Civil Liberties



NEWS AND EVEN⁷

FROM THE ACLU OF WASHINGTON

BECAUSE TREE M CAN'T PROTECT ITSELF

Summer 2010 | VOLUME 42, NO. 2

5 Annual Report 2009-2010



ACLU of Washington staff members celebrate.

hen the ACLU of Washington was founded in 1935, government suppression of dissent and police attacks on protesters were pressing concerns. In its early years, the small band of activists also fought for racial equality, opposed censorship of literature and films, and insisted on a religion-free government.

Familiar themes, even now. As we celebrate the ACLU-WA's 75th anniversary, the maxim rings true that, "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." As national ACLU founder Roger Baldwin liked to point out, no fight for civil liberties stays won. Fresh challenges to established rights are bound to surface. Indeed, this June the ACLU-WA and co-counsel gained vindication for the First Amendment rights of a young political activist whom police wrongfully arrested in order to

prevent him from attending a lawful demonstration (see page 2).

Over the years, the organization has won court rulings throwing out government loyalty oaths, overturning laws restricting protests, reject-

ing censorship of books and artworks, and barring government-sponsored prayer at school graduations. It has helped win passage of measures prohibiting discrimination and curbing racial profiling by police.

While the ACLU-WA still fights for the same basic rights, its size and clout are much greater, and it has made important headway in protecting liberty. And, the ACLU's work of the present builds on our efforts of years before. In opposing the profiling of ethnic groups targeted since 9/11, we recall struggles against Japanese-

American internment in the '40s. As we press the state legislature for a measure regulating police surveillance, we point to the success of Seattle's police investigations ordinance we helped pass in 1979. As we challenge the unfairness of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy on behalf of Major Margaret Witt, we build upon our nine-year legal battle that won reinstatement for openly gay Sgt. Perry Watkins in 1989.

Throughout its history, the ACLU-WA has kept abreast of cutting-edge issues, including the impact of new technology on civil liberties. We have long been a leader, for example, in addressing the benefits and risks of DNA identification. Twenty years ago the ACLU-WA won a court ruling against requiring polygraph tests for government job applicants because the tests invade privacy. Today we are seeking to limit blanket use of body image scanning and facial recognition software in the

name of national security.

Regardless of the organization's size, one constant has been the dedication of ACLU-WA members to our nation's fundamental civic values: fairness, equality, and justice; the rule of law; and the safeguards of the Bill of Rights. We invite you to join in celebrating the ACLU-WA's achievements and continuing commitment to our founding principles.

Jen J

Kushler Taylor

Jesse Wing Board President

Kathleen Taylor Executive Director

Exposing Government Surveillance



Public records obtained by the ACLU-WA's Government Surveillance Project and by others have confirmed

the existence of extensive networks to share intelligence on political activities gathered by local, state, and federal law enforcement in Washington state. In one notable abuse, an informant for Fort Lewis Force Protection, using a false identity, infiltrated anti-war groups in the Olympia and Tacoma areas, serving as administrator of their e-mail networks and passing on information to law enforcement and military officials.

Infiltration of political groups is highly troubling and reminiscent of the 1960s when government infiltrated the civil rights and peace movements for no criminal justice purpose. Burgeoning surveillance networks, which are much more technologically powerful than in the past, lack the guidelines and accountability mechanisms that necessary for a democratic society. In addition to chilling freedom of expression and association, surveillance without suspicion does not make us safer. It can swamp law enforcement with irrelevant information and divert resources from investigating real threats.

Our Government Surveillance Project, coordinated by Perkins Coie Legal Fellow Randy Tyler, is part of a nation-wide ACLU program launched with the assistance of the Open Society Institute. It is working to investigate, expose, and curtail government surveillance of lawful political activity and is advocating for adoption of laws and policies to safeguard civil liberties.

Over the past year, we've met with community activists, state legislators and other elected officials, and law enforcement personnel to discuss our concerns. We have testified in Olympia about the need for regulations and will press in 2011 for passage of state legislation that would allow government to collect information about an individual's free speech, political, or religious



Recent UW Law School graduates **Salmun Kazerounian** and **Sarah White** discuss their experiences with campus surveillance at a press conference at the ACLU-WA office.

activities only in relation to an ongoing criminal investigation.

To give people "the big picture," we have created a site on the ACLU-WA website highlighting the complex and murky political surveillance operations in Washington. There one can learn about intelligence-sharing hubs known as fusion centers, regional intelligence groups, and the federal government's "Suspicious Activity Reporting" program. We're also are posting government documents we've obtained through public disclosure and will post updates as we learn more.

Covert Surveillance, Sizable Settlement

Activist Phil Chinn set out from Olympia to participate in an anti-war demonstration at the Port of Grays Harbor on a spring day in 2007. He never made it to the protest but instead was subjected to a wrongful arrest that led to an ACLU-backed lawsuit, a hefty settlement – and eye-opening revelations about political surveillance in Washington.

Documents obtained from public disclosure requests in the case showed that local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies developed an "action plan" aimed at restricting lawful anti-war protests at the port in May 2007. State troopers stopped Chinn's car after receiving word – based on covert surveillance – that he was driving a car with "three known anarchists." Though Chinn had been driving safely and passed several sobriety tests, he was arrested and charged with driving under the influence of marijuana.

This June, in settlement of the law-suit (*Chinn v. Blankenship*) over Chinn's mistreatment, three law enforcement agencies agreed to pay him a total of \$169,000 and to pay \$249,000 in attorney's fees and costs. The outcome sends a powerful message that individuals have the right to engage in lawful dissent without being targeted by police because of their political beliefs. Representing Chinn were Lawrence Hildes, ACLU-WA cooperating attorneys
Nathan Alexander and Mark Carlson of Dorsey & Whitney LLP and Evan Schwab, and staff attorneys.

Another lawsuit stemming from a systematic effort to discourage demonstrations involves

peace activists who participated in protests at the Port of Tacoma in 2007. Plaintiffs in the case were arrested for "disobeying a traffic officer" when they refused to leave their backpacks out of designated protest zones. The suit (*McCarthy v. Barrett*) challenges the Tacoma Police Department's establishment of designated "protest zones" and other arbitrary restrictions.

Curbing Campus Spying

Student activists at the University of Washington were shocked to learn that the UW Police Department was infiltrating their political meetings. Working with the students, we obtained public records showing that the UWPD authorized an undercover officer to attend, participate in, and collect information about meetings of the Student Worker Coalition; the group was formed to oppose budget cuts and back demands for improved working conditions for university employees. The undercover officer posed as a coalition supporter at a public meeting and sat at a table nearby a closed meeting, taking notes on participants' political beliefs and planned actions.

The ACLU-WA is urging the university to make amends, to enforce its police stating that its police officers shall not collect information about political and religious views and activities absent a reasonable suspicion of criminal activity, and to educate its police officers on following the rules. Campus police have full authority as a law enforcement agency; their conduct adds fuel to the call for statewide rules.

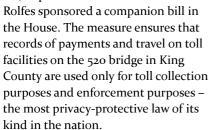


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Travel Without Tracking

Without privacy protections, government and private entities could use toll payment records to deduce an individual's work, recreation, and social patterns, and potentially political activities.

ities or medical issues. The legislature passed a bill (SB 6499) sponsored by Sen. Ed Murray that includes ACLU-backed amendments to protect the privacy of travelers; Rep. Christine



Many employers, schools, and other institutions subsidize public transit passes, but that shouldn't allow them to find out detailed information about employees' travel when not at work. The legislature passed another ACLUpromoted measure (SB 5295) sponsored by Sen. Adam Kline that would block access to individual transit use records by employers and the media, except in case of suspected fraudulent use. The measure augments privacy safeguards the ACLU-WA gained in 2008 for users of the new four-county ORCA system to ensure that subsidizing organizations can't view individual transaction records via reports on the

Privacy for Amazon Users

The First Amendment protects the rights of all individuals to read books, view films, and buy other items without the government keeping tabs on what they choose to read, watch, or purchase. To safeguard consumers' rights online, the ACLU in June intervened in an existing lawsuit brought by Amazon to stop North Carolina tax

officials from collecting personally identifiable information that could be linked to their specific purchases on Amazon.com.

The ACLU contends North Carolina's requests for detailed personal information about Amazon customer purchases are unconstitutional because they violate Internet users' rights to

free speech, anonymity, and privacy. The ACLU represents six anonymous North Carolina residents and an elected public official in the suit, which Amazon filed in April in U.S. District Court for the Western District of

Washington. ACLU-WA board member Venkat Balasubramani of the Focal PLLC law firm and national ACLU and ACLU-WA staff attorneys are handling the case.



Unlike with printed books and magazines, finances do not limit libraries from providing the vast array of useful information available on the Internet. The ACLU is representing three library users and a nonprofit gun rights group in challenging an Internet use policy that hampers adults in researching academic assignments, locating businesses and organizations, and doing personal reading.

The lawsuit (Bradburn v. NCRL) challenges the North Central Regional Library in eastern Washington for its policy of refusing to honor requests by adult patrons to temporarily disable its filter on public computers. The filter blocks an ever-shifting list of websites. The lawsuit contends the filtering policy is overbroad, and the library has no reasonable justification for denying adult patrons access to a wide range of lawful information. The case is continuing in federal court after a Washington Supreme Court ruling in May rejecting claims under the state constitution. Handling the case are cooperating attorneys Duncan Manville of Savitt Bruce LLP and Aaron Caplan of Loyola University Law School, and national and ACLU-WA staff attorneys.



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TALES FROM THE DEA: PROJECT DELIVERANCE OR PROJECT FOLLY?

posted by Mark Cooke on Monday, June 21st, 2010 at 10:11 am

On June 10, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) proclaimed a <u>major victory</u> in the War on Drugs. As <u>stated</u> by Attorney General Eric Holder, Project Deliverance "struck a significant blow against the



Blogging for Liberty

"Is Humane Execution Possible?" ... "Project Deliverance or Project Folly?" ... "Inferior' Students Need Not Apply" ... "Justice Sandra Day O'Connor Wants You to Play Video Games." These are some of the provocative items that have appeared on the new ACLU of Washington Blog.

Launched in May, the blog provides the ACLU-WA an opportunity to offer

timely comments on stories in the news, to report on civil liberties concerns other media haven't covered, and to provide in-depth background on our work. The blog is earning a reputation for its incisive analysis and useful information. The ACLU's Blog of Rights already has cross-posted some of our items for a nationwide audience.

Look for our latest postings on our recently redesigned website at **www.** aclu-wa.org.



Saving Lives from Overdoses

Our nation's misguided "War on Drugs" has done tremendous damage to civil liberties. The ACLU-WA is working for a saner approach that treats drug use as a public health concern, not a criminal justice matter. We promoted a

bill in the 2010 legislature that shows how our drug policies need to shift.

Responding to an alarming spike in overdose deaths, the legislature passed an ACLU-WA-promoted bill to encourage people who witness overdoses to call 911. It will save lives by removing the most common obstacle to seeking help – fear of police involvement. Washington is the second state – after New Mexico – to have adopted such a measure.

Sponsored by Sen. Rosa
Franklin, the 911 Good Samaritan Law provides immunity from drug possession charges to people who seek medical assistance in drug overdose situations.
The bill also expands access to naloxone, a powerful opiate antagonist that reverses overdoses from opiates within moments of administration. The state Attorney General, the UW Alcohol

and Drug Abuse Institute, and other organizations concerned about public health and safety are collaborating with the ACLU to make people aware of the new law

Marijuana Policy Reform

Laws punishing simple possession of pot have harsh personal consequences, including jail time and fines; loss of employment, housing, and financial aid for college; and the stigma of a conviction. And these laws are enforced disproportionately against people of color. The ACLU-WA has pursued a campaign of public education and advocacy that is laying the groundwork for reforming our marijuana policies.

Tens of thousands of people have viewed "Mari-

juana: It's Time for a Conversation," our award-winning video hosted by travel writer Rick Steves, since its 2008 debut. The accompanying website (MarijuanaConversation.org) has received more than a half-million hits. Last fall throngs attended a screening in Edmonds followed by a panel discussion featuring Steves, former U.S. Attorney



The ACLU-WA's **Mark Cooke**, **Shankar Narayan**, and **Alison Holcomb** are on hand as Gov. Chris Gregoire signs the **911 Good Samaritan Law**, which aims to save lives by encouraging people who witness overdoses to seek help.

John McKay, former White House staffer Bud Krogh, and legislators.

In January, the ACLU-WA and Steves took the video to Olympia for a viewing by state legislators and others. It set the stage for a House hearing on an ACLUpromoted bill reclassifying possession of small amounts of marijuana from a misdemeanor with mandatory jail time to a civil infraction with a \$100 penalty. Though the state's Office of Financial Management found that its passage would save our cash-strapped governments \$16 million annually, the bill did not pass; nor did another ACLU-supported measure for full legalization and regulation of marijuana production and distribution. But the conversation clearly has advanced to serious consideration of what we should we do differently.

Recent cases point to the need for improvements and clarifications of the state's medical marijuana law, adopted by initiative in 1998. In one case (State v. Fry), the Washington Supreme Court ruled against a patient arrested for growing marijuana despite his having a doctor's recommendation for medicinal use of marijuana. Another case (Roe v. TeleTech) involves an employee fired solely for her lawful use of marijuana at home for medicinal purposes. The state's high court, agreeing with an ACLU-WA memorandum, has accepted review of an appeals court ruling that the law only protects someone from criminal prosecution and does not apply in employment situations. We are working with legislators preparing to

address gaps in the law in the next session in Olympia.

Alternatives to Arrest and Incarceration

Ending the civil liberties abuses and systemic racism of the "War on Drugs" involves supporting alternative approaches to address the public health and safety consequences of substance abuse. That's why we're promoting "prebooking diversion" programs that offer low-level offenders – people engaged in street-level trafficking and use – the opportunity to receive services instead of jail. Such programs bring significant savings to local governments and avoid creating criminal records that become permanent obstacles to improving individuals' lives.

In collaboration with The Defender Association's Racial Disparity Project, ACLU-WA drug policy staff worked with public officials, law enforcement leaders, and community groups in both Seattle and King County to design robust diversion programs in Belltown in Seattle and the Skyway community in King County. Dubbed Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion, or LEAD, these programs provide police officers an alternative to arresting chronic streetlevel drug activity - connecting addicts with services more likely to change their lives positively than jail and a criminal record.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Where Is Marijuana Reform Heading?



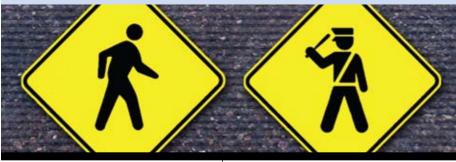
FEATURING Traval writer

Travel writer **Rick Steves Keith Stroup** of NORML
State Sen. **Jeanne Kohl-Welles Rob Kampia** of the Marijuana Policy Project **Ethan Nadelmann** of the Drug Policy Alliance

Free and open to the public

September 12, 7-9 p.m.
TOWN HALL SEATTLE





Police Conduct Captured by Camera

Videos of police conduct captured by camera and spread via the Internet – a growing phenomenon – sparked widespread debate about proper use of force and police-community relations. In May, a videographer caught Seattle police officers kicking and yelling a racial slur at a Latino male who was lying on the ground, offering no resistance. A month later, a bystander with a cell phone recorded a Seattle officer punching an African-American girl in the face during a jaywalking incident.

The ACLU-WA, long a leader in advocating for police accountability, spoke out forcefully and thoughtfully. We urged that police investigations of the incidents examine broader concerns they raised, especially the need for greater training for officers in how to de-escalate confrontations. We pointed to police auditor reports over several years that had highlighted this problem to no avail. ACLU-WA executive director Kathleen Taylor served on the citizen advisory committee for finding a police chief and will be meeting with the chief to discuss de-escalation policies, diversion programs, and relations with communities of color.

Color-Blind Justice?

Three cases highlighted the bedrock principle that our criminal justice system must be free of racial bias. In December the Washington Court of Appeals upheld a lower court ruling that ordered a new trial after two jurors in a medical negligence case (*Turner v. Stime*) came forward to report that others had made derogatory comments about the Japanese ethnicity of an attorney in the case. The court agreed with the assertions of a brief

submitted by the ACLU-WA, Columbia Legal Services, and several minority bar associations that the jurors' actions undermined the right to a fair trial. Cooperating attorney Shaakirrah Sanders of The Defender Association and ACLU-WA staff attorneys wrote the brief.

In April the Washington Supreme Court found that the government must provide a race-neutral reason whenever it seeks to strike the last minority member from a jury panel. The case

(State v. Rhone) stemmed from a criminal trial in which the prosecutor peremptorily excluded the only remaining African-American member of the jury pool. The ruling agreed with an ACLU-WA brief written by cooperating attorneys Charles Sipos and Lisa Manheim of Perkins Coie LLP and staff attorneys.

In a ground-breaking

ruling, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals this year found that there is pervasive racism in our state's criminal justice system. For example, one recent report found that African Americans comprise less than 4% of the state's population but received nearly 15% of felony convictions. The finding came in a suit (Farrakhan v. Gregoire) brought over a decade ago by Gonzaga Law School and the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund on behalf of minority citizens denied the right to vote because of felony convictions. The ruling is under appeal to the full 9th Circuit, with the ACLU-WA again submitting a brief discussing racial disproportionality in the justice system. It was written by cooperating attorneys Leonard Feldman, P.K. Runkles-Pearson, and Daniel Sedlow of Stoel Rives LLP; ACLU-WA board member Peter Danelo; and staff attorneys.

Brother, Can You Spare a Civil Liberty?

Working with advocates for the homeless and civil rights allies, the ACLU-WA helped thwart an effort to scapegoat the poor for concerns about safety in downtown Seattle. When City Council member Tim Burgess proposed an ordinance to restrict "aggressive panhandling," we pointed out that the city already has a law against such action. And as the Seattle Human Rights Commission explained, enforcement of the proposed law could result in indigent individuals going to jail after warrants were issued when they were unable to pay fines.

Despite hard lobbying by some downtown business interests, four council members showed courage in



Activists at a city council hearing object to Seattle's proposed panhandling law.

voting against the proposal. ACLU-WA representatives joined in the applause when Mayor McGinn in April vetoed the measure in a packed room at City Hall. We urged the city instead to focus on putting more uniformed police officers on the streets in high-crime areas and to support diversion programs that address street-level drug dealing.

Can't Pay? Go Directly to Jail!

Think debtors' prisons are extinct? People in Washington still are being jailed simply because they can't pay their court-ordered financial obligations in a criminal case. And under Spokane County's "auto-jail" policy, individuals were being put behind bars without consideration of their financial means.

The Washington Supreme Court in June agreed with a brief filed by the ACLU-WA and the Washington Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys that it is unfair to "automatically" send someone to jail for failure to pay these financial obligations, without a hearing to determine if the person has the ability to pay.

The case (State v. Nason) involved a Spokane man who was convicted of burglary when he was 18 and was sentenced to serve 30 days in jail. The \$700 he owed in court fines and fees quickly doubled due to interest accruing at 12%. The man had no income and was homeless yet ended up spending nearly 10 times his original sentence behind bars – not for committing new crimes but for missing payments. ACLU-WA board member Lila Silverstein and staff attorneys Sarah Dunne and Nancy Talner wrote the brief.

Replacing the Death Penalty

Last year, the American Law Institute, with a membership of high-profile judges, lawyers, and law professors, withdrew its model death penalty code after concluding it can't be reconciled with basic concerns for judicial fairness. Washington based its death penalty statute on this now-rejected model. The ACLU-WA is working to have Washington follow the lead of the 14 states that have repealed the death penalty.

The death penalty poses an unacceptable risk of executing the innocent, and its application is racially biased. In Washington, prosecutors have sought death sentences almost three times as often if one or more of the victims were white. The cost to our taxpayers of seeking the death penalty is staggering – at least \$750,000 per case.

The ACLU-WA supported a bill in the 2010 legislature to replace the death penalty with a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole. The measure got a hearing in the Senate, and we will continue to push in the next session to end capital punishment.

Leading Freedom Forward in Washington

In the last edition of Civil Liberties, we reported on the incredible progress Leading Freedom Forward is achieving all over the country: increasing the power and presence of the ACLU in strategic states where civil liberties threats are rampant and ACLU resources have been scarce. The Leading Freedom Forward campaign is a nationwide effort to strengthen these crucial ACLU affiliates, but it's also an investment in our own longevity and forward-looking programs at the ACLU-WA. New program work is being funded by the campaign, which has raised more than \$8 million in Washington and will continue to raise funds until the end of this year. Here are a few of the people making an impact here in our state, thanks to Leading Freedom Forward.

LINDA MANGEL

Education Equity Director

"Providing all students with a real opportunity to learn and succeed in school is a powerful tool against

inequality. The ACLU-WA has had much success with our project to educate people about legal requirements for equal treatment in athletics. Now I



am excited to help launch our expanded Education Equity Program. Some of the ACLU-WA's priorities are to eradicate discrimination that leads to the pushout/drop-out of pregnant and parenting students, and to improve access for girls and students of color to non-traditional Career and Technical Training Programs. By working in collaboration with school districts, state agencies, and youth advocates, we hope to promote policies that help all students thrive."



BRIAN ALSETH

Technology and Liberty Project Director "In the past de-

"In the past decade alone, we have seen a torrent of new technology in almost

every area of our lives. While modern technology has many benefits, these changes also create difficult challenges

for civil liberties. Government and private industry implement new technology without adequate consideration of privacy. Personal information is regularly collected and sold by data brokers, often without our knowledge and consent. Online anonymity and speech online need more protection. Thanks to the ACLU-WA, I get to combine my two greatest passions: I work at the cutting edge of both technology and civil rights to help ensure our rights are protected now and in the future. '

ROSE SPIDELL

The Floyd & Delores Jones Family Fellow

"Before delving into government surveillance of political activists, I took for granted the notion that one's private af-

fairs were just that – private. Through my legal work with the ACLU-WA, I've been disabused of the notion that the



government spies on people only when there is reasonable suspicion of criminal activity. But I have not given up hope. My position gives me the opportunity to collaborate with an exceptional team of advocates. We are working to bring to light some of the worst abuses and to hold the government accountable if it fails to respect constitutional freedoms."

Fundraising efforts for the Leading Freedom Forward Campaign will continue through the end of 2010, but the work made possible by the campaign will have lasting effects on what the ACLU is able to accomplish into the future. For more information on this unprecedented initiative, please visit our new website at: www.leading-freedomforward.org.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR...

THE ACLU OF WASHINGTON'S
75TH ANNIVERSARY

BILL OF RIGHTS CELEBRATION DINNER

THE EVENING OF SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 13TH

AT SEATTLE'S MARRIOTT WATERFRONT HOTEL

WITH FEATURED SPEAKER:
"DAILY SHOW" CORRESPONDENT
AASIF MANDVI

RESERVATIONS OPEN IN SEPTEMBER

Three Decades ... And Still Going Strong

In 1980 the ACLU of Washington hired a woman in her late 20s as its youngest-ever and first female executive director. This year Kathleen Taylor is celebrating her 30th anniversary in the position – and is still looking forward to tackling longstanding concerns and new challenges alike.

Taylor came to the job from directing the Coalition on Government Spying, a group including the ACLU that was formed in response to stunning revelations of secret Seattle police files on a wide range of activists and other citizens. The coalition's work led to Seattle becoming the first city in the U.S. to adopt legislation barring collection of intelligence after political and religious activities without evidence of criminal action.

When Taylor took over, the affiliate had a membership of 3,000, a staff of 2 ½, an annual budget of \$80,000, and – its record of accomplishments not withstanding – was deeply in debt. She has presided over an era of dramatic expansion. She saw the ACLU-WA gain new members after the '88 president campaign, when the elder George Bush tried to denigrate Michael Dukakis as "a card-carrying member" of the ACLU. And membership surged after 9/11 brought the ill-named PATRIOT Act and a host of other incursions on liberty.



ACLU-WA Executive Director **Kathleen Taylor** at a 75th Anniversary party in Seattle. **Inset:** Kathleen in the 1980s.

Today the ACLU-WA has more than 25,000 members statewide – making it the 4th-largest state affiliate nationally – the staff has grown to 30, and the annual budget is more than \$3 million. It is one of two state affiliates to have its own Technology and Liberty project and the only to have a staffed project devoted to reducing incarceration because of ill-advised drug policies. To accommodate the growth, the organization recently moved from its longtime home

near Pioneer Square to larger quarters across from the downtown library.

Under Taylor's leadership, the ACLU-WA has won numerous precedent-setting cases and has been in the forefront of addressing cutting-edge civil liberties concerns. A recent profile in the Seattle Times cited passage of Initiative 120 (which codified Roe v. Wade in state law), gains for gay rights, and strides in police accountability among the triumphs in which she and the ACLU-WA have been instrumental (see "Great Hits" on p.8-9 for others). She also pointed to racial bias in the justice system, racial and ethnic profiling, and equity in education as ongoing challenges – and of course the PATRIOT Act.

Taylor herself was honored by the Seattle-King County Bar Association with its first-ever "Outstanding Non-Lawyer Award" in 1994. She's recognized as a leader within the ACLU family nationally and served as head of its Executive Directors Council from 2001-2006, frequently collaborating with national executive director Anthony Romero.

After 30 years, Taylor remains remarkably passionate about civil liberties and her work with the ACLU. "That's the fun about this job," she told the Times. "I can wake up and read something in the paper and go, 'Hey, I don't like that.' Then I can go to the office and do something about it."

Kathleen Taylor was the featured guest on Eric Liu's "Seattle Voices" TV program on July 20. Her interview can be seen on **www.seattlechannel.org**.





1972: Language Requirement for Voting

The Washington Supreme Court overturns the English language requirement for voting, opening the way for Spanish-speaking citizens and others to vote. (Jiminez v. Naff)

1974: Flag with Peace Symbol

The ACLU-WA successfully defends a man charged with displaying an American flag with a peace symbol on it – the first time the U.S. Supreme Court decided a flag desecration case directly on First Amendment grounds. (State v. Spence)

1975: Girls on Varsity Sports Teams

Representing
Wishkah Valley girls
seeking to join the
football team, the
ACLU –WA wins a
Washington Supreme
Court ruling that public school varsity
sports programs must be open to girls.
(Darrin v. Gould)

1978: Gav Parents

In a Washington Supreme Court case, the ACLU-WA successfully defends the right of gay parents to maintain custody of children. (Schuster v. Schuster)

1979: Police Spying Ordinance

After a lawsuit by the Coalition for Government Spying unearths secret police surveillance files, Seattle becomes the first city in the U.S. to adopt a law barring police from collecting information about political activities without suspicion of a crime.

1983: Concert Searches

In a challenge to random searches of Grateful Dead concert-goers by Seattle police, the ACLU-WA convinces the Washington Supreme Court that general searches violate constitutional protections. (*Jacobsen v. Seattle*)

1985: Walla Walla Prison Conditions

In the wake of a month-long lockdown, the ACLU, Evergreen Legal Services, and others initiate a lawsuit over inhumane treatment of inmates at the state penitentiary in Walla Walla that leads to a major overhaul of prison conditions. (Hoptowit v. Ray)

1985: Student Luggage Search

In an ACLU-WA lawsuit, the Washington Supreme Court finds that school officials cannot search a student's possessions without individualized suspicion. (Kuehn v. Renton School District)

1988: Student "Underground" Newspaper

A federal appeals court rules that school officials cannot censor publications produced by students off school grounds before they are distributed at school. (Burch v. Barker)

1989: Gays in the Military

After nine years of ACLU-WA litigation, a federal appeals court orders the Army to reinstate Sgt. Perry Watkins, who had been discharged after serving as an openly gay man – the first gay military case to be successfully completed. (Watkins v. U.S. Army)

1991: School-sponsored Prayer

In a precedent-setting ACLU-WA case, Thurston County Superior Court finds that a planned prayer at Yelm High School's graduation ceremony would violate the constitutional separation of religion and government. (Rosenberger v. Yelm School District)

1991: Washington's Roe v. Wade

After a campaign led by the ACLU-WA, Planned Parenthood, and allies, the voters of Washington adopt Initiative 120, guaranteeing women the right to choose abortion under state law and funding it to the same extent as pregnancy care.

1992: Police Misconduct

With the ACLU-WA calling for greater accountability, the City of Seattle appoints the first non-police civilian auditor for the Police Department's internal investigations section.

1993: Female Boxing

As the result of a successful ACLU-WA lawsuit, Dallas Malloy becomes the first woman in the U.S. to fight in sanctioned amateur boxing bout. (Malloy v. U.S. Amateur Boxing)

1993: Death Penalty

The state legislature prohibits the execution of mentally retarded persons – making Washington one of the first states to do so.

1994: Erotic Music

With the ACLU representing prominent local musicians, the Washington Supreme Court strikes down the state's music censorship law which barred selling minors recordings deemed "erotic." (Soundgarden v. Eikenberry)

1995: Student Website

The ACLU gains a settlement for Bellevue high school student Paul Kim who was disciplined for creating a website on satirizing his school on his home computer – one of the first student website cases to gain national attention.

1998: Medical Marijuana

Initiative 692 passes, authorizing individuals with serious medical conditions to obtain a physician's recommendation to use marijuana for medicinal purposes.

POLICE

1999: WTO Demonstrations

The ACLU-WA challenges the "No-Protest Zone" and documents police brutality at the historic demonstrations at the Trade World Organization meeting.

2000: Driving While Black

To combat racial profiling, the state legislature passes legislation promoted by the ACLU-WA that requires the Washington State Patrol to collect and analyze data on the race and ethnicity of stops and searches of motorists.

2001: Art Censorship

In an ACLU-WA case, a federal appeals court finds that Pasco violated the rights of two artists when it removed their works from a program to display art in city hall. (Hopper v. Pasco Arts Council)

2003: Curfew for Minors

The Washington Supreme Court strikes down Sumner's curfew law for minors, challenged by the ACLU-WA on behalf of a man fined for allowing his teenage son to go to a neighborhood store to buy milk. (Sumner v. Walsh)

2003: Privacy and GPS

In a first-in-the-nation case, the Washington Supreme Court finds that police must obtain a warrant before tracking an individual's car with a Global Positioning System. (*State v. Jackson*)

2003: PATRIOT Act

Seattle adopts an ACLU-WA-backed resolution affirming civil liberties and calling for repeal of anti-liberty features of the federal PATRIOT Act – the first of 17 such resolutions adopted by city and county government bodies in Washington.



2005: Fair Trials

Settling a class-action lawsuit brought by the ACLU-WA and Columbia Legal Services, Grant County agrees to overhaul its woefully deficient system for providing attorneys to indigents accused of a crime. (Best v. Grant County)

2006: LGBT Discrimination

After three decades of lobbying by the LGBT advocates and the ACLU-WA, the state legislature adopts a law prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation.



2007: Ethnic Profiling

An ACLU-WA lawsuit gains an apology and compensation for an Iraqi refugee who was unlawfully arrested and imprisoned by Border Patrol agents when he took a walk at a train station. (Habeeb v. Castloo)

2008: Student Drug Testing

In a case the ACLU-WA pursued for nearly a decade, the Washington Supreme Court rules that public schools cannot force students to take drug tests without individualized suspicion of drug use. (York v. Wahkiakum)

2008: Death with Dignity

Washington voters adopt Initiative 1000 enabling terminally ill persons to obtain a prescription so they may choose how and when to end their lives – a long-sought ACLU-WA goal.

2008: Tracking Travel

Transit officials agree to privacy protections for users of the regional ORCA public transit fare card, thanks to advocacy by the ACLU-WA.

2009: Everything But Marriage

The legislature passes a law providing registered domestic partners the same rights and responsibilities under state law as married couples, after the ACLU-WA and others sued unsuccessfully for marriage equality. (Castle v. State)



2009: Voting Rights Restoration

After years of ACLU-WA advocacy, the legislature ends the ban on voting by citizens who have completed their sentence but still owe financial debts – a modern form of the poll tax.

2010: Political Surveillance

The ACLU-WA gains a large settlement for an Olympia activist who was wrongfully arrested on the way to a peaceful protest because police reported he was in a car of "anarchists." (Chinn v. Blankenship)

See the full list of **75 Great Hits** at www.aclu-wa.org



Kevin Hamilton and **Anne Levinson** discuss Washington's
R-71 and California's Prop. 8 at
an ACLU-WA Continuing Legal
Education event.

Historic Victory for Same-Sex Couples

In November, Washington became the first state to approve a gay-equality measure by a direct vote of its people. By a solid six-point margin, voters statewide approved the domestic partnership law adopted by the 2009 legislature. The "everything but marriage" law provides registered domestic partners the same rights and responsibilities under state law as married couples have. However, domestic partners still don't have the same federal benefits as married couples.

The ACLU-WA worked closely with the campaign organization, Washington Families Standing Together, and served on its coordinating committee. We secured endorsements from 31 organizations representing communities of color, groups that had been marginalized in California's unsuccessful Prop 8 Campaign. The ACLU's national LGBT Project helped provide a human face for the issue by producing several short videos featuring couples who benefit from the law's protections. Together the ACLU-WA and our national project contributed \$32,000 to the campaign.

The Hypocrisy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"

A landmark ACLU-WA lawsuit on behalf of Major Margaret Witt is showing the hypocrisy of the embattled "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling in the case is so significant that it was discussed by U. S. Supreme Court nominee Elena Kagan in her confirmation hearings. The Court established what is now known as the Witt Standard: the government must make an individual determination that a gay or lesbian's sexual orientation disrupts unit cohesion in order to dismiss the person from the military.

Major Margaret Witt is a much-decorated U.S. Air Force flight nurse and operating room nurse assigned to McChord Air Force Base near Tacoma. Major Witt was discharged in 2006 after 18 years of service when her command discovered she had been involved in a relationship with another woman, outside the military. Major Witt challenged her dismissal, and in 2008, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit found that the government must make

an individual determination that her sexual orientation disrupts unit cohesion. The case was remanded to federal district court for trial, now scheduled for September, and the ACLU-WA will present evidence that Witt dismissal's – not her presence in her unit – was bad for morale.

Right to Preach the Social Gospel

The ACLU-WA stepped in when restrictions by the City of Puyallup prevented a religious organization from carrying out its mission of preaching the "Social Gospel." We represented United States Mission, a Christian-based nonprofit that operates transitional housing for homeless persons and whose residents go door-to-door

to evangelize and raise funds for the mission's social programs.

Under pressure from the ACLU-WA, Puyallup amended an ordinance that had limited religious freedom by requiring licenses for religious solicitors while exempting an array of others, including gardeners and some political advocates. Handling the case were ACLU-WA cooperating attorneys Kevin Hamilton, William Stafford, and Lisa Marshall Manheim of Perkins Coie LLP and staff attorneys.



ACLU-WA Legislative Director **Shankar Narayan** accepts the 2010 Outstanding Young Lawyer Award from the King County Bar Association. Narayan was honored for his successful advocacy for civil liberties measures in Olympia, as well as volunteer work with various organizations and his mentoring of students and young attorneys. "Chances are, if you're a lawyer in Washington, he's working on an issue right now that you care about," observed the event's program.

LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES

Saving Lives from Overdoses

SB 5516

To save lives from overdoses, the legislature adopted the 911 Good Samaritan Law providing immunity from drug possession charges to people who seek medical assistance in drug overdose situations.

Restricting Shackling

HB 2747

The legislature banned the dehumanizing practice of using restraints on female inmates in the third trimester, in labor, or in post-partum recovery, except under extremely limited circumstances.

Traveling Without Tracking

SB 6499

Protecting privacy for drivers, the legislature passed a measure ensuring that records of toll payments and travel on toll facilities are used only for toll collection purposes and enforcement purposes.

Protecting Students from Discrimination

HB 3026

The legislature passed a measure barring discrimination in public schools based on race, creed, national origin, sexual orientation and disability, and empowering state education officials to enforce the law.

Recommending Medical Marijuana

SB 5798

Strengthening the state's medical marijuana law, legislators added physician assistants and others to the list of medical professionals who can officially recommend marijuana for patients.

Papers Please? No Thanks.

The ACLU is working to roll back – and prevent the spread of – Arizona's controversial new racial profiling law. Declaring that a "show me your papers" measure is contrary to American values, we seek to ensure that "What happens in Arizona stops in Arizona."

At the national level, the ACLU and civil rights groups have filed suit to block the law, SB 1070, charging it violates the Constitution and interferes with federal law. The Arizona law requires police to demand "papers" from people they stop who they suspect are not authorized to be in the U.S. The measure encourages racial profiling, as in practice, grounds for such suspicion can be highly subjective. People who

look "foreign" are more likely to be stopped for minor infractions like having a broken taillight or jaywalking, then asked for their papers.

The town of

Woodland in southwest Washington considered a resolution to recommend an Arizona-style law to our state legislature. The ACLU-WA pointed out to the city council the law's constitutional flaws and argued that it would divert scarce police resources from protecting public safety, and in June, the city council rejected the resolution.

The ACLU-WA and state affiliates around the country issued a summer "travel alert" to raise awareness of what visitors to Arizona can face. Under the law, travelers not carrying documents that convince an officer they are in the country legally can be arrested without a warrant, regardless of their actual immigration status. We suggested that Washington visitors might want to carry a passport to Arizona since our driver's license – a standard form of ID – does not require proof of citizenship.

"Don't Ask" Ordinance

WHAT HAPPENS IN ARIZONA

in ARIZONA ACLU

Many law enforcement leaders – including former Seattle police chief and current drug czar Gil Kerlikowske – oppose having local police and others en-

force immigration laws. They point out that local government employees lack expertise in the complex body of federal law regulating non-citizens, and that their trying to enforce

immigration law can alienate communities whose cooperation they need.

Recognizing this, the King County Council in November passed an ordinance to ensure that most county employees will not ask about an individual's immigration status unless specifically required to do so by federal or state law. The measure's adoption

encourages residents to come forward as victims or witnesses to crime and to seek preventive medical care that protects public health. The ACLU-WA was among the leaders of a coalition of immigrant rights and civil rights organizations that lobbied for passage of the law.

Law and Liberty: Legal Ed in Creative Settings

The ACLU-WA of Washington is presenting "Law & Liberty," a yearlong series of free and low-cost Continuing Legal Education seminars for attorneys. Led by experts, each program provides a brief overview of landmark cases and a comprehensive update on law and policy. Each is held in a community setting that creatively connects to the seminar's theme.

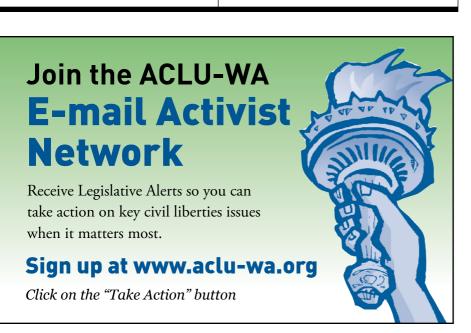
"Law & Liberty" kicked off at Barça, a Capitol Hill bar, and examined several timely issues surrounding Referendum 71 – LGBT equality, privacy rights, and



Presenters **Raegen Rasnic**, **Linda Mangel** and **Lindsey Soffes** at the "Law & Liberty: Reproductive Freedom" event at Book-It Theatre in June.

anonymous speech protections. Next, attorneys spent an evening at Wing Luke Asian Museum to learn about racial disparity in school discipline. In June, a talk on abortion, comprehensive sex education, and the rights of pregnant and parenting teens set the tone for a performance of Book-It Repertory Theatre's *The Cider House Rules*. Upcoming seminars will explore emerging issues in technology and drug policy.

Updates and advance notice for registration are available on the ACLU-WA's CLE listserv; send a message to cle-subscribe@lists.aclu-wa.org. Details and online registration are available at www.aclu-wa.org.



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For more info: www.aclu-wa.org

Education's Gender Divide

Congress in 1972 passed the landmark Title IX law, prohibiting gender discrimination in federally funded education programs. Nearly four decades later, the ACLU-WA continues work to remedy inequities where boys

still receive far more benefits and opportunities than girls in public school. Our Education Equity Director Linda Mangel has been making presentations to administrators, coaches, student athletes, and their parents statewide about schools' obligations to provide equal opportunities in sports programs. Next up: workshops for booster clubs.

The ACLU-WA engaged with Bellevue School District after learning from concerned parents that the district planned to eliminate a number of girls' sports teams. We pointed out that girls already had significantly fewer opportunities than boys to participate in interscholastic sports and that the cuts would affect a disproportionate number of girls. After hearing our concerns, the district abandoned the proposal and said it intends to develop a plan to remedy the existing disparities.

Plans are being developed to address the educational disparities suffered by pregnant and parenting teens as well as the gender divide in career and technical education. Young women remain in "traditionally female" programs that prepare them for low-wage careers and young men fill the majority of slots in programs leading to higher-wage careers.

Tackling Harassment and Discrimination

The 2010 legislature provided valuable new tools for tackling discrimination in passing a bill supported by the ACLU-WA and a broad coalition of community organizations. Sponsored by Rep. Sharon Tomiko Santos, HB 3026 bars discrimination in schools on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation (including gender expression or identity), and

disability. The new law also grants the Office of Superintendent for Public Instruction the power to enforce it. The

ACLU-WA and its allies are giving OSPI input on crafting regulations to implement the measure.

The ACLU-WA and the Safe Schools Coalition are assisting state education officials in writing clear and effective model anti-harassment policies after passage of another bill we

backed. HB 2801, sponsored by Rep. Marko Liias, requires schools statewide to adopt policies and procedures to protect students who are victims of harassment – a problem that unfortunately remains widespread.

"Free J.R.": Student Free Speech

Administrators at Highland High School in Cowiche near Yakima learned a lesson about free speech rights after they suspended student Damon Alvarez. His sin? Wearing a sign on his shirt saying "Free J.R" in support of a fellow student (J.R.) whom he felt had received unfair discipline.

The ACLU-WA stepped in, reminding the district that students have the right to speak their minds about issues at school. And we pointed out there was no evidence that Alvarez's sign in any way disrupted education at the school. In September, the school district agreed to expunge mention of the disciplinary action from Alvarez's school record. ACLU-WA cooperating attorney Randy Gainer of Davis Wright Tremaine LLP and a staff attorney represented the student and his mother.

Combating Racial Bias

Anti-discrimination laws are on the books, but incidents of racial bias are still around. Citing discredited "scientific" research that African-American students are genetically less capable of learning, a Marysville School Board member asserted that the "achievement gap" could not be closed. Thankfully, the other school board denounced these statements. The ACLU-WA responded



Garfield High School Club members **Suk-Lin Zhou** and **Sherry Katherine Vernon** with **Mary Beth Tinker**, plaintiff in a landmark student rights case.

CAMPUS ACTIVISM

By sponsoring student clubs at colleges and high schools, the ACLU-WA helps nurture the next generation of civil liberties activists. ACLU-WA clubs around the state do public education and advocacy on campuses and the surrounding communities.

The Whitman College Club helped mobilize support in Walla Walla last fall for R-71, the domestic partnership referendum.

The Gonzaga University Law Club

had an informational table at the Hispanic Heritage Festival and joined the local ACLU-WA community chapter in hosting an outreach table at Spokane's Hoop Fest, the world's largest 3-on-3 basketball tournament.

The Garfield High School Club in Seattle sponsored a forum on abortion, filling the school's library to capacity. Another well-attended forum featured a talk by Mary Beth Tinker about her experiences as a plaintiff in the ACLU's landmark student rights case *Tinker v. Des Moines*.

The Seattle University Law Club

held a campus reception for Tinker and co-sponsored "Tinker and Technology," a Continuing Legal Education seminar on student rights.

The Western Washington University Club co-sponsored a "Privacy Week" on its Bellingham campus and held a forum on RFID featuring ACLU-WA privacy expert Doug Klunder. The club also hosted "Busted," a forum on rights with law enforcement.

For Data Privacy Day, the **University of Washington Law Club** sponsored a
panel discussion on "Surveillance Art:
You Are Being Watched!"

The club at **Washington State University** drew 150 students to a screening and panel discussion of "Marijuana: It's Time for a Conversation."

with a petition drive that garnered over 800 signatures supporting the board for taking a stand against racism and urging them to take measures to ensure that all students in their district feel welcome in school. We also urged them to consider a program for improving student support and learning used successfully in the neighboring Everett School District.

The ACLU-WA provides advocacy support on individual cases while it pursues broader, long-term solutions.

Such was the case when an eight-year-old girl, the only African-American in her Advanced Placement class, was removed from class by a teacher who said the "smell" of the child's hair-care product made her sick. Her parents were not even contacted. The girl was finally returned to class after several days away. The larger concern is the cultural competency of classroom teachers and the overall school environment for students of color – an issue the ACLU-WA continues to address.

Statewide Activism

The ACLU-WA's county-based chapters serve as watchdogs for civil liberties in local communities around the state. Chapter activists lobby local governments, mobilize supporters, and hold educational events for the public. In the past year they worked on a range of issues.

R-71

The Spokane County Chapter hosted a talk by an ACLU attorney from California on lessons its Prop. 8 campaign for the effort to defend Washington's domestic partnership law. Clark **County Chapter** leaders rallied Vancouver residents to doorbell, phonebank, and get out the vote on Election Day for the successful campaign.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

The Thurston County Chapter cosponsored with St. Martin's University by Sister Helen Prejean on her experiences working with death row inmates and on finding alternatives to the death penalty. The Pierce County Chapter

sponsored a talk on the injustices of executions in Washington state.

DRUG POLICY REFORM

The San Juan Island County **Chapter** sponsored a forum on "Marijuana: It's Time for a Conversation" featuring ACLU-WA board member Pat Gallagher. The Whatcom County **Chapter** hosted a workshop on the War on Drugs, along with workshops on voting rights restoration and the schoolto-prison pipeline, at Bellingham's annual Human Rights Conference.

WAR ON TERROR

The **Thurston County Chapter co**sponsored a screening of "The Response," a film dramatizing transcripts from military tribunals at Guantanamo.

POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

The Pierce County Chapter sponsored a forum featuring members



Photo by Jane K Fox

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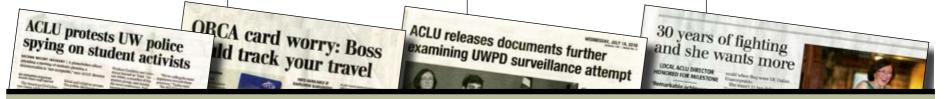
San Juan Island County Chapter forum on Border Patrol enforcement practices. Inset: Pierce County Chapter leader Colleen Waterhouse.

of the Tacoma Citizens' Review Board.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Spokane County Chapter

joined with the Gonzaga Law School club to host a booth at Spokane's popular Hoop Fest. The **Grays Harbor** County Chapter had a booth at the annual country fair.



THE

The actions and views of the ACLU of Washington were covered by these media (among others) in the past year.

Print

Oregonian

Associated Press Bellingham Herald Edmonds Beacon Federal Way Mirror The Inlander (Spokane) International Examiner Journal of the San Juan Islands King County Bar Bulletin La Raza del Noroeste Library Journal Longview Daily News Methow Valley News The Missoulian New Mobility magazine Peninsula Daily News Real Change (Seattle) Olympian

Othello Outlook Privacy Journal Seattle City Arts Seattle Times Seattle Weekly Spokane Spokesman-Review Stranger The News Tribune (Tacoma) Washington Free Press Washington Law and Politics Wenatchee World Yakima Herald Republic

Radio

KBCS-FM KIRO-FM KOMO-AM **KPLU-FM** KUOW-FM Northwest News Network Northwest Public Radio

Television

Democracy Now! (syndicated) **KCPQ KING** KIR0 **KOMO** Seattle Channel Seattle Community Access Network **TVW**

Christian Broadcasting Network

Online

Blog of Rights CBS News Political Hotsheet Capitol Hill Seattle Blog Capitol Record

CNBC.com CNN.com Crime Report Crosscut Daily Kos Daily Weekly Drudge Report Drug War Chronicle Horse's Ass **Huffington Post** Pam's House Blend Publicola Sable Verity Commentary SeattleCrime Seattle PostGlobe Seattle Post-Intelligencer Slog Toke of the Town WashBlog West Seattle Blog