

“Let America Be America Again.”

O, let America be America again—

The land that never has been yet—

And yet must be—the land where every man is free.

The land that’s mine—the poor man’s, Indian’s, Negro’s, ME—

Who made America,

Whose sweat and blood, whose faith and pain,

Whose hand at the foundry, whose plow in the rain,

Must bring back our mighty dream again.

.....

O, yes,

I say it plain,

America never was America to me,

And yet I swear this oath—

America will be!

.....

Langston Hughes 1902 - 1967

2016
ANNUAL
REPORT



2016: Watchdog at the intersection of rights and liberties

Dear Members and Supporters,

A key to ACLU of Maryland's impact is the **intersection between civil liberties and civil rights** that characterizes our work. Again and again, we see that when an individual's rights are violated, a larger community is affected. And when we take up cases or campaigns that address more than one threat we are able to create a greater, more long-lasting change.

The First Amendment was under threat when activist Kwame Rose was wrongfully arrested during a protest following the announcement of a mistrial in the case that charged Baltimore Police Officer William Porter in the death of Freddie Gray. But Rose was initially targeted for arrest because he had been organizing support for greater accountability in cases of police misconduct. Throughout the history of the nation, and recent history in Maryland, when the state police spy on the activities of peaceful protestors, **ACLU has been a watchdog** at the intersection of police abuse of power and the freedoms of speech and association promised in the First Amendment.

This year also saw a unique coming together of issues that ACLU of Maryland has long cared deeply about – access to affordable housing, equitable development for minority communities, and fair investment in public education. All of these arose when the developers of an upscale Port Covington in Baltimore asked the government to underwrite them with massive \$660 million "Tax Increment Financing." ACLU played a lead role in a large, diverse coalition that fought for a 21st Century model of how to benefit an old, rust belt, racially and economically segregated city by creating both a brand new racially and economically diverse community and an economic engine that would **generate inclusive growth and shared prosperity**.

Time and again this year, ACLU's work highlighted issues that implicate **multifaceted rights and liberties**. The vulnerability of migrant farm workers to employment abuse is exacerbated when police block them from their First Amendment right to speak with Legal Aid attorneys at a Montgomery County farm. The rights of LGBT students are threatened when a Harford County school blocks them from inviting others to join their Gay Straight Alliance, where they feel welcome and supported. And the rights of poor, primarily Black communities in Baltimore to live free of government encroachment on their privacy are trampled by aerial police surveillance, which is compounded by the spying's being run in secret, with no accountability to the Black communities being targeted.

We are reminded of our mission: "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."


One of the reasons why ACLU of Maryland earns respect is that intersection of civil liberties and civil rights that we have long valued and prioritized through coordinated action. Thanks to our members and supporters, **we can continue to make a difference** in the lives of individuals and communities facing injustice in our state.

Coleman Bazelon, Board President
Susan Goering, Executive Director

Defending free speech ...

A photograph of a man in a dark suit, white shirt, and blue patterned tie, smiling at the camera. He is standing in a well-lit hallway with wooden walls and a polished floor. In the background, there are glass doors and several pendant lights hanging from the ceiling. Another person's hand is visible on the man's right shoulder, suggesting support or camaraderie.

The ACLU of Maryland successfully defended the free speech rights of Kwame Rose, a prominent activist in the Movement for Black Lives, who was unconstitutionally arrested by Baltimore police. Rose was using a bullhorn while peacefully protesting outside the courthouse where a trial against one of the officers charged in the death of Freddie Gray ended in a hung jury. ACLU also supported hundreds of activists' First Amendment efforts to achieve police accountability by offering them a free "Mobile Justice" smartphone app that uploads videos of police encounters directly to our legal staff for review.




Kwame Rose (center) had all charges against him dismissed after being wrongfully targeted for arrest for leading a demonstration outside the courthouse where Baltimore City police officers faced charges in the death of Freddie Gray. Rose is joined by his lawyers, Kenneth Ravenell (left), who took the case pro bono, and David Rocah, senior staff attorney at the ACLU of Maryland.

**... while reforming
police practices**

Demanding racially inclusive development ...

A woman with glasses and a patterned shirt is speaking into a microphone at a public event. In the background, there is a chalkboard sign that says "ORDER HERE" and "EMERGENCY". Other people are visible in the background, some looking towards the speaker.

Barbara Samuels, an attorney who manages the ACLU of Maryland's fair housing advocacy, speaks out about the need for more equitable development investments.

A diverse group of people, including men and women of various ethnicities, are seated at a public meeting or community hearing. They are looking towards the front of the room, where a microphone is visible in the foreground. The setting appears to be a community center or a similar public space.


ACLU of Maryland challenged Baltimore City's financial support of the large, upscale Port Covington development plan that would perpetuate structural inequality on a massive scale. Working closely with a large, diverse coalition, we raised concerns about inequitable transportation funding, a lack of inclusive affordable housing and employment opportunities, and how the plan could negatively affect future public school funding. In the wake of the Baltimore Uprising, the city should only invest public dollars in private real estate deals if those investments leverage racially equitable investments in people and improvements in their quality of life and upward mobility. Photo credit: The Baltimore Brew.

... that includes transportation,
employment and education
opportunities

Challenging the Fraternal Order of Police's resistance to reform ...



On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in 2016, activists converged in Annapolis to engage in a ceremonial "die-in" to memorialize the names of all those in Maryland who have died in encounters with law enforcement over the last several years. Photo credit: Danna Pope.




ACLU of Maryland advocates protest the startling lack of police accountability to the communities being policed, especially when police abuse or fatally injure members of the public. We work closely with coalition partners and community groups to identify and advocate for reforms that will make a difference, like requiring voting civilian members on trial boards that handle police brutality complaints. We are challenging a Baltimore Fraternal Order of Police lawsuit that seeks to block the police department from providing records of Internal Affairs investigations to the Civilian Review Board. And we are advocating for statewide reform that would allow the public to know the outcomes of police misconduct complaints.

... by demanding police
accountability

Exposing secret police surveillance ...

ACLU of Maryland exposed law enforcement use of a social media monitoring service, Geofeedia, that tracked and allegedly facilitated the arrests of activists during the Baltimore Uprising following the killing of Freddie Gray. We spoke out against the secret aerial surveillance program that treated residents and visitors to Baltimore as guinea pigs. We have also raised concerns about the government's use of highly problematic facial recognition technologies that, unbeknownst to state motorists, draw from banks of MVA driver's license images and police mugshots to identify and track individuals in Maryland.

An aerial, black and white surveillance image showing a large crowd of people gathered in an urban area, likely Baltimore City, following the death of Freddie Gray. The image is grainy and shows a dense group of people from a high angle. A road or path cuts through the crowd. The overall tone is somber and documentary.

Federal Bureau of Investigation aerial surveillance image from footage taken during protests in Baltimore City following the death of Freddie Gray after he was arrested by police.

**... and pressing for
government transparency**

Advocating for fair public school funding ...



The ACLU of Maryland's Education Reform Project advocates for fair funding for children in public schools to support resources like pre-Kindergarten and wrap-around services for underserved communities to address concentrated poverty. And we work to alleviate disproportionate discipline practices, to overcome the impacts to minority students of the school-to-prison pipeline.

... and school discipline reform statewide



Kimberly Humphrey (center), ACLU of Maryland Education Legislative Advocate, and Jana Lee (far right), social work intern for the ACLU's Education Reform Project, in Annapolis to push for fair education funding, with partners in the Baltimore Education Coalition.




Standing up for immigrant workers ...

The ACLU of Maryland successfully defended the First Amendment right of migrant farm workers to speak with Legal Aid advocates after police issued a year-long “no-trespass” injunction that blocked Legal Aid lawyers from visiting and providing legal information to workers on a farm in Montgomery County. After work hours, Legal Aid advocates had spoken with workers, who had H-2A temporary work visas, where they lived on the farm. The migrant workers expressed concerns about pay and working conditions but Legal Aid had not been able to help them because of the ban.




... and the free speech that empowers them



Sticking up for LGBT young people ...

ACLU client Michael Lupano, president of the Bel Air High School Gay-Straight Alliance, spoke out after the GSA's posters welcoming all students with LGBT-positive messages were taken down by school administrators.
Photo courtesy of Michael Lupano.



For the third time in recent years, the ACLU of Maryland successfully took action on behalf of LGBT students in Harford County, this time on behalf of Bel Air High School's Gay Straight Alliance. The GSA's posters, which promoted a welcoming and supportive environment for all students, were singled out for discriminatory censorship and removed by school administrators. In years past, Bel Air High School tried to censor a student play that included a scene between two male characters who fall in love. And in 2009, we successfully demanded the county school system stop using a website filter that blocked sites with positive messages about LGBT people and resources.

**... and the right to
free association**

Challenging race-based discrimination ...

The ACLU of Maryland is challenging a conspiracy in Pocomoke City to racially discriminate and retaliate against Black police officers. Treatment of the Black officers, including repeated use of racial slurs and discussions of lynchings and the Ku Klux Klan in their presence, was so egregious that the Department of Justice has intervened in the case. Kelvin Sewell, the town's first-ever Black police chief who was also fired, remains highly popular for implementing a positive community policing program that improved relationships with residents while dramatically reducing crime.

Kelvin Sewell, the first Black police chief in Pocomoke City on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Photo credit: Stephen Janis/The Real News Network.



**... and supporting true
community policing**

2015-2016 FINANCIAL REPORT

ACLU OF MARYLAND FOUNDATION SUPPORT & REVENUE

Contributions	\$483,289
Restricted Foundation Grants	\$1,137,000
Bequests	\$36,062
Court Awarded Attorney Fees	\$520,250
In-Kind Legal Contributions	\$1,429,442
Investment Income and Other	(\$14,141)
Transfer from Reserves	\$286,197
Total	\$3,878,099

EXPENSES

Program Services	\$3,327,137
Fundraising	\$311,958
Management and General	\$239,004
Total	\$3,878,099

ACLU OF MARYLAND SUPPORT & REVENUE

Membership	\$248,577
Contributions	\$4,050
Restricted Grants	\$0
Bequests	\$4,310
Investment Income and Other	\$11,892
Transfer to Reserves	(\$226,854)
Total	\$18,191

EXPENSES

Program Services	\$14,032
Fundraising	\$1,787
Management and General	\$2,372
Total	\$18,191

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:
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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.

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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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