CIVIL LIBERTIES



BECAUSE FREEDOM CAN'T PROTECT ITSELF

News and Events from the ACLU of Washington

Spring 2014 | VOLUME 46, NO. 2

Public Defense Case Makes Big Impact

Fifty years after the landmark Gideon case established the right to counsel for all people accused of crimes, a recent ACLU-WA victory is breaking new ground for fairness in the criminal justice system. The ruling in Wilbur

v. Mt. Vernon and Burlington garnered national attention and has put the spotlight on the need for reform in our state and elsewhere.

In December 2013 the U.S. District Court in Seattle

found in Wilbur that the public defense system of the two cities deprived indigent persons facing misdemeanor criminal charges of their right to assistance of counsel. Judge Robert Lasnik found that the cities' public defenders had excessively high caseloads, rarely provided an opportunity for the accused to confer with them in a confidential setting, and rarely engaged in investigations or researched possible legal defenses.

In sum, the court concluded that the defense services amounted to little more than a "meet and plead" system. As Judge Lasnik wrote, "the system is broken to

such an extent that "the individual defendant is not represented in any meaningful way, and actual innocence could conceivably go unnoticed and unchampioned."

"The case has shown that cities need to commit themselves to adequate resources for public defense. Simply providing an attorney is not enough," said ACLU-WA legal director Sarah Dunne.

The case has made a big impact in several ways:

- The ruling provides a dramatic example of the potential expense of failing to provide a constitutional public defense system. The court ordered the defendants to pay more than \$2,160,000 in attorneys' fees and \$75,000 in costs. Citing the quality of work done by the plaintiffs' legal team, the court noted, "Class counsels' written advocacy throughout the litigation was superb."
- The case is one of the few challenges to an indigent

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A Gain for Transparency: Hospitals Must Post Their Policies

In December, the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) filed a state code rule that will increase transparency around religious-secular health system affiliations. DOH approval, through the Certificate of Need review process, should now be required before a religious health system may take over a secular hospital. The new rules will also require hospitals to reveal their policies on reproductive health care, end-of-life care, and nondiscrimination.

The rulemaking resulting in these changes was spurred by a letter the ACLU-WA and its allies sent to Governor Inslee last May. It called on the Governor to protect Washingtonians' access to health care as religious health systems have been taking over secular ones at an unprecedented pace throughout the state, resulting in the reduction of important health services.

Religious health systems in Washington state are predominantly Catholic and are therefore required to follow the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services (ERDs) promulgated by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. These Directives compromise Washingtonian's access to best-care medical services by restricting reproductive and end-of-life health services. The Directives may also result in restricting access to LGBT health services free of discrimination.

The ACLU-WA submitted comments and testified during the rule-making process, advocating for DOH oversight of religious-secular health system takeovers. Many of these takeovers have evaded DOH review as they



have been framed as affiliations or a change in corporate membership, rather than a "sale, purchase or lease" – the criteria required for the Certificate of Need review process.

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Court Ruling Spurs Counties to Stop Holding Immigrants for Feds

A recent federal court ruling in Oregon has spurred Washington counties to stop holding immigrants in their jail past the time they are eligible for release. The court found that detainer requests by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) are not mandatory, and sheriffs could be sued for damages for violating an individual's constitutional rights by continuing to hold the person pursuant to a detention request.

The ACLU-WA and the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project have pressed county sheriffs around the state to change their policies to protect constitutional rights. In a joint letter to 39 sheriffs, we pointed out that the court ruling (in Miranda-Olivares v. Clackamas County) was based on 4th Amendment principles that apply in Washington state.

As the letter explained, the ruling "makes clear that individuals cannot be held in custody under ICE detainers unless there has been an independent judicial finding of probable cause to justify detention that extends beyond the custody necessary for a criminal case."

Last year, after three years of advocacy by the AC-LU-WA and allies, King County changed its policy to no longer hold for ICE immigrants arrested for low-level crimes. A study by a UW researcher last year found that the county's practices extended time in jail for individuals by nearly 30 days and disproportionately impacts Latinos.

As of press time, a dozen counties had announced they would no longer hold immigrants eligible for release simply because ICE has requested them to do so. ■

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Hopes for Police Reform: Signs of Change, Need for Vigilance

Transforming an institution's practices and culture takes endurance, dedication and tenacity. Doubly so when attempting to transform a police department - an institution modeled on the military - into one that understands its roles as "servants of the Constitution" and "guardians of the community," as Sue Rahr describes it. Rahr, the former King County Sheriff, is now director of the Washington's Criminal Justice Training Commission, where at its graduation ceremony she hands every new cadet a pocket Constitution.

Rahr's appointment to head the state's



Speaking
Freely

Kathleen Taylor

Executive Director

police academy in 2012 was part of a string of events giving me hope for transformational change in local policing. The first sign of hope was the Dept. of Justice's 2011 decision, prompted by the ACLU and 34 community organizations, to investigate the practices of the Seattle Police Department (SPD). The resulting federal lawsuit charged the SPD with unconstitutionally excessive force and called attention to racially biased policing. To settle the case, the City agreed to accept significant reform measures supervised by the court and to create a broad-based Community Police Commission (CPC), on which our deputy director Jennifer Shaw serves with leaders of communities most affected by policing.

CPC members made clear from the beginning that the Commission was not going to be window dressing. Actively engaging communities affected by police work, the CPC presented detailed recommendations to improve police use of force and to reduce racial bias in policing. And, if approved by the City Council, its recent proposals for the police accountability system will improve discipline, trust, and transparency and provide continuing public input in police practices. The CPC was assisted by the police auditor, Anne Levinson, who for the past many years was a lone voice in City Hall raising exactly the concerns that are now being addressed.

It was another hopeful sign when our new mayor stated publicly that selecting a police chief is the most important appointment he will make. I served on his committee to recommend to him the top three candidates for the job. The committee was united on the need for a new chief who is a "change agent," who sees the settlement agreement with the DOJ as a floor for reform, not as a ceiling; someone who regards policing as a service to the community, not as urban warriors; someone who treats all segments of Seattle with respect.

A final ray of hope and a hint of the culture change we want to see was the SPD's handling of the May Day anarchist protesters. The afternoon immigrant rights march, as usual, proceeded without a hitch. That evening saw an hours-long, circuitous march by protesters who marched in the streets without obtaining a permit or otherwise revealing their route, making traffic control difficult. When some protesters attempted to incite a line of officers, a commander stepped in to make sure the officers didn't escalate the situation. Showing restraint and patience can reduce confrontation rather than escalate it.

There have been plenty of bumps in the road as Seattle has lurched toward change, and there will be more bumps along the way. But with some seasoned leaders and the ACLU's commitment to vigilance, we are moving towards meaningful change.

Kathleen Taylor Goes on the Record

Kathleen Taylor has been executive director of the ACLU of Washington since 1980. Under her leadership, the organization has grown tremendously to become one of the nation's largest branches of the ACLU, with more than 20,000 members and a staff of 32, plus hundreds of volunteers.

KUOW-FM's "The Record" in February spoke with Kathleen about her long career of defending and advancing civil liberties, including such notable victories as the legalization of marijuana for adults and the approval of civil marriage for lesbian and gay couples in Washington. You can hear the interview via our website at aclu-wa.org/blog.

EVENTS CALENDAR

JUNE 14: ACLU-WA Board Meeting in Seattle.

JUNE 14: OutSpokane Pride in Spokane.

JUNE 15: Methow Valley Pride Fest in Twisp.

JUNE 19: Public Forum: "What Happens When Doctrine Determines

Cares?" in Bellevue.

JUNE 22: Capital City Pride in Olympia.

JUNE 27: Trans*Pride in Seattle.

JUNE 29: Pride March in Seattle.

JULY 4: ACLU-WA at 4th of July Parade on Bainbridge Island.

JULY 12: Pride in the Park in Vancouver, Out in the Park in Tacoma,

Emerald City Black Pride in Seattle.

JULY 13: Bellingham Pride in Bellingham.

JULY 20: Mid-Columbia Pride in the Tri-Cities & Kitsap Pride in Bremerton.

JULY 26-27: Ethnic fest Northwest in Tacoma.

AUGUST 6-10: ACLU-WA at Grays Harbor County Fair in Elma.

AUGUST 14-17: Gender Odyssey Conference in Seattle.

SEPTEMBER 6: ACLU-WA Board Meeting in Seattle.

SEPTEMBER 7: Live Aloha Festival in Seattle.

For more information about these and other ACLU events, visit aclu-wa.org or call the ACLU office at 206.624.2184

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The ACLU-WA comprises two separate corporate entities, the American Civil Liberties Union and the ACLU Foundation. Although both the American Civil Liberties Union and the ACLU Foundation are part of the same overall organization, it is necessary that the ACLU have two seperate organizations in order for the ACLU to do a broad range of work in protecting civil liberties. This newsletter collectively refers to two organizations under the name "ACLU."

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Nancy Talner Honored for Criminal Justice Work



ACLU-WA staff attorney Nancy Talner has received the Gideon Award from the Washington Defender Association. The honor recognizes her lifetime of service in advancing the civil rights of Washington defendants. A leading state expert on criminal justice issues, Talner has been an attorney with the ACLU for almost 20 years.

"Nancy is a passionate and tenacious advocate for the

rights of indigents in the justice system. Her work has improved the lives of thousands, and she serves as an inspiration and resource to other advocates," said ACLU-WA executive director Kathleen Taylor.

The award recognized Talner's work on Wilbur v. Mt. Vernon, a federal case seeking to ensure that indigents accused in municipal court receive effective representation. The case arose out of the city of Burlington and Mount Vernon's systemic refusal to adequately fund or supervise their public defenders, resulting in a system of "meet 'em, greet 'em, plead 'em" justice. Through the efforts of Talner and private counsel, we obtained a landmark ruling that municipalities have a constitutional obligation to ensure reasonable caseloads that enable actual assistance of counsel.

The case built upon efforts to secure effective assistance of counsel at the state level. In 2004, Talner led the ACLU and pro-bono counsel in Best v. Grant County, challenging systemic deficiencies in the county's felony defense system. The county agreed to make sweeping changes to its systems, and the case ended in 2013 after years of monitoring

the settlement.

Further, Talner has written and co-authored numerous amicus briefs supporting the rights of criminal defendants. She also has been deeply involved in policy efforts to set caseload standards for public defense, increase diversity on juries, decrease housing and employment discrimination against people with criminal convictions, and end the imposition of excessive legal financial obligations.

For a decade, she led the ACLU-WA's Voting Rights Restoration Project, which successfully fought to ensure that people's right to vote was not irrevocably lost due to a felony conviction and subsequent lack of ability to pay legal financial obligations. The Project provided direct services to over 200 individuals, helping them to obtain certificates of discharge and restore their rights. Talner worked with our legislative and policy team to convince the legislature to pass a bill automatically restoring the right to vote once a person completes supervision. Her efforts benefited thousands, and brought Washington onto the right side of history.

Awards Recognize Legal Team's Outstanding Work

The legal team that worked on the ground-breaking case, Wilbur vs. Mount Vernon, to ensure constitutional indigent defense is being recognized for the excellence and importance of its work.

The Washington Defender Association (WDA) honored those who played an instrumental role in the landmark case with its President's Award at the Defender Conference Dinner on April 25 in Winthrop. WDA is an association of Washington state defense attorneys and public defenders, social workers, investigators, and those committed to improving indigent defense.

The Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (WACDL) has selected the Wilbur team for its 2014 Champion of Justice Award. The award recognizes an individual or group who – through legislative, judicial, journalistic or humanitarian pursuits – has staunchly preserved or defended the constitutional rights of Washington residents and endeavored to ensure justice and due process for those accused of crime. The award will be presented at WACDL's annual dinner on the night of June 13 at Campbell's Resort in Chelan.

The legal team also has been nominated for a national award – the Public Justice Foundation's Trial Lawyer of the Year Award – which recognizes outstanding contributions to the public interest through precedent-setting or otherwise extraordinary litigation.

Big congratulations to team members: ACLU-WA staff attorneys **Sarah Dunne** and **Nancy Talner;** ACLU-WA cooperating attorneys **James F. Williams, Breena Roos, J. Camille Fisher, David Steele, Joel Higa, Carol Kness,** and **Chris Knowlden** from the Perkins Coie firm; **Toby J. Marshall** and **Jennifer Boschen** of Terrell Marshall Daudt Willie; and **Matthew J. Zuchetto** of the Scott Law Group. ■

Bar Association to Honor Alison Holcomb

The King County Bar Association is honoring Alison Holcomb, ACLU-WA Criminal Justice Director, with its President's Award for her efforts on a work group on professional conduct rules for lawyers. The group is seeking to clarify that attorneys helping people to comply with the law under I-502 won't face disciplinary action. She'll receive the award at the Bar Association's Dinner on June 18th at the Sheraton Hotel in Seattle. Holcomb previously drafted I-502 and managed the campaign that won a statewide victory making it the law.

Public Defense

Continued from page 1

- defense system to be litigated in federal court, and the only one (of which we are aware) to result in a favorable ruling on the merits in federal court following a trial. The ruling sends a message that any jurisdiction not operating a constitutional public defense system needs to fix it.
- The ruling reinforces the importance of Washington State Bar Association case-load standards, under which the maximum for public defenders should be 400 misdemeanor cases a year. When the suit was filed in 2011, the cities employed two part-time attorneys to represent indigents in more than 2000 cases. In response to the litigation, a new group of attorneys took over the public defense contract, but each was still responsible for over 650 cases a year.
- The extent of injunctive relief ordered by the court is extensive. It marks the first time a federal court has appointed a supervisor to oversee a public defense system.
 And the court is keeping jurisdiction over the case for three years while reforms proceed.
- The U.S. Department of Justice took an unprecedented step by filing a statement
 of interest in the case. In doing so, it reaffirmed a federal interest in ensuring the
 mandate of Gideon is met and effectively endorsed caseload limits for public
 defenders.
- U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder cited the case in an op-ed he wrote for the Washington Post on the need to strengthen public defender systems nationwide.
- Recognizing the case's significance, National Public Radio, the American Bar Association Journal, and the New York Times ("The Right to an Attorney Who Actually Does His Job") reported on the ruling, and a Times columnist discussed its historic importance.

To remedy the problems, the court ordered the cities to hire a supervisor to ensure their defense system complies with constitutional standards. Eileen Farley, a well-respected veteran of the public defense system in King County, has been selected as the supervisor. The cities are required to collect data on us of investigators and expert witnesses, the number of trials, and the number of pleas to a lesser charge. Further, the cities must provide plaintiffs' counsel with 50 randomly selected case files a year for their review.

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OLYMPIA 2014

How Civil Liberties Fared in the Legislature



he 2014 Washington legislative session wrapped up in March with some noteworthy, bipartisan victories for civil liberties. In a most high-profile win, the Governor signed into law a version of the ACLU-backed DREAM Act to enhance access to higher education for immigrant youths. The legislature also passed bills providing for attorneys for children in dependency proceedings and for keeping juvenile records confidential.

Our lobbying efforts also helped block several proposals that would have eroded civil liberties, including bills to collect DNA from arrestees, to allow for warrantless searches of students, to burden initiative signature gatherers, and to impose on poor people the cost of indigent defense.

The ACLU-WA again pushed for reasonable regulations on government use of drones. With Boeing dropping its previous opposition, a strong bill passed the House and Senate by wide margins. We were deeply disappointed when the Governor vetoed it. We also were chagrined that measures to protect reproductive freedom and voting rights failed to receive a vote by the full Senate after passing the House; we took heart that the Voting Rights Act progressed farther than ever before.

Here are highlights of some key bills impacting civil liberties. See our website (www.aclu-wa.org) for information on other measures.

IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

Access to Higher Education (DREAM) • SB 6583 • SUPPORT

Sponsor: Rep. Zack Hudgins Outcome: Governor signed bill into law

Aspiring young people should have a fair opportunity to attend college, regardless of their immigration status. To that end, the new law extends eligibility for financial aid for higher education to high school graduates who do not have legal residency but were brought to the U.S. as young children. Their cause was widely seen as a matter of fairness and picked up bipartisan support. The bill is a version of the DREAM Act titled the REAL Hope Act.

SURVEILLANCE

Regulating Government Use of Drones • HB 2789 • SUPPORT

Sponsor: Rep. David Taylor

Outcome: Passed House and Senate, vetoed by Governor

Law enforcement and other government agencies increasingly are interested in acquiring unmanned aerial vehicles – aka drones. Drones can be used for missing person searches and for barricaded hostage situations. But they present government with unprecedented capabilities for tracking activities and otherwise invading the privacy of law-abiding people. Washington law contains no limits on government uses of this technology, or what protections are needed for liberty, privacy, and accountability. Clear restrictions are needed now, as temptations for law enforcement to employ drones for more and more intrusive missions are inevitable.

The bill would have required state or local government to get prior approval for acquiring drones and required law enforcement to get a warrant for their use, except in specific circumstances such as emergencies, and search and rescue. The measure drew strong support across party lines and backing from the WA Assn. of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs, but strong opposition from newspaper publishers and some state agencies. In vetoing the bill, Gov. Inslee acknowledged privacy concerns and announced a 15-month moratorium on executive-branch agency purchase or use of drones. He also is creating a task force, that will include the ACLU, to examine drone use and develop a new bill for 2015.

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

Reproductive Parity Act • HB 2148 • SUPPORT

Sponsor: Rep. Eileen Cody

Outcome: Passed House, but did not pass the Senate

Denying insurance coverage for abortion interferes with a woman's freedom to make decisions about pregnancy that are right for herself and her family. The Reproductive Parity Act (RPA) would hold insurance companies accountable to women by requiring that insurance plans in Washington cover abortion if they cover maternity care. The ACLU-WA has worked with NARAL Pro-Choice Washington, Planned Parenthood Votes NW, Legal Voice, and other pro-choice advocates for its passage.

As our state proceeds with the implementation of the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA), the need for the RPA has become even more urgent. Some insurance companies have dropped coverage for elective abortions through the Washington State Health Benefit Exchange, and there is confusion surrounding others. Enactment of the RPA would continue our state's strong tradition of providing legal protections for reproductive freedom.

VOTING RIGHTS

Washington Voting Rights Act • SHB 1413 • SUPPORT

Sponsor: Rep. Luis Moscoso

Outcome: Passed the House, but did not pass out of Senate Rules Committee

The ACLU-WA worked with the Win/Win Network, OneAmerica, the League of Women Voters, and others for legislation to ensure all communities have a fair chance to elect candidates of their choice in local elections. For government to be accountable, all voices need to be heard. But some election systems create barriers that prevent all communities from being fairly represented in local government.

The Washington Voting Rights Act would enable local jurisdictions to craft solutions to such voting problems. And if they fail to do so, it allows for a lawsuit in state court to reach a solution, such as moving from an at-large to a district-based system. It would enable local governments to remedy inequities voluntarily and avoid expensive federal litigation such as that pending in Yakima. After passing the House, the bill passed out of the Senate Government Operations Committee and came within one vote of making it out of the Rules Committee for a floor vote.

PRIVACY

Taking DNA from Arrestees • SB 6314 • OPPOSE

Outcome: Did not pass out of Senate Law & Justice Committee

This bill would have allowed the collection of DNA samples from people who have been arrested but not convicted of any crime. DNA contains highly personal biological information, including information about genetic disorders, susceptibility to diseases, pre-disposition to traits, and more. Collecting samples invades privacy, and doing so without a conviction likely violates the state constitution.

There is no systematic study that shows this kind of DNA collection actually has

reduced crime in state which have implemented it. But it has worsened crime lab backlogs And collecting, processing, and analyzing DNA from arrestees would be expensive. Fiscal notes for such bills that the legislature has rejected in the past have reached a high as \$1.6 million. We could better use these resources for less-intrusive crime-fighting tools and to restoring past cuts to victims' services. This year, we were able to enlist powerful Republican allies to help block this bill.

Confidentiality of Juvenile Records • ESHB 1651 • SUPPORT

Sponsor: Rep. Ruth Kagi Outcome: Governor signed into law

Currently, juvenile offense records in Washington are not only public but also published online. This can prevent young people – disproportionately youth of color – from obtaining the education, employment, and housing needed to succeed as adults. The legislation will keep confidential most, but not all, juvenile records, while assuring that law enforcement, courts, and researchers have access to the records they need to maintain public safety and improve our juvenile justice system. It supports the juvenile justice system's goal of rehabilitating youth offenders into productive members of society by giving them a second chance at success.

YOUTH RIGHTS

Warrantless School Searches • SB 6023 • OPPOSE

Outcome: Passed out of Senate Law & Justice Committee, but died

This problematic legislation would have allowed police to conduct a warrantless search of a student at school – without any safety concerns and without any probable cause to believe the student has violated the law. The bill was unnecessary because school officials already have the authority to conduct searches in response to imminent safety threats. The measure likely would increase the criminalization of students involved in minor school misconduct, disproportionately impacting students of color and leading to a costly increase in dropout rates.

Attorneys in Dependency Proceedings • ESSB 6126 • SUPPORT

Sponsor: Sen. Steve O'Ban Outcome: Governor signed into law

Some children remain in foster care following the termination of the parent-child relationship. These children have legal rights but do not have a parent to advocate on their behalf, and no one else represents their legal interests. The bill takes a step toward addressing this by requiring that the court appoint an attorney for a child in a dependency proceeding six months after granting a petition to terminate the parent-child relationship.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

LFOs: Court-Imposed Debts • HB 2751 • SUPPORT

Sponsor: Rep. Mary Helen Roberts

Outcome: Had joint hearing before House Judiciary and Senate Public Safety Committees, but did not advance in either house

Comprehensive reform is needed for our state's system for imposing and collecting Legal Financial Obligations (LFOs), the debts that courts impose in conjunction with a criminal sentence. These accrue interest at a rate of 12% a year and create a formidable barrier to re-entering society for impoverished people who cannot pay them. Individuals can remain tied to the criminal justice system for years and even can be locked up for debts they lack the means to pay.

The legislation would have required courts to consider an individual's poverty before imposing any court costs or fees, would allow courts to waive any fines and fees if payment could cause undue hardship to the defendant. In addition, it would have ensured that no court collections fees are paid before restitution payments to victims are satisfied. This interim, key lawmakers will form a workgroup, including the ACLU,

to further refine the bill for 2015.

Burdening the Poor for Indigent Defense Costs • SB 6249 • OPPOSE

Outcome: Passed the Senate, did not pass out of House Judiciary Committee

Our state Constitution mandates the right to court-appointed counsel to ensure due process and fairness in the justice system. 80% or more of misdemeanor defendants are indigent and thus unable to pay for the cost of their appointed lawyer. This legislation wrongly would have raised fees imposed by courts on indigent defendants in order to pay for their defense. The government should fulfill its constitutional duty to fund indigent defense rather than shifting it onto the backs of those who can't afford it.

FIRST AMENDMENT

Signature Gathering for Initiatives • HB 2552 • OPPOSE

Outcome: Passed the House, did not advance in the Senate

This bill would have required anyone paid to gather signatures for initiatives in Washington to register with the state and complete a training program. It imposed many requirements on signature gatherers, including a background check; identification and bi-annual registration carried at all times; and a signed statement by the sponsor and gatherer acknowledging libel for any violations. These requirements would restrict political speech in violation of the 1st Amendment and would wrongly burden the constitutional right of the people to participate in the legislative process. The bill was also a solution in search of a problem — there is little or no evidence of initiative fraud in Washington.

DEATH PENALTY

Safe and Just Alternatives • HB 1504 • SUPPORT

Sponsor: Rep. Reuven Carlyle Outcome: Did not advance in the House

Across the country, there is a growing recognition the death penalty is costly and ineffective. Each death penalty case costs millions of dollars, much more than imprisoning someone for life. The fiscal note for SB 1504 estimates that eliminating the death penalty would save nearly \$2,000,000 a year for counties in prosecution, defense, and expert witness costs. Further, the death penalty is applied unevenly; whether or not someone receives a death sentence depends largely on a person's income and where the crime occurred. And it is an irreversible punishment that carries the risk of executing innocent people.

The ACLU-WA advocates replacing the death penalty with a sentence of lifetime incarceration without the possibility of parole. Our state could better use resources spent on the death penalty to support proven strategies for fighting crime and addressing the needs of crime victims and communities. This year, we made significant advances within both House and Senate Republican caucuses that will likely play a key role in the bill's eventual passage.



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Religious Discrimination: A Woman's Personal Story

Religious doctrine is restricting access to best care health services in Washington, and individuals are coming forward to tell their stories. Below is the account of one woman's pregnancy and traumatizing miscarriage.

Jane (not her real name) was pregnant and had been in and out of the emergency room at a religiously affiliated hospital for almost a week. Her symptoms included on-and-off profuse bleeding and a tremendous amount of pain. Once she was finally admitted to the hospital, her OBGYN explained to her that she had an infection and that the fetus would not survive. The OBGYN advised Jane that if the infection continued for too long, it would threaten her reproductive system and her life.

The OBGYN made it clear to Jane that terminating her pregnancy was her best option, and that the decision to terminate had to be made soon. Jane desperately wanted the fetus to survive; she had even refused all pain medication as she was worried it might harm the pregnancy. However, finally, with the hope of saving her life and reproductive system, she made the difficult decision to terminate.

It was at this point, when Jane's life was at risk and her medically trained OBGYN had advised her that she should terminate, she was informed by her OBGYN that because she was at a Catholic hospital, an ethics committee would have to be consulted before the pregnancy could be terminated. She was also told that if the hospital would not allow the pregnancy to be terminated, she would have to be taken to a secular hospital. Due to construction that was occurring at the time, it could have taken up to four hours for Jane to get to a secular hospital. The OBGYN was visibly worried about requiring Jane to take a four-hour journey in her condition.

Jane thankfully survived this experience. The ethics committee ended up approving the procedure; but before Jane could be wheeled into surgery, she miscarried naturally in the hospital. Based on the timing of the miscarriage, if Jane had been forced to go to a secular hospital, she would have miscarried in transit.

Jane shared this story because she cannot understand why religious doctrine should delay or prevent a woman from receiving potentially life-saving medical assistance. Jane hopes that public awareness will help prevent other woman from experiencing the same thing.

TELL US YOUR STORY.

Have you or members of your family been denied reproductive health care or end-of-life services by a religiously based medical facility?

The ACLU of Washington would like to hear from patients and providers about your experiences accessing or providing reproductive and end-of-life health services, counseling, and referrals in Washington state. We also would like to hear about any experience of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity and expression in seeking or accessing health care services, counseling, or referrals in Washington state.

You can share your experience at www.aclu-wa.org/myhealthcare. Your responses will be kept confidential.

Transparency: Hospital Policies

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The ACLU-WA supports the new rules which more accurately define such transactions, so that takeovers should have to undergo review by the DOH.

The ACLU-WA also advocated for greater transparency about the services provided at individual hospitals, urging that the DOH require all hospitals to fill out a simple checklist of reproductive, end-of-life and LGBT health services.

While the adopted rules were a significant step forward in achieving these goals, the new policy disclosure requirements do not go far enough to protect patient access. The ACLU continues to advocate for the adoption of a checklist of services.

"Hospital policies often are unclear and confusing," stated Leah Rutman, ACLU-WA policy counsel. "Patients should not have to 'read between the lines' to understand what care they will be able to receive at a hospital. Rather, there should be a straightforward means, like our checklist, of informing patients of the services available at a facility."

Other significant changes are necessary to make sure that religious restrictions do not limit patients' access to health care. A comprehensive review and revision of state health regulatory programs is needed. The State of Washington has a responsibility to ensure access to best care medical services for all its residents.

Businesses: Don't Use Religion to Discriminate

The ACLU-WA and civil rights allies have submitted an amicus brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in two high-profile cases about discrimination (Sebelius v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc. and Conestoga v. Sebelius). The case stems from a part of the Affordable Care Act whereby the federal government issued a rule requiring health plans to cover contraception without a co-pay. Businesses have challenged this rule as an infringement on religious liberty.

The ACLU brief recognizes that we all have the right to our own religious beliefs, but religious freedom does not mean the right to impose your beliefs on others or to discriminate. Corporations shouldn't be allowed to use religion to deny health care only women use. If the Court allows this, we will see more discrimination bills and even more lawsuits seeking to justify discrimination.

Courts have rejected claims to discriminate based on religious beliefs in other contexts, including civil rights. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission issued an opinion over a decade ago making clear that refusing to provide insurance coverage for contraception is sex discrimination.

Here in Washington, the ACLU-WA is pursuing a lawsuit on behalf of a gay couple in Kennewick against a florist that discriminated against them because of their sexual orientation. The suit says that the business' refusal to sell flowers to the couple for their wedding violates the Washington Law Against Discrimination. The law bars businesses from refusing to sell goods, merchandise, and services to any person because of their sexual orientation. The courts have found that businesses open to the general public may not violate anti-discrimination laws, even on the basis of sincerely held religious beliefs.

"The refusal to sell flowers to the couple is a disturbing reminder of the unequal treatment that gay men and women have experienced over the years," said ACLU-WA Legal Director Sarah Dunne. "When a business serves the general public, the business owner's religious beliefs may not be used to justify discrimination.

What Happens When Doctrine Determines Care?: The Catholic Bishops' Healthcare Rules and You

June 19th, 7:00-9:00 p.m at Bellevue's First Congregational Church

Featuring a panel of six speakers, including **ACLU-WA Policy Counsel Leah Rutman.** Also, speakers from Planned Parenthood, the state legislature, Compassion and Choices, the UW School of Nursing, and Catholic Watch will be discussing the effects of hospital mergers.





Protecting Rights at the NW Detention Center

The ACLU-WA has been protecting rights of immigrant detainees against unlawful actions by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma.

Problems first arose after several hundred immigrant detainees initiated the first of a series of hunger strikes at the Detention Center on March 7, 2014 to express concerns with national immigration policies and to raise awareness about the conditions of their confinement. Among their grievances regarding conditions are inadequate food, \$1.00-day wages for work, and lack of access to bond hearings.

The ACLU represented individual hungers strikers against the possibility of being force-fed by the government. "Hunger-striking is a time-honored form of peaceful protest. The government should not interfere with an individual's right to engage in this form of speech," said ACLU-WA legal director Sarah Dunne.

Beginning on March 27, ICE began placing individuals in solitary confinement in retaliation for their support of the hunger strikes. They were kept in cells for 23 hours a day and were deprived of meaningful interactions with others.

More than 20 detainees had been invited by corrections officers to meet with an assistant warden to discuss their reasons for engaging in a hunger strike. After detainees volunteered to attend the meeting, approximately two-dozen detainees were immediately placed in handcuffs and taken to individual isolation cells. Detainees were not told why they were placed in solitary confinement nor how long they would have to live in isolation.

Hunger-striking is a time-honored form of peaceful protest. The government should not interfere with an individual's right to engage in this form of speech.

Federal immigration authorities released them from solitary confinement in early April after the ACLU-WA, along with Columbia Legal Services, filed suit against ICE. The lawsuit challenged federal authorities for retaliating against the exercise of First Amendment-protected activities.

"The Bill of Rights applies to everyone in America. Punishing detainees who engaged in political speech by putting them in isolation cells was an unlawful attempt to chill free speech rights," said ACLU-WA staff attorney La Rond Baker.

In early May, detainees announced that they were ending the wave of hunger strikes after 56 days.

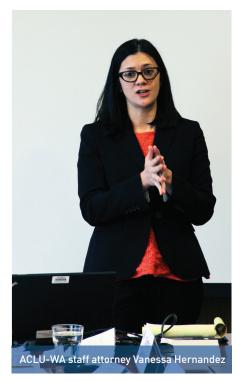
Handling the case are for the ACLU-WA are staff attorneys Sarah Dunne, La Rond Baker and Margaret Chen and cooperating attorney Sal Mungia of the firm Gordon Thomas Honeywell, LLP. ■

Report Sparks Reform of Court-Imposed Debts

Officials from around the state are moving to reform their policies for handling court-imposed debts in response to a report issued this winter by the AC-LU-WA and Columbia Legal Services (CLS). "Modern Day Debtors' Prisons" detailed how such debts unfairly punish people for being poor and keep those with limited means tethered to the criminal justice system for years.

"Unfair and illegal practices for court system debts have prevented people with records from moving on with their lives. It's gratifying to see the positive changes that are being set in motion," said AC-LU-WA staff attorney Vanessa Hernandez, coauthor of the report.

Known as Legal Financial Obligations (LFOs), these debts are fines, fees, and restitution imposed on top of a criminal conviction, and can include the cost of public defense, court filing fees. The average fee in a Washington superior court case is \$2540, which grows quickly due to 12%



interest and an annual \$100 collection fee. LFOs are so high that even a person making regular payments may be unable to satisfy his debt after years or even decades – preventing him from fully moving on with his life. Even worse, some people are being jailed because they are too poor to pay court debt.

The Constitution requires courts to inquire into a person's ability to pay and then consider alternatives to incarceration if a person is unable to pay. But our investigation revealed that some courts routinely fail to meaningfully consider ability to pay.

The good news is that officials in three counties singled out in the report for their problems – Thurston, Clallam, and Clark – have informed us they are re-examining their policies for LFOs. For example, we'll be working with Clark County as they implement plans to retrain collections staff, to stop collecting LFOs from people receiving needsbased assistance, and to develop new processes both to assess a person's ability to pay and for an indigent person to waive interest and even the LFOs. A number of other counties have asked for our input in reviewing their practices.

Further, the Washington Minority and Justice Commission is creating "bench cards" to guide judges on the law relating to court-imposed debts and is forming a work group to undertake training of judges.

We also are urging the legislature to do a comprehensive overhaul of our LFO systems – to ensure that court-imposed debt is not excessive, does not undermine reentry, and that no one in modern America is jailed because they are poor. This year's legislative session included a positive work session on these issues. House committees will convene a working group over the summer to develop LFO reform legislation for the 2015 session. ■



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Student Rights Icon Inspires Students

By Irene DeMaris, Marketing and Communications Intern

After a solid year of traveling over 25,000 miles across 41 states and speaking to at least 100 schools and community groups, the Tinker Tour made its final stop at Mountlake



Terrace High School on May 1. The tour features First Amendment advocate Mary Beth Tinker, the namesake of the landmark student rights case Tinker v. Des Moines, joined by former Student Press Law Center attorney Mike Hiestand. More than 100 students, some traveling from as far as Granger, came for

an educational event sponsored by the ACLU-WA and the Washington Journalism Education Association.

Tinker and Hiestand encouraged the students to learn more about their rights and to go out into the world and make a difference. They told about young people who had stood up for their beliefs. Tinker's story itself was quite compelling. She was just 13 years old and living in Des Moines, Iowa when she wore a black armband to school to protest the Vietnam War. Little did she know that her small act of free speech would generate an ACLU case that would go all the way to the Supreme Court and lead to a ruling that serves as the foundation for free speech rights for public school students to this day.

It was fitting that the tour wrapped up at Mountlake Terrace High. It is one of only six First Amendment Press Freedom Schools in the country – meaning that the school has made a commitment to promoting and maintaining free speech for its students. The event was a memorable experience for the students.



STUDENT CLUBS IN ACTION

The University of Washington Law School club co-sponsored an event on reproductive rights and religious restrictions in healthcare.

The Seattle University Law School co-sponsored an event on immigration rights and an event on privacy law featuring ACLU-WA board member Doug Klunder.

The Garfield High School club hosted an all-school civil liberties trivia contest and administered a survey investigating whether students' civil liberties are being upheld at school. Club members also attended the ACLU-WA Student Conference on Civil Liberties.

The University of Washington (Undergrad) club hosted an event on legislation allowing for warrantless searches of public school students (SB 6023) and a viewing of the documentary Terms and Conditions May Apply.

STUDENT CONFERENCE ON CIVIL LIBERTIES

On March 28th over 200 students from 12 high schools from across the state came together for the annual ACLU-WA Student Conference on Civil Liberties held at the Vera Project in Seattle Center. This free conference featured workshops and presentations by experts on topics ranging from government surveillance and rights with the police to student rights with technology and censorship.

Pictured to the right are Student Conference presenters (*top row*) Ryan Calo and Jamila Johnson and (*bottom row*) Linda

Mangel, Binah Palmer and Robert Flennaugh.



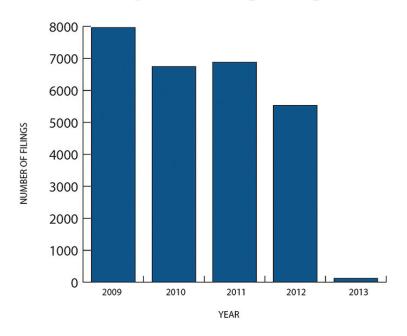




Arrests for Adult Marijuana Possession Plummet

New data show that I-502 is having a dramatic effect on prosecutions for misdemeanor marijuana possession offenses in Washington courts. ACLU-WA analysis of court data found that filings for low-level marijuana offenses have precipitously decreased from 2009 to 2013, falling from 7,964 to 120 respectively.

WA Marijuana Filings - Age 21+



"The data strongly suggest that I-502 has achieved one of its primary goals – to free up limited police and prosecutorial resources. These resources can now be used for other important public safety concerns," said Mark Cooke, ACLU-WA criminal justice policy counsel.

However, it appears that racial bias still exists in the system. An African-American adult is still about three times more likely to have a low-level marijuana offense filed against him or her than a white adult.

Passed by Washington voters in 2012, I-502 legalized possession of up to one ounce of marijuana for adults 21 and over. However, possession of more than an ounce, but no more than 40 grams, remains a misdemeanor. Exceeding the one-ounce threshold is a likely explanation for the 120 misdemeanor filings against adults in 2013.

The ACLU of Washington analysis is based on data provided by the Washington Administrative Office of the Courts via a public records request. To learn more about I-502, visit: www.aclu-wa.org/initiative-502. ■



International Drug Reform on KUOW Radio

You can still hear ACLU-WA criminal justice director Alison Holcomb talking about international drug reform efforts after her return from a United Nations conference in Vienna. The interview is online at www.kuow.org.



ACLU Applauds Death Penalty Moratorium

"Equal justice under the law is the state primary responsibility. And in death penalty cases, I'm not convinced equal justice is being served." So said Gov. Jay Inslee when he announced on Feb.11 that he was imposing a moratorium on the death penalty in Washington. "There are too many flaws in the system. And when the ultimate decision is death, there is too much at stake to accept an imperfect system," he asserted.

As a longtime advocate of abolishing the death penalty, the ACLU was heartened by the governor's decision. "It was a courageous act of leadership based on practical considerations of the death penalty's enormous costs and its unfairness," said ACLU-WA executive director Kathleen Taylor.

"Pursuing the death penalty is very costly – lifetime incarceration without parole is far less expensive," explained Taylor. "Also, it is applied unevenly. People with less income and less money to spend on their defense are more likely to get the death penalty, and whether or not someone gets it can depend on which county their crime occurs in."

Inslee said that he hoped his action would generate a public conversation about the death penalty. In that he has succeeded. Elected officials on both sides of the issue spoke out, as did the members of murder victims' families. Letters to the editor proliferated, and some major state media weighed in with editorials against the death penalty. Two former state corrections leaders, Eldon Vail and Dick Morgan, coauthored an op-ed for the Seattle Times describing how their personal experiences in carrying out executions led them to support its abolition.

What Local Newspapers are Saying About the Moratorium

"Citizens are rethinking a question that's no longer politically toxic. In the long view of history, capital punishment will be seen as a relic of a brutal era."

-Everett Herald

"Capital punishment fails the sober metrics of good public policy."

-Seattle Times

"When it comes to the death penalty, justice is situational, not equal. That's intolerable."

-Spokane Spokesman-Review

Washington's moratorium is part of a national shift away from capital punishment. Eighteen states have abolished the death penalty – six of them in the past six years. National polls have found that, while a majority of people still say they back the death penalty, support for it has declined significantly.

The moratorium means that if a death penalty case comes to Gov. Inslee's desk, he will issue a reprieve; this does not commute a sentence. The governor's action, of course, is not binding on future governors. The ACLU-WA will continue to press for passage of legislation to abolish the death penalty and replace it with a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole.

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Thank you, Otis Walter

By Ritee Sponsler, ACLU-WA Donor Relations Officer

Otis Walter passed away last June at the age of 92. He left his entire estate to the ACLU of Washington and the ACLU of Pennsylvania because he so strongly believed in the broad range of issues on which the ACLU works. He first became a card-carrying member as a teenager in Pennsylvania. Dr. Walter said he did not want any sort of recognition for his planned gift during his lifetime. We wish to honor Dr. Walter as a kind and loving advocate for civil liberties.

Two summers ago, I had the good fortune of meeting Dr. Walter in his home to thank him for his wonderful gift intention. He appointed his modest 1970s rambler with furniture straight from an Italian Renaissance painting. It was the real deal and his one splurge – shipped from Italy, inspired by a painting in his childhood home. We talked over tea and his signature dessert, hearty bread made with only fruit and nuts, served in warm milk. Dr. Walter laughed easily and joked throughout our meeting.

He showed me the only photo ever taken of him and Ronald Vrana, his companion of nearly 50 years: the two of them at a party in the '60s, pure joy in their eyes, a bookcase in the background.

Most of Dr. Walter's professional life was spent at the University of Pittsburgh, from which he retired as Professor Emeritus. Retirement brought him to Bellingham. In addition to dozens of articles, book reviews, and lectures at various universities, he authored Thinking and Speaking: A Guide to Intelligent Communication.

Dr. Walter was a devoted teacher who once said, "Teaching is, in part, having desperately to know, and then having desperately to tell others about it."

The ACLU of Washington is deeply grateful to Otis Walter for his generosity. He was a remarkable man whose legacy will truly have a nationwide impact.

Find out how you can leave a legacy of liberty at aclu.org/legacy, or call us at (206) 624-2184, ext 248.

Forum Looks at Privacy in Digital Age



The ACLU-WA collaborated with the University of Washington Law School and U.S. Rep. Suzan DelBene (1st District) to present a wide-ranging forum that explored "Protecting Privacy and National Security in the Digital Age." The event looked at new challenges to individual freedom in an era when the U.S. is engaged in a seemingly endless "war on terror" and there is far more information than ever about more people stored in more places. UW law professor Bill Covington moderated a panel discussion, followed by questions and comments from the audience.

Panelist Gabe Rottman, a legislative counsel with the ACLU congressional office in Washington, DC, criticized the federal government's switch from surveillance based on individualized suspicion of wrongdoing to "programmatic surveillance where the government collects all the information and analyzes it, looking for the proverbial needle in a haystack." As a remedy, the ACLU seeks passage of the USA Freedom Act, a bipartisan proposal that would rein in NSA spying.

Rep. DelBene, a supporter of the bill and a member of the House Judiciary Committee, pointed out that federal law has not kept up with new technology. Like the ACLU, she also advocates for passage of legislation to update the Electronic Communications Privacy Act – adopted before the Internet even existed – to meet modern needs for individual privacy.

Microsoft general counsel Brad Smith provided an insightful, technology industry perspective, expressing his discomfort at the government demanding information "outside the legal process." He urged Congress to act to end bulk collection of data and to increase transparency for what type of information the government seeks from private companies.

CIVIL LIBERTARIANS IN ACTION

Our thanks go to these speakers who helped do public education on civil liberties to school and community groups

Jamila Johnson and David Whedbee spoke at a workshop on Student Tech Rights at the WA Journalism Education Association conference and gave the opening remarks at the ACLU-WA Student Conference. David Whedbee spoke on "Know Your Rights with the Police" to a class of immigrants and refugees at Seattle Central Community College.

At the ACLU-WA Student Conference on Civil Liberties: **Robert Flennaugh** II spoke on "Know Your Rights with the Police." **Benjamin Sweeney, Angela Larner, and Josh Treybig** – ACLU-WA student club members at Seattle University Law School – led a workshop on the Death Penalty. **Binah Palmer** led a workshop on Student Rights in the Digital Age, **Laura Ferri** led a workshop on Censorship, **Alison O'Neil** led a workshop on Activism, and **Pat Gallagher** led a workshop on Government Surveillance. **Ryan Calo** led Q&A after a screening of the documentary Terms and Conditions May Apply.

Binah Palmer spoke on Japanese-American Internment at the groundbreaking of Hirabayashi Place in Seattle and about Civic Engagement to a class at Mercer Island High School.

Pat Gallagher spoke about 4th Amendment Rights to a class at the Puget Sound Community School; spoke at an MLK day event on Vashon Island; participated at an NSA Whistleblowers forum in Tacoma; and judged the WA State Debate Championships.

Judy Bendich spoke about Religiously Based Hospital Restrictions to the Seattle Atheists.

Paul Lawrence spoke on the First Amendment in the Digital Age to the City Club of Tacoma.

Doug Klunder spoke on NSA Surveillance and Privacy Law at an ACLU-WA Student Club event at Seattle University Law School.

Marco Martinez: Working for Justice

By Mara Isaacson, ACLU-WA Communications Intern



The son of Mexican immigrants, Marco Martinez grew up in Wenatchee. He is now working on his undergraduate degree at UW in Law Societies and Justice with a minor in Political Science. After graduating in June, he plans to study for the LSAT and to apply for law school next year.

Marco wants to get involved in reforming our criminal justice and immigrations systems. He is appalled by the high level of incarceration in our country, and the "injustice of criminalizing immigrants just for being in a place." He thinks that if an individual lives and works and pays taxes in the US for ten years, it is crazy that they

could still be arrested and treated like a criminal. He feels that reform is needed, and he hopes he can play a part in bringing about change.

Marco is working as an Intake Counselor here at the ACLU. He decided to get involved because he wants to get more interactive experience – classroom learning just isn't the same as actually meeting people who need help and talking to professionals who are working on the issues he is passionate about. He finds the ACLU to be "powerful and important, because it focuses on large strides and big change, instead of little steps."

Nominating Process Underway

The Board's Governance Committee meets this summer to consider candidates for election to the ACLU of Washington Board of Directors. The committee looks for individuals whose strong commitment to and understanding of civil liberties and civil rights is combined with a willingness and ability to make a serious time commitment to the organization's work and its financial well-being. The nominees are selected for skills, experiences, and attributes that will enhance the overall composition, sophistications and diversity of the board.

The Board determines policy, oversees program direction, and ensures the AC-LU-WA's financial strength. Each Director makes significant contributions of time and effort through participation in Board meetings, fundraising, and other activities. Call the ACLU-WA office for a complete job description for Board members.

Members may submit suggestions for nominees to the Governance Committee in care of the ACLU-WA office. Members also may be nominated by a petition signed by 25 ACLU-WA members and submitted to the executive director, along with a 150-word statement, by September 8, 2014. ■



Domestic Partnerships Are Converting to Marriage

By Nick Yasman, Marketing and Communications Intern

Some people are about to enter into matrimony – whether they wish to or not. On June 30, 2014, all state-registered same-sex domestic partnerships in Washington will automatically convert to marriages. There are close to 6,000 registered same-sex domestic partnerships in Washington,

Although the Secretary of State's Office sent out notices to all registered domestic partnerships in March, advocates for LGBT rights are concerned that many couples still may be uncertain about the impending change. So the ACLU-WA cosponsored an educational event on auto-conversions with the Pride Foundation, the GSBA, Legal Voice, and others on May 8th at City Hall in Seattle.

The auto-conversion does not apply to a domestic partnership if one or both partners is at least 62 years old, or the couple has a dissolution proceeding pending before June 30, 2014. The conversion does apply to domestic partners who have separated since establishing their partnership yet have not formally dissolved their union, as well as to domestic partnerships that now reside in a different state.

Couples can request a marriage certificate from the Washington State Department of Health if they wish. The legal date of marriage for couples whose state-registered domestic partnership converts to marriage on June 30 will be their original domestic partnership registration date. Couples also can consult the Washington Courts Family Law Book to learn how to dissolve a domestic partnership at the Washington Courts website (www.courts.wa.gov).

PRIDE 2014

JUNE 29TH
SEATTLE

Thanks to these **VOLUNTEERS** who have helped the ACLU-WA in the community and at our office:

Liz Allen, Kayley Bebber, Ryan Calo, Nick Crocker, Sally De Leon, Irene DeMaris, Kelsey Engstrom, Laura Ferri, Catherine Fisher, Robert Flennaugh II, Dena Fredrickson, Patti Hackney, Nathan Hards, Esmeralda Iman, Mara Isaacson, Dan Jeon, Estella Jung, Chris Kassa, Kristin Kelly, Natasha Khanna, Angela Langer, Julie Lehnis, Marco Martinez, Aeden O'Neil-Dunne, Alison O'Neil, Clive Pontusson, Nick Ramierez, Kristin Raymond, McKenzie Schnell, Henry Seeley, Monique Spivey, Benjamin Sweeney, Josh Treybig, Bob Winsor, Nick Yasman, Caity Yates

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