 x126) to advise us of your gift.

### Leave a Lasting Legacy

Join a special group of ACLU of Maryland supporters who have included the ACLU in their estate plans, thus ensuring the future of our work.

For information about additional giving opportunities, please contact Susan L. Morseth, Director of Philanthropy, at 410-889-8550 x126, morseth@aclu-md.org.
The ACLU of Maryland is grateful for the foresight of its DeSilver Legacy Society members. Their future bequests or life income gifts will help ensure that the ACLU will continue to serve as the nation’s frontline defender of the Bill of Rights through the years to come.

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- Rene Kathawala
- Toyja Kelley
- Mary Kim
- Ben Kleinman-Green
- Elizabeth B. McCallum
- Dan Moylan
- Woody Peterson
- Alexandre Rene
- Seth Rosenthal
- Brian Schwalb
- Mark Shmueli
- Richard Simpson
- Meredith Singer
- David Smutny
- Quin Sorensen
- Dan Streim
- Karen Toto
- John Townsend Rich
- Stacy Tromble
- Helen Vera
- Joeann Walker
- Tyechia White
- Jennifer Williams
- Matthew S. Williams

### KNOW YOUR RIGHTS TRAINERS
- LaToya Bell
- Walakewon Blegay
- Tyrone Braxton
- Kathryn D’Adamo
- Tosha Deal
- Aaron DeGraffenreidt
- Kelly McGraw
- Kisha Petticolas
- Cheri Smith
- Krystle Washington
- Matthew Vocci

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  - Georgia Parker
  - Stacey Morrison
  - Jennie Rothschild

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- Bobbi Hahn

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### LEGAL
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- David Panzarella
- Sonce Reese

### PHILANTHROPY
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- Legal Interns
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The Annual Report is a joint publication of the American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland and the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Maryland. The report collectively refers to the two organizations as “ACLU of Maryland.”
Mission Statement

The Maryland ACLU works to ensure that all people in the state of Maryland are free to think and speak as they choose and can lead their lives free from discrimination and unwarranted government intrusion. We are guided in our work by the United States Bill of Rights and the Maryland Declaration of Rights. The Maryland ACLU acts without partisanship to achieve these goals.
ACLU of Maryland staff and interns during the summer of 2015

For nearly 85 years, the ACLU of Maryland has been a champion of liberty, justice, and equality.

Thank You for Standing with Us.

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