

WOMEN | MUSLIM | QUEER | LATINX | LGBT | BLACK | BROWN | WHITE
DISABLED | MEN | UNDOCUMENTED | ASIAN | IMMIGRANT | SIKH | TRANS
CHRISTIAN | NATIVE AMERICAN | HINDU | BLACK | JEWISH | BUDDHIST
ATHEIST | WOMEN | MUSLIM | QUEER | LATINX | LGBT | BLACK | BROWN
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WE THE
PEOPLE
ACLU
MD

WE THE PEOPLE

2017 ACLU of Maryland Annual Report

After 32 years at the ACLU I will retire in 2018, and I find myself taking stock of ACLU's progress. We are in dark times now. We awaken most mornings to another assault on the rights we cherish. My first thought is: "someone should do something about that." My second thought is "the ACLU is doing something about it."

It was also a dark time in 1920, when the national ACLU was founded. Over 160 years after the Bill of Rights was ratified, rights existed only on paper. There was no freedom for minority religions. Women had no right to vote, let alone a right to family planning and contraception. Masses of immigrants from Eastern Europe were being detained and deported without due process.

In 1920, Black families, many of whom had been slaves, were terrorized by Jim Crow laws in Maryland. Lynching was commonplace on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Workers had no right to organize unions, strike, picket, leaflet, or meet in factories without suffering violence. In 1920, the Supreme Court had never struck down a law on First Amendment grounds. The freedom to publish and speak, existed only if the majority agreed with you, which left Socialists, Jehovah's Witnesses, Black people, and labor unions—those least likely to afford a lawyer—without rights.

In 1931, moved to action by lynchings on the Eastern Shore, the Maryland ACLU founders first gathered.

In the '50s McCarthy era—a time of loyalty tests—we opposed the state legislature's passage of the nation's most stringent such test. We represented black-listed professors and lawyers, and terminated Bethlehem Steel workers. Also in the '50s we challenged school-mandated prayer and the requirement that state Notaries Public declare a belief in God.

During the 50s and 60s Civil Rights Movement we defended picketers and protesters arrested for demonstrating against segregation at parks, and restaurants. And we represented citizens jailed for violating Baltimore City's curfew during the uprising that followed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination.

We successfully appealed to the Supreme Court to strike down Maryland's film censorship law. In the '70s the ACLU represented Jane Fonda for soliciting anti-war petition signatures among soldiers at Ft. Meade. And we represented the free speech rights of Black Panthers for advocating overthrow of the U.S. government.

By the mid-80s the ACLU of Maryland had hired three full-time staff members and within ten years quadrupled its staff. We opened a satellite office on the Shore, which made a far broader agenda possible, including many voting rights cases brought on behalf of disenfranchised Black communities.

We spearheaded the “Marylanders for the Right to Choose” coalition that helped pass a pro-choice law and successfully defend it at statewide referendum. We were on the vanguard of the fight for marriage equality for same-sex couples—through litigation, legislation, and advocacy, finally securing it in 2012.

In the 1980s long before the term “institutional racism” was common parlance the ACLU of Maryland brought a number of successful, ongoing class action style lawsuits with the goal of dismantling deeply entrenched, racialized education, housing, criminal justice policies, and of ensuring voting rights Eastern Shore. All of these systems had disproportionately affected communities of color in Maryland at least as far back as the turn of the 20th Century.

Our current work harkens back to our previous work. Trump’s Muslim travel ban echoes the 1920s mass detention and deportation of immigrants. In January 2017, the ACLU was the first to win a court ruling stopping the Muslim ban. Trump’s attempt to boot transgender service members out of the military echoes the earlier “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy for lesbian and gay soldiers. The ACLU is in court now asking that a transgender service member from Maryland and others be protected from this latest hurtful and irrational policy.

And with echoes far too strong of atrocities in Maryland’s past, now too many Black families live in terror of police killings, which regularly go unpunished. The ACLU of Maryland has made it one of our top priorities to increase police accountability and reduce mass incarceration.

Past and present, challenging injustice is what the ACLU of Maryland is all about. I do believe: “The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.”

All my best,

Susan Goering

Executive Director of the ACLU of Maryland



ACLU of Maryland board and staff members
at BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport.



Freedom of Religion

We will never forget the harrowing weekend that the Trump administration's Muslim ban went into effect and was almost immediately blocked by the first of the ACLU's legal challenges. Yet we were also inspired by the massive and determined protests that the ban sparked at airports around the country. President Trump's tweets continue to haunt him in court, where we are still fighting to keep the latest version of this discriminatory ban from going into full effect. The ACLU also continues to oppose taxpayer subsidies for private and religious schools in Maryland, which are not subject to all of the anti-discrimination laws that apply to public schools.

Ashley Over
to gag orde



rbey, plaintiff in ACLU challenge
rs on police brutality victims.

Freedom of Speech

We are pursuing a groundbreaking case at the intersection of free speech and civil rights, challenging Baltimore City's practice of requiring victims of police misconduct to agree to gag orders in order to settle their cases. The lawsuit is brought on behalf of a woman who was denied half of her settlement in a police brutality case for responding to comments online about her experience, as well as a news organization, *The Baltimore Brew*, denied their right to report newsworthy public information. In a separate First Amendment lawsuit, we are challenging Governor Larry Hogan's practice of deleting comments and banning people from his official Facebook page when they question or disagree with his policies.

Thorough and Efficient Education

We celebrated as Baltimore opened the first of 25 planned new school buildings, the result of our “Transform Baltimore: Build Schools, Build Neighborhoods” campaign with the Baltimore Education Coalition, which rallied school communities and elected officials, to win a \$1 billion school construction bill in Annapolis. The ACLU of Maryland’s Education Reform Project also worked to ensure that the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, or “Kirwan” Commission, heard



ACLU Education Reform Project Director Bebe Verdery and Senior Advocate Frank Patinella at ribbon cutting for new Fort Worthington Elementary/Middle School. Photo courtesy of the 21st Century School Buildings Program.

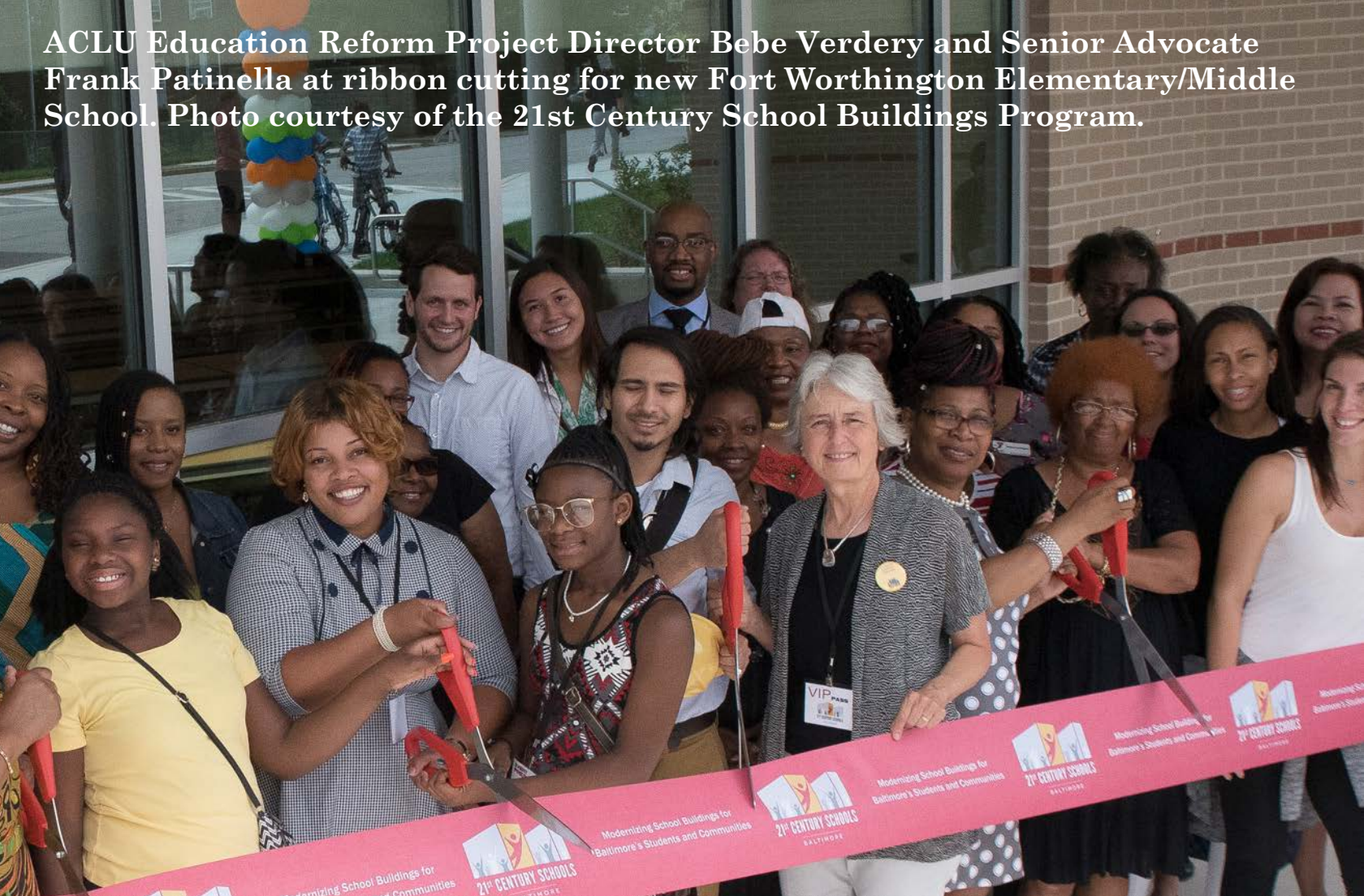




Photo courtesy of



Segregation Prohibited

We won an important fair housing victory this year to fix state policies that fostered segregation. The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development applied the Low Income Tax Credit, the federal government's primary support for construction of affordable rental housing, in a discriminatory way. State policies steered affordable housing for families using these credits to high poverty Black neighborhoods while excluding it from predominantly white areas with less poverty.

of Baltimore Regional Housing Partnership.

ACLU staff attorney Sonia Kumar (center) and Walter Lomax (far right), director of the Maryland Restorative Justice Initiative, join families fighting for parole reforms.





No Cruel and Unusual Punishment

We must end the cruel practice of condemning people to die in prison even after their rehabilitation. In Maryland's highly politicized parole scheme with no standards for review, only the Governor may parole any lifer. No lifers have been paroled in decades. The ACLU is in court on behalf of youth sentenced to life, challenging as cruel and unusual punishment Maryland's conversion of their original "life with parole" sentences into de facto "life without parole" sentences. We are also fighting to end Maryland's rampant and inhumane use of solitary confinement.

ACLU Legal Associate Jay Jimenez, Know Your Rights Trainer William Rowel, and volunteer ----- promote a DACA clinic in Frederick.





Constitutional Protections, Regardless of Immigration Status

We have offered immigrant-focused Know Your Rights trainings in communities across Maryland, especially since President Trump began ramping up deportations. Following Trump's decision to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA), the ACLU held *pro bono* legal clinics in areas that have few legal resources so that DACA recipients could renew their status to prevent deportation. The ACLU also fought hard for the Maryland Trust Act, which would have discouraged local police from acting as federal immigration enforcers.

Equal Protection of the Laws

We championed the rights of transgender Marylanders to be treated fairly. After President Trump banned transgender service members from serving in the military, the ACLU brought a lawsuit on behalf of Brock Stone, an 11-year veteran in the Navy who lives in Maryland, and other service members from across the country. The ACLU also defended policies passed by the Frederick School Board to protect transgender students from discrimination and harassment, representing a transgender high school student who sought to intervene as a defendant in a legal challenge to the policy. The plaintiff dismissed the lawsuit challenging the policy as soon as we intervened.

ACLU plaintiff Brock Stone is challenging Trump administration's ban on transgender servicemembers. Photo taken by Keith I

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ACLU Policy Director
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Policy Counsel Rachel



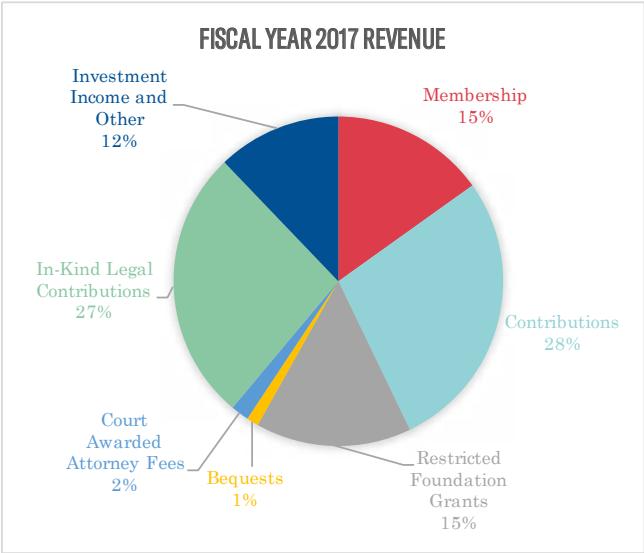
Toni Holness (center) speaks out before a hear-
transparency in police misconduct complaints.
le Yeung is pictured wearing black to her right.



Right to Access Public Records

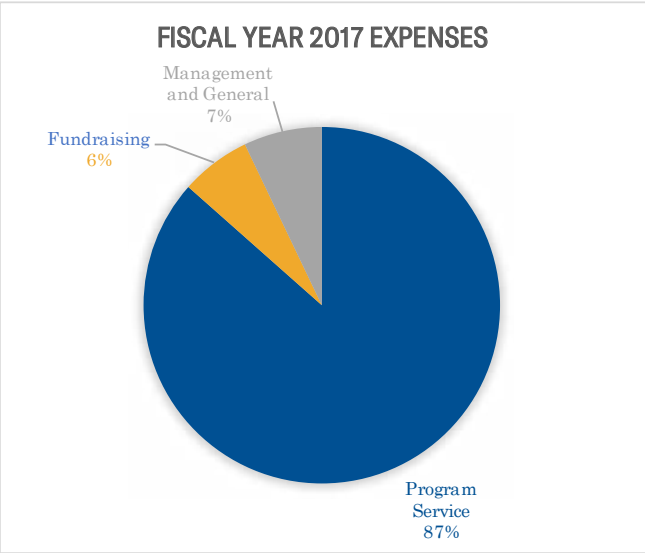
We worked hard to win reforms that would improve transparency and accountability in law enforcement. Due to a catastrophic decision by Maryland's high court, all records of police investigations into allegations of police misconduct are treated as "personnel records" which are categorically prohibited from being disclosed under Maryland's Public Information Act. As a result, neither the public, nor victims of police misconduct can learn anything about how such investigations are conducted. Information about how, and whether, police will police themselves is critical to an informed and meaningful debate about adequate police accountability.

AUDITED FINANCIALS



Support and Revenue

Membership	643,351
Contributions	1,180,077
Restricted Foundation Grants	650,000
Bequests	50,300
Court Awarded Attorney Fees	75,600
In-Kind Legal Contributions	1,138,325
Investment Income and Other	517,200
Total	4,254,853



Expenses

Program Service	3,041,475
Fundraising	223,676
Management and General	249,473
Total	3,514,624

HOW TO SUPPORT THE ACLU OF MARYLAND

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.

A note on our support

The elections in November brought about uncertain times in our country. With our democracy seemingly under siege at the local, state, and federal levels, our base took action and supported the ACLU at unprecedented levels. We have seen an increase in activism, volunteerism, and financial support. We will use this additional support to grow our capacity and advance civil liberties and civil rights for all those who call America home - now and into the future.

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 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.

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
Suite 350, 3600 Clipper Mill Rd.
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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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