2018 Annual Report American Civil Liberties Union of Washington





The ACLU of Washington is one of 55 ACLU offices around the country working together to create lasting change. More than 2 million members, activists, and supporters nationwide fuel the ACLU's pursuit of fairness through litigation, legislation, advocacy and public education.

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Dear ACLU members,

Washington state is not immune to the injustice, bigotry, and favoritism of the Trump presidency. But Washingtonians have unique opportunities not only to resist Trump's agenda but also to advance freedom, fairness and democracy. The ACLU of Washington is proud to play a leadership role in that work.

This report highlights some of ACLU-WA's important work of the last year. It's a snapshot of the marathon we run—a marathon that often feels like a sprint! The work is extensive, intense and interwoven. It requires persistence and insistence, diplomacy and determination, calculation and courage. Whether we are filing amicus briefs on behalf of juveniles, telling the stories of brave clients in Bellingham, engaging community stakeholders in Seattle and Spokane, pressing the courts to reduce juror bias, or crafting long-term legal strategies, at ACLU, we are all in! And thank goodness, you are, too!

This is my 38th and last annual report, as I am retiring soon. I cannot imagine a more meaningful career or better people to have worked with. It's been so satisfying to advance America's most important principles and to help grow the organization into an institutional force for freedom and fairness. I hope to continue to resist, urge, hound, and press for change and otherwise do what I can to make this a better world. In these troubling times, "the work" is our best answer to the troubles and the best salve for our souls.

Paraphrasing Roger Baldwin who founded the ACLU nearly 100 years ago, I've been traveling hopefully all these years, and I am still traveling hopefully. While the goal is clear, the road is hard and progress is painful, I believe that we are moving toward a better world of freedom, fairness and justice. Thank you for continuing to travel hopefully with the ACLU.

Onward!

Kathleen Taylor Executive Director

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ACLU of Washington



Families Belong Together

Crisis at the Border

This year, we collectively watched in horror as children—including babies—were taken from their parents seeking asylum at our southern border. The chaos that ensued, with thousands of separated families, coerced deportations, and irreparable trauma to young children, put us all to shame. It also drove many of us to action. ACLU-WA sponsored protests in Seattle and Spokane which brought thousands of people to the streets. Through the courts, the ACLU was able to win back the right of families to stay together, but the Administration's shocking inability to reunite those it had already separated leaves us fighting still. Hundreds of children remain orphaned at the time of this printing. It is going to take the continued action of all of us to protect immigrant families.

Refugee Families and the Muslim Ban

Doe v. Trump

While we continue to fight the Muslim Ban on all fronts, in Washington we won a major victory for refugee families affected by the ban. In our successful 2017 case *Doe v. Trump* the courts agreed that the administration could not indefinitely prevent children and spouses of refugees from joining their families living in the U.S. This year, despite the government's attempts to throw out the ruling, the courts ordered the administration to provide evidence that refugee families are being reunited.

Spokane Fights Back Against Racial Profiling

For Andres Sosa Segura, a routine bus trip home to his family became a nightmare when Border Patrol agents singled him out as the only Latinx-appearing passenger on his Greyhound bus and demanded his "papers." When Sosa instead showed them a "know your rights" card his attorney had given him, the agents ordered him outside the station for further interrogation, detained him, placed him in their vehicle, and eventually transported him to a facility about an hour away, where he was locked in a cell for several hours.

Sosa's experience is not an isolated incident. Customs and Border Protection (CBP or Border Patrol) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents have been conducting armed, suspicionless searches—often targeting people of color—on Greyhound buses traveling between entirely domestic destinations, and the Trump administration has plans to add 30 more Border Patrol agents in Spokane—97 miles away from our actual border.

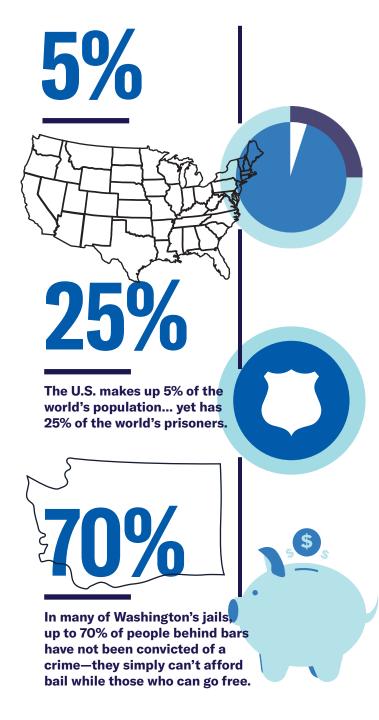
But the City of Spokane is fighting back. In October, city council members passed an ordinance requiring immigration enforcement agents to stay out of non-public areas of city-owned property unless they have a warrant from a judge.

The ACLU of Washington and Northwest Immigrant Rights Project have also taken action; filing a claim on Sosa's behalf under the Federal Tort Claims Act, which allows people to collect monetary damages for wrongful conduct by federal government employees. The claim asserts government employees subjected Sosa to false arrest and false imprisonment.

Cities and Counties Stepping Up

Through our collective advocacy, in February, King County became a national leader in supporting and protecting the rights of all people, regardless of immigration status. When local law enforcement becomes entangled with immigration enforcement, immigrants are less likely to report crime or appear as witnesses, making us all less safe. When a person is arrested by ICE, detained, and deported, children lose their parents, employers lose their workers, friends and loved ones are separated, and fear spreads through the community. The passage of the immigration ordinance sends a message that King County residents, regardless of immigration status, shouldn't be afraid to access local services. This ordinance prevents the County from using local funds and resources on federal immigration enforcement. It requires immigration agents to get a judicial warrant to access non-public parts of King County's property, and ensures that immigrants in County custody know their constitutional rights.





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Nearly 70% of people in jail have a recent history of mental illness or substance use.

Hard-Won Successes

Changing something as complex and damaged as our criminal justice system is difficult, time-consuming and resource-intensive, but with dogged persistence it is possible. We know because we are doing it. Here are a few of our recent successes:

Death Penalty Outlawed!

After decades of intensive work by the ACLU of Washington and allies to abolish the death penalty, the state's highest court unanimously found the death penalty unconstitutional because its use is arbitrary and racially biased. Black defendants in Washington are more than four times as likely to be sentenced to death as white defendants for the same crimes.

Seventy-five former or retired judges, religious leaders and family members of victims joined the ACLU of Washington's amicus brief asking the court to recognize the failures of Washington's death penalty. Washington is now the 20th state in the country to reject capital punishment.

Addressing Racial Bias in Jury Selection

A fair trial is the right of every accused person, but bias and racism threaten true fairness all along the way. In April, The Washington Supreme Court became the first court in the nation to adopt a rule aimed at eliminating racial bias—both explicit and implicit—in jury selection. Not only is intentional race discrimination outlawed, but so are challenges based on "implicit, institutional, and unconscious" race and ethnic biases. The rule was originally drafted several years ago by ACLU-WA staff and volunteer attorneys and pushed along with the help of numerous ally legal organizations.

Ending Debtors' Prisons

When someone is convicted of a crime, they also receive "Legal Financial Obligations (LFOs)"—fees and fines imposed by the judge as part of the sentence. For many years, Washington's LFO system allowed people with money to go free, while poor people remained in an endless cycle of debt and incarceration that amounted to a modern day "debtors' prison." The ACLU of Washington worked for years through litigation, advocacy, and lobbying efforts and in 2018 our legislature finally passed a bill to address the unfairness.

The Criminalization of Poverty & Mental Illness

We have created a two-tiered justice system: one for those who can buy their way out by quickly paying fines or posting bail, and another, nearly inescapable, for those who can't. The ACLU of Washington is dedicated to ensuring that no one's wealth, or lack thereof, determines their rights and freedom.

Additionally, people struggling with mental health, disability, and substance use disorders do not "get better" by being locked up. In fact, we see just the opposite. When people who need treatment and services are instead funneled into the criminal justice system, they are often mistreated, discriminated against, and released with no support only to enter an endless cycle of incarceration.

No Money, No Freedom: Washington's Unfair Bail System

On any given day in Washington, thousands of people sit behind bars not because they have been convicted of any crime but simply because they cannot afford bail while awaiting trial. Those who can afford bail go free, often allowing them to keep their jobs, seek help and support, keep custody of their children, and demonstrate good behavior to the court and prosecutor. Given the consequences of even a few days in jail, it's not too surprising that people who can't afford bail are more likely to plead guilty and accept a plea bargain just to speed up their release.

Reforming Washington's bail system is complex and varies jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Our Smart Justice team is working with stakeholders across the state to:

- · Decrease the use of money bail
- Ensure all defendants have legal representation when a judge is deciding their bail or release terms
- Create alternatives to jailing people before trial
- Develop pretrial programs that provide services and effective monitoring of people awaiting trial.
 Simple programs like court appearance reminder call systems can reduce failure to appear rates and unnecessary warrants

Opioid Use Disorder Requires Treatment, not Punishment

Kortlever v. Whatcom County

Washington State is in the midst of an opioid epidemic. In Whatcom County, the situation is especially dire. In 2016, more people died from opioid related overdoses than motor vehicle accidents in Whatcom County. Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), including treatment with buprenorphine and methadone, is one of the best methods available to help manage opioid use disorder. However, many county jails across the state refuse to provide these medications due to outdated and discriminatory ideas about the nature of addiction. Meanwhile, inmates suffering from conditions such as heart disease are provided their medication in jail. The ACLU-WA has filed the first class action case in the country challenging the denial of medication for opioid use disorder to people in jail under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Government agencies should be supporting people in their efforts to overcome opioid addiction—not obstructing them.

Washington's Most Charged Crime is... what?

Forty thousand people a year are charged with Driving while License Suspended in the Third Degree, or DWLS3, in Washington. Typically, a DWLS3 charge comes about when a driver commits a moving violation (such as a ticket for speeding) and does not pay or contest the ticket. Hundreds of thousands of people in Washington have had their licenses suspended for this reason, and those who continue to drive—because they have to go to work or pick up their children—can be arrested and charged with the crime of DWLS3. It doesn't take much analysis to reveal that DWLS3 is largely a crime of poverty—unfairly impacting those who can't easily pay their tickets, skip work to appear in court, or afford alternate modes of transportation.

We want this wasteful and unfair law off the books. Our 2017 report "Driven to Fail: The High Cost of Washington's Most Ineffective Crime—DWLS3" exposed the issue and lawmakers quickly took notice. With more than \$40 million tax dollars a year wasted enforcing a law that targets the poor and does nothing for public safety, we will be pushing for repeal in the 2019 legislative session.





Increasingly, the government is using powerful surveillance and artificial intelligence technologies to record and analyze our daily lives and make important decisions about us. Various surveillance technologies record where we go, what we do, who we associate with, and what we say and do online. Meanwhile, large companies are inventing new technologies that make automatic decisions about every aspect of our lives, from whether we get a job or housing, to how much we pay for health care, to how we are policed and sentenced, and much more. Vendors sell these tools to the government for great profit—

often without community accountability, oversight, or public disclosure around how they function. But none of this is new—technologies of the day have always been used most harmfully against already vulnerable communities, such as people of color, dissenters, and religious minorities. The ACLU of Washington works with community partners to restrict unwarranted surveillance and to ensure technologies—whether used by local police departments and public utilities, to the NSA and the largest companies in the world—are understandable, accountable, and subject to strong community oversight.

Seattle Ordinances are Big Wins for Privacy

We gained two big wins in our technology work this summer—the Seattle City Council strengthened the Seattle Surveillance Ordinance, and passed the nation's first Smart Meter Ordinance. A year ago, the Council passed the Seattle Surveillance Ordinance, which requires all surveillance technologies be subjected to public approval and oversight. Now, thanks to advocacy by the ACLU of Washington and our strong coalition around community-centric technology, the Council has made the ordinance even stronger, with community oversight and more comprehensive reporting. This ordinance brought 28 surveillance technologies already acquired by the City to light, and is giving impacted communities an opportunity to shape how those technologies are implemented.

Also, in 2016, Seattle City Light began installing "smart meters" into most homes that use public utilities. These highly sophisticated monitors have remarkable capabilities for tracking our behavior at home. Patterns in smart meter data reveal when you are home, when you are sleeping, when you take a shower, and even whether you cook dinner on the stove or in the microwave. This lifestyle data, sold to the highest bidder, could feed automated decision-making tools that impact our lives in ways we would never imagine—such as how much we pay for health care, whether we get a job, housing, or public benefits. After years of advocacy and pressure from the ACLU of Washington and allies, the Seattle City Council passed groundbreaking legislation this summer that protects smart meter data from being sold or used for any purpose other than utility service—the first city in the country to do so.

Profit over Fairness: Face Surveillance Gives the Government Unprecedented Power

Amazon is among the largest companies developing surveillance technology and is marketing and selling their facial "Rekognition" systems to police agencies around the country. Rekognition can be used to identify faces in real time and locate people across an entire city—from activists at a protest to worshippers heading to church. It can be integrated with police body cameras, scanning the public wherever police officers go. This affects everyone, but will have an outsized impact on Black, Latino, Muslim, and immigrant communities that already suffer from over-policing.

And face surveillance is biased. It misidentifies African Americans and women, and relies on databases built on a history of discrimination and disproportionality in our criminal justice system.

The ACLU of Washington and numerous partner organizations have called upon Amazon to stop selling Rekognition to government agencies with a letter signed by more than 70 organizations and 150,000 individuals. We need private companies to take responsibility for the impacts of their products and for the public and lawmakers to consider whether such powerful tools are even appropriate for government use. Our work sparked action by thousands of tech workers, members of Congress, academics, and others demanding accountability in this space.

Tacoma Police Should Protect and Serve, not Spy

Banks v. City of Tacoma

Several years ago, unbeknownst to the people of Tacoma, their police department acquired a new surveillance tool called a cell site simulator (or CSS, sometimes called a Stingray). The compact and mobile device can mimic a cellphone tower, tricking all phones within range into connecting with it and potentially downloading their private data. When the Tacoma Police Department (TPD) failed to fully respond to citizens' requests for information on how they were using the CSS, we sued. Police are supposed to protect and serve their communities, not spy on them without their knowledge, consent, or a warrant. This summer we won in trial court—a judge agreed that TPD failed to provide sufficient documents and information about their use of the CSS.

Autonomy over our own bodies is perhaps the most fundamental right there is. Yet, year after year we must fight laws, policies and practices aimed at policing the bodies of women and LGBTQ people. The ACLU of Washington continues to fight gender discrimination in its many forms, particularly for women and transgender people seeking health care.

GENDER JUSTICE

Keeping Religion out of Health Care Choices

Across Washington, access and choices about health care are increasingly limited as more health systems (hospitals, clinics and medical schools) join with religious institutions. For example, numerous hospitals have joined with Catholic health systems, which must follow the Ethical and Religious Directives (ERDs). These directives forbid or restrict many services, including contraception, vasectomies, fertility treatments, tubal ligations, abortion, Death with Dignity, and advance directives that are contrary to Catholic teachings.

This is particularly dangerous in remote areas or emergency situations where there is just one clinic or hospital. When the only health-care facilities available to a community are religiously affiliated, there is a lack of meaningful choice for patients, especially for LGBT people, women, terminally ill patients, rural residents and low-income individuals who may not be able to travel to another provider. The ACLU of Washington is committed to ensuring that reproductive health, end-of-life and anti-discrimination laws are meaningful for all patients, regardless of where they live, how much money they have, or the type of medical treatment that they seek. We are working on a number of solutions including legislation to protect the patient-provider relationship from religious interference.

Freedom from Discrimination for Transgender Patients

Enstad v. PeaceHealth

We are suing PeaceHealth for denying insurance coverage to Pax Enstad, a transgender teen who had been prescribed gender-confirming surgery by his doctor. Pax's mother, Cheryl, was a PeaceHealth employee and the whole family was enrolled in PeaceHealth's medical plan when Pax's double mastectomy was denied due to a blanket exclusion for "transgender services." This is discrimination plain and simple and we won't stand for it.

Robbins v. Swedish Health Services

We have filed a case on behalf of transgender law student, Ari Robbins, who was denied services by Swedish Plastics and Aesthetics, which is affiliated with Providence Health & Services. Mr. Robbins had a consultation for chest reconstruction surgery in December 2016 and scheduled his surgery for March 2017. Just weeks before the surgery, Swedish canceled Mr. Robbins's surgery, along with the appointments of several other transgender people, without explanation.

The Rights of Transgender People in Washington State

This year the ACLU of Washington created a new guide to help transgender people understand their rights in Washington. We have been distributing the guide at events and to organizations that provide direct services to transgender individuals. Everyone deserves to know, exercise, and advocate for their rights.





Supporting Youth Activism

Free Speech & Protest in Schools

The past year has seen a tidal wave of student activism as young people speak out on critical issues including racial justice and gun violence. As athletes around the country, including student athletes, took a knee for racial justice, we provided information and resources for teachers, administrators, parents and students about their right to express their views. By placing today's struggles in the context of our nation's history, preparing students to engage in difficult conversations about racial justice in America, and providing meaningful opportunities for this dialogue to take place, schools can help fulfill the promise of democracy. We are here to help.

In the wake of the Parkland High School shooting, students around the country organized to protest their lack of safety at school. We quickly created a wallet-sized guide "Know Your Rights: Student Political Speech, Protest & Walkouts" to help students, families and schools understand how kids can and cannot be punished for exercising these rights in school. We distributed over 5,000 of these guides at events and rallies around the state, and offered a free downloadable version online as well.

All Students Have a Right to an Education

A.D. et al. v. OSPI et al.

All children have a constitutional right to education. But, in a given year in Washington, around 40,000 students are denied that right by being disciplined with out-of-school suspensions and expulsions. Students who are Black, Native American, Pacific Islander, Latino, and those with disabilities are all disproportionately pushed out of school, making them much likelier to end up in the criminal system. We work all over the state to help parents and students advocate for their right to stay in school, and when we must, we sue. We have filed a lawsuit against the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction on behalf of students with special education needs who have been wrongfully disciplined for behavior related to their disabilities in the Yakima and Pasco school districts.

ACLU Activists in Training

This summer, over 50 young people from Washington went to Washington, D.C. for the National ACLU Membership Conference and the ACLU's Summer Institute for Youth. At each of these major events, young people had a chance to meet and learn from civil rights experts and activists from across the country to network and bring tools for activism back to their own communities. We can't wait to see them change the world.

Children, Just Like Adults, Have a Right to a Lawyer

Davison v. State of Washington

Children in Grays Harbor County have been facing court without a lawyer to provide any actual advocacy, and the consequences are real: they plead guilty without understanding the alternatives or consequences, are held in detention longer than is legal, and receive harsher sentences than their cases warrant. We have filed a lawsuit against the State Office of Public Defense (OPD) for failing to enforce adequate public defense for juveniles in Grays Harbor County. We are asking the court to declare the public defense services for juveniles there are constitutionally inadequate, and to declare and act on their authority to ensure proper representation for all youth.

Unfortunately, our juvenile justice system sets kids up to fail in many ways, not unique to Grays Harbor. We have hired a Juvenile Justice Researcher to gather more information on the impacts of juvenile incarceration around Washington and will be using their findings to educate the public and lawmakers about how we can—and must—do better by our kids.



Our vote is our voice and the cornerstone of democracy. Our country's history is marked by struggles to ensure that the right to vote is not a privilege reserved for the few—wealthy, white, male, one political party or the other—but a right guaranteed to all, regardless of race, class, gender, or belief. The ACLU fights all over the country to ensure the right to vote applies equally to all people, addressing unique challenges state to state and in each jurisdiction.

Restore and Protect it. Fighting Discriminatory Disenfranchisement.

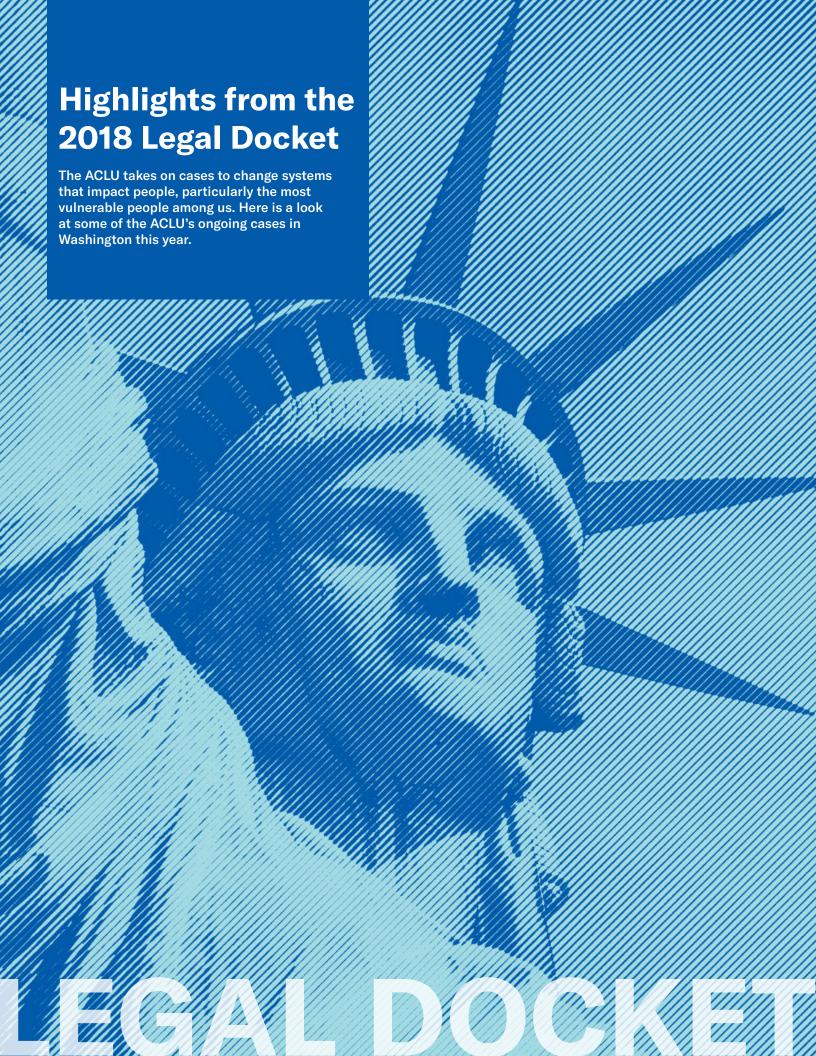
All over the country we see measures attempting to limit people's right to vote. Voter ID laws, registration restrictions, burdensome polling locations or documentation requirements, and more. In Washington, we fought hard to restore the voting rights of people with past felony convictions—people who had done their time and wanted to re-enter society and participate. Since winning that right in 2009, every year we do our best to let people with former convictions know they DO have the right to vote. This year we added 14 different language translations to our website and distributed thousands of guides to help this population understand and access their right to vote.

Ensure it Counts. The Washington Voting Rights Act passes the Legislature!

In a healthy democracy, all voices need to be heard. But in some jurisdictions across Washington, outdated election systems have prevented all communities from having meaningful representation. After two successful lawsuits calling attention to the problem of at-large election systems that exclude minority voices, this year we celebrated passage of the long-sought Washington Voting Rights Act. The new law expands upon the federal Voting Rights of 1965, paving the way for communities across Washington to find local solutions for an issue that has existed since the founding of our democracy—how to ensure minority representation in a system of majority rule. This is a huge win and opens the door for every vote to count equally across Washington.

Use it. "Vote Like Your Rights Depend on it."

We are creating a movement of ACLU Voters across the nation. ACLU Voters demand that candidates for public office commit to protect our democracy, end discrimination, expand rights, and ensure that we live in a nation with liberty and justice for all. Leading up to the midterms in Washington state, we focused on transforming the criminal justice system through the election process, working with activists to identify the stances of elected officials and candidates so voters can make an informed choice and then hold their representatives accountable.



Youth Sentence of Life without Parole is Over

State of Washington v. Brian Bassett

The Washington Supreme Court ruled that juvenile life without the possibility of parole is categorically unconstitutional under the state constitution in a landmark ruling that places the state at the forefront of criminal justice reform. Because the ruling is rooted entirely in the state constitution, the U.S. Supreme Court cannot reverse it. The ACLU along with the Juvenile Law Center filed an amicus brief.

Right to Counsel for Unaccompanied Minors

C.J.L.G. v. Sessions

Each year, the federal government initiates deportation proceedings against thousands of children who are required to appear in court without an attorney. Without legal representation, these children face a very real risk of being sent back to the perilous circumstances they left. That's why the ACLU filed a nationwide, class-action lawsuit on behalf of thousands of children to challenge the federal government's failure to provide them with legal representation in deportation proceedings. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals said an eleven-judge panel, sitting en banc, would hear the case in December 2018, taking the rare step of withdrawing an earlier decision by three judges.

In a Mansion or in a Tent, All People Have Rights

Hooper v. City of Seattle

We all know our region is experiencing a crisis of homelessness. While more and more people are forced into living outside, The City of Seattle continues to conduct "sweeps" of homeless encampments that push people around with no warning or place to go. During these "sweeps," officials seize and destroy people's property, no matter how humble, personal or irreplaceable-including tents, sleeping bags, cooking equipment, and sentimental items like photographs and family keepsakes. Rich or poor, due process is for everyone and in January of 2017, we filed a lawsuit to stand up for the rights of the individuals targeted by these sweeps. The lawsuit is ongoing and headed to appeal. If we don't protect the rights of our most vulnerable community members, we cannot claim equal rights for all.

Using Religion to Discriminate Against Gay Couples

Ingersoll v. Arlene's Flowers

When Robert Ingersoll and Curt Freed got engaged and started planning their wedding, they knew they wanted their longtime florist to do the flowers. Having purchased from Arlene's Flowers on many occasions, Ingersoll approached the florist in March 2013, but was turned away on the grounds that selling him flowers for his wedding would violate the flower shop owner's religious beliefs. We sued on behalf of Robert and Curt, and in February, 2017 the Washington Supreme Court unanimously ruled in their favor. The case was then appealed by Arlene's Flowers to the U.S. Supreme Court where the court, without disagreeing with the lower court's decision, sent it back to the Washington Supreme Court to re-evaluate its decision in light of Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado. The ACLU will continue to argue for the rights of LGBT couples in the State Supreme Court.

Low Pay for Jurors Contributes to Lack of Jury Diversity

Bednarczyk v. King County

The ACLU filed an amicus brief discussing how the inadequate compensation of jurors contributes to lack of racial diversity on Washington juries. Plaintiffs in this case argue that jurors should be paid the minimum wage per hour, instead of the \$10 a day currently paid for jury service. Their suit explains how it is such a severe economic hardship to serve as a juror at the current compensation rate that it becomes impossible for many people to serve.

Removing Barriers to Reentry

Fields v. Washington Department of Early Learning

In 2016, we filed a complaint on behalf of a woman whose child-care license was revoked by the Department of Early Learning (DEL) when it learned about her 27-year-old conviction for attempted robbery. The client has put her criminal history behind her and has been an exemplary member of the community for years, but her criminal history poses a barrier to her success because state law prevents DEL from giving child care licenses to everyone with this type of conviction regardless of changed circumstances. Our complaint argued that Ms. Fields has a right to demonstrate her qualification and fitness for being awarded the license. The Washington Supreme Court heard this case in May and we are now awaiting a ruling.

Thank You Volunteers

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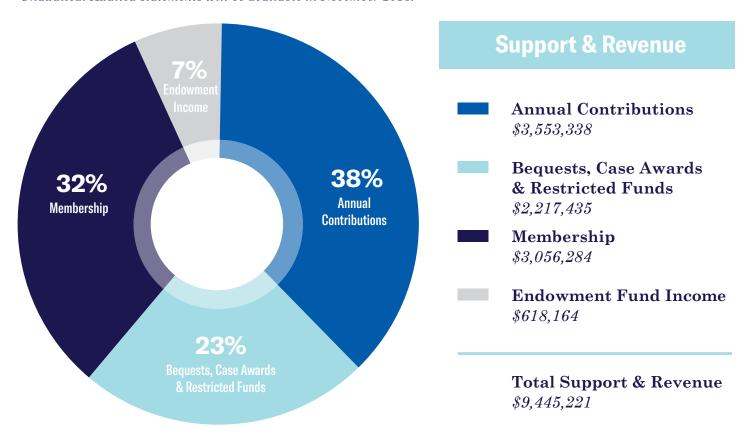
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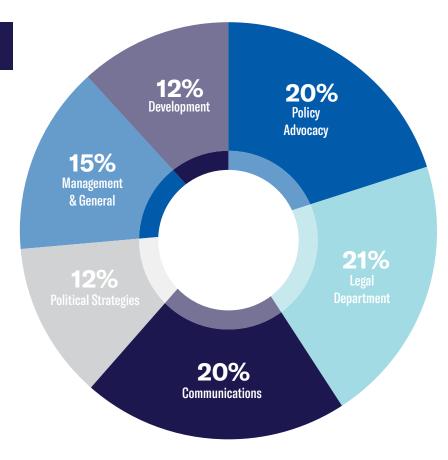
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ACLU of Washington & Foundation 2017-2018 Combined Operating Budget

*Unaudited. Audited statements will be available in November 2018.







Development

\$656,902

Thank you for your support!

ACLU of Washington 2018 Annual Report

Written by Caitlin Lombardi Designed by Jess Ornelas

