

How the ACLU-NJ's pioneering legal practice advances civil rights in front of the state's highest court

The ACLU of New Jersey has a long, proud history of filing *amicus* briefs in New Jersey courts. The ACLU-NJ strategically files briefs as *amicus curiae* to weigh in on existing civil rights cases, aiming to expand and protect rights in New Jersey.

The ACLU-NJ's impact as a friend of the court, through legal briefs and oral advocacy, has helped shape the legal landscape in our state and beyond. In recent years, our arguments have led to precedents that:

- Confront racial bias in jury selection
- Limit pretextual searches and seizures
- Protect pregnant workers from discrimination
- Provide for increased transparency in public records
- Improve the reliability of eyewitness identification
- Ensure fairness in our system of pretrial release and pretrial detention

The ACLU-NJ works to change the face of who traditionally argues before the Court and provide information that we believe courts can find useful in deciding the major civil rights issues of our times. Our collaboration with community partners in submitting these briefs frequently illuminates the real-life consequences on New Jerseyans, and the media coverage that often results can tell the human stories behind struggles for justice.

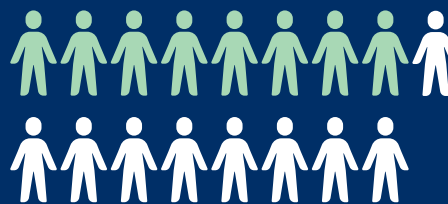
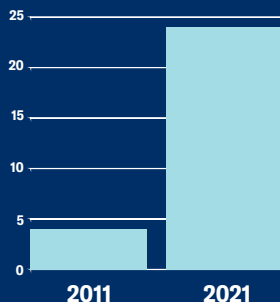
Amicus briefs are a strategic and efficient way to have a broad impact. By focusing on issues already on appeal, these briefs harness existing opportunities to shape areas of the law that affect all New Jerseyans.

Amicus curiae translates from Latin as "friend-of-the-court" and is a legal mechanism to provide courts with additional relevant arguments or context in briefs filed by people or organizations who are not directly involved in the case.

Interested in learning how to support this work?

Contact the ACLU-NJ Development Team at donate@aclu-nj.org.

There has been a **500% increase** in ACLU-NJ arguments at the New Jersey Supreme Court as *amicus curiae* from 2011 to 2021.



In the last decade, at least **17 attorneys** argued their first case at the New Jersey Supreme Court for the ACLU-NJ. **Eight** were in the first three years of practice.



About one-third of all cases the New Jersey Supreme Court agreed to hear included arguments by the ACLU-NJ, since January of 2020.

Percentage of New Jersey Supreme Court opinions where the ACLU-NJ presented oral argument.

