

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF NEW JERSEY

The Stories Behind a Movement

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

ACLU

New Jersey

ACLU-NJ Executive Director Amol Sinha addresses a massive crowd at the June 30 Families Belong Together rally in Newark.



Stories that have to be told.

Introduction from ACLU-NJ Executive Director Amol Sinha

At the ACLU-NJ, it's not challenging to find incredible stories. A bigger challenge is narrowing down the ones to tell.

Our advocacy often follows a few broad patterns: someone is unfairly oppressed, and we take action to confront it. We succeed, or we devise new fronts, longer timelines, different tactics — and, eventually, even if it takes years or decades, we succeed.

It could be an individual client in a lawsuit. It could be survivors looking to tell their stories in public. It could be a group of community members looking to make their voices heard in Trenton. It could be activists hoping to hold their police department accountable.

No matter the form the advocacy takes, it all shares an important thread: the people behind these stories are extraordinary. Each one has transformed the trauma of the loss of liberty into a force that makes the world fairer and more just.

For every story included — whether about the strides our organization has made, struggles our clients have overcome, or policies our coalitions have shaped — so many more remain untold.

In this report, we recount not just the stories of achievements for justice, but parallel back stories that shed light on fundamental dimensions of the struggle for civil liberties. We amplify the voices of people who are directly impacted, to make sure their stories are heard. More than anything else, these stories remind us what's truly at stake.

Thank you for supporting the movement for justice, equality, and freedom.

Amol Sinha
Executive Director
ACLU of New Jersey
2019

THE STORY

A husband and father of U.S. citizens was taken from a routine green card interview to immigration detention. So the ACLU intervened.

Antonio and his wife Vivian, a U.S. citizen, attended an interview at a federal immigration office in Manhattan as part of Antonio's application for lawful permanent residency. The purpose of the interview was to demonstrate that their marriage was bona fide, so they came with an album filled with photos of their two young children and their 15 years as a couple. The immigration officer conducting the interview ultimately approved the application. Yet at the end of the interview, ICE unexpectedly and unlawfully detained Antonio, planning to put him on a plane to El Salvador before he could complete the green card process. The ACLU-NJ and NYCLU sued to stop his imminent deportation and secure his freedom from detention.

Antonio's deportation was put on hold, and after several months of litigation, the same judge ordered ICE to release him from detention.

Antonio's case is one of several challenging a Trump-era federal policy that separates families by detaining and deporting U.S. citizens' spouses at immigration interviews even though they're following a legal process the federal government created specifically for people in their situation.



Vivian Martinez at home with her mother and son in a photograph, taken while Antonio was still in immigration detention. He's home now.

STORY BEHIND THE STORY: ICE TRAUMATIZES A LOVING FAMILY BY RIPPING A FATHER AWAY FROM HIS WIFE AND TWO YOUNG CHILDREN.

Vivian met her husband, Antonio, on a soccer field in Queens as a teenager.

When Antonio asked her parents' permission to date her, her mother said yes — but only if Vivian kept up her grades. Soon, they came to think of Antonio as a son.

“My parents have always loved him,” said Vivian, a U.S. citizen born in Queens.

Fifteen years later, as they arrived for Antonio's green card interview, the couple trusted that the U.S. government would recognize their long and loving relationship and keep their family together. They were following a process the U.S. government had designed for the spouses of U.S. citizens to regularize

their immigration status without having to separate from their families. They did not know detention was even a possibility.

Antonio's detention left Vivian as a single parent to their two-year-old daughter and newborn son. Their daughter, who is extremely close to Antonio, began having night terrors. She had been potty-trained before Antonio was detained, but after he disappeared she began to need training diapers again.

While Antonio was in detention, his family visited him every Saturday for a half-hour, the maximum allowed. Antonio couldn't hold Vivian's hands, but the children could sit on his lap.

In August, about a month and a half after the ACLU-NJ and NYCLU sued, a judge finally released Antonio.

“Pack your things,” Vivian said on the phone, just before their reunion. “We're on our way to get you. You're coming home.” Now, he's back with his family, where he belongs. ■

THE STORY

An Afghan refugee, detained for more than a year despite a visa for working for the U.S. government, is finally freed.

More than a year after his unjust imprisonment began, Abdul — a young man who traveled to Newark from Afghanistan after he was promised refuge by the U.S. government— was finally freed. Even though he had traveled on a visa reserved for Afghan citizens who put their lives at risk because of their work for the United States, Abdul was detained and nearly sent back to Afghanistan when he landed at Newark in 2017. He avoided deportation because the ACLU-NJ and co-counsel at the Seton Hall Center for Social Justice filed an emergency petition to protect him. From March 13, 2017, until his late-night release May 8, 2018, he was confined in the Elizabeth Detention Center, a privately operated jail, while the ACLU-NJ and his pro bono attorney Jason Scott Camilo fought for him in court. He was finally released after an immigration judge granted him asylum, based upon the same Taliban violence that made him eligible for a visa.

STORY BEHIND THE STORY: ABDUL'S FIRST DAY AS A FREE MAN IN AMERICA.

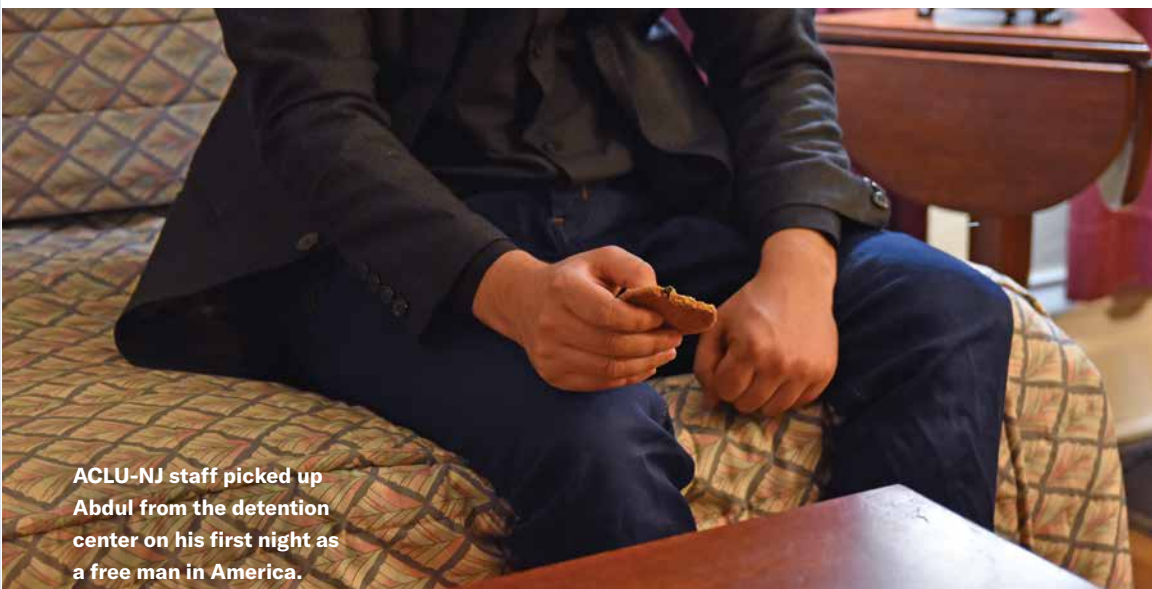
The afternoon of May 8, 2018, ACLU-NJ Senior Staff Attorney Farrin Anello recognized the number on her phone's caller ID: Elizabeth Detention Center. Her client Abdul would be released from the facility that afternoon or evening. He needed a ride, and he needed a safe place to sleep.

Farrin and an ACLU-NJ colleague arrived at about 5 p.m. at the detention center, tucked behind Route 1 in an industrial zone dotted with warehouses and semi-tractor trailers, and waited, not knowing when Abdul might walk out. Around 10 p.m., amid a gathered crowd of mothers and children embracing their returning husbands and fathers, Abdul emerged from a large, metal door. A young man in his 20s with boyish features that make him look even younger, he came outside with a small wheeled suitcase, pulling everything he had packed up 14 months ago when he left Afghanistan behind him.

From the front seat of the car on the New Jersey Turnpike, Farrin explained the next steps in his case, the fact that he would have a comfortable place to stay thanks to a generous community group, and the challenge of finding a home in the U.S.

As they drove, they passed the airport where he had been stopped and detained. They talked about what Abdul had found when immigration agents returned his suitcase to him. As Abdul's parents were helping him pack for his flight to the United States, his mother had tucked in a bundle of cookies to remind him of home when he landed. When Abdul finally opened his suitcase on the evening of his release, he discovered, unsurprisingly, that the cookies had spoiled.

They pulled into the driveway of the home where Abdul would spend his first night free in America around 11 p.m. A spread of snacks welcomed him, and the first food he ate as a free man in America was a chocolate chip cookie. A year later, Abdul is doing well. He has a job, an apartment, and a community. ■



ACLU-NJ staff picked up Abdul from the detention center on his first night as a free man in America.

THE STORY

An Indonesian Christian community seeks refuge, and ACLU-NJ delivers legal protections.

When ICE tried to deport a community of Indonesian Christians who had lived in Central Jersey for years and faced violence in Indonesia, the ACLU-NJ fought back — and to date, our efforts have succeeded.

ICE rounded up members of the community, despite its agreement with dozens of community members promising work authorization and stays of deportation in exchange for coming out of the shadows.

Harry Pangemanan, a leader in his church and community, found refuge in the Reformed Church of Highland Park before agents could take him away.

The ACLU-NJ went to court, in partnership with the ACLU Immigrants' Rights Project and the law firm Paul Weiss, pointing to violations of due process and the right to access the courts when liberty is at stake. A judge temporarily halted their deportations to give them enough time to argue their asylum cases.



A community of Indonesian Christians from Central Jersey, including Harry Pangemanan, fought an unconstitutional deportation order with the help of the ACLU-NJ and dozens of pro bono attorneys.

STORY BEHIND THE STORY: PULLING AN ALL-NIGHTER AND FILING IN THE NICK OF TIME.

The team of attorneys worked through the night, taking shifts to file the brief more quickly.

The ACLU-NJ rushed to the federal courthouse in Newark before the clerk's office closed at 4 p.m.

ACLU-NJ attorney Alexander Shalom

hand-delivered the emergency motion at 3:58 p.m.

Federal District Court Judge Esther Salas asked for an immediate hearing, an unusual move. By 7 p.m., the deportations were halted.

Community members, families, and advocates from the ACLU-NJ all gathered at the Reformed Church of Highland Park later that evening. And people who had been confined to the church building, some for months, were finally able to go home. ■

THE STORY

Tony Kneisser — arrested in 2014 for not being able to pay a \$239 ticket — is vindicated.

Tony Kneisser was making \$9-per-hour in 2014 when he got a \$239 ticket for throwing a cigarette butt out his car window. In court a few days later, he tried to arrange community service or a payment plan to pay the fine, but the judge refused. Instead, Judge Dennis McInerney sentenced Tony to five days in jail because he was unable to pay right away.

It could have ended there. But Tony challenged his arrest. With the help of the ACLU-NJ and co-counsel Margo Kneisser, Tony's sister, his case changed the way municipal courts in New Jersey operate, for everyone.

In late March 2018, U.S. District Court Judge Noel Hillman issued an opinion in Tony's favor: sentencing someone to jail for their inability to pay a fine “effectively extorts payment” and “violates their rights every step of the way,” the ruling said.

The ruling — and Tony's ordeal — had far-reaching consequences. Less than three weeks later, New Jersey Supreme Court Chief Justice Stuart Rabner called for sweeping reforms of municipal court practices throughout the state, citing Tony's case as a pointed example of a practice that had gone unchecked throughout the state.

A comprehensive report followed with a blueprint for overhauling municipal courts, along with a municipal court reform task force to implement it — on which the ACLU-NJ has a seat. The goal? A court system that stops preying on poor people, and one that serves all people, no matter their income.

STORY BEHIND THE STORY: HOW TONY'S TRAFFIC STOP PUT THE BRAKES ON NEW JERSEY'S CRIMINALIZATION OF POVERTY.

Tony hadn't seen the Burlington Municipal Court since his court date there changed his life. He went back at the end of 2018.

"It's still bewildering knowing that this was happening for so long under so many people's noses," Tony said. "If I hadn't had my issue that day, and if I didn't have the ACLU-NJ and my sister Margo behind me, who knows whether what was happening would have seen the light of day."

Only days passed between Tony's ticket and his court date. There wasn't enough time to collect a paycheck.

"After I told the judge I couldn't pay and didn't have anyone to call, he said instantly: 'You have five days in county jail.' I was handcuffed right there and put in the back of the courthouse jail."

They never told him why.

"They just said, 'You're refusing to pay — you're going to jail,'" Tony said. "But I wasn't refusing to pay — I told them that I couldn't pay. That's an important difference."

People didn't believe him at first, including his oldest brother and friends of his who were lawyers.


"But we have the audio recordings, we have the court transcripts — it was literally as clear-cut as not having \$200 on me that day," Tony said.

Once he was let out, he checked Google to process what had occurred.

"That was the first time I saw the word 'debtors prison,' — I didn't know the term, but it described exactly what happened to me."

Tony knows there's more work left ahead, but he's humbled and proud of the impact his case has made on municipal courts throughout the state.

"It's pretty straightforward — you can't change a fine to jail time," Tony said. "Before our case, that precedent hadn't been set in New Jersey. Now it is." ■

A photograph of Tony Kneisser, a man with a beard and short dark hair, wearing a grey zip-up jacket. He is standing outdoors in front of the Burlington Municipal Court building, which is a large, circular, classical-style structure with a dome. The background is slightly blurred, showing trees and a clear sky.

Tony Kneisser stands outside the Burlington Municipal Court, where he was sentenced in 2014 to five days in jail for not being able to immediately pay \$200 for a traffic ticket.

THE STORY

New Jersey brings an end to money bail — and the ACLU-NJ fights to strengthen its reforms.

Since New Jersey virtually eliminated cash bail in 2017, the pretrial detention population has dipped considerably and violent crime rates have plunged.

But the battle for pretrial justice reform is not over — and the ACLU-NJ and its allies have worked tirelessly to protect those gains.

The ACLU-NJ persevered at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in the case *Holland v. Rosen*, in which a plaintiff — with legal firepower provided by the bail bonds industry — claimed the ability to buy his way out of both jail and conditions of pretrial release was his constitutional right. The judge ruled decisively that it was not.

We also fought in New Jersey courts to ensure that the system we want to protect works as well as it can. We've ensured that criminal defendants get more discovery and more robust hearings. We've ensured that pretrial release conditions aren't more onerous than required. And most importantly, we've ensured that the decision to detain someone requires a prosecutor to overcome a significant burden — the presumption that detention should be the carefully limited exception and not the rule.

“Because of bail reform, there are thousands of people who aren't in jail now who would have been in jail before,” ACLU-NJ Senior Supervising Attorney Alex Shalom noted. “Before, there were way, way too many people in jail. Now, there are just way too many people in jail.”



Since New Jersey instituted criminal justice reform, the state has virtually eliminated money bail, significantly reducing mass incarceration in New Jersey.

STORY BEHIND THE STORY: THE ACLU-NJ TAKES ON A FORMER SOLICITOR GENERAL.

On July 8, 2018, two ACLU-NJ attorneys traveled to Philadelphia to argue the constitutionality of New Jersey’s landmark Criminal Justice Reform Act, which went into effect in January 2017.

Following a radio interview at WHYY and lunch in Chinatown, they arrived at the courthouse — to a packed courtroom.

It was standing-room only.

“This was interesting because at the Third Circuit — and they don’t have arguments in every case — there are always people in the courtroom, but a standing-room only situation is rare,” recalled ACLU-NJ Senior Supervising Attorney Alex Shalom, who argued that day.

The room was filled to the brim with every law clerk in the building to see one

person in particular — Paul Clement. Now at a prestigious law firm, Clement is a former U.S. solicitor general, who had been tasked with arguing on the U.S. government’s behalf at the U.S. Supreme Court. *Hamdi v. Rumsfeld*, *McCreary County v. ACLU*, *Windsor v. U.S.* — Paul Clement went up against the ACLU in all of them.

“People had taken notice of the counsel at the other end of the case. Everyone heard that the bail industry had shelled out the big bucks to secure Paul Clement,” Shalom continued.

“But at the end of the day, it wasn’t about who had the fanciest lawyer. It was about who had the best argument. That’s why all four of the judges who looked at this case agreed with our position; that’s why the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear the case. That’s why the bail industry ultimately dismissed the whole case.

“That’s significant.” ■

THE STORY

As voting rights waned in other states, New Jersey strengthened them with automatic registration.

In 2018, voting rights won big.

As a nation, we witnessed a landslide victory as Floridians passed a ballot initiative that restored voting rights to 1.4 million people who were formerly incarcerated. Washington State passed a state-level Voting Rights Act and a number of pro-voter initiatives that significantly expanded poll access. We saw similar expansions in Michigan, Maryland, and Nevada.

Here in New Jersey, we witnessed the introduction of a bill to end disenfranchisement, took steps toward expanded poll access, and organized a fierce mobilization against a redistricting bill that threatened to impose partisan gerrymandering.

In April 2019, Gov. Murphy began a broader effort to expand and modernize poll access, standing in contrast to President Trump and others who sought to restrict voting rights and suppress voters. New Jersey welcomed automatic voter registration, joining a growing list of states that are streamlining the registration process.

In 2018, Sen. Ron Rice and Sen. Sandra Cunningham introduced a bill that would restore voting rights to approximately 100,000 people in New Jersey who are incarcerated, on probation or parole. If passed, New Jersey would join Vermont and Maine to restore full voting rights to everyone, ending the unjustifiable link between voting rights and a person's criminal record. When Black New Jerseyans are incarcerated at a rate three times higher than their white neighbors, this bill means New Jersey can finally begin to restore political power to communities of color.

STORY BEHIND THE STORY: DEMOCRACY IS A FAMILY AFFAIR.

“Look for the bald white guy in a suit,” Alexander Shalom said on the phone.

It was the day before Election Day. ACLU-NJ Senior Supervising Attorney Alexander Shalom had found out about Yasmeen’s case just over the weekend.

When Yasmeen didn’t get her sample ballot in the mail, she called the Middlesex Board of Elections. Only then did she discover a portion of her voter registration had been torn in the mail, and the Board of Elections deemed the application invalid. They placed it in a pile and never contacted Yasmeen.

It was clear that Yasmeen received no due process and no warning that her right to vote was in jeopardy. And worst of all — there was no reason. A more efficient system would’ve had her voting.

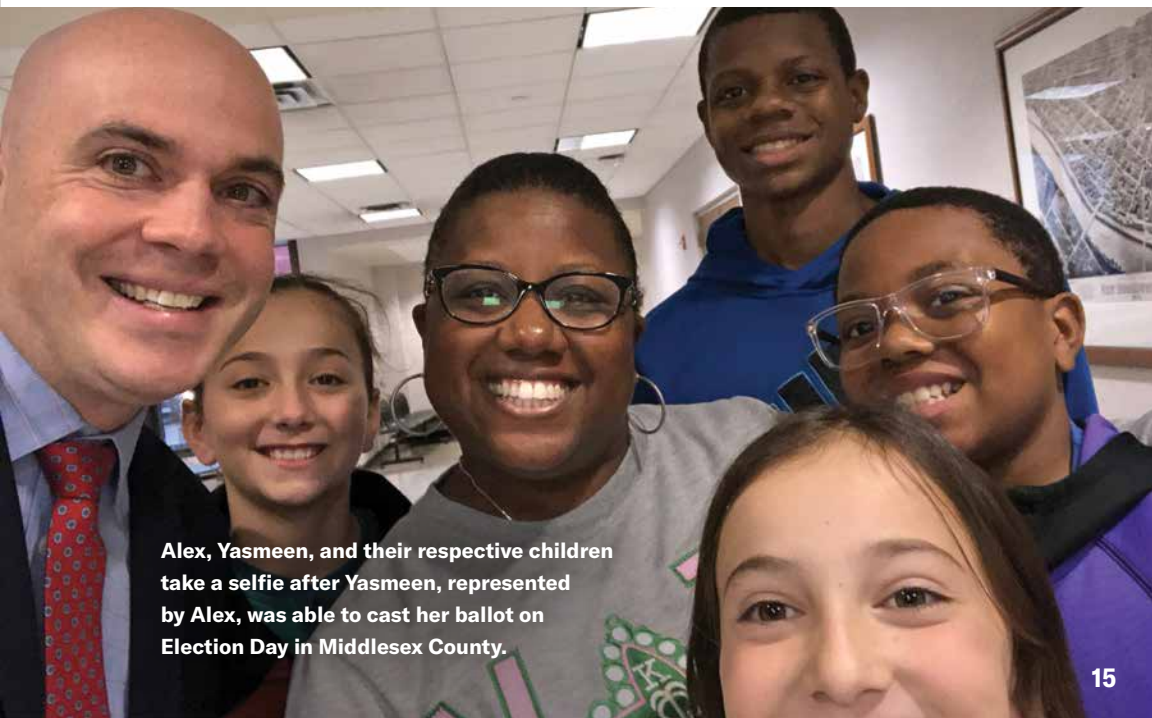
Alex’s kids had the day off from school, and he decided to bring them along. “I wanted them to witness

democracy at work,” Alex said. And it turned out, Yasmeen had the same thought.

The two families met at 9 a.m. at the courthouse. Alex’s and Yasmeen’s kids waited in the courtroom behind the bar. “We were all prepared for a long fight with the judge,” as Alex described it.

“The reason there’s so little Election Day litigation is that people want to exercise their right to vote, but they don’t want to spend all day in court fighting for that right,” Alex said. “Yasmeen was exceptional in that she was willing to spend all day, if it was required, because she thought that it was so important that she participated. “That shouldn’t be the cost of democracy.”

Thankfully, the judge had a lot of experience with Election Day cases. He issued an order allowing Yasmeen to vote and requiring Middlesex County to make a case explaining why they deserved to exercise their right to vote. By 11:15 a.m. — less than two hours after the judge’s order — Yasmeen had cast her vote. ■



Alex, Yasmeen, and their respective children take a selfie after Yasmeen, represented by Alex, was able to cast her ballot on Election Day in Middlesex County.



ACLU-NJ supporters and allies filled the streets of Newark to protest the separation of immigrant families.

**YES I
REALLY
DO CARE
AND
I VOTE**

E ACLU

As New Jersey approaches cannabis legalization the ACLU-NJ pushes to ensure it's done right.

When the ACLU-NJ partnered with leaders in law enforcement, civil rights, and medicine to form New Jersey United for Marijuana Reform in 2014, few lawmakers would meet to discuss legalization.

More than four years later — after holding dozens of forums annually, meeting with leaders at every level of government, telling the stories of the people and communities of color devastated by the failed war on drugs, and beating the drum that the prohibition of marijuana has caused a civil rights crisis — it's harder to find people who don't support legalization than who do.

For legalization to advance racial justice, it must include key components: expedited expungements of marijuana records; reinvestment of tax revenue into communities hardest hit by the drug war; and the creation of a diverse, equitable cannabis industry with meaningful opportunities for New Jerseyans.

In 2014, when the first cannabis legalization bill was introduced, it didn't even mention the word "expungement." Now, because of our advocacy, it was in the title of the legalization bill.

In Nov. 2018, Senate and Assembly committees held a marathon hearing and voted to advance an imperfect legalization bill to the floor.

In the first months of 2019, the ACLU-NJ and NJUMR worked with lawmakers to improve the bill, which included robust provisions for expungements and an equitable industry that provides opportunities for people who have been involved in the criminal justice system. We have hopes to reach the finish line — not just legalization, but legalization that actively advances racial justice. To truly address the harms of prohibition, we must repair the damage the drug war has wrought on communities of color.

Legislators have gotten the memo, and advocates will fight to make it law.



ACLU-NJ Executive Director Amol Sinha and former Policy Counsel Dianna Houenou at the Nov. 26 marijuana hearing, where a legalization bill focused on social justice passed out of committee.

STORY BEHIND THE STORY: A HEARING AND A VOTE THAT WERE YEARS IN THE MAKING.

Two days before Thanksgiving, ACLU-NJers expected a quiet week. That changed later that day when lawmakers announced a joint legislative committee hearing on marijuana.

The date of the hearing? Monday, Nov. 26. The Monday morning after Thanksgiving weekend, just days away.

The staff of the ACLU-NJ and coalition partners in New Jersey United for Marijuana Reform sped into action: preparing testimony, compiling information packets, changing travel plans, emailing supporters, mobilizing turnout, mapping out a game plan.

On Monday morning, we were ready. The short notice hadn't suppressed turnout. At 9:30, the hearing room was at capacity, and a line of advocates snaked through the hallway.

In a five-hour hearing, Dianna Houenou, former ACLU-NJ Policy Counsel, was the first witness to testify in favor of marijuana. About 100 advocates followed, and nearly all called for legalization.

"This bill as amended brings New Jersey a step closer toward righting the wrong of marijuana prohibition," Houenou testified. "We believe that New Jersey can legalize cannabis, and we can do it the right way."

In a pivotal moment, Assemblyman Jamel Holley, whose father had been imprisoned on a drug charge, asked three members of law enforcement why existing racial disparities are so high, using the ACLU-NJ's statistics.

The officers said more research was necessary to find out why. Pressed for an answer, they said they didn't know.

"I do. It's the skin color," Holley answered.

The officers couldn't provide an answer for why prohibition would still work because prohibition is untenable and morally unconscionable. ■

THE STORY

Challenging a non-transparent Hudson County vote on an immigration bed contract.

In July, just before its regular meeting, the Hudson County Board of Chosen Freeholders announced it would postpone a controversial vote. The issue? Whether to continue a contract with ICE to detain immigrants in the county jail, in return for a hefty sum for the county government.

But after the July meeting began, the Board added the ICE contract back to the agenda. Then, just as quickly, the Board voted to renew, misleading the public in that way violated the Open Public Meetings Act—also called the Sunshine Law.

The ACLU-NJ fought back. On behalf of Hudson County religious leaders, the organization sued to void the vote and to force the County to hold a truly open public discussion if they wanted to take action on the ICE contract.

Hudson County voided and re-administered its vote, this time with the public's input. More than 100 people attended the freeholders' August meeting, and testimony lasted four and a half hours. The Board voted again and modified the contract so that any continuation beyond 2020 had to be re-authorized by the freeholders. And this time the voices of the public were heard.

STORY BEHIND THE STORY: A DO-OVER ADDS OBSTACLES, AND THE ACLU-NJ PUSHES THROUGH THEM.

Hudson County addressed the problem of a non-transparent vote by scheduling a second vote. But in the process, the county created a second problem: a violation of free speech.

For a larger venue, the Board of Freeholders held its new vote at the county courthouse. But because of a standing order in the courthouse, security personnel banned anyone in the audience from recording or taking pictures, even with their cellphones.

ACLU-NJ Staff Attorney Tess Borden, who had filed the initial lawsuit, leapt into action at the meeting.

Initially, sheriff's officers refused even to let journalists inside if they had cameras, citing the policy of the assignment judge, Superior Court Judge Peter Bariso. Borden made an emergency application to Judge Bariso to allow video and photo recording. Since it was after hours, Judge Bariso heard Borden's argument by phone. He denied the application, citing non-specific security concerns.

Despite that denial, our larger fight for transparency continues — and, importantly, the press coverage let officials throughout the state understand the seriousness of their obligation to maintain transparency. ■



The Rev. Tom Murphy, lead plaintiff in the suit against the Hudson County Board of Chosen Freeholders, stands outside the county building after the do-over of the ICE contract vote.

This year, Ed Barocas, our legal director since 2001, retired after 17 years at the helm.

Following Ed's legacy is another formidable litigator and dynamic leader: Jeanne LoCicero, who since 2008 has served as deputy legal director, a role that began with her. She served as acting legal director through the course of 2018.

Ed both started and ended his tenure as ACLU-NJ legal director at a time of civil liberties crisis. Four months into his first year as legal director, the Sept. 11 attacks led to racial profiling and discrimination. When he retired in Sept. 2018, Jeff Sessions had come and gone as Donald Trump's attorney general.

"I'm proud of the hundreds of cases we've brought that have held the government accountable and protected people's rights, and I'm equally proud of successful advocacy that has meant no one had to step foot in a courtroom," said Barocas. "Fighting for that progress has been one of the greatest honors of my life."

Working together, Ed and Jeanne have orchestrated the work behind some of the most important civil rights victories in our state's history.

- In the aftermath of Sept. 11, Ed litigated to end secret immigration detentions and secret deportation hearings, in conjunction with community advocacy.
- Litigation that began under him paved the way to marriage equality in the state.

- Lawyers from the organization drafted a petition for government intervention in the Newark Police Department — a department now under a Department of Justice consent decree.
- The ACLU-NJ bolstered its transparency advocacy under his leadership, focusing on the intersection of civil rights and public access.

Since Ed began as legal director, the department has grown from a two-person operation that relied mainly on pro bono attorneys to a full-time staff of 10, and growing. When Ed began, the organization argued before the New Jersey Supreme Court only occasionally. Now, we're the most frequent party to appear apart from the government itself.

As legal director, Jeanne aims to continue the organization's bold, inventive, solid litigation strategies she and Ed have been known for.

"It's as important as ever to make changes to our laws, but it's equally important to integrate our legal work with all parts of our advocacy to truly have the greatest impact," Jeanne said.

Jeanne also plans to forge new ground. The legal department has carved out



ACLU-NJ Legal Director Jeanne LoCicero and her predecessor, Ed Barocas.

new territory — both in the courtroom and in the public sphere.

- A lawsuit filed against Hudson County for its non-transparent vote on an immigration contract highlighted the everyday rights violations that happen when officials keep us in the dark.
- The ACLU-NJ ramped up its legal efforts to protect immigrants’ rights, representing people facing deportation and launching a project to combat solitary confinement for those in detention.
- Jeanne and the legal team have increased their participation in coalitions, task forces, and working groups across the state to tackle

issues like undemocratic redistricting, prison and jail conditions, municipal court reform, reproductive health access, and transgender equality.

- The ACLU-NJ has filed briefs at the New Jersey Supreme Court bringing attention to the racial inequities and collateral consequences that make our justice system unfair – with the goal of turning those facts into precedents in the public record.

“Jeanne’s leadership and vision have produced advocacy that sets New Jersey apart as a model for the rest of the country,” said ACLU-NJ Executive Director Amol Sinha. “She’s exactly the right person at the right time for this role.” ■

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Jeffrey and Susan Wild
Robert Williams
Miriam Willinger
Lisa Ann Witkowski
Mohammad R. Zaidi
Anonymous (24)

**Deceased*

Financials

Income & Expenses 2018-19

INCOME	Foundation	Union	Total
Contributions	\$2,477,703	\$171,144	\$2,648,847
Membership	-	\$1,262,850	\$1,262,850
Investment income	\$79,489	\$50,584	\$130,073
Unrealized gains on investments	-	-	-
Legal case awards	\$118,966	-	\$118,966
Other income	\$921	-	\$921
Fundraising event	-\$11,035	-	-\$11,035
Total	\$2,666,044	\$1,484,578	\$4,150,622

EXPENSES	Foundation	Union	Total
Program	\$1,615,685	\$347,890	\$1,963,575
Management & general	\$376,035	\$54,491	\$430,526
Fundraising	\$265,124	\$37,069	\$302,193
Total	\$2,256,844	\$439,450	\$2,696,294
Net	\$409,200	\$1,045,128	\$1,454,328

Cooperating Law Firms

We thank the following firms who donated services to the ACLU of New Jersey in 2018. Your hard work and commitment are deeply appreciated by the ACLU community.

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The team took a trip to Sandy Hook in July to spend some time together outside the office and enjoy the Summer sun.

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VOLUNTEERS

Leo Derosby

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Steve Latimer

Richard Loberfeld

Nicole Park

Carla Rios

William Haggis

Crowds stood for liberty at the June 30 Families Belong Together rally in Newark.



These stories are New Jersey at its best.

Closing by ACLU-NJ President Marc Beebe

In the last annual report, we reflected on the challenging first year of Donald Trump's presidency. We banded together, took the lessons we'd learned, and strode into 2018 with a renewed sense of purpose, ready to protect our most fragile yet most vital civil rights and liberties.

The stories collected here show us not only the significant success we can achieve together, but also the unavoidable truth that we had prepared for: our country needs defenders of liberty, freedom, and justice for all now more than ever.

The people who have lived these stories — and all of the real, tangible change that comes with those stories — illustrate what we're up against, and they illustrate what we can be at our best. They tell the story of New Jersey and the story of America.

Despite the current instability on the presidential front, New Jersey has the unique opportunity to become a national leader on key issues like marijuana legalization and immigrants' rights. With stories like these and support like yours, there is so much we hope to achieve in the future that will make our world that much brighter.

Thank you for your continued belief in us, our work, and our vision. And thank you for reading and sharing the important stories that need to be heard.

Marc Beebe
Board President
ACLU of New Jersey
2019

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ISSN: 0009-7934

