



WINNING DUE PROCESS FOR IMMIGRANTS

In September, Juan Manuel Lopez-Campos, a father, grandfather, and longtime Detroit community member, walked out of immigration detention thanks to a federal lawsuit filed by the ACLU of Michigan and his attorney. Under a new Trump Administration directive, Mr. Lopez-Campos, who spent two months in detention, was denied a bond hearing which could have allowed him to stay with his family while his immigration case moves forward. This directive reverses decades of government policy and could keep people languishing in detention for months or even years. This win represents an important step in our efforts to ensure due process for people in immigration proceedings.

A CRUCIAL STEP TOWARDS JUSTICE FOR FLINT FAMILIES

A decade after lead-contaminated water was found in Flint's water system, impacting every Flint resident, the legal battle to replace lead water pipes is finished – a landmark milestone for a city defined by its dangerous water. For more than eight years, the ACLU of Michigan and Natural Resources Defense Council worked alongside Flint residents who fought for the replacement of nearly 11,000 pipes in the city, restoring more than 28,000 homes under a court-ordered settlement. While pipe replacement represents only some of that which is owed to Flint residents, the conclusion of this case is a long-awaited victory.

ENDING CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT FOR CHILDREN

In Michigan, over 360 children have been sentenced to automatic life without the possibility of parole for crimes they committed when they were too young to drive, vote, or graduate high school. The ACLU of Michigan has fought for decades to end this practice, winning a historic victory in 2022 when the Michigan Supreme Court held that mandatory life-without-parole sentences for 18-year-olds violates the Michigan Constitution's prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment. In April 2025, thanks to the ACLU and the Juvenile Law Center, the Michigan Supreme Court agreed that 19- and 20-year-olds are entitled to the same individualized considerations as 18-year-olds. As a result of these rulings, hundreds of youth are now eligible for resentencing hearings and potentially early release.

2025! IMPACT REPORT

PROTECTING OUR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS is more important than ever. Thanks to you, our donors, members, volunteers, and community partners, the ACLU of Michigan is vigorously defending those rights in the courts,

legislatures, and in communities. Our victories belong to all of us. This year's Impact Report highlights just some of those victories. We're grateful for your partnership. We will keep fighting and winning – **TOGETHER.**

FIGHTING RETALIATION FOR OPPOSING DISCRIMINATION

Regina Zaviski and Savannah Nurme-Robinson were taught to speak out against injustice, but when they protested the harassment of a transgender co-worker, they were fired. The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) is responsible for investigating and resolving matters of employment discrimination and retaliation. While the previous administration's EEOC filed cases involving gender identity, the Trump administration switched course and abruptly dropped all such cases, leaving plaintiffs in those cases to scramble to find their own lawyers. After Regina and Savannah were abandoned by the Trump Administration's EEOC, the ACLU of Michigan successfully intervened in the federal lawsuit, which was settled in July. As the Trump administration continues to attack transgender people and other vulnerable communities, raising our voices - and protecting those who do so - is more important than ever.

PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO SUE

Late last year, the ACLU of Michigan filed a friend-of-the-court brief urging the Michigan Supreme Court to review a case that could impact when organizations – like the ACLU – can sue over unconstitutional laws or policies. A lower court had issued a ruling making it much harder for organizations to bring civil liberties cases in state court, threatening the ability of groups to hold the government accountable. The Michigan Supreme Court heard the case and reversed the lower court's ruling in August. This victory protects the ability of any group to pursue justice through the courts in Michigan.

YOUR IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

!!! **\$6,463,351**
TOTAL ESTIMATED VALUE OF THE 7,500 HOURS
DONATED BY VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS THIS YEAR

!!! **28,000**
NUMBER OF FLINT HOMES RESTORED FROM
OUR LAWSUIT TO REPLACE ALL LEAD PIPES
AFTER THE FLINT WATER CRISIS

!!! **11,000**
NUMBER OF ACLU MONTHLY DONORS IN
MICHIGAN SINCE NOVEMBER 2024

!!! **893 {AND COUNTING}**
NUMBER OF NEW ACLU-MICHIGAN VOLUNTEERS
SINCE THE 2024 ELECTION

WE THANK YOU FOR INVESTING IN A SHARED
VISION OF EQUALITY AND FREEDOM FOR ALL

DEFENDING THE RIGHT TO PROTEST

When a 14-year-old student of Palestinian descent quietly exercised her First Amendment right to decline to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance, she did not expect her teacher to humiliate her in front of her classmates. The middle-school student, who was protesting the war in Gaza, was later told by her teacher, "Since you live in this country and enjoy its freedom, if you don't like it, you should go back to your country." The ACLU of Michigan and Arab American Civil Rights League filed suit against Plymouth-Canton Schools on the student's behalf in June. Also, in February, the ACLU and the Sugar Law Center for Economic and Social Justice sued the University of Michigan on behalf of people banned from campus after participating in Palestinian human rights demonstrations. UM's ban allows campus police to unilaterally issue someone a "trespass" ban without ever having to show that the person violated the law or any university policies. Our clients were each banned from campus for an entire year after being accused of extremely minor conduct, such as jaywalking or using a bullhorn during a protest, and have been denied meaningful hearings to challenge their bans. The right to protest is foundational to American democracy, and the ACLU will vigorously defend this right wherever it is threatened.

"When We Fight We Win", a series of letterpress posters commissioned by the ACLU-MI, was created by Ypsilanti-based artist & printmaker, Ingrid Ankerson.

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