



STRATEGIC THINKING

TO DEFEND OUR MOST FUNDAMENTAL

RIGHTS & FREEDOMS

2008 - 2009 ACLU Foundation of Georgia
Annual Campaign



Can we exhale yet?

If only.

After nearly a decade of unprecedented assaults on privacy, free speech, due process, *habeas corpus* and human rights (to name just the most egregious), true American patriots are eagerly waiting to breathe a sigh of relief when this administration finally heads out the door.

But wait. Don't let your guard down.

No matter who wins the election in November — at the national, state and local levels — we now have to *fix* everything that's broken and defend the rights of those who have been abused, ignored, marginalized, disenfranchised or imprisoned along the way. It takes the hard work and dedication of a group as historically powerful as the ACLU to change the status quo.

We will get our nation back on track if we INVEST time and resources in STRATEGIC THINKING... and ACTION.

In fact, acting outside of the rule of law has become so institutionalized that the ACLU needs an exceptionally well-planned and executed strategy to return our country to the rule of law and to restore our freedoms and rights.

Fortunately, that's exactly what we have.

Read on.



FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS & FREEDOMS: 11 Key Issues

The ACLU's plan to defend our fundamental rights and freedoms and restore the rule of law is the most **AMBITIOUS** and **COMPREHENSIVE** in our organization's history.



Working in tandem with its affiliates across the country, the ACLU has developed its most aggressive, coordinated, multi-pronged strategy in our organization's history.

At the core of our strategic approach is making sure each affiliate is in constant contact with the national office and shares information about its legal, legislative and public education efforts with other affiliates, including key insights into what works and what doesn't. This is how we create change.

What must happen now is urgent action during the "First Hundred Days"

of the next administration. It's an ambitious agenda, but one we can achieve by working together.

No other organization has done more to defend the Constitution or is better poised to take on the critical issues we face today, including those you see here, than the ACLU and ACLU of Georgia.

The work we're doing here at the ACLU of Georgia, in fact, is some of the most exciting and ground-breaking in the country.

✓ PRIVACY

Privacy is a human right, a civil right and one of the core ideals upon which this nation was founded. **What must happen now: Repeal the Executive Order authorizing warrantless spying and investigate associated illegal actions; suspend regulations for the pending Real ID Act.**

✓ OPEN GOVERNMENT

Surveillance, while crucial for law enforcement to do its job, must be done within the rule of law. **What must happen now: Issue an Executive Order to review terrorist watch lists and repeal the Order that stops people from doing business with those on the list; rescind the "Ashcroft Doctrine," which violates the Freedom of Information Act.**

✓ FREE EXPRESSION

The First Amendment guarantees the right to be heard and express dissent without fear of repercussion. **What must happen now: Issue an Executive Order to stop monitoring political activists unless there's reasonable suspicion they have committed or are planning to commit a crime.**

✓ RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

The right to practice a religion, or no religion at all, is a First Amendment right that should not be subject to political process and majority votes. **What must happen now: Repeal the Executive Orders that establish "Faith-based Initiatives."**

✓ RACE & NATIONAL ORIGIN

Despite enormous progress, fair and equal treatment for people of color remains elusive as racism continues from education and employment to matters of life and death. **What must happen now: Preserve and extend the constitutional rights of people of color and immigrants through litigation, community organizing and training, legislative initiatives and public education.**

✓ DEATH PENALTY

The death penalty is the ultimate denial of civil liberties and it continues despite concrete evidence of obvious and extreme racial disparities. To date, 129 death row inmates have been exonerated, six of whom were in Georgia. **What must happen now: Implement a death penalty moratorium until racial and economic disparities are addressed, and fully fund an indigent defense system.**

✓ STUDENT/JUVENILE RIGHTS

Kids in the system — suspects, defendants and prisoners — are among the most vulnerable, and are often ignorant of their basic rights. **What must happen now: Stop the trend that funnels children into the School to Prison Pipeline (STPP) where they are denied civil liberties and their right to equal public school education opportunities.**

✓ VOTING RIGHTS

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 guarantees all Americans an equal opportunity to participate in the political process. **What must happen now: Fight laws like Georgia’s Voter ID Law that dilute minority voting strength, interfere with communities electing candidates of their choice and disproportionately affect the poor, elderly, disabled and students.**

✓ WOMEN & CHOICE

Women continue to face gender bias and barriers, including government infringement of reproductive freedom. The current Georgia strategy is to “allow” abortion but to make it nearly impossible to obtain. **What must happen now: Rescind the Executive Memorandum (Abortion Gag Rule) prohibiting foreign aid to organizations that promote or perform abortions.**

✓ PRISONERS’ RIGHTS

Prisoners’ rights — health care, treatment free from discrimination, protection from physical threats and cruel and unusual punishment — must be preserved as we protect our citizens. **What must happen now: Fight unconstitutional conditions and the “lock-em up” mentality while we create and analyze data to help implement systemic improvements.**

✓ LGBT RIGHTS

If you’re a LGBT person, especially one living in Georgia, you are denied the same rights as everyone else, including the right to get married, serve openly in the military and enjoy a safe learning or work experience. **What must happen now: Issue an Executive Order prohibiting discrimination against sexual minorities in federal employment.**

STRATEGIC PLANNING: Greatest good for the greatest numbers

In Georgia, we are facing some of the most alarming anti-freedom trends in the country. If you take a look at the bills introduced into the Georgia General Assembly since 9/11 — especially this past year — you’ll see well-orchestrated attempts to roll back civil liberties at an astonishing rate.

In fact, the worst, most far-reaching civil and human rights abuses we see today in Georgia are those involving **racial injustice**.

Racial injustice contaminates our interconnected systems of education, criminal justice and the democratic process in the same way poison contaminates an ecosystem: if it gets in at the ground level, it shows up everywhere... and at increasingly potent levels.

Try as we might to solve social problems with new policies or laws or programs, unless we remove the poison — racial injustice — at its source, ours will continue to be a society steeped in inequities. And the inequities will grow as our population grows.



Racial Justice In Georgia

The U.S. Constitution guarantees civil rights to everyone in this country, and international laws guarantee human rights to everyone on this planet.

It is our responsibility, as civil libertarians in Georgia, to make sure civil and human rights are extended to everyone in our state.

That is why the ACLU of Georgia fights for racial justice every day.

Our strategic challenge is to spend the lion’s share of our time and resources on actions that will help the greatest number of people. That is why we are focusing on the following four problems:

- **School to Prison Pipeline**
- **Voting Rights**
- **Capital Punishment**
- **Immigrants’ Rights**

They are all high-stakes issues, and they are all connected.

The Four Key Issues

The **School to Prison Pipeline (STPP)** is a national trend that funnels students out of public schools and into alternative schools with graduation rates in the single digits. The vast majority of these students are children of color who end up in prison, with their beliefs about society, and their role in it, irreversibly damaged.

This is one of the reasons we’re finding such a high percentage of African-American males in prison. After having served their time, they are often denied their **voting rights**, which is contrary to Georgia law. The result is the disenfranchisement of a disproportionate number of people of color and the removal of their voice from our democracy.

It is no surprise, also, that a disproportionate number of African-Americans are on death row. Studies prove it — racial injustice abounds in the **capital punishment** system across the country and it’s especially blatant in Georgia.

While speaking out forcefully against the death penalty during a time when our country is participating in torture is not easy, the ACLU of Georgia is dedicated to ending capital punishment in



A face to face meeting is the most effective way to communicate with legislators. That’s why each Wednesday while Georgia General Assembly is in session, the ACLU of Georgia is at the capitol for “**By The People**” lobby days.

Along with other progressive organizations, including Planned Parenthood of Georgia, Georgia Rural Urban Summit (GRUS), National Council of Jewish Women, Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials (GALEO) and Georgians for Democracy, we’re giving people the tools they need to go talk to lawmakers about the decisions they’re making. These lay lobbying days have been a tremendous success and continue to generate an increasing number of participants each year.

our state, which has one of the highest execution rates in the country.

At the same time, our prisons are overcrowded beyond reason, dangerous, and lack health care and basic services. Inhumane treatment of incarcerated individuals is unconstitutional and violates international law.

People of color fill Georgia prisons, of course. More and more of them every day are immigrants.

The lack of a comprehensive national immigration policy has left states, counties and municipalities scrambling to solve perceived problems on their own — and trampling human and civil rights along the way. Fighting for **immigrants' rights** in Georgia is imperative.

Strategic Collaboration

The ACLU of Georgia is working together with the national office and with ACLU national projects and programs in all of our issue areas, and especially the areas of racial justice.

Our strategic plan includes reaching out to people in every corner of the state, educating them about their rights, conducting workshops, and training volunteers and activists. Within the next few years, the plan also includes opening a second ACLU of Georgia office in the southern part of the state to extend our reach and be even more accessible.

We're putting pressure on our lawmakers by showing up at the Capitol, along with community activists, every week that the legislature is in session to voice our opinions and talk about the constitutionality of pending bills. We call

them on the phone, write them letters (and write letters to the editor, too), testify at hearings and hold press conferences. We are also continuing to use the court system, of course. This spring, for example, we filed *Harris et al. v. Atlanta Independent School System*, a major STPP class-action lawsuit with national implications.

On the following pages you'll see the specific objectives, benchmark goals and key strategic steps involved in fighting for justice in 2009. We will continue to pursue legal action, influence legislation and grow grassroots movements in all of our issues areas.

A full agenda, to be sure, and we are confident our team will meet the objectives with the help of ACLU of Georgia supporters.

ACLU RACIAL JUSTICE PROGRAM

The ACLU Racial Justice Program aims to preserve and extend constitutionally guaranteed rights to people who have historically been denied their rights on the basis of race. It supports and coordinates racial justice efforts in every state, advocating for justice and equality on the national scale and in communities across the country.

Through "impact lawsuits" in state and federal courts throughout the country (cases designed to have a significant and wide-reaching effect on communities of color), lobbying local and state legislatures in coalition with other civil rights groups and local advocates, and educating and empowering the public, we advocate for racial justice on a daily basis.

The ACLU of Georgia is also working closely with these national projects:

- Voting Rights Project, Atlanta, GA
- Capital Punishment Project, Durham, NC
- Immigrants Rights Project, San Francisco, CA

AT ISSUE: School to Prison Pipeline

The “**School To Prison Pipeline**” (STPP) is a disturbing national trend in which students are funneled out of public schools and into the juvenile and criminal justice systems. Most of these kids are children of color, and many have learning disabilities or histories of poverty, abuse or neglect, and would benefit from additional educational and counseling services. Instead, they are punished and isolated.

Why is this happening? “Zero-tolerance” policies criminalize minor infractions of school rules and high-stakes testing programs encourage educators to push out low-performing students to improve their schools’ overall test scores. Students of color are especially vulnerable to the discriminatory application of discipline and push-out trends.

The ACLU believes children should be educated, not incarcerated. We are working to challenge numerous policies and practices within public school systems and the juvenile justice system that contribute to STPP.

The progress we’ve made in Georgia over the past two years is remarkable. Not only have we, along with the ACLU national office, filed a lawsuit with national implications (see below), our grassroots organizing and education efforts are building the groundswell of community action needed to begin systemic change.

TEAMING UP

A national, collaborative effort for legal advocates to dismantle the School to Prison Pipeline by working together.

SchooltoPrison.org provides a forum for impact litigators, direct service attorneys and other legal advocates across the nation to share ideas and strategies for stemming the flow of children from schools into the juvenile and criminal justice systems.

Sponsors include:

- ACLU Racial Justice Program
- Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice at Harvard Law School
- NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.
- Juvenile Law Center
- Southern Poverty Law Center

Harris et al. v. Atlanta Independent School System

The ACLU and ACLU of Georgia filed a class action lawsuit on March 11, 2008 against the Atlanta Independent School System (AISS) and Community Education Partners (CEP) for violating students’ constitutional right to an adequate public education.

CEP is a for-profit corporation paid nearly \$7 million a year by the city (i.e., taxpayers) to run its alternative middle and high school, which is among the most dangerous and lowest performing schools in Georgia.

The school was designed for students with behavioral problems. However, placement is often arbitrary and stu-

dents who don’t belong there are given few opportunities to challenge compulsory assignment to the school.

CEP has also run alternative schools in Houston, Philadelphia, Richmond, Orlando and Florida’s Pinnellas and Bay districts. In 2005, its annual revenues totaled \$70 million.

In fact, CEP’s poor record suggests a political strategy purely to win contracts and increase profits. For example:

- The school has a “no homework” policy and prohibits students from taking home books.
- AISS-CEP has no cafeteria, gym or library.



OBJECTIVE:

Provide full access to education for all children, regardless of race, as required by law.

Benchmark Goals:

- Initiate a multi-faceted, statewide litigation strategy that holds school systems accountable for providing equal access to education
- Repeal “zero tolerance” in education code
- Reduce criminalization of youth and over-discipline in public schools
- Help implement STPP best practices in school districts

Some Key Strategic Steps:

- Build coalitions with groups working on revising juvenile justice codes
- Identify and recruit community leaders committed to building local action groups
- Host “By The People” lobby days at the capitol for visits to legislators regarding bills that impact educational policy and funding
- Distribute “Best Practices” and “Impact of Zero Tolerance” reports to legislators
- Produce report on high stakes testing and its impact on racial minorities
- Provide resources, training and organizational support for community leaders
- Create parent education materials for presentation at community group, PTSA’s and other community venues

- Students are subjected to daily full body pat-down searches that include the soles of their feet and all students – boys and girls – must lift up their shirts to their necks in front of the search team.
- Watches, jewelry, purses, combs, brushes, keys and money in excess of five dollars are contraband. Girls can’t bring tampons into the building
- On the 2006-2007, Georgia’s state-wide Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests, 65.8 percent failed to achieve proficiency in reading and 91.1 percent of students failed to achieve proficiency in math.
- Less than 23 percent met or exceeded standards across all subjects compared to 50 percent of students at two nearby alternative schools.
- The AISS-CEP School alone accounted for 67.7 percent of reported incidents of battery, 46 percent of reported vandalism, and 20 percent of reported gun possession in the entire school district.

Restoring voting rights to all eligible voters strengthens democracy by leveling the playing field, increasing voter participation and helping the formerly incarcerated reintegrate into their communities. We work closely with the ACLU Southern Regional Office to make sure that ALL people who have the right to vote *can* vote.

The interest we're seeing right now in voting rights restoration is higher than ever. The ACLU of Georgia office began getting a substantial number of calls right before the primary and the volume has continued up until the printing of this brochure in early October.

In addition, the ACLU of Georgia has designed and presented felon voting rights restoration workshops that have been offered to each of the national political campaigns.



ACLU VOTING RIGHTS PROJECT

The ACLU Voting Rights Project (VRP) works to protect and extend gains won by the 1965 Voting Rights Act (VRA), the landmark law that made voting discrimination illegal and gave voters new tools to ensure overall voting fairness.

Since then, the VRP has worked to protect the gains in political participation won by racial and language minorities and has aggressively and successfully challenged efforts that dilute minority voting strength or obstruct the ability of minority communities to elect candidates of their choice.

The Project has filed more than 300 lawsuits to enforce the provisions of the VRA and the U.S. Constitution. In addition, through legislative advocacy and public education, the VRP and a coalition of voting rights and civil rights groups succeeded in getting Congress to renew three crucial provisions of the Voting Rights Act in 2006.

VOTER ID LAW: Discrimination at the Ballot Box

Georgia's Voter ID Law is a back-door violation of the Voting Rights Act. It discriminates against you if you belong to one of the groups that commonly do not have the "proper" identification: the poor, minority groups, the elderly and students. Measures designed to ease the burden of attaining "proper" identification are questionable.

FELON VOTING RIGHTS: Discrimination at registration

Georgia denies voting rights to people convicted of a felony involving "moral turpitude" while they are in prison, on parole or on probation. Voting rights are to be automatically restored once time has been served and restitution paid. However, the state's unofficial policy that *all* felonies involve moral turpitude has left people confused about their rights and whether or not they can get their voting rights back. About 284,000 people in Georgia have lost the right to vote, some of whom are in the process of trying to reinstate their voting rights. Nationally, the number is about 5.3 million.

OBJECTIVE:

Eliminate state imposed barriers to full enfranchisement of all Georgians.

Benchmark Goals:

- Turn back the Georgia Voter ID law
- Pass legislation defining “moral turpitude”
- Repeal requirement for full restitution

Some Key Strategic Steps:

- Research accessibility of locations for obtaining either drivers licenses or IDs and introduce legislation requiring at least one location in every county in Georgia
- Continue our comprehensive public education campaign on re-enfranchisement
- Meet with groups serving the elderly and disabled regarding barriers to voting, with emphasis on rural, underserved locations
- Implement a comprehensive press strategy that includes a press conference in south Georgia regarding the ACLU of Georgia’s report on accessibility issues and the impact on poor, elderly, disabled or non-literate
- Hold “By The People” lobby days where grassroots advocates make personal contact with and present report to legislators
- Conduct presentations and workshops at community and adult literacy venues
- Recruit and train formerly incarcerated people to become spokespeople
- Assure ACLU of Georgia voting rights materials are distributed to all state prisoners upon release (17,000 yearly) and conduct “in facility” voting rights workshop



ACLU WORKING IN COALITION: Voting Rights Partners

- Asian American Legal Defense & Education Fund
- Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
- Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund
- Mexican American Legal Defense & Education Fund
- NAACP
- NAACP Legal Defense Fund
- National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium
- National Commission on the Voting Rights Act
- National Congress of American Indians
- National Voting Rights Institute
- Native American Rights Fund
- People for the American Way

AT ISSUE: Death Penalty



People of color have accounted for 43 percent of total executions since 1976, and represent 55 percent of those currently awaiting execution. This is an extremely disproportionate percentage. Research now proves that the quality of your legal representation determines whether you will be sentenced to death — more so than the facts of the crime.

If you're a person of color, therefore, and can't afford a good attorney, the system is stacked against you from day one.

Through concerted efforts to raise awareness about the Troy Davis case, more Georgians today are aware of the unfairness and inequities in the application of Georgia's death penalty than ever before. This is especially important as we move into the 2009 legislative session.

ACLU of Georgia board member Senator Vincent Fort will re-introduce legislation for a moratorium to halt executions for two years while a study committee researches capital punishment problems in Georgia and recommends ways to fix them. Last session the bill moved further in the Senate than in previous years but, unfortunately, it did not make it out of committee. This year, through our continued efforts with our coalition partners and our volunteer StateWide Action Team (SWAT), we expect the bill to get even further.

In addition, there's a high likelihood that Representative Stephanie Stuckey Benfield's Eyewitness Identification Accuracy Enhancement Act will pass this coming session. The bill made it to the floor last session but politics — not principle — got in the way. While those opposing the death penalty are still a significant minority, the number of lawmakers willing to take a look at the inequities is increasing steadily. This would not be happening without the continued efforts of the ACLU of Georgia.

NATIONAL NUMBERS:

Number of people exonerated from Death Row since 1973: 129

Number of people executed since 1977: 1,111

Average number of years an innocent person serves on death row: 9.5

Number of people executed for every person released for innocence: 8.6

GEORGIA NUMBERS:

Number of innocent people released from death row since 1970: 6

Number of people executed since 1977: 42

ACLU CAPITAL PUNISHMENT PROJECT

The Capital Punishment Project (CPP) challenges the unfairness and arbitrariness of capital punishment while working toward the ultimate goal of abolishing the death penalty.

The Project engages in legislative reform, public education and advocacy as well as strategic litigation, including direct representation of capital defendants. Priorities include: challenging racial, economic and geographic discrimination in death penalty application; building the case for an exemption of the death penalty to the mentally ill; improving the quality of counsel and protecting the innocent.

Stronger Together: Building A Coalition to End Capital Punishment in Georgia

Amnesty International
Georgia for Alternatives to the Death Penalty
Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda
Jubilee Partners
NAACP
New Hope House
The Open Door Community
Southern Christian Leadership Conference

On September 16, **Jack Alderman**, the longest serving prisoner on death row in the US (34 years), was executed by lethal injection. It took him 14 minutes to die. As of this date, the U.S. Supreme Court has yet to decide if it will accept or reject the appeal of Troy Anthony Davis, who was also scheduled for execution in September (see box below).

It will take a concerted effort of every organization and individual opposing the death penalty using every resource at our disposal to rid ourselves of the ultimate abuse of human rights.

“Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home - so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person; the neighborhood he lives in; the school or college he attends; the factory, farm, or office where he works. Such are the places where every man, woman, and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world.”

Eleanor Roosevelt



The U.S. Supreme Court halted the execution of Troy Anthony Davis just two hours before his execution scheduled for September 23, 2008, at 7:00 p.m.

The Court met on September 29 to review the case, and will meet once more to discuss it further.

Seven of nine witnesses have recanted their testimony identifying Davis as the person who killed a police officer in Savannah. Davis is appealing a Georgia Supreme Court ruling, asking for a court hearing to assess the recantation evidence.

As of this printing, no date been set for a decision.

Davis has been on death row since August 1989.

OBJECTIVE:

End the death penalty in Georgia.

Benchmark Goals:

- Obtain an official statement from Prosecuting Attorneys' Council supporting a moratorium
- Pass a moratorium on death penalty
- Commute all pending death penalty sentences to life sentences

Some Key Strategic Steps:

- Work to build a coalition of Georgians working to end the death penalty
- Ramp up efforts to educate the public by working with law students, conducting CLE workshops and holding educational programs on why the death penalty is a human rights abuse and must end
- Hold a forum on alternatives to the death penalty
- Launch a campaign to meet with prosecutors to reduce the number of cases seeking the death penalty by 50%
- Mobilize activity in each judicial circuit prior to any scheduled execution
- Hold "By The People" lobby days where grassroots advocates make personal contact with legislators opposing bills that increase the imposition of death penalty or in support of anti-death penalty legislation
- Recruit volunteer attorneys to participate in death penalty appeals

AT ISSUE: Immigrants' Rights

After fighting an onslaught of anti-immigrant bills in the legislature this year — seven in all, with five having been defeated, one being signed into law and one being vetoed by the governor — the ACLU of Georgia has been focusing on reaching out to our many immigrant communities. Georgia is experiencing some of the worst discrimination in the country, including the detainment of undocumented workers incommunicado in private prisons.

Workshops, seminars and discussion groups are key to educating, recruiting and coalition-building, and will take place throughout the coming year.

“Know Your Rights” presentations are held in mosques, cultural centers and other locations to educate immigrants about their civil liberties and human rights. The workshop answers questions such as: What should I do when I encounter law enforcement? What are my rights when it comes to religious freedom and freedom of expression?

The **“287(g) Watch Taskforce in Georgia”** workshop provides attendees with an information “toolkit” that empowers them to dissuade other Georgia counties from entering into 287(g) agreements. It also teaches ways to hold officials accountable in counties with existing 287(g) agreements.

“How to Secure Habeas Relief for Immigrant Detainees” is a CLE seminar for attorneys who wish to represent immigrant detainees. It outlines and instructs about the criteria for determining if a detainee at an immigration detention facility has been held beyond constitutional limits; how to prepare and file a habeas corpus petition; and how to try a habeas case.

The **“Immigrants’ Rights/Human Rights Conversation Series”** brings together advocates to host discussions about articles within the Declaration of Human rights so that people within communities whose rights are not being respected can learn more about taking action to protect themselves.

The ACLU of Georgia is also one of the leading organizations bringing together the Atlanta community to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**, which was adopted and proclaimed on December 10, 1948, by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

WHAT ARE 287(g) AGREEMENTS?

The 287(g) agreements, also known as Memoranda of Understanding, are agreements between Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and local law enforcement, authorizing some officers to check detainees’ immigration status as defined in the Immigration Authority Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. These agreements, which have detrimental effects on public safety, are already in effect in three Georgia counties (Cobb, Hall and Whitfield) and the Georgia Department of Public Safety.



Japanese internment, 1942

OBJECTIVE:

Bring Georgia statutes and detention facilities into compliance with international human rights standards.

Benchmark Goals:

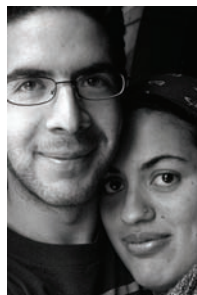
- Establish the position of independent inspector to monitor conditions in detention facilities
- Pass legislation guaranteeing human rights and/or repeal anti-immigrant regulations or laws
- Recruit attorneys statewide to participate in direct representation or challenge anti-immigrant actions and laws

Some Key Strategic Steps:

- Establish sponsored clinical programs in law schools
- Present training session (CLE) on immigrant rights and issues within the human rights framework
- Present “Know Your Rights” programs to religious, grassroots and community organizations
- Recruit attorneys for pro bono representation of immigrants on human rights issues
- Identify grassroots coalition partners and educate them on 287g agreements and conditions at Georgia’s immigration detention facilities

- Train local advocates to make presentations on 287g agreements
- Meet with local law enforcement about the negative impact of 287g agreements and private immigration detention facilities
- Recruit and train a grassroots lobbying base that include immigrants and non-immigrants
- Hold “By The People” lobby days at

- the Capitol for visits to legislators regarding bills that impact immigrants
- Build coalitions inside and outside metro Atlanta to promote public demonstrations and activities
- Hold demonstrations at each of the immigrant detention facilities
- Produce and distribute an educational video that documents conditions in Georgia detention facilities



ACLU IMMIGRANTS’ RIGHTS PROJECT

The ACLU Immigrants’ Rights Project (IRP) defends the civil and constitutional rights of immigrants by advocating for the right to judicial review, fair employment practices, constitutional safeguards against detention practices and biased asylum adjudications, and linguistic and religious freedoms.

Defending the rights of immigrants was one of the founding principles of the ACLU. The need to protect immigrants’ rights has increased as immigrants have become scapegoats for myriad social and economic woes. In 1996, during a period of anti-immigrant hostility not seen since the turn of the century, Congress enacted new punitive, discriminatory and, at minimum, constitutionally flawed legislation that targeted the civil liberties and civil rights of newcomers and longtime legal resident immigrants alike.

The Immigrants’ Rights Project currently targets the following priority areas: unconstitutional restrictions on the right to judicial review; indefinite and mandatory detention of immigrants; post-9/11 policies and practices; local anti-immigrant ordinances; and public and private discriminatory practices targeting immigrants and immigrant workers. The IRP also supports ACLU affiliates’ work to protect immigrants’ rights and conducts a program of public education and advocacy. 15

FUNDING THE FIGHT: A Strategic Investment

A major supporter said recently that giving a gift to the ACLU of Georgia Foundation is like giving a gift to herself.

We cannot simply suspend or restrict civil liberties until the war on terror is over, because the war on terror is unlikely ever to be truly over. September 11, 2001, already a day of immeasurable tragedy, cannot be the day that liberty perished in this country.”

*11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals
Bourgeois v. Peters
(School of the Americas Watch protest case)
Atlanta, GA*

When you choose to stand up for our rights and freedoms, you are making an individual commitment to a collective ideal. Together, the ACLU of Georgia and our generous supporters have been defending the Constitution for 45 years, and we’re stronger and more energized now than at any time in our history. Your gift now is truly an investment that will pay off for generations.

The ACLU of Georgia has an ambitious, exciting, achievable agenda for 2009. To meet our objectives, we must raise \$750,000 for this coming year. Of that total, \$400,000 needs to be raised through gifts from individuals like you. The table below shows how the funds raised from individuals will be allocated.

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Litigation | \$ 125,000 |
| Organizing and Outreach | 125,000 |
| Public Education | 100,000 |
| Administrative | 50,000 |
| TOTAL | \$ 400,000 |

**We are extremely grateful for your support each year.
Your tax-deductible gifts make our work possible.**

The bulk of what we accomplish here in Georgia is directly related to the amount raised by our Foundation from men and women who believe in the Constitution, human dignity, the rule of law and equality for all.

Please join us once again in this vital effort.



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

*Margaret Mead
Anthropologist, author and lecturer*

Since becoming an ACLU affiliate in 1963, the ACLU of Georgia has dedicated itself to its mission:

“The purpose of this Association shall be to advance the cause of civil liberties in Georgia, with emphasis on the rights of free speech, free assembly, freedom of religion, due process of law and to take all legitimate action in the furtherance of such purposes without political partisanship.”

We do this in three important ways:

• We educate and organize the public:

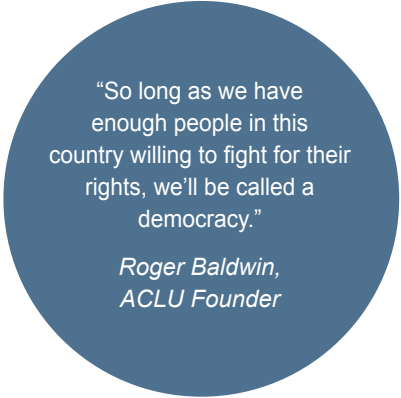
We go into communities to spread the word about issues that affect our rights and liberties, offer support to individuals and groups, and build new coalitions statewide. Our highly trained and motivated volunteer StateWide Action Team (SWAT) works with us on a daily basis.

• We impact public policy:

We are constantly at the state capitol: we testify before committees, educate the opposition and create strategies with our allies. Through “By the People” lobby days program, we train Georgians to speak directly with state legislators and advocate for fair and just laws.

• We work through the courts:

We challenge legislation that threatens our Constitution, represent Georgians whose civil liberties are at risk, and file amicus briefs to support others who are protecting our rights. With the help of our volunteer attorneys and cooperating law firms, we pursue a targeted docket as part of a comprehensive legal strategy to create the greatest impact on public policy.



“So long as we have enough people in this country willing to fight for their rights, we’ll be called a democracy.”

*Roger Baldwin,
ACLU Founder*

Bill of Rights:

- 1 Freedom of religion, speech, press, peaceful assembly and government petition.
- 2 Right to bear arms.
- 3 Government can’t force you to house soldiers.
- 4 Freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures.
- 5 Right to due process, a Grand Jury, no double jeopardy or requirement that you testify against yourself.
- 6 Right to a speedy, public trial.
- 7 Right to a trial by jury.
- 8 Protection from excessive bail, fines and cruel and unusual punishments.
- 9 Right to other protections not stated in the Constitution.
- 10 Powers not delegated to the federal government are reserved for the States or the people.

This nation is a work in progress.



I've been with the ACLU of Georgia for a long time as we've worked to defend the rights of people in our state and I can tell you that I have never been more enthusiastic about what we, the ACLU of Georgia, can accomplish next year and in the years that follow. Our current approach — strategic planning and constant collaboration with the national office, ACLU project offices and other affiliates — substantially increases our impact here in Georgia.

We now have more members, are more integrated statewide and are helping more people than ever before.

This is advocacy in action and there is no greater cause, as far as I'm concerned, than making sure the rights and freedoms of each and every individual are respected.

So what do we do when a teen who acts like a teen gets thrown into an alternative school where the only thing he learns is that he does not count? What do we do when the child of an immigrant is stranded without her asthma medication because her mom, an undocumented worker, is being held incommunicado in a privately run prison? What do we do when a young man who has served his time no longer has a voice in our democracy because the state refuses to reinstate his legal voting rights? What do we do when an innocent man — Troy Davis — is about to be executed despite the fact that six of nine eyewitnesses recanted and no physical evidence linked him to the crime?

We fight for their rights. Strategically. Tirelessly. Relentlessly.

These individuals and thousands like them need help to stand up for their rights because they can't do it on their own. They need the help of our entire team here at the ACLU of Georgia and the help of our national ACLU support network.

And they need your help.

Please consider giving the most generous gift you can.

Thank you very much,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debbie Seagraves".

Debbie Seagraves
Executive Director, ACLU of Georgia



American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Georgia

75 Piedmont Avenue, Suite 514

Atlanta, GA 30303

404-523-6201 • www.acluga.org