

WE THE PEOPLE

ACLU

Maryland









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The center and lower right photos were created by students in Wide Angle Youth Media in collaboration with ACLU of Maryland. Supported by the Open Society Institute-Baltimore.



WE THE PEOPLE

2019 ACLU of Maryland Annual Report

The ACLU of Maryland was founded in 1931 in response to lynching on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. The organization's first case was on behalf of a Black man named Orphan Jones who was charged with murder, denied counsel, and threatened with lynching.

Today, we are the nation's premier guardian of liberty. We exist to empower Marylanders to exercise their rights so that the law values and uplifts their humanity.

We work daily to defend and preserve the individual rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution and the laws of the United States. We work to ensure that all people in the state of Maryland are free to think and speak as they choose, and to live their lives free from discrimination and unwarranted government intrusion.

Our vision is that Maryland's people are united in affirming and exercising their rights in order to address inequities and fulfill the country's unrealized promise of justice and freedom for all.

Thanks for joining us in this important work,

Dana Vickers Shelley Executive Director

ACLU of Maryland

John Alvin Henderson President, Board of Directors ACLU of Maryland



SO LONG AS WE HAVE ENOUGH PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY WILLING TO FIGHT FOR THEIR RIGHTS, WE'LL BE CALLED A DEMOCRACY.

ACLU Founder Roger Baldwin









REALIZING

RIGHT TO EDUCATION

Maryland's constitution guarantees the right of all students to a quality education. That is why the ACLU is working to put race and wealth equity into practice, to ensure state resources are targeted to support students and districts impacted by opportunity gaps, achievement lags, and generational underfunding. The ACLU is also supporting restorative approaches that better support all students. We must disrupt practices that discipline Black and Brown students unfairly and that move them out of the classroom and into the criminal justice system.

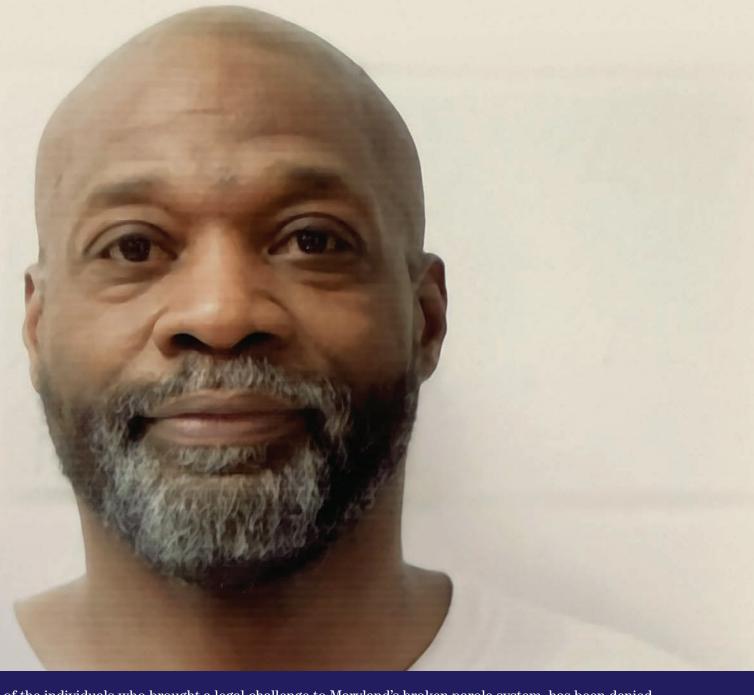
PROTECTING

IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS

Immigrants have constitutional rights in the United States, including the right to due process and to be protected from racial profiling. That is why the ACLU is working with grassroots partners to oppose 287(g) programs in Frederick, Cecil, and Harford counties. Such programs turn local police officers into federal immigration enforcers and encourage them to racially profile "immigrant-looking" people. One Frederick resident went to court, with support from the ACLU, after being racially profiled by a sheriff's deputy. The ACLU is also working to end ICE's cruel "bait and switch" tactic of separating immigrants from their families after they show up for required marriage interviews.



of a U.S. citizen. *Photo credit: Amber Taylor*



Calvin McNeill, who is one of the individuals who brought a legal challenge to Maryland's broken parole system, has been denied release three times despite recommendations by the Maryland Parole Commission that he should be released and his nearly perfect prison record. Mr. McNeill, who was incarcerated at age 16, is now 55 years old. *Photo credit: Provided by family of Calvin McNeill*.

ENDING

CRUELEST PUNISHMENTS

Marylanders must not be subjected to unconstitutionally cruel punishments. The ACLU is celebrating a new law that restricts use of solitary confinement on children, though more work needs to be done to limit the use of solitary in state prisons and detention facilities. The ACLU also continues to support Marylanders serving life with parole sentences who have been denied a real opportunity to earn release, even though they were children when the offenses were committed. The state's policy of giving the governor sole decision-making authority over who is released greatly politicizes the process. Many worthy Marylanders – most of whom are now in their 50s and 60s – have been wrongly refused parole by a series of governors, from Parris Glendening to Larry Hogan.

DEMANDING FREE SPEECH

Maryland survivors of police abuse must not be silenced. The ACLU is celebrating three victories upholding this free speech right, which also advance police accountability. The first is in a case brought by Ashley Overbey Underwood, who was brutalized by Baltimore police after calling them for help and then lost half of her settlement money after defending herself online against critical comments from city officials. A federal appeals court ruled unconstitutional the non-disparagement clause that tried to silence her. In follow up, the Baltimore City Council passed an ordinance outlawing such "gag orders" in cases of police misconduct, sexual harassment, and other forms of unlawful discrimination. Meanwhile, a state court struck down the City of Salisbury's practice of making civil rights settlements secret through a non-disclosure clause, ruling that the practice violated the Maryland Public Information Act.







CHAMPIONING

RACIAL JUSTICE

Marylanders must be free from discrimination based on race. That is why the ACLU is supporting Black and Brown police officers from Prince George's County in their lawsuit challenging a work environment pervaded by race discrimination and retaliation, which contaminated relationships between police and the community. The ACLU also joined three Black officers from Pocomoke City who successfully challenged rampant race discrimination and retaliation they faced from local officials. And the ACLU championed the rights of students from families with low-income, who are disproportionately Black and Brown, not to be denied necessary summer school because they cannot afford it.

EXPANDING

GENDER RIGHTS

The gender rights of all people must be advanced and protected. That is why the ACLU is supporting women who are formerly incarcerated in their campaign to secure a pre-release facility and services that are equal to what is offered to men in Maryland. When women transition back to their communities, they need support to ensure a safe re-entry. The ACLU also joined advocacy for a new policy in Baltimore City Public Schools intended to expand and strengthen sexual harassment and non-discrimination protections and define the rights of transgender students. And the ACLU is helping to enforce that policy in partnership with a student who was denied her right to the choice of wearing a tuxedo when other girls had their choice of dresses for their graduation ceremony.



The campaign for women who are incarcerated and preparing to return to their communities is about fairness and meeting their needs, so they can successfully transition back home. *Photo credit: Amber Taylor*



 $Activists\ celebrate\ passage\ of\ the\ Secure\ and\ Accessible\ Registration\ Act\ at\ the\ Maryland\ General\ Assembly.$ $Photo\ credit:\ Damon\ Effingham$



ADVANCING

VOTING RIGHTS

The narrative linking the right to vote to incarceration is fundamentally undemocratic. The origins of voter disenfranchisement laws were intentional efforts to block Black political power following the end of slavery and to solidify white supremacy. Maryland's first law disenfranchising "felons" dates back to 1851. That is why the ACLU is determined to restore the right to vote to all those who are currently incarcerated. And the ACLU continues to educate voters about their rights and solve problems at the polls with our Election Protection campaign.

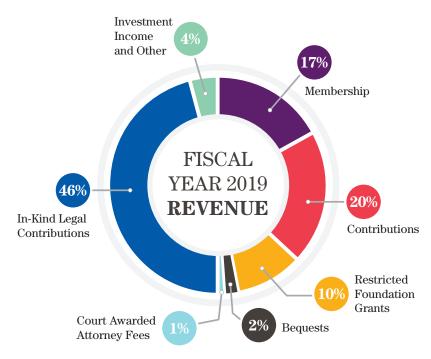
SECURING

POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

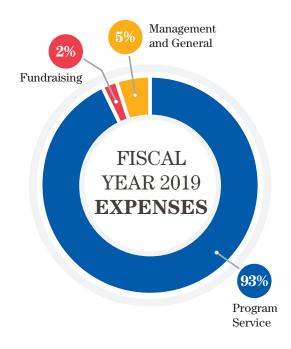
Police must be accountable to the communities they serve. That is why the ACLU is working with partners across the state to win important reforms. In Baltimore, the ACLU supported local control of the police department, which has a long-outdated status as a nominal state agency. And we opposed the creation of a private police force for Johns Hopkins University. In Prince George's County, the ACLU spoke out after the police killing of a Black man in mental distress. In Montgomery County, the ACLU testified in support of successful legislation to create a Police Advisory Commission. And following racist remarks from Baltimore's Fraternal Order of Police, the ACLU called on all public officials to pledge not to use or tolerate the use of disparaging and dehumanizing language about people of color, especially Black children.



AUDITED FINANCIALS / ACLU of Maryland



SUPPORT AND REVENUE	
Membership	\$ 1,568,245
Contributions	1,806,893
Restricted Foundation Grants	871,500
Bequests	152,396
Court Awarded Attorney Fees	128,716
In-Kind Legal Contributions	4,150,804
Investment Income and Other	355,187
Total	\$ 9,033,741



EXPENSES		
Program Service		7,020,102
Fundraising		126,667
Management and General		399,300
Total	\$	7,546,069

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

With our democracy 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 are using 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 are not tax deductible. They support our core focus areas and our legislative work, including lobbying of the Maryland State Legislature and Congress. 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."

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Please contact the ACLU of Maryland development office (410.889.8555 ext. 153) 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 Development 3600 Clipper Mill Rd., Suite 350 Baltimore, MD 21211-1995

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Joanne Heisel

Kristina Herold

Edwin Hirschmann

Nancy Hopkins

Beth Hufnagel

Tariq Husain

Jacqueline Jellinek

Rhea Kahn

Michael Kaplan

Harriet Katz

Patrick Keehan

James W. Kerr

Judy Kieffer

Soon Jin Kim

Sumie Kinoshita

Leonard Kraisel

Hillary Kruh

Ravi & Indu Kumar

John Kyle & Peter Satten

Sheila Lambowitz

David & Sandra Lange

Allan H. & Sondra P. Laufer

Gregory K. Lehne

Carol Lent

Jack Levine

Stanley & Annalee Lichtenstein

Barbara Little & Paul Shackel

Sara Love

Richard D. Lutz & Paul R. Gordon

Barry W. Lynn

Edward Makowski

Peter Mansbach

Sandra McGann

Phyllis McIntosh

Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Merber

David Michener & Meg Finn

Arthur Milholland & Luann Mostello

Alice Mills

Julia Ann Misplon & Anna

Palmer Durbin

Sandra Moodispaw

Harold Moore

Gladys Morrow

Susan Morseth

Tim Mullanev

Peyton Myers

Irai Naderi

Dana Nau

Frances Nebesky

Jo Ann Orlinsky

Paula J. Peters

Craig Phillips

Julie Phillips

Robert & Blair Potter

Richard Rabin

Neil & Lanna Ray

Randy Richardson

Gary Rodwell

Katharine Rogers

Samuel I. Rosenberg

Constance Row

M.V. Runkles, III

Harold Salverda

Genevieve & Elliott Schiffmann

Thomas J. Schneider

Alice Schreiber

Veronica Schweyen Maxine Shank

Georgia Noone Sherrod

& Ava Sherrod

Lois R. Sherry & Craig W. Damon

Henry & Ann Silverman

Stephanie Simek

Judith Simmons

Hal Smiler

John Sondheim &

Emily R. Greenberg

Michael Spiro

Scott Stebelman

Kenneth Stevens

Thomas Stutzman

Cliff & Kay Terry

Lloyd Turcotte

George Tyson

Mack & Irma Walker

Minnie Warburton

Kenneth Weeden

David White

P. Whitty Stan Wiggins

Patricia Wilson & Susan Stanzione

Diana Woodall

Chip Wright

Patricia C. Visser

Michael Zasadil



ACLU of Maryland, pictured clockwise from lower right: Nicole McCann, Sonia Kumar, Amy Cruice, Toni Holness, Gina Elleby, Dana Vickers Shelley, Rosemary Qessem, Neydin Milián, Jay Jimenez, Meredith Curtis Goode, Amber Taylor, Nehemiah Bester, Justin Nalley, Frank Patinella, Zachary Moore, David Rocah, Shavanah Ali, Tré Murphy, Deborah Jeon, Kimberly Humphrey, Nick Taichi Steiner. Not pictured: Yanet Amanuel, Sebastian Brown, Sergio España, Josh Johnson, Kimbrick Knox, Craig Lee, Barbara Samuels, Joseph Spielberger, Jenny Trust. Photo credit: Amber Taylor

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