ANNUAL REPORT



Executive Director Udi Ofer testifies at a U.S. Senate oversight hearing on prisons and criminal justice.

BY ACLU-NJ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UDI OFER

hen I look back at the last year of the ACLU's work in New Jersey, I see something amazing. I see history.

In a year when injustice captured the national imagination — with shooting deaths of unarmed Black civilians across the nation in our collective minds, and injustices closer to home in communities across the Garden State — the ACLU has fought with the express aim of combatting these inequalities that make life unbearable for too many New Jerseyans.

This year, we saw tremendous strides toward fairer treatment and equality in our criminal justice system and beyond.

At the ACLU, we call this #SmartJustice: a campaign to create a fairer, safer and more effective criminal justice system. And it has already begun to pay dividends.

Smart justice is fair, accountable justice — the kind of justice the ACLU-

NJ is putting into practice. After 50 years of calls to reform the Newark police, New Jerseyans welcomed an executive order by Newark's mayor creating one of the nation's strongest and most independent systems of civilian oversight of a police department. This reform, as well as plans for a federal monitor, which came in the aftermath of our civil rights petition to the United States Justice Department, will benefit Newarkers and make the Newark Police Department fairer and more effective for generations to come.

Smart justice is appropriate justice. The ACLU-NJ secured a historic win this year that bans the use of solitary confinement as punishment of juveniles. We also won



a major lawsuit, now being appealed, that would end the practice of sentencing juveniles to such long terms that they are essentially sentenced to die in prison. Due to our victory, juveniles will have protection from being locked up for life.

Smart justice is equitable justice. Americans spend billions arresting people with a pocket full of pot. Police arrest Black New Jerseyans nearly three times as often as White residents. These harsh punishments do not make us safer yet lead to racial injustices throughout our state. That's why the ACLU-NJ launched a diverse coalition this year, New Jersey United for Marijuana Reform, to advocate for a smart, equitable and safe system to legalize — and tax and regulate marijuana for adult use, similar to alcohol.

These accomplishments are only the beginning of an ambitious path forward and

a sampling of a strong record of victories. Without our advocacy, a nurse who treated Ebola patients in Africa would have been needlessly quarantined for weeks. Without us, police abuses would go ignored in many of our cities. Without our work, New Brunswick police would have continued locking up a homeless, wheelchair-bound veteran for holding a sign asking for money.

Our success is a credit to our dedicated staff and our board members. But more than that, our constant defense of liberties is only possible with you, the ACLU-NJ's members and supporters. You fuel the critical work we do to protect civil liberties and constitutional rights. You give us the power to make New Jersey, and the United States, a freer, more just place. Join us in our continued commitment to justice and equality, and celebrate the history we have made together this year.

JUVENILE JUSTICE:

NOT PUNISHING KIDS LIKE ADULTS

mportant victories in the courts and in Trenton this year mean that thousands of young offenders in New Jersey will benefit from a fairer, safer and more appropriate juvenile justice system.

In May, we prevailed in a landmark Essex County Superior Court case that strikes a serious blow to prison sentences for juveniles that amount to life in prison without the possibility of parole. At age 17 in 2003, James Comer was sentenced to serve 68 years in prison without a chance at parole. The judge agreed with our argument that the sentence, de facto life without parole, failed to take into account Comer's adolescent immaturity and the chemistry of his still-developing brain as factors in his role alongside older acquaintances in a series of robberies and a killing. The court ordered Comer resentenced. The state has appealed the ruling and the ACLU-NJ continues to represent Comer in the ongoing case.

In August, we celebrated in Trenton as Gov. Chris Christie signed a law that bans solitary confinement as a form of punishment in juvenile prisons and provides hundreds of more age-



BAN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

While we were able to ban the use of solitary confinement as punishment in juvenile prisons, the inhumane practice is still a common experience for too many incarcerated adults. Join the ACLU and our partners to support legislation by Sen. Raymond Lesniak and Sen. Peter Barnes that would ban the practice in almost all situations.

Sign up for the ACLU-NJ's action alerts at www.aclu-nj.org to support this effort.



(OPPOSITE) Rutgers University master's degree student Terrell A. Blount, who served time in an adult prison as a teen, spoke with reporters and testified in Trenton about his experience being locked up in solitary confinement for months at a time.

(RIGHT) ACLU-NJ Client James Comer.

appropriate treatments and rehabilitation services for hundreds of troubled young people. The measure grew out of a twoyear campaign championed by Sen. Nellie Pou and leaders of the Juvenile Justice Reform Coalition, which enlisted the expertise of non-traditional allies: law enforcement, judges, and advocates for youth, among others. These reforms will also make it much harder to try juveniles in adult court.

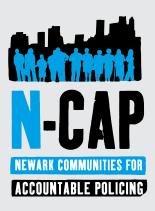
The ACLU continues its work in a coalition of youth advocates to promote appropriate alternatives to incarceration for troubled youth and to improve the conditions for those already behind bars.

ACCOUNTABLE JUSTICE:

COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT OF NEWARK POLICE

ive decades of fighting alongside city residents to reform Newark'sdysfunctional police department finally paid off with the announcement of an independent civilian-led board to provide oversight of the police.

In April, flanked by the ACLU-NJ and our allies, Mayor Ras Baraka signed an executive order to create a Civilian Complaint Review Board designed to create accountability in the Newark Police Department. The board will have the power to subpoena testimony and documents, investigate complaints,



N-CAP's success stems from a diverse membership united around a common mission. The campaign includes advocates for civil rights, immigrants' rights, labor, the LGBTQ community and others united by a demand for police reform. ensure that discipline sticks when wrongdoing is found to have occurred, audit the department's work and make policing data public. Of the 11 members of the board, seven will come from community and civil rights organizations, including the ACLU-NJ.

Once fully implemented, the police review board will be one of the strongest, most comprehensive in the nation.

This historic opportunity would not have been possible without the forceful advocacy of Newark Communities for Accountable Policing (N-CAP), a diverse campaign launched last fall to build an infrastructure of accountability and transparency in a police department with a documented history of misconduct and civil rights abuses. N-CAP led meetings, rallies and petition drives to grow support for the idea, and then worked with the Mayor's team to issue the executive order.

N-CAP and the ACLU-NJ have also asserted the community's voice in the process of interviewing and selecting a federal monitor to oversee reforms as part of an agreement between the Newark Police Department and the U.S. Department of Justice. A DOJ investigation last year, which came following an ACLU-NJ petition, identified clear and continued misconduct and civil rights abuses within the department.

(OPPOSITE, top) President Barack Obama visited Camden in May focusing on criminal justice in the city.

(OPPOSITE, bottom) Newark Mayor Ras Baraka, flanked by advocates, signed an executive order creating a civilian review board in Newark.

CAMDEN POLICING

When President Obama turned out in Camden to speak about the success of community policing, he joined a chorus in praising the new Camden County Police Department for reducing violent crime. The ACLU-NJ,

however, praised many of the reforms in Camden but also raised questions about the full effect of these policies, including a huge increase in the enforcement of lowlevel offenses. Police data showed the new department issued thousands of tickets for disorderly conduct, tinted windows and riding a bike without a light. Such policies,



we pointed out, are ineffective in the long run because they destroy community confidence and relations with the police and needlessly entangle community members in a broken criminal justice system. The president's trip received widespread national media attention and the ACLU-NJ's concerns were included in stories throughout the nation. The ACLU-NJ is working closely with the Camden County Police to address our concerns.



EQUAL JUSTICE:

NJUMR steering committee includes diverse leaders, among them a mental health professional, the president of the New Jersey Municipal Prosecutors Association, the NAACP New Jersey State Conference, Law Enforcement Against Prohibition, and the ACLU-NJ. CREDIT: ACLU PHOTO

END PROHIBITION-

B lack people in New Jersey are 2.8 times more likely than White people to be arrested for possession of marijuana, even though usage rates are nearly identical. That unequal enforcement is a civil rights issue that must be resolved, and that's why the ACLU-NJ co-launched New Jersey United for Marijuana Reform, a broad-based coalition seeking to legalize, tax and regulate the personal use of marijuana by adults.

A year in the making, NJUMR is at the forefront of the legislative effort to legalize marijuana in New Jersey — just as Colorado, Oregon, Alaska, Washington, D.C., and Washington State have done. A Rutgers-Eagleton poll this summer showed 58 percent support for legalization.

The ACLU found the state spends more than \$127 million each year enforcing

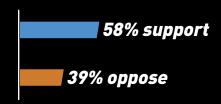
marijuana laws, including processing more than 21,000 arrests for possession. The charges can result in six months in jail, more than \$1,000 in fines and fees, a suspended driver's license, and even job loss. Once tagged with a criminal record, it becomes harder to find employment, housing, or financial aid for school. As a result, the high rate of marijuana arrests can devastate communities of color, draining human



capital and robbing neighborhoods of potential for years or generations to come.

The NJUMR campaign received significant local, state and national press coverage when it launched in February and continues to grow in numbers and reach. In July, Asbury Park became the first New Jersey municipality to adopt a resolution supporting legalization in the Garden State. The ACLU is now working with our NJUMR allies to urge legislative leaders to join across party lines to support reform legislation.

> *Rutgers Eagleton Poll June 2015*



The ACLU-NJ is active in a number of broad-based coalitions working on immigration, policing, criminal justice, LGBTQ rights and other causes that aim to advance important civil liberties and civil rights issues. They include:

- New Jersey United for Marijuana Reform
- New Jersey Juvenile Justice Reform Coalition
- Newark Communities for Accountable Policing
- New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice
- Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement
- LGBTQ Youth Stakeholders
- My Health, My Life

FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE:

TRANSPARENCY IN POLICING

ootage of police interactions with community members — like the images of the chokehold that killed Eric Garner in Staten Island, and police shooting death of Walter Scott in North Charleston, South Carolina — has become critical evidence in cases of police misconduct across the nation. That's part of why the ACLU-NJ spoke out immediately in July when New Jersey Acting Attorney General John Hoffman released inadequate guidelines on the use of body cameras worn by police.

The guidelines do not require all street encounters to be recorded and do not guarantee public access to the video. Even an innocent victim of police misconduct has no right to see footage of his or her encounter. Privacy is another concern, as the footage can be kept indefinitely.

The ACLU-NJ continues to work with the office, as well as the state's police and prosecutors, in hopes of improving transparency and privacy, and to better protect local communities against police abuse and misconduct.

In addition to our advocacy with the AG, we've filed friend of the court briefs in appellate courts to assert that the public is entitled to access video recordings by the police of alleged police misconduct — including by dashboard cameras.



#JUSTICE4RADAZZ

When members of the New Jersey State Police and Mercer County Sheriff's Office shot 14-year-old Radazz Hearns seven times in early August, an outcry swiftly followed. Police charged Hearns who survived — with aggravated assault and gun possession. But witnesses insist the teen did not have any weapon.

The ACLU-NJ stepped in when police released only limited information on the shooting and refused to release the names of the officers involved. And when confidential information about Radazz's juvenile history was released to the public, in violation of state law, we immediately sprung to action to demand an investigation, which the state and county prosecutor have opened.

Radazz Hearns was shot seven times as he fled from police officers in Trenton.



The family of Radazz Hearns launched the #Justice4Radazz campaign and demanded answers about why police shot at the 14-year-old as he ran from them. CREDIT: TIMES OF TRENTON

A Trenton city worker sandblasts a painting of police shooting victim Michael Brown.

PUBLIC FUNDS FOR RELIGION:

SEPARATING CHURCH AND STATE

he ACLU-NJ continues to fight Gov. Chris Christie's effort to give millions in taxpayer dollars to religious schools, despite a constitutional ban on such practices. In July our colleagues in our national office and other supporters joined us to file the latest round of arguments in a two-yearold lawsuit challenging the state's rationale in offering more than \$11 million in grants to a Lakewood yeshiva and a seminary in Princeton.

The Attorney General has claimed the money will go for constructing classrooms, a library and other capital improvements not for religious instruction. But the state constitution makes clear public dollars can't be used for construction or maintenance at religious institutions if there is no public purpose. The awards also violate the state's Law Against Discrimination, which prohibits government support for discriminatory institutions. The Princeton Theological Seminary only permits Christians as degree students, faculty and board members; the yeshiva Beth Medrash Gohova is a community of Jewish men and boys. The state announced in 2013 that, through a competitive process, it had selected 176 college construction projects to receive nearly \$1 billion in public funding, generated through a voter-approved bond sale. The list included the seminary, slated to receive just over \$645,000, and the yeshiva, eligible for some \$10.6 million.

The ACLU filed a lawsuit against New Jersey Secretary of Higher Education Rochelle Hendricks, whose office oversaw the process, challenging the inclusion of the two religious institutions. Our objections kept the state from granting these funds to the two institutions and the legal battle continues.

ADDING UP THE ACTIONS CASES ON DOCKET — Sept. 1, 2014 - Sept. 1, 2015

*Includes only matters filed in court or in administrative proceedings

TOTAL: 63 CASES

- 54 State / 9 Federal
- 29 Direct / 34 Amicus

CASES CLOSED: 33

- 24 Wins / 9 Losses
- 27 State / 6 Federal
- 16 Direct / 17 Amicus

CASES OPENED: 29

• 28 State / 1 Federal

 12 Direct / 17 Amicus (includes 8 cases that were both opened and closed during time period)

CONTINUING CASES: 9

7 State / 2 Federal
7 Direct / 2 Amicus (cases opened prior to 9/1/14 and remain on docket) The New Jersey State Constitution clearly states that taxpayer dollars cannot be used for construction or maintenance at religious institutions if there is no public purpose.

BEGGING BAN:



POVERTY IS NOT A CRIME

ohn Fleming, a wheelchair-bound homeless man, was a repeat offender. His crime? Holding a sign that read, "Broke — Please Help — Thank you - God bless you," in hopes of collecting enough change to buy a meal. But, thanks to a pair of local laws - one 87 years old - New Brunswick police gave Fleming four tickets in two months and then threw him in jail for missing a court date.

The ACLU knew the police had violated his First Amendment and state constitutional rights and, with pro bono help from McCarter & English, we filed a lawsuit in late December

on behalf of Fleming and the Coalition to End Homelessness. We argued the police were essentially criminalizing his poverty - and we didn't have to wait long for justice.



Within days, a Superior Court judge ordered New Brunswick to stop enforcing the questionable laws and scheduled a hearing for the following week. The ACLU joined the Coalition in discussions with city officials and, in March, the judge approved a settlement that called for an end on the outright ban on begging. The deal also required New Brunswick to donate \$4,500 to a local organization helping poor and homeless residents and to pay for a portion of the plaintiff's legal fees.

New Brunswick wasn't the only community with outdated, even illegal ordinances still on its books. The ACLU and the Coalition will continue to monitor these issues and remain committed to ensuring police don't use poverty as a reason to strip people of their protected rights.

JOIN US!

ACLU-NJ First Amendment client John Fleming, New Brunswick.

CREDIT: PHOTO BY AMANDA BROWN

Defending the rights of homeless, disabled veterans; speaking up for immigrant families; standing with mentally ill prisoners locked up in solitary — the ACLU is often the only light in the dark for the poor and dispossessed.

But this work doesn't come cheap! The ACLU-NJ depends on your support to continue our critical mission for freedom and justice. Use the envelope included here or go to www.aclu-nj.org to join the cause today!

EBOLA QUARANTINE:

Kaci Hickox snaps a selfie during her confinement in Newark.

SCIENCE MUST TRUMP FEAR, POLITICS

urse Kaci Hickox wasn't planning to stay long when her flight landed at Newark Liberty International Airport last October. She was heading home to Maine after volunteering with Doctors Without Borders to treat Ebola patients in Sierra Leone.

But the State of New Jersey had other plans. Kaci Hickox was held against her will with no scientific justification, first at Newark Liberty International Airport, and later in a parking-lot holding pen outside of Newark's University Hospital for several days.

And now, Kaci Hickox is taking her captors to court, represented by two New York law firms and the ACLU-NJ. On October 22, 2015, almost a year after her detention, Hickox sued New Jersey Governor Chris Christie and then-Commissioner of Health Mary O'Dowd for illegally holding her as part of a scientifically unsound, constitutionally invalid mandatory quarantine.

At the time of Hickox's ordeal, Governor Chris Christie had just announced a 21-day mandatory quarantine for anyone returning from parts of Africa where the Ebola virus was flourishing. Hickox was required to submit to an exam and, despite not having engaged in activities that would warrant her quarantine under federal standards nor exhibiting any symptoms when the decision to hold her was made, she was quarantined by New Jersey in a makeshift tent at the UMDNJ Hospital in Newark.

The ACLU-NJ was one of the first and only organizations in the nation to speak out on behalf of Hickox. We immediately opposed the policy of mandatory quarantine as based on fear rather than science and formally requested that the state explain exactly the medicine and science that was behind this quickly formulated public health policy. While the flawed policy remains in place, Hickox was released after three days of detention. Steve Hyman of McLaughlin & Stern, Norman Siegel of Siegel Teitelbaum & Evans, and ACLU-NJ Executive Director Udi Ofer announce a lawsuit on behalf of Kaci Hickox, who attended the press conference via Skype.

IN THE NEWS

Our work on the Ebola quarantine was aided by significant media coverage in publications from *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal* to *The Washington Post* and *Al Jazeera America*. But that's just one of many ACLU issues that have drawn media coverage, which is essential to educating the public and highlighting our mission.

We've had more than 1,300 media hits this year, in publications and media outlets in New Jersey and across the nation.



Isaac Oppong, a student from Ghana, with his Newark ID card. CREDIT: ACLU PHOTO

MUNICIPAL ID CARDS OPEN DOORS

t's one of those simple things many of us take for granted: the card in our pocket that proves who we are. But for thousands of marginalized New Jersey residents — immigrants, transgender people, the homeless, people with disabilities, or those who have been in jail — the lack of a government-issued photo ID prevents them from getting medical and other social services they may desperately need. It may also make any interaction with the police much more dangerous and unpleasant.

Working as part of the New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice, the ACLU-NJ was able to help thousands of Newark residents emerge from the shadows and gain access to city programs and benefits when the administration of Newark Mayor Ras Baraka and the Newark Municipal Council created the state's first municipal ID program in May.

Open to any resident older than 14, regardless of immigration status, housing

situation, criminal history, physical abilities or gender preferences, the program is similar to a system launched by New York City in January. But — largely because of our and our partners' involvement — Newark's program provides stronger privacy protections.

We continue to work with the alliance to encourage other municipalities to create local ID programs modeled on Newark's. Many Newark residents, like Isaac, have emerged from the shadows and gained access to city programs and benefits since the administration of Newark Mayor Ras Baraka and the Newark Municipal Council created the state's first municipal ID program last May.

TTY OF NEWARK

ISAN OPPON.



RECENTLY RETIRED CONGRESSMAN RUSH HOLT

he ACLU-NJ was honored to offer a forum for Rep. Rush Holt one of the strongest defenders of civil liberties and human rights in Congress — to reflect on his 16 years of service at a frank and lively discussion with 100 ACLU-NJ members in Princeton last fall.

Responding to questions from Executive Director Udi Ofer, Holt spoke enthusiastically about a range of issues important to the ACLU such as government overreach, domestic spying, and Ebola quarantines. He also raised concerns about the current trend toward a "surveillance state." He criticized his colleagues in Congress for not relying more on science and thoughtful analysis, and rued the tendency to lurch from one crisis to another. Holt also confided that his vote after 9/11 to support the USA PATRIOT Act was the "biggest mistake" of his legislative career.

Given Holt's dependable record on civil liberties issues, the ACLU-NJ felt it was critical to educate the public about those vying to replace him and whether they would continue his legacy of justice. Six months earlier, we hosted a non-partisan congressional debate for all candidates seeking his seat, including his eventual replacement, Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman, the first Black woman to represent New Jersey in Congress.

Just before he retired, Congressman Rush Holt provided an exit interview conducted by Executive Director Udi Ofer.

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ASSESSING THE WORK OF LAWMAKERS

he ACLU-NJ is expanding its work in helping the public better understand where elected officials stand on critical issues of civil rights and civil liberties.

We're using "scorecards" to show how each legislator votes on specific bills where we have taken a position. We updated and published our scorecard on Governor Chris Christie to coincide with his announcement of his candidacy for president and we published a scorecard for the Assembly ahead of the election in November.

Aside from educating the public and voters, the scorecards also serve to hold

lawmakers accountable on important issues such as government transparency, criminal justice reforms and equality.

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MARILYN AND SCOTT TREMAINE

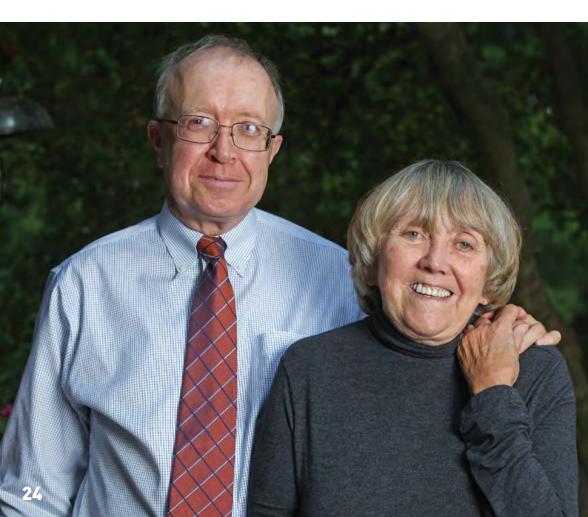
or Marilyn and Scott Tremaine, the terrorist acts of 9/11 moved them to fly the U.S. flag from their front porch. But when Congress passed the USA PATRIOT Act and American troops stormed Iraq, the flag came down. It remains, to this day, folded neatly in a box in their basement.

"You can see we felt strongly about the overreach of the government after 9/11," Scott said.

For the Tremaines, patriotism is about holding our government accountable; it is not about waving the flag.

"The U.S. doesn't always behave well," Marilyn said. "That's why we need the ACLU; because it will speak up, even when it's not popular."

In addition to supporting their alma maters and other educational institutions, the Tremaines are dedicated to supporting the ACLU. Marilyn feels strongly that we are all responsible for the world we live in, and this philosophy has influenced their giving.



Now they are creating their own legacy by providing the ACLU-NJ with a generous planned gift.

Scott Tremaine is an acclaimed astrophysicist, whose research has been cited in scholarly works more than 3,000 times. Marilyn Tremaine is a founding researcher in her field of human-computer interaction. They've been married for 20 years, after meeting at the University of Toronto, where Marilyn was a professor in the computer science department and Scott was head of the Canadian Institute for Theoretical Astrophysics.

Marilyn recalls their first meeting: Scott walked into her office's empty reception area and looked a bit bewildered. Since no one else was around, she poked her head out of her office and asked if she could be of assistance. "I'm looking for someone to texturize the moons of Neptune," he said. "We can do that," she said. Scott, sitting nearby, smiles shyly at the oft-told tale.

The Tremaines left Canada when Scott was offered the chair of the astrophysical sciences department at Princeton University, where he had earned his Ph.D. Scott still works in astrophysics as a professor at the Institute for Advanced Study. Marilyn retired in order to have more time to work on developing education software that improves the basic cognitive skills necessary for entering STEM disciplines. While she continues to work with her former Ph.D. students as well, she is also active in the community, running for the board of her homeowners association and volunteering on political campaigns when she can find the time.

While neither sees themselves as activists, they do feel passionately about the many injustices facing our country today. The ACLU's recent work in reducing the number of people in prisons and jails has special resonance with the Tremaines. "The loss of freedom, that scares me to death," Marilyn said. "It should scare all of us to death."

"We see so many cases when people's rights have been trampled," Scott said. "In this country, we have a wonderful mechanism to protect people: the Bill of Rights. The ACLU is willing to take that position, even when it's not popular. In my mind, that increases their credibility enormously."

Scott and Marilyn Tremaine, Princeton. CREDIT: PHOTO BY AMANDA BROWN For nearly 100 years, the commitment of generations of ACLU supporters has helped to establish the freedom we enjoy today. By leaving a legacy for the future, you can also help conserve our most deeply held values of freedom, fairness, and equality for future generations. We invite you to join this special group of proud supporters and leave your own personal legacy by including a gift for the ACLU in your estate plans.

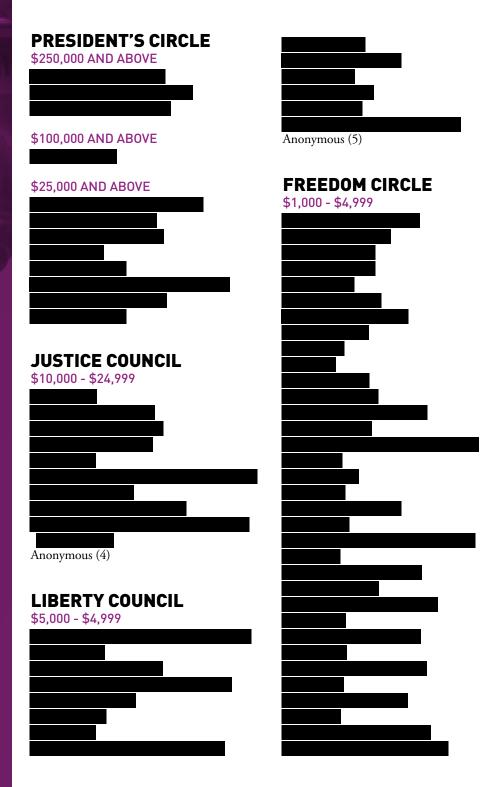
For more information on ways to include the ACLU in your estate plans, or to learn more about other planned gift options, please visit: www.aclu.org/legacy

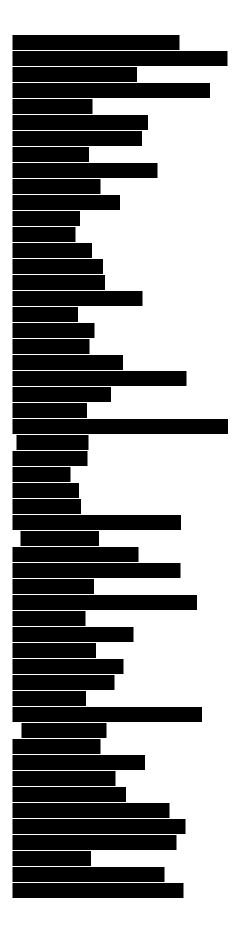
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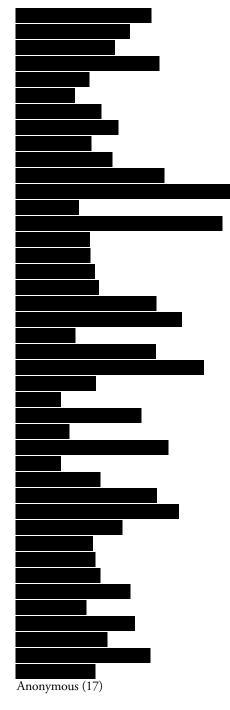
American Civil Liberties Union Office of Gift Planning Toll-free: 877.867.1025 Email: legacy@aclu.org

OUR GENEROUS DONORS

The American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey gratefully acknowledges all who have made our work possible during calendar year 2014 with their generous financial support.







* deceased



DESILVER SOCIETY MEMBERS

DeSilver Society Members have made a lasting commitment to defend civil liberties by naming the ACLU in their wills or through other planned giving.

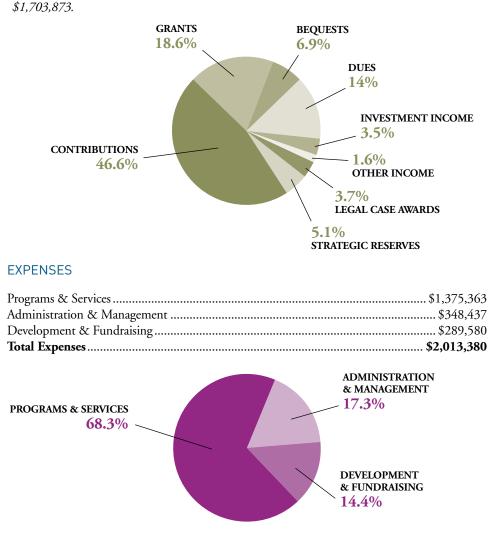


FINANCIAL RESOURCES

INCOME & EXPENSES 2014-15

INCOME

Contributions	\$937,749
Grants	\$373,783
Bequests	\$139,364
Dues	
Interest & Dividends	\$70,750
Other Income	\$32,370
Legal Case Awards	\$74,845
Transfer from Strategic Reserves	
Total Operating Income*	
*The income listed here does not include long-term, multi-year pledge com	



Consolidated Audited Statement for ACLU-NJ and ACLU-NJ Foundation, Fiscal Year 2015 (April 1, 2014-March 31, 2015)



THANK YOU

FROM BOARD PRESIDENT DEB GUSTON

n behalf of the Board of Trustees of the ACLU-NJ, I want to take this opportunity to thank you, our donors and supporters, for making the work of the ACLU-NJ possible.

We can all be proud of our affiliate's extraordinary work this past year. From continuing our leadership on Newark police oversight and ending police abuses; furthering the cause of equal rights for New Jersey's LGBT community; launching New Jersey United for Marijuana Reform; making sure New Jerseyans have access to public records; and continuing our efforts to reform New Jersey's prison and sentencing policies that lead to the mass incarceration of the poor and of people of color — we are making a difference every day.

Our staff continues to go the extra mile to advocate for our clients and to make the ACLU-NJ's voice heard at all levels of government and in the public square.



Our clients are among the bravest of New Jersey's residents — willing to stand up for themselves and all people in the protection and advancement of civil liberties and civil rights.

With your support, I am looking forward to the coming year as the ACLU-NJ continues its essential and historic work.



Deb Guston, President, ACLU-NJ. CREDIT: ACLU-NJ



American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey P.O. Box 32159, Newark, NJ 07102 973-642-2084 info@aclu-nj.org www.aclu-nj.org

