

“When the indigent defense system is broken, everyone suffers.”

Michael J. Steinberg
ACLU of Michigan legal director.

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ACLU BLOG ROLL

If you haven't already, it's time to check out the ACLU of Michigan's blog and learn more about how we are protecting your rights. Go to www.aclumich.org/blog and hear from our staff, clients and cooperating attorneys on the issues that affect you. Here's a sample of what you've missed.



After the ACLU of Michigan sent a letter urging the University of Michigan to amend its policy banning students from campaigning for political causes and elections within the residence halls, ACLU U-M Undergraduate Chapter board member Bennett Stein wrote: "University Housing must not only respect the First Amendment rights of students in the residence halls; they should encourage the free exercise of ideas. It is the conversations that we have with our neighbors and our peers that make the University a vibrant, stimulating community. It is these discussions that allow students to discover a world outside of their hometowns. It is this atmosphere that promotes education and understanding. And it is these interactions that can make the old dorms a true community."



Following oral arguments in an ACLU lawsuit challenging the broken public defense system in Michigan, ACLU of Michigan paralegal Brenda Bove reflected: "I've been with the ACLU for more than 30 years. During this time I have seen some of the most devastating examples of government violations of constitutional rights; one being a pattern of indifference regarding people who face a deprivation of their liberty and who do not have the means to hire their own private lawyer. As a result, these "indigents," a Dickensian definition at best, must depend upon Michigan's broken public defense system. I am optimistic that one day those accused of crimes in Michigan will receive the same quality of justice no matter how rich or poor."



In reaction to reports of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids on families in Michigan, Mary Bejian, ACLU of Michigan deputy director wrote: "There's no doubt that we need immigration reform in this country, and many would agree that we need the kind of reform that seeks to integrate people into society rather than ostracize them from it. Currently reactionary laws such as the one recently passed in Arizona and the one introduced right here in Michigan simply don't work. And fostering discrimination and denying due process fly in the face of the American values of fairness and equality."

ACLU, DETROIT POLICE SETTLE PREGNANCY DISCRIMINATION LAWSUIT

DPD Agrees To Implement New Policy With Strong Protections Against Pregnancy Discrimination

When rumors began to circulate about Officer Angelica Robinson's pregnancy, she grew scared. After 13 years of service in the Detroit Police Department, Officer Robinson knew she would temporarily lose her job because of the Department's discriminatory policy that forced pregnant officers on unpaid leave. In Officer Robinson's case, she was already working a desk job, but she knew that wouldn't matter.

In 2008, the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of Robinson and five other police officers who were automatically forced to go on unpaid leave while pregnant. This past July, the ACLU of Michigan and the Detroit Police Department settled the lawsuit and a new policy was implemented.

"I am grateful that women officers today won't have to choose between family and career," said Officer Robinson. "I made the decision to start a family at the sacrifice of my financial stability and a potential transfer. I'm proud to have made a difference through this lawsuit so that no other DPD police officer will have to make this difficult choice."

Under the settlement agreement, no DPD employee or applicant will be discriminated against on the basis of a pregnancy and no officer will be forced to disclose



From left to right: ACLU clients Officers Tisha Prater, Jamaica Skender, Sha-Mar Woods and Angelica Robinson with their children.

or be questioned about her pregnancy until she believes she can no longer perform her job. Moreover, the DPD will assign a pregnant officer to a restricted duty job upon her request. Such a request for pregnancy leave or a desk job will not impact her benefits, seniority and promotional and training opportunities. Also, pregnant officers are entitled to sit for promotional exams while on leave. According to the settlement, the DPD is required to distribute the policy to officers

within 90 days and the ACLU will monitor complaints of pregnancy discrimination to ensure compliance.

The lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court Eastern District of Michigan on behalf of Robinson, Kelly Lucy, Julie Krupinski, Tisha Prater, Jamaica Skender and Sha-Mar Woods. Prater and Skender previously settled their claims with the DPD. In addition to the new policy, the officers received a monetary settlement and their lost banked time.

ACLU SUES WAL-MART ON BEHALF OF CANCER PATIENT FIRED FOR USING MEDICAL MARIJUANA

For more than a decade, Joseph Casias of Battle Creek, Mich. has endured the painful symptoms of an inoperable brain tumor and cancer. Joseph has refused to let his debilitating illness prevent him from living a full and successful life. He is married, has two young children, and for the past five years held a job at the Wal-Mart in Battle Creek

where he began as an entry level grocery stocker and worked his way up to a managerial position. He was even recognized as the store's 2008 Associate of the Year.

However in November 2009, Joseph was summarily fired from his job at the store because he tested positive for marijuana, despite being legally registered to use the drug under Michigan's medical marijuana law and never once having smoked marijuana at work or come to work under its influence.

In June, the American Civil Liberties Union and ACLU of Michigan in partnership with the law firm of Daniel W. Grow, PLLC, filed a lawsuit against Wal-Mart Stores for wrongfully firing Joseph.

"No one should have to choose between pain relief and gainful employment," said Daniel Korobkin, ACLU of Michigan staff attorney. "And no corporation - not even Wal-Mart - is above the law. Joseph is exactly the kind of person Michigan voters had in mind when they passed the state's medical marijuana law."

In 2008, Michigan voters enacted the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act, which provides protection for the medical use of the drug under

state law. The pain medication Casias' oncologist had previously prescribed for him provided only minimal relief and as a side effect caused Casias to suffer from severe nausea. After the law was enacted, Joseph's oncologist recommended that he try marijuana and so Casias obtained the appropriate registry card from the Michigan Department of Community Health. The results were immediate and profound: his pain decreased dramatically, the new medicine did not induce nausea and Casias was able to gain back some of the weight he had lost during cancer treatment. But Joseph's relief after more than a decade of suffering was short lived.

"For some people, working at Wal-Mart is just a job, but for me, it was a way of life," said Joseph. "I came to Wal-Mart for a better opportunity for my family and I worked hard and proved myself. I just want the opportunity to continue my work."

Michigan's medical marijuana law protects patients registered with the state of Michigan from "arrest, prosecution, or penalty in any manner" for the use of medicinal marijuana as prescribed by a doctor and also protects employees from being disciplined for their use of medical marijuana in accordance with the law. The law does not require employers to accommodate the ingestion of marijuana in the workplace and does not protect employees who work under the influence of the drug.



Joseph Casias speaks to reporters outside of the Calhoun County Circuit Court with ACLU of Michigan Staff Attorney Dan Korobkin (left) and national ACLU Staff Attorney Scott Michelman (right).



ACLU LGBT STAFF ATTORNEY HONORED FOR CREATIVE LEADERSHIP IN HUMAN RIGHTS

The ACLU of Michigan congratulates Jay Kaplan, LGBT Project staff attorney on receiving the National Education Association's Virginia Uribe Award for Creative Leadership in Human Rights. The award is presented to a nominee whose activities in human rights significantly impact education and the achievement of equal opportunity for those facing sexual orientation discrimination.

Prior to receiving the award, Jay reflected: "It's important that educators and students recognize the unique challenges facing LGBT students today. I'm proud of the ACLU's work to raise awareness and defend the rights of students."

Jay joined the ACLU as the LGBT Project's staff attorney at its inception in 2001. He has spent his entire legal career working for the benefit of others in the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community and has been involved in many high profile issues such as marriage equality, second parent adoption and domestic partner benefits in Michigan.

"We are so incredibly proud of Jay. His commitment to LGBT equality is paramount," said Mary Bejian, ACLU of Michigan deputy director. "He has always stood up for the underrepresented, the underserved and the voiceless. He serves as an extraordinary example of kindness and selflessness."

Since developing the first of its kind committee to address issues facing lesbians and gay men in 1966, the ACLU of Michigan continues to fight for full civil rights and equality for LGBT people in our state. The ACLU nationally has marked more than 70 years of important legal victories and in 2001, the ACLU of Michigan became one of three ACLU affiliates to boast a legal and advocacy project devoted specifically to LGBT issues. The ACLU of Michigan's LGBT Project challenges discrimination in the courts and legislatures – case by case, law by law – to change antigay policies.

JIRGENS BRINGS CREATIVITY, INSIGHT TO ACLU

Eric Jirgens' ideas are just as big as his personality. And for the past three years he has shared his ideas, his home and his insight with artful generosity.

Eric first became involved with the ACLU of Michigan by joining the Southeast Advisory Board. Subsequently Eric and his partner, Allan Gilmour, hosted a very successful LGBT Cocktail Party in 2008 with Dan Savage as the guest presenter. Eric has since been involved with helping the organization fundraise by serving on the development committee focused on raising the gifts needed for the organization's expansion.

"The organization is lucky to have Eric's attention," says Kary Moss, executive director. "He brings tremendous talent and insight to ACLU. He is knowledgeable and helpful in countless ways – from non-profit management and fundraising to building relationships and connecting people to our organization. He is an extraordinary ACLU ambassador."

Eric will chair our Annual Dinner for the third year in a row, bringing creativity and thoughtfulness to ACLU's keynote event.

"The dinner is always a fun and inspiring way to get people engaged in our issues," Eric explains, "ACLU has fifty years of history in Michigan and we look forward to the next fifty years, with a new generation of civil libertarians along with an evolving set of civil liberty issues to address. Our great state and nation has more need than ever for a vibrant ACLU and I am happy to lend my support and efforts to help this important organization thrive."

Eric grew up on the west side of the state and founded Eric Charles Designs in 1991, a custom interior design firm meeting the needs of clients in Michigan and across the country for over 20 years. Outside of Eric Charles Designs, Jirgens is dedicated to a variety of philanthropic organizations, including ACLU and Affirmations - The Allan D. Gilmour and Eric C. Jirgens Gay and

Lesbian Community Center in Ferndale, Michigan. On the national level, Jirgens serves as a member of the National Board of Regents for the Point Foundation, a national scholarship organization which acknowledges and supports the achievements of exceptional LGBT students.

Eric's partner is Allan Gilmour, a highly respected philanthropic leader. The former vice-chair of Ford Motor Company, Allan grew up in Barnet, Vermont, and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Harvard University before coming to Michigan as a University of Michigan business school student. Gilmour started at Ford in 1960 as a protégé of "Whiz Kids" Ed Lundy and Arjay Miller. Gilmour is passionate about the issue of diversity. He feels that anti-discrimination policies and benefits for same-sex partners make good business sense. He is involved in many charities, including the ACLU of Michigan.

"Allan is our renaissance man," Moss said. "His plate is full but he has made time and opened his heart to our organization."

Stay tuned for details on how you can see Eric in action at the 2010 Annual Dinner on December 4th.



ACLU DEBTORS' PRISON ARTICLE FEATURED IN MICHIGAN BAR JOURNAL

The July 2010 Michigan Bar Journal features an in-depth and thought-provoking article by Executive Director Kary L. Moss' exploring the revival of debtors' prisons to combat county budget cuts.

The article, "Debtors' Prison in Michigan: The ACLU Takes Up the Cause," takes a look at the crisis facing our state and the ways in which the ACLU of Michigan is challenging "pay or stay" penalties. Here is a brief excerpt of the article:

Today in Michigan, it is possible to be thrown or remain in prison for debts accrued through child support, alimony, driver's responsibility fees, or other reasons. Thus, the term 'debtors' prisons' has been revived of late - a term that conjures up a nineteenth century, Dickensian image of hapless, impoverished individuals languishing in dirty, overcrowded jails because they were too poor to pay their debts. As the state hands its expenses to local entities, counties pass these expenses on to individuals, and there is a growing concern that the courts will force more indigent defendants to pay costs and fees and imprison those who cannot.

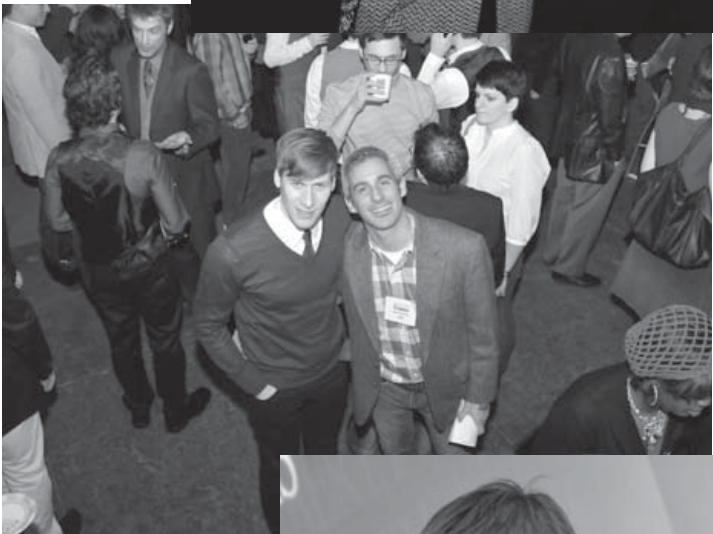
Our Constitution embodies the value that our system of justice should apply fairly and equally to all, irrespective of the extent of one's individual wealth. This value is at the heart of a democratic system of government, inspiring confidence in our system of justice and making it possible for law enforcement officers to have and retain the trust of the communities in which they work. It encourages reliance by communities on law enforcement and the courts and ensures that they are used. Yet, most would agree that wealth continues to significantly influence the quality of justice that one may obtain and its influence appears to be increasing, not diminishing, in this difficult economic period.

The report also features an ACLU of Michigan 50th anniversary timeline and a summary of our landmark achievements over the past 50 years.

The full version of this article appeared in the July 2010 issue of the *Michigan Bar Journal* and is available online at www.michbar.org.



Dustin Lance Black with (left to right) Missy Summers of Bank Of America and ACLU LGBT Leadership Committee Co-chairs Dr. Arianna Morales and Stacey Cassis.



Dustin Lance Black and Jay Kaplan, ACLU of Michigan LGBT Project staff attorney.



Dustin Lance Black addresses a packed house.



ACLU client Jason Leverette-Saunders speaks as local artists and activists (right to left) Jenene Whitfield, Heidelberg Project; Rich Rice, Detroit By Design; Toby Barlow, critically acclaimed author of “Sharp Teeth”; Jennifer Quigley, artist; Phillip Cooley, Slows Bar BQ; and Chazz Miller, Public Art Workz wait to address the audience.

ART AND ACTIVISM: MILK SCREENWRITER CELEBRATES ACLU’S 50 YEARS

In commemoration of its 50th anniversary, the ACLU of Michigan welcomed Academy Award-winning screenplay writer and director Dustin Lance Black to speak at its spring Legacy Lecture on “Activism and the Creative Class: The Art of Building Inclusive Communities” at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Detroit.

The event focused on building communities that enliven the economy, enhance understanding and cooperation and provide new opportunities for social and political engagement. In addition, the event explored the meaning of tolerance and the impact of artist/advocates in a new political decade. Before Black took the stage, local artists and activists were invited to explain how art has affected their activism and why they support the ACLU.

Black is a multi-talented writer, producer and director who won the 2008 Academy Award and Writers Guild of America Award for Best Original Screenplay for “Milk”, the biopic of the late gay rights activist Harvey Milk. In addition to “Milk,” Black also won acclaim for his work as a writer and producer of the HBO series, “Big Love.”

During the event, Black spoke of his childhood in San Antonio, Texas, growing up in a Mormon household, as well as his own struggle to come out as a gay man. He detailed his journey to LGBT activism and his reverence for the late Harvey Milk. Black tied Milk’s work in San Francisco in the 1970s to modern-day struggles for LGBT equality in states like Michigan, urging activists to take note of Milk’s vision and calling for increased cohesion between LGBT and non-LGBT groups.

“The most important piece of Harvey’s philosophy – and perhaps the most vital – was that his work did not start and stop with the gay and lesbian movement,” Black said. “He understood the interconnectedness of all minority groups. He understood that the LGBT movement is just one piece of a much larger, completely interrelated civil rights struggle.”

Black called for an end to discrimination that keeps LGBT people in the closet in Michigan, and stressed that the community must not wait any longer to make it happen.

“It’s the only way LGBT people can dispel the myths and fears and stereotypes that so many still hold,” he said. “Those myths and those fears have plagued my people and plagued this country now for generations. That is why it is so vitally important that we pass fully inclusive LGBT non-discrimination legislation statewide here in Michigan. It can’t happen tomorrow. It has to happen now. Right now.”

The event was made possible through the generous support of the planning committee – Stephan Bobalik, Stacey Cassis, P.J. Cherrin, Phillip Cooley, Loren Khogali, Yasir Khogali, Scott Kramer, Rachel Leggs, Rich Rice, Adriel Thornton, Steve Warras, Claire Nelson, Clare Ramsey and Traci Zainea. The ACLU extends its heartfelt thanks to the committee for their time, energy and insight.

The event was presented by Bank of America and sponsored by the ACLU of Michigan LGBT Leadership Committee, Between the Lines, Stephan Bobalik, Cooley Law School, Cooley Law School ACLU Chapter, Mt. Clemens City Commissioner Matt Dreger, Green Garage Detroit, Eric Jirgens – Eric Charles Designs, O’Connor Real Estate and Development, Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion, Michigan State University College of Law, Michigan State University College of Law ACLU Chapter, Model D, Rachel’s Place, Re:View Contemporary Gallery, Third Street Bar, Wayne State University Law School ACLU Chapter, Wheelhouse Detroit LLC and Yelp.

In addition, the ACLU of Michigan is grateful to the following for donating invaluable in-kind goods and services: Adult., Atwater Brewery, Avalon International Breads, Bureau of Urban Living, Centaur, C&N, Party Rentals, Detroit By Design, Display Group, Fierce Hot Mess, Fresh Corp, Future Reproductions, Good Girls Go to Paris, Haute2Death, Leon & Lulu, Macho City, Roast, Ronin, Russell Street, Slows Bar BQ, The Majestic Café, The Whitney, Woodbridge Pub, and Union Street Saloon.

From left to right: ACLU supporters Nick Piotrowski, Katie Klawon and John Shearrod



ACLU SLAMS MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT DECISION TO DISMISS PUBLIC DEFENSE CASE

In a stunning about-face, the Michigan Supreme Court dismissed the American Civil Liberties Union’s lawsuit seeking to fix Michigan’s system for providing defense to poor people in criminal cases. The decision came just 2 months after the court unanimously allowed the case to proceed.

“Our fight to fix the indigent defense system is far from over and we are currently weighing our legal options,” said Michael J. Steinberg, ACLU of Michigan legal director. “If the courts are unwilling to take responsibility for this broken system, the legislature must act. When the indigent defense system is broken, everyone suffers. Innocent men and women end up in prison while the perpetrators are left on the streets to commit more crimes.”

Following the Michigan Supreme Court’s unanimous rejection of the State of Michigan’s attempts to dismiss the case in April, the state asked the court to reconsider its

decision. In July, the court took the unusual step, in a 4-3 decision, of reversing its unanimous order and finding in favor of the defendants without considering the merits of the case.

In February 2007, the ACLU filed a class action in Ingham County Circuit Court against the state on behalf of all indigent criminal defendants in Berrien, Muskegon and Genesee Counties. The lawsuit called on the court to declare the current public defense systems of the three counties unconstitutional and compel the state to assure representation consistent with national standards and constitutional norms.

Currently, Michigan provides no administrative oversight or funding for public defense at the trial level, but delegates all responsibility to the counties. There is no state training for public defense attorneys, no performance standards to govern their practice, and no review of their performance. Moreover, many of the counties have been dramatically under-funding indigent defense for years. The result is that in each of the three counties at issue in the suit – and indeed in many parts of Michigan – the public defense provided does not meet national standards or the constitutional minimum requirements for effective assistance of counsel.

Attorneys challenging Michigan’s public defense system after oral arguments before the Michigan Supreme Court. From left to right: Sarita Prabhu, Frank Eaman, Mark Granzotto, Michael J. Steinberg, Jessie Rossman and Yelena Konanova.



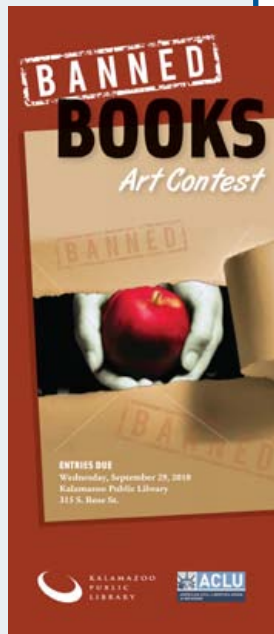
“Our fight to fix the indigent defense system is far from over and we are currently weighing our legal options.”

READ THIS BOOK! CELEBRATING BANNED BOOKS WEEK THIS FALL IN KALAMAZOO

Our Southwest Branch once again celebrates Banned Books Week with the Kalamazoo Public Library (KPL) on Friday, October 1, 2010 with their annual "read-out" of the most frequently banned and challenged books. Since this year's read-out coincides with the Kalamazoo Art Hop, the ACLU and KPL are sponsoring an art contest inspired by one of the following five frequently challenged or banned books: *Uncle Bobby's Wedding*, by Sarah S. Brannen; *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, by Stephen Chbosky; *To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee; *Twilight*, by Stephanie Meyer; or *TTYL*, by Lauren Myracle.

National Banned Books Week, observed September 25 to October 2, reminds Americans that we have the right to decide for ourselves what we will read, listen to or view - without government interference.

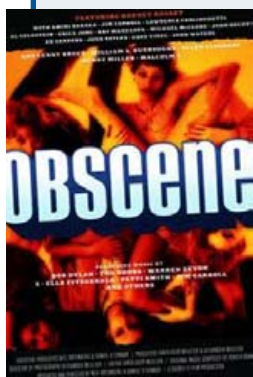
Throughout our history, the American Civil Liberties Union's commitment to free speech includes protecting countless books from censorship, including *Ulysses*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, and *Tropic of Cancer* and many more. Visit our ACLU's website at www.aclumich.org for details on how to enter this year's contest and details for the annual read-out.



YOUR RIGHTS UP NORTH: TRAVERSE CITY ACLU EVENTS THIS FALL

September 6: "Obscene" Film Screening at the State Theater

Partnering with the State Theater, the Northwest Michigan Branch of the ACLU will host the film, "Obscene" on September 6. The award-winning documentary chronicles the struggles of Barney Rosset, publisher of Grove Press and the Evergreen Review. Barney Rosset is the greatest American publisher of the twentieth century and the most influential cultural figure that you haven't heard of. Under Rosset, Grove Press and Evergreen Review fought decisive battles, including many before the state and federal supreme courts, defeated legal censorship, and opened American life to new and dangerous currents of freedom. Tickets available now at www.aclumich.org.



October 7: Michigan's Medical Marijuana Law – Patients, Police and Protection

Learn how law enforcement and municipalities are responding to Michigan's medical marijuana law on October 7 at the Traverse City Area District Library. ACLU of Michigan Staff Attorney Dan Korobkin will be on hand to discuss the rights of patients and caregivers under the state constitutional amendment adopted by voters in 2008. Register for this free event at www.aclumich.org.

November 18: Discussion on Students Caught in the School-to-Prison Pipeline

On November 18, Mark Fancher, ACLU of Michigan Racial Justice Project staff attorney, will visit Traverse City to discuss what Michigan can do to help students caught in the school-to-prison pipeline. From "zero tolerance" expulsion policies to police in schools, educators, students and parents are contending with the consequences of policies that disproportionately push students of color out of schools and into the criminal justice system. Register for this free event at the Traverse City Area District Library online at www.aclumich.org.

FIGHTING FOR PUBLIC DEFENSE SYSTEM REFORM IN GRAND RAPIDS

Only June 28, the ACLU partnered with Cooley Law School and the Michigan Campaign for Justice to show the film, "American Violet," about real-life drug raids in Hearne, Texas, that resulted in ACLU litigation on behalf of African Americans who were caught up in the racially motivated raids. The discussion following the film focused on Michigan's failing public defender system, which is ranked as one of the worst in the country. The ACLU has spearheaded litigation to reform Michigan's system, and we continue to work for legislation to ensure that all Michigan residents have equal access to adequate defense, regardless of income.



General Election

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

During each state wide election, the ACLU of Michigan's Legislative Department produces a survey of the candidate's support for important civil liberties issues. This year, the general election survey will be published on-line at www.aclumich.org on September 27.

We are approaching the end of the 2008-2010 legislative session and while our elected officials have turned from legislating to campaigning, all hopes and expectations for getting bills passed are focused on the much-anticipated "lame duck." It's difficult to predict what might happen, but there are a few specific policy issues important to the ACLU for which we are advocating fiercely as this session draws to a close.

Pregnancy Prevention Package

In March, 4 pro-choice bills passed the Michigan House with bi-partisan support:

- HB 5155 & HB 5165 would guarantee survivors of sexual assault access to emergency contraception in the emergency room,
- HB 5158 would require "crisis pregnancy centers" to truthfully and accurately identify the services they do and do not provide, and
- HB 5163 would ensure that factual information presented in a public school sex education course is age appropriate, medically accurate and objective.

None of the bills have received a hearing on the Senate side, but HB 5155 & 5165 are widely supported and we are encouraging Senator Tom George, R-Kalamazoo to schedule a hearing in the Senate Committee on Health Policy. We believe these bills have a good chance of passing in the Senate, so please place a call to your state senator now asking him/her to support legislation that would require emergency medical facilities to offer emergency contraception to sexual assault victims.

Juvenile Life Without Parole (JLWOP)

In May, the U.S. Supreme Court issued an historic ruling in *Graham v. Florida* that held life without parole sentences for juveniles convicted of non-homicide offenses unconstitutional. The Court recognized that it is cruel to pass a final judgment on adolescents who have an enormous capacity for change and rehabilitation compared to adults.

The decision could have far-reaching implications for the more than 350 individuals serving mandatory life sentences in Michigan for crimes committed before their 18th birthday - especially when we consider that more than 100 individuals were sentenced to life without parole, but did not commit the murder themselves, but were present or committed a felony when a murder was committed by someone else. The ACLU of Michigan has worked with legislators to repeal these harsh sentences since 2003.

Last year, the Michigan House Judiciary Committee held hearings to address the JLWOP package of bills (HB 4518, 4594, 4595 and 4596) that would prohibit the mandatory sentencing of juveniles to life in prison without the possibility of parole. Unfortunately, after a contentious hearing, the bills were amended and the ACLU found that it could not support the changes. The proposed legislation, as amended, would allow judicial discretion in the determination of an optional life without parole sentence for a juvenile offender. In addition, the bills were amended requiring that any existing person serving JLWOP can only be eligible for parole consideration if the prosecutor initiates a petition and has the approval of both the victim's family and the sentencing judge. We believe this provides no realistic opportunity for meaningful review for purposes of parole.

Please contact your elected representative immediately and tell them that the Supreme Court reflects public opinion in Michigan - that children should be given a chance to rehabilitate and redeem themselves and should not be sentenced to life in prison with no hope of parole.

Immigration Legislation During Lame Duck

The ACLU has been closely following an issue we want to make sure DOES NOT pass into law during this politically charged lame duck session. Representative Kim Meltzer, R-Clinton Township and Senator Michelle McManus, R-Lake Leelanau, each introduced Arizona-style anti-immigration legislation in Michigan. Upon introduction of the House bill, the ACLU immediately sent an action alert that produced an unprecedented number of complaints to Rep. Meltzer, Speaker Andy Dillon and the Governor. Both Governor Granholm and Speaker Dillon expressed opposition to enacting such a law in Michigan, but they still need to hear your voice.

In contrast, please express your support for House Resolution 291 introduced by Representative Rashida Taib, D-Detroit, urging Michigan residents and organizations to refrain from doing business with Arizona in protest over their recently enacted law.

If you have any questions or need information about legislative issues, please feel free to contact Legislative Director Shelli Weisberg at sweisberg@aclumich.org.

ACLU staff and legal interns join Senator Ray Basham and Michigan State Police Sgt Chris Hawkins at a bill-signing ceremony with Governor Granholm. The bill, SB 325, makes it illegal for a person to install a tracking device on another person's vehicle without their knowledge or consent.



IN THE COURTS

Lawsuit Filed for Illegal Raid of Art Gallery and Seizure of Patrons’ Cars

The ACLU filed a federal lawsuit in February challenging the Detroit Police Department’s 2008 raid of the Contemporary Art Institute of Detroit. During the raid, more than 130 people were detained, searched, and charged with loitering. In addition, more than 40 legally parked cars were seized and not released until their owners paid nearly \$1000. The ACLU successfully represented the CAID patrons in the criminal case and now seek to ensure what happened to these individuals does not happen again in the future. (*Mobley v. City of Detroit*; Attorneys William Goodman, Julie Hurwitz and Kathryn Bruner and ACLU Staff Attorneys Dan Korobkin and Michael Steinberg)

Debtor’s Prison for Mentally Disabled Mom

Selesa Likine has a mental disability that led to the loss of her job, her husband and then the custody of her children. When her kids were taken from her, the court ordered her to pay \$1,100 per month in child support despite the fact that her only source of income was the \$637 she received per month in social security benefits. When Likine failed to make her child support payments, she was arrested and placed in jail. At trial, the judge refused to allow her to present evidence of her inability to pay and she was convicted of a felony. The Michigan Court of Appeals affirmed the conviction. The ACLU is representing Likine in the Supreme Court arguing that it is unconstitutional to convict a person for being too poor to make court-ordered payments. (*People v. Likine*; Cooperating Attorneys David Moran and Brigett McCormick and Legal Director Michael Steinberg)



Wal-Mart Won’t Automatically Disqualify Job Applicants with Criminal Records



The ACLU sent a letter to Wal-Mart last December after receiving a complaint that Wal-Mart’s Pittsfield Township store had a policy banning the hiring of all individuals with criminal records. Blanket bans on hiring ex-offenders

-- no matter how old or how unrelated the conviction is to the job sought -- violates federal employment law because it has an unfair impact on racial minorities. Wal-Mart asked for a meeting with the ACLU and then revised its nationwide employment application to comport with federal anti-discrimination laws. (ACLU Staff Attorney Jessie Rossman)

Judge Dismisses Bioterrorism Charge Against HIV-Positive Man

Daniel Allen was accused of biting his neighbor during a physical altercation. In addition to being charged with assault and battery, the Macomb County Prosecutor charged him with bioterrorism because he is HIV-positive. The ACLU filed a friend-of-the-court brief arguing that the charges are based on baseless assumptions about how HIV is transmitted and that the Michigan terrorism statute was not designed to punish this sort of behavior. The judge, citing the ACLU brief, agreed and dismissed the charges. (*People v. Allen*; Staff Attorneys Jay Kaplan and Michael Steinberg)

Voter Purge Case Successfully Settled

The State of Michigan has agreed to stop unlawfully purging thousands of Michigan voters from the voter rolls to settle a lawsuit filed by the ACLU and the Advancement Project. The settlement comes after favorable rulings by U.S. District Court Judge Stephen Murphy and the U.S. Court of Appeals that restored the voting rights of more than 5000 voters before the 2008 presidential election. The two categories of voters at issue were Michigan voters with out-of-state licenses and Michigan voters whose voter registration cards were delivered to the wrong address. (*United States Student Association v. Land*; Cooperating Attorneys Matthew Lund and Deborah Kovsky-Apap, ACLU Staff Attorneys Meredith Bell-Platts, Daniel Korobkin and Michael Steinberg and Advancement Project Attorney Bradley Heard)

Struggle to Keep Service Dog in School Continues

This winter, thanks to the ACLU’s advocacy, a 5-year-old student named Elhena Fry was permitted to bring her service dog, Wonder, with her to her elementary school in the Napoleon School District. Elhena has cerebral palsy and her doctor recommended a service dog to help her with

tasks and to become more independent. However, after the school year ended, the school district proposed new and more restrictive rules on the dog. The ACLU stands ready to continue to vindicate her rights under the American with Disabilities Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. (Cooperating Attorney Gayle Rosen and ACLU Staff Attorney Jessie Rossman)

Man Jailed for a Year Without Charges

The Detroit police arrested and jailed David Moore for over a year because they believed that Moore witnessed his cousin murder a man in a road rage incident. Although Moore was not charged with a crime and his cousin was eventually released, Moore was told he was going to remain in jail until he agreed to testify against his cousin. After the ACLU submitted a brief on Moore’s behalf, he was released. (Cooperating Attorneys Mark Kriger and Heather Bendure)

Man Charged for Criticizing the Police for a “Classic Case of Racial Profiling”

Josef Kolling attending a house party near Eastern Michigan University last year when the police appeared and began to question two African American men in the front yard. Kolling, who is white, explained to the officers that everything was okay, but the officers told him to return to the house and started to interrogate the African American men again. Frustrated by what he believed to be racial discrimination, Kolling crossed the street and yelled back to the squad car, “This is a classic case of racial profiling.” The police promptly arrested Kolling for causing a “public disruption.” The ACLU’s motion to dismiss the case on free speech grounds was denied and the case is now on appeal. (Cooperating Attorneys Michael Carter and John Shea)

Proposal to Drug Test Public Housing Tenants in Flint

This spring the director of the Flint Housing Commission floated the idea of drug testing all public housing tenants as a condition of continued shelter. The ACLU wrote a letter strongly urging the commission to refrain from implementing a program testing all tenants without suspicion of wrongdoing. The letter pointed out that, like the Michigan Welfare Drug Testing Act that was struck down as unconstitutional in an ACLU case several years ago, the suspicionless testing of tenants violated the Fourth Amendment. The program would also unfairly single out poor people for humiliating and expensive tests when there are other more effective ways to address drug abuse. (Cooperating Attorney Gregory Gibbs and Legal Director Michael Steinberg with assistance from Law Intern Alexandria Anderson-Tuttle)

Firefighter Threatened with Dismissal for Criticizing City’s Road Conditions

Ken Jacobson, a firefighter for almost three decades in the Upper Peninsula town of Ironwood, was threatened by city officials with discipline and termination after writing four letters on his own time to the local press. The letters mainly questioned the city manager’s commitment to plowing the roads. After the ACLU wrote a letter defending Jacobson’s right to speak out on matters of public concern, the city backed down. (Cooperating Attorney Sarah Zearfoss and Legal Director Michael Steinberg)



Anti-Medical Marijuana Ordinances

The federal government, out of respect to states that have passed medical marijuana laws, has agreed to refrain from prosecuting medical marijuana patients and their caregivers who comply with state law. Nonetheless, several Michigan cities such as Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills are attempting to defy the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act by passing ordinances that make it a crime to violate federal law within city limits. The ACLU is writing letters to the municipalities warning that they are preempted by state law from enforcing these ordinances and charging state-approved medical marijuana patients with crimes. (Staff Attorneys Daniel Korobkin and Michael Steinberg with assistance from Law Intern Katherine Marcuz)

Mom Tries to Void Second Parent Adoption

Several years ago Julianna Usitalo and Melissa Landon fell in love, entered into a committed partnership and decided to have a child together. In 2003, Melissa had a child through artificial insemination and asked a judge to make Julianna a legal parent through a second parent adoption. In 2008, Julianna and Melissa split up, but entered into a custody and visitation agreement so both parents could continue to raise the child. However, recently Melissa decided that she wanted to cut Julianna out of their daughter’s life completely and asked the judge to void the second parent adoption. The ACLU is representing Julianna and, relying on a Court of Appeals’ opinion in another ACLU case, argues that Melissa is precluded from

asking a judge to vacate an order she asked the judge to issue more than five years ago and that the second-parent adoption is valid. (*Usitalo v. Landon*; Staff Attorney Jay Kaplan and Michael Steinberg)

Vegan Protester Arrested for Questioning Officer

Phil Letten is a vegan activist who was passing out flyers opposing animal cruelty after a concert in Detroit last summer. When a Detroit police officer told Letten to stop distributing flyers, Letten reminded the officer that he was on a public walkway and asked if he could see the ordinance that prevented him from exercising his free speech rights. The officer, in retaliation, charged him with a crime for passing out commercial handbills without a permit even though it was obvious he was passing out political flyers. After the criminal charges were dismissed, Letten filed a civil lawsuit in federal court. (*Letten v. Hall*; Staff Attorney Jessie Rossman)



Harassment on the Border Because of Political Beliefs

This summer more than 15,000 progressive activists from around the country came to Detroit for the U.S. Social Forum. Three college students attending the USSF decided to take a bus trip to Windsor, Ontario for a couple of hours. On their way back to the U.S., customs officials singled the students out for interrogation because they were wearing orange bracelets identifying them as registered participants in the conference. In a hostile tone, the officials questioned them about their politics, the type of workshops they were attending and whether they planned to protest. The officers removed the students’ journals and flyers from their bags and read them. The ACLU, along with the National Lawyers Guild, wrote a letter to U.S. Customs and Border Patrol and the Justice Department strongly urging the government to investigate and take corrective action to ensure that citizens not be punished for their political beliefs in the future. (ACLU Lawyers Kary Moss and Michael Steinberg and NLG Lawyers John Royal and Thomas Stephens)

Man Working on Laptop from Car Near ACLU Office Charged with Loitering

Ken Anderson, a homeless veteran, was searching online for work from his laptop computer while sitting in his legally parked car one block from the ACLU office in Detroit. When two officers approached him and demanded ID, Anderson, who has no criminal record, questioned whether the officers had reasonable suspicion. Irritated by the question, the officers retaliated against Anderson by charging him with “loitering in a known drug area.” The charge was based on an ordinance that was repealed several years ago because it is unconstitutional. The ACLU successfully represented Anderson on a motion to dismiss and filed a federal civil rights suit on his behalf in June. (*Anderson v. City of Detroit*; Staff Attorney Daniel Korobkin)

Illegal Mass Searches of Students Stopped

Defying a 2006 consent judgment in an earlier ACLU case, in 2009 the Detroit School District started searching the private contents of every student’s backpack and purse when they entered the school building. The ACLU sued again and, in February, a federal judge ordered the Detroit Public Schools to stop the mass searches of students’ private belongings without suspicion. The order remains in effect while the ACLU litigates its class action to stop the practice permanently. Detroit high school students are also forced to go through a metal detector, a practice the ACLU is not challenging in this case. (*Wells and McBurrows v. Detroit Public Schools*; Staff Attorneys Mark Fancher and Dan Korobkin, Cooperating Attorney Amos Williams and ACLU Fellow Avani Bhatt)

Treating Homeless Individuals as Criminals

There is a homeless tent community in the Ann Arbor area called Camp Take Notice that was established to provide a safe, sober and drug-free environment with food and shelter for individuals with no place else to sleep. The community was evicted from its site on public land adjacent to the highway exit near the Michigan Stadium just before President Obama gave the commencement address at U-M in May. After moving to a more secluded public land near another highway, police officers again threatened to charge Camp Take Notice members with trespass. The ACLU met with local and state police representatives and government officials and explained that it would be unconstitutional to arrest a person for sleeping on public land when there is no other place to sleep. As a result of the meeting, two committees have been formed to address both the short and long term issues surrounding the homeless at Camp Take Notice and the residents remain on the new site. (Staff Attorneys Jessie Rossman and Michael Steinberg and Cooperating Attorney David Blanchard)

AT-LARGE DELEGATE CANDIDATES 2010-2013

As a member of the ACLU of Michigan, you are entitled to vote for 6 seats on the state Board of Directors. We ask that you read the attached candidate statements, cast your vote for 6 of the 7 nominees, and return the filled out ballot below in the enclosed envelope by September 6, 2010. Be sure to print your name on the envelope so that current membership may be verified. If you have not received an enclosed envelope, your membership may not be current. Please check the expiration date on your mailing label and call Isela Patino at 313-578-6810 if you feel this is an error. Membership may be renewed any time at www.aclumich.org.

Each at-large board member will serve a three-year term. The purpose of at-large directorships is to augment, broaden and enrich the ACLU. At-large directors shall be those who meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Enhance affirmative action or the diversity goals of the ACLU;
- Enhance the ACLU's connectedness with under-represented communities;
- Bring needed expertise or access to resources.

Jyarland Daniels Jones

I support the mission of the ACLU and believe that my energy and passion for civil liberties will positively contribute to the organization. I began my relationship with the ACLU in the summer of 2009 as a volunteer in the development department. While researching and learning about the history of the state organization and the various branches, I came to admire the significant time and personal sacrifice offered by so many of our past and present leaders. They came from all walks of life, with various levels of prior experience. However, they shared a common compassion for their fellow man, a common concern about the injustices of their time, and a common commitment to civil liberties. It is these qualities that led me to pursue a second career as a civil rights and constitutional law attorney after a 12 year career in sales, marketing and public relations.

Because of my willingness to advocate for civil liberties, I was voted President of the Wayne State Law School Chapter of the ACLU for the 2010-2011 school year. I believe there is a need for the ACLU to increase its membership among the younger population and develop these individuals for future leadership roles within the organization. It is therefore no coincidence that my top priorities as President of the Wayne Law Chapter are 1) to increase awareness of the ACLU and its mission throughout the campus of nearly 19,000 students and 2) to develop closer ties between the Wayne State students, the metro Detroit Branch and the state-wide organization. My serving on the state board is a step towards achieving that goal.

Background:

Wayne State Law School (Candidate for Graduation, 2012)
University of Michigan (Marketing and Finance), MBA
University of Kansas (Business Administration, minor Japanese Language & Culture), BS

Work Experience:

Hallmark Cards (Kansas City, MO) - Asst. Marketing Manager
Johnson & Johnson (Kansas City, MO) - Sales Manager
Ford Motor Company (Dearborn, MI) - Marketing Manager
Bentley Motors (Auburn Hills, MI) - Head of Lifestyle Public Relations

Law School Experience:

President, ACLU (2010-2011)
Summer Law Clerk - The Honorable Gerald E. Rosen - Chief Judge, Eastern District Court of Michigan (2010)
Wayne State Law School Moot Court Team (2010-2011)
Wayne Law Ambassador (2009-2010)

Maha Freij

I have been an at-large member of the ACLU of Michigan board since 2009. I am a member of the Budget and Audit Committee and have actively assisted with the organization's development efforts.

I am the Deputy Executive Director & Chief Financial Officer of ACCESS. I graduated from the Hebrew University with a bachelor's in accounting and economics, and was the first Arab/Palestinian woman to earn a CPA license in Israel in 1989 - the same year I immigrated to the United States.

As ACCESS CFO, I oversee a budget of more than \$17 million from more than 90 funding sources. We have raised more than \$30 million in the last decade for endowment building and brick-and-mortar projects, including the first-ever Arab American National Museum in the United States. Chief among my priorities has been to create a larger vision of philanthropy, principally by founding the Center for Arab

American Philanthropy, strengthening Arab American giving by establishing charitable legacies through education, grant making and endowment building. I have assembled a strong team of staff and volunteers who continue to grow and expand ACCESS' fundraising capacity, to support its more than 90 programs.

I am also a member of the boards of One D Initiative-Champions Council, Mosaic Youth Theatre, Leadership Detroit, and Independent Sector Advisory Group on Nonprofit Effectiveness and have received awards from Alternatives for Girls, Role Model Award, 2005; Crain's Detroit Business, Best Managed Non-Profit Organization, 2000; New Detroit, Inc., Richard Fisher Fiscal Integrity Award, 1996.

Madeline Kochen

I have been an at-large member of the ACLU of Michigan board since 2007. I am a law professor at the University of Michigan.

I have long-standing experience with the ACLU, having worked at the national office as a law student from 1979-1981, and then as Legislative Counsel and Staff Attorney with the New York Civil Liberties Union and then as founder of the office's Reproductive Rights Project as its Director. I also worked two years as a Legal Aid attorney, representing low-income criminal defendants, and as Director of Public Interest Law and Dean of Students at Stanford Law School.

As an ACLU of Michigan board member, I have chaired a committee evaluating whether the ACLU should endorse a constitutional convention and redistricting effort.

Background:

Harvard University, Ph.D. and A.M., Harvard University, 2004 (Religion and Political Philosophy)
Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, 1981. J.D.
Coeditor (with Michael Walzer, M Lorberbaum and N. Zohar), The Jewish Political Tradition, Volume III: Community (Yale University Press, forthcoming)

ACLU Positions:

Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on a constitutional convention

Jessica Lieberman

Having served on the State Board of Directors of the ACLU of Michigan from 2000-2007. I submit my candidacy for this position with a clear understanding of the commitment of time, energy and passion that this position entails. Directors of Michigan's preeminent civil rights organization must come prepared to serve on Board committees, to raise money for the organization, and to advocate for civil liberties in appropriate ways. I have a proven record of Board service in all three capacities:

Committee Work:

I served for four years as Executive Vice President at large on the Executive Committee of the State Board. I also served for three years as the Affiliate Affirmative Action Officer, in which capacity I measured and assessed our Board's compliance with national ACLU affirmative action policies.

Fundraising:

I volunteered for several years to solicit contributions in Washtenaw County, as well as contributing personally since becoming a member in 1999. During my time as a Director, I vocally advocated for 100% Board participation in the annual gift campaign in order to ensure availability of grants to our organization.

Please vote for 6 of the 7 nominees:

☐ Jyarland Daniels Jones

☐ Maha Freij

☐ Madeline Kochen

☐ Jessica Lieberman

☐ Carolyn MacAdam

☐ Kay Perry

☐ Jacquelin Washington

Activism:

I have donated my time and legal skills in the fight for racial justice in our State, including the struggles to preserve affirmative action in higher education, and to end racial profiling by traffic police.

I seek your vote so that I can continue my service to our ACLU.

Background:

J.D., University of Michigan Law School, 2003; member of the Michigan Journal of Race and Law, 1998-2000; ACLU-Michigan law student intern 1999; at-home mother to three children aged 10, 8 and 2.

Carolyn MacAdam

I have been a member of the ACLU since 1985 and a Board Member since 2006. The ACLU is the defender of everyone's constitutional rights through its work in the court system and its grassroots coalitions to protect the fundamental rights and civil liberties of all people. As former Chair of the poverty program in Oakland and Livingston counties, I realize firsthand how easy it is to be ignored and disabused of one's rights. Thankfully, the ACLU-MI is here for all of us. I will continue to work diligently for the ACLU and further its goals and priorities.

There are many in our state who are ACLU members at heart whom we have not yet met and included in a meaningful way. Therefore, my goal is to help recruit more members and contact as many like minded people as possible to increase participation. My past activities have included: member of the Executive Committee, Development Council, Investment Committee, and Budget and Audit Committee. I have also chaired both the Spring and Fall Fundraising Campaigns, been a member of the Oakland County ACLU Board, sat on annual dinner Committees, and volunteered as the phone bank chair to oppose Proposition 2, helped in the office with mailings and phone calls, solicited silent auction items, and helped organize the 50th Anniversary Open House.

I am a proud member of the Ambassador program and DeSilver Society, the ACLU's main vehicle for estate planning.

Background:

Retired Vice President, Investments and Financial Advisor; Membership Chair, Friends of the Troy Public Library Board;
President, MARAL (MI Abortion Rights Action League); Chair, Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency; Chair, United Community Services of Oakland County; Chair, Meals on Wheels; President, Furniture Resource Center; Treasurer, Birmingham Junior League, Area Council-Region IV of Junior Leagues of America; Promotion Chair-Virginia Slims Tennis Tournament;
Chair, Community Services Committee, Village Club; Co-Chair, Capital Campaign of The Community House; Winner, Heart of Gold Award, United Way for outstanding voluntarism in tri-county area.

Kay Perry

Since 1989, I have served as volunteer Executive Director of the Michigan Chapter of Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants (MI-CURE), a grassroots criminal justice reform organization. The majority of its 3,000+ members are incarcerated; the remainder are largely family members and friends of persons who are incarcerated. I have co-authored self-help literature and regularly provide advice and assistance by answering mail and phone calls.

I served as the Chair of National CURE for twelve years and currently serve as a member of its Executive Committee, designing a leadership program for the organization. I have been very active with the League of Women Voters, serving for five years as President of the Kalamazoo Area League, four years as its Treasurer, and am currently serving a second year as Co-President. I also served two years as the Advocacy Vice President of the Michigan League (LWVM), and on several State League task forces. I am the primary author of the LWVM's biennial Citizen Access to Government Report Card, which was published for the sixth time in 2009. Finally, I have served as a board member and volunteer mediator with the Kalamazoo and Barry Counties Dispute Resolution Center.

While I have not served the ACLU in any official capacity, I have been an active member of the School to Prison Pipeline project.

Background:

Western Michigan University (Math, English, and History). B.A.

Twenty years in business computer systems (as programmer, systems analyst, and Director of Information Systems). Fifteen years in technical writing.

ACTION ALERT

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Jacquelin Washington

I have been a member of the ACLU of Michigan Board of Directors since 1995. I was the organization's President from 2003-2006 and currently serve as President Pro Tem. I have chaired the Development Council and now serve as an at-large delegate to the ACLU's National Board of Directors.

As this history should demonstrate, I strongly support the work of this premier civil liberties organization. No other organization has done as much to protect the constitutional rights of the citizens of this state as the ACLU of Michigan. This is a crucial time for the organization because of the ever growing need for litigation and advocacy. To meet these needs, a strong Board of Directors is required to help guide the state-wide growth and expansion through effective policies and financial resources. I want to continue to devote my time and energy to ensure that the efforts are successful.

I have also served as a board member for the Metro Detroit Branch where I was vice-president and chaired numerous committees since 1991. On the national level, I helped draft the ACLU's affirmative action policy, conducted a workshop for affiliate presidents and chaired panels at biennial conferences. In 2005, the ACLU of Michigan recognized my contribution with a distinguished service award.

As an African-American female, my election to the Board will enhance the affirmative action goals of the ACLU. In addition, I bring experience in fund development as a former President/CEO of Planned Parenthood of Southeast Michigan where I was responsible for the administration of six family planning clinics; President/CEO of the Pontiac Area Urban League; Manager, Human Resources and Training, Bendix Corporation; and Director of Human Resources, Vixen Motor Company.

I was also an elected member to the Board of Trustees for Wayne State University where I served as Board Chair for two years. I have been the President of Central United Methodist Church Community Development Corporation. I was the first African American elected to serve as President of the national NOW-Legal Defense and Education Fund which litigated and educated on issues related to discrimination against women in employment and education. I was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame for my advocacy on behalf of women. I co-founded the Sojourner Foundation to provide financial support to organizations serving women and girls.

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NEW DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE
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EXPERIENCE

We are pleased to welcome Jenny Suidan as the newest addition to the ACLU of Michigan team. As a passionate activist in the metro-Detroit area, Jenny brings a unique perspective and dedication to civil rights and civil liberties in our state.

Jenny joined the ACLU in July as the Development Associate to support the organization's philanthropic goals. In her personal capacity, she serves as Treasurer of the Oakland County Democratic Party and has previously worked as a fundraiser for several political campaigns.

She is a graduate of Central Michigan University and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology and Sociology. During her time as a student, she served as president of the Gay/Straight Alliance for three years and was an active member of the Detroit Steering Committee of the Human Rights Campaign.



WOMEN IN POLITICS: ACLU WELCOMES JOURNALIST ELEANOR CLIFT TO GRAND RAPIDS

In September, the ACLU of Michigan will welcome renowned journalist Eleanor Clift to Grand Rapids for its fall Legacy Lecture.



Clift will discuss “Women in Politics: Intriguing Voices; Compelling Views.” A contributing editor for Newsweek since 1994, Eleanor Clift reports primarily on the White House, Washington and women in politics. Clift also writes a weekly column on Newsweek.com, titled “Capitol Letter,” analyzing the political news of the week.

Tickets begin at just \$10. VIP tickets include premium seating and admission to a private afterglow with Eleanor Clift. Purchase one VIP ticket and receive a companion ticket for just \$30. A special book signing will follow the event.

Clift began her career as a reporter at the Newsweek Atlanta bureau, covering Jimmy Carter’s bid for the presidency and has since served as a White House correspondent, covering Congress, the Iran-Contra scandal, and the presidential campaign of Bill Clinton, among other notable events.

In 1998, Clift became a political contributor for the Fox News Network. She is a panelist on The McLaughlin Group and appears on many national TV shows. Clift is the co-author of “War Without Bloodshed: The Art of Politics” and “Madam President: Shattering the Last Glass Ceiling,” and the author of “Founding Sisters” and “Two Weeks of Life: A Memoir of Love, Death and Politics.” She lives in Washington, D.C., where she is on the board of the International Women’s Media Foundation, and the Center for Politics and Journalism.

The Legacy Lecture series, presented by Bank of America, celebrates the 50th anniversary of the ACLU of Michigan and focuses on topics of historical importance to the organization and to Michiganders. Through these events, we also honor the contributions of our founders and their legacy of standing up for civil liberties.

We hope you won’t miss this opportunity to hear from one of America’s foremost political journalists.

“Women in Politics: Intriguing Voices; Compelling Views”

Presented by
Bank of America

Thursday, September 16, 2010 7 p.m.
Wealthy Theatre, 1130 Wealthy Ave., Grand Rapids

☐ Yes, I/we want to serve as hosts for the Legacy Lecture featuring Eleanor Clift on Thursday, September, 16, 2010

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In addition, you may want to purchase single tickets:

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