

ACLU-NJ Client Profiles



Tony Ivey Jr.

Faheem Loyal

Tony Ivey Jr., Faheem Loyal and Kelvin Lamar James

After a packed summer day centering on their Pop Warner Football Team, 13-year-old Tony and 15-year-old Faheem went out with their team's assistant coach Kelvin for a burger. At least two unmarked police cars suddenly blocked Kelvin's car, and half a dozen officers surrounded them. All three were pulled out, searched roughly and had guns pointed at them, despite not committing any crime. Their car was illegally searched, and all that turned up was football gear. All three remain nervous about leaving their homes and fearful of the police. The ACLU-NJ represents the young men and is working to increase accountability of the Newark Police Department.

Tony Ivey Jr. is a 13-year-old student at Dr. E. Alma Flag Elementary School who has played football for six years on his North Ward Scorpions Pop Warner League. He loves math and science, and in his free time he reads, skates, plays video games and attends Metropolitan Baptist Church in Newark.

Faheem Loyal is 15 year old student at Shabazz High School. He is interested in for football and has been played for the North Ward Scorpion's Pop Warner League for four years. Faheem loves to be around his family and friends and also his coaches who he looks up to and who inspire him to do great things.

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Laila Maher

In January 1996, Laila Maher, an Egyptian American woman, and Felix Morka, a Nigerian national, who at the time headed the International Human Rights Law Group's work on Africa, were driving along the New Jersey Turnpike, when they were pulled over to the side of the highway by the New Jersey State Police.

During the traffic stop one of the officers began to choke Morka and slam him repeatedly against his steering wheel. The other officer assaulted Maher by holding a gun to her head, twisting her arm behind her back, and throwing her against the car.

Although Maher and Morka tried to file a formal complaint, New Jersey police met them with resistance. At first they were denied the proper forms to file a complaint, and later the police failed to complete an investigation of their complaint.

The ACLU-NJ represented Maher and in 2003 won a settlement. She is currently the Director of Columbia University's Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, overseeing the university's response to discrimination and harassment and implementing policies to prevent it.

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Sean Anderson, Randy Reina, and Diamond Yorker

When the police abused their rights in 2003, Sean Anderson, Randy Reina, and Diamond Yorker were only kids. Then 11, 17, and 16, they were hanging out with three white friends near Buck's Head Park in Manalapan when police officers approached the young men.

Without provocation, an officer put Yorker against the car and searched him. When Reina asked the officer the reason for searching his friend, Reina was held against the car, searched, and told never to come to Manalapan again.

Anderson, only 11 years old, became upset, and officers called him a "baby" and "little punk." The officers told the white boys to go home and that they "didn't need to see" what the police were doing, but the white friends stayed and witnessed the misconduct.

In 2007, the young men won a \$275,000 settlement, and the ACLU-NJ legal fees went toward starting the now two-year-old Racial Justice Program.

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Roberto Lima (with Baher Azmy, ACLU-NJ Cooperating Attorney)

The ACLU-NJ currently represents Roberto Lima, the editor of Newark's *Brazilian Voice* newspaper, who was forced to choose between his free press rights and his freedom.

In September 2007, a *Brazilian Voice* photographer discovered a body in Newark's Ironbound section and, with Lima, reported it to the police. Lima gave copies of the photos to the Newark Police, but they insisted that he give them every copy he had.

When Lima refused, he was held in custody until he agreed to forfeit the copies.

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Herbert Morton

Herbert Morton, a Continental Airlines captain who now lives in Houston was pulled over by police for speeding, despite the fact that his cruise control was set at 55 mph. When he questioned the trooper about his speed, he was rebuffed and forced to get out of his vehicle. Mr. Morton was ultimately allowed to leave without being issued a ticket. The officer failed to make any record of the stop and therefore, in pursuing his complaint with the police, Mr. Morton had to identify the officer who stopped him through a photo line-up.