## Civil Liberties

BECAUSE FREEDOM CAN'T PROTECT ITSELF



NEWS AND EVENTS FROM THE ACLU OF WASHINGTON

2006-2007 ANNUAL REPORT ISSUE | VOLUME 39, NO. 3



# Annual Report **2006-2007**

Former U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft oversaw some of the worst abuses of power of the Bush administration. Even so, he said "no," from his hospital bed, to the request of Alberto Gonzales to approve the National Security Agency's warrantless spying program back in 2004. So the president then did what he has done repeatedly in his administration - he ignored the law and the Constitution and continued the surveillance program.

This incident, recently revealed in testimony to the U.S. Senate, illustrates the challenges faced by civil libertarians. For six years and counting, the administration has blocked efforts to enforce the law, restore basic rights and make itself accountable. We've had a federal government that snoops on citizens without cause, jails people without charges, tortures prisoners of war, and ignores the Geneva Conventions.

The ACLU has led the resistance, shaping the public dialogue around civil liberties, repeatedly challenging presidential actions in court, and eking out some, though certainly not sufficient, action by Congress. With hard work and good luck, we hope history will remember 2007 as the watershed year when civil liberties began the slow

climb back to their rightful place.

We've begun to see rays of hope. Last year the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the White House's system of military tribunals in Guantánamo. Recently, the court agreed to review the imprisonment of several detainees there, reversing an earlier decision not to consider their cases. The ACLU's lawsuit against the NSA helped pressure the administration to submit its spying program to the review of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act court, as required by law – though the White House continues to assert its power to run the program without oversight.

And here in Washington, we obtained vindication for an Iraqi refugee who was wrongfully detained and harassed by immigration officers, and shined a spotlight on telecoms' complicity in the illegal mining of phone records.

To make advances in Washington, D.C., lawmakers often need pressure from home. We were very happy that our work with the Washington State Legislature resulted in passage of a bill that rejects the REAL ID Act – the federal law that would create a de facto national ID card at the expense of our personal privacy and at least \$250

million in state tax money. Washington helped lead a rebellion that saw 16 other states taking similar actions.

Faced with an unresponsive national government, the ACLU has made real progress for civil liberties at the state level. We strongly supported the creation of a new state registry of domestic partners, providing same-sex couples with some of the rights and protections of marriage. We helped convince the Legislature to require the teaching of accurate information in K-12 sex education classes. We obtained changes in the medical marijuana laws to better protect patients and caregivers. We worked with pro-choice allies to convince the Washington Pharmacy Board to guarantee patient access to medications such as emergency contraception and HIV

That's not all. We launched a new Technology and Liberty Project to ensure that government and business respect civil liberties when they adopt new technologies. The project is already taking a hard look at the privacy risks of embedding radio transmitters in identity and transportation documents. We are responding vigorously to the unfair application of school discipline against ethnic and racial minorities, educating parents and students about their rights, and advocating for remedies to disparities in achievement test scores.

But so much work remains. Congress has failed to reform the Military Commissions Act to restore the writ of habeas corpus, the essential guarantee of due process for people imprisoned by the government. The Roberts bloc at the U.S. Supreme Court has shown itself to be no friend of civil rights, as seen in its landmark ruling this summer against Seattle's school desegregation program. Shortly after that, our state Supreme Court ruled against the ACLU's challenge to the disenfranchisement of individuals who've completed serving their time for a felony but still owe court fees and penalties. Now we're focusing efforts on convincing the state Legislature to remedy the problem.

Winning or losing, the ACLU has been running a strenuous marathon during the Bush administration. The good news is that it has strengthened us. We have seen our membership and our influence grow. We will need that strength and the support of our members for many more years to come. It will take that long just to undo the damage caused by people with too much arrogance and too little respect for America's values of liberty and justice.

Jesse Wing Board President

Kathleen Taylor
Executive Director

non-profit org. U.S. Postage PAID Permit #1379 Seattle, WA

## Homeland **SECURITY**

## Domestic Spying and Presidential Power

The National Security Agency's secretive domestic spying programs have stood as a symbol of the administration's flouting of the Constitution and the rule of law. Ever since they were disclosed in 2005, the ACLU has forcefully countered the government's sweeping assertion that the president has "inherent powers" to order such covert surveillance of communications by people in America.

The ACLU filed a lawsuit in early 2006 challenging the legality of monitoring electronic communications without a court warrant. The suit was filed on behalf of journalists, scholars, attorneys and nonprofit organizations, who felt stifled in their work because of likely government eavesdropping.

In October 2006, U.S. District Court Judge Anna Diggs Taylor found the program unconstitutional, declaring that "there are no hereditary Kings in America and no powers not created by the Constitution." But in July 2007, an appeals court dismissed the lawsuit, finding that plaintiffs could not show they had been the subjects of NSA surveillance. In an exercise of circular logic, the court did not explain how the subject of a secret surveillance program could possibly prove that he or she was the subject of secret surveillance. The ACLU has decided to appeal the decision to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The lawsuit, though, had some political impact. Combined with pressure from looming congressional hearings, it moved the administration to backtrack. In 2007, the president placed the spying program under the jurisdiction of the FISA court,



Photo Courtesy of the Washington State Senate

Gov. Chris Gregoire signs a bill rejecting state implementation of the REAL ID Act, which would create a nationwide ID card.

as required by law. Still, the administration claims it has the power to conduct NSA monitoring without warrants, and it remains unclear whether individual requests for surveillance go before the court.

In this state, the ACLU took on another NSA surveillance activity, its program for data mining of telephone records. In May 2006, we asked the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) to investigate whether phone companies here illegally surrendered private phone records to the NSA. According to news reports, several telecommunications companies enabled the agency to collect and analyze massive amounts of customer phone records, without a warrant or permission from the customers.

The ACLU testified at two UTC hearings on whether to conduct an investigation, and 4,000 people signed our petition calling for one. However, in September 2006, the commission decided to wait for Congress or the courts to clarify legal questions about state jurisdiction and national security. In the meantime, the UTC ordered phone companies to secure the customer records that may have been shared.

As with all our endeavors to restore the

rule of law, ending warrantless surveillance will require a long-term effort. To further public awareness, our Annual Membership Conference in February 2007 focused on "Confronting the Surveillance Society." Several hundred members and supporters heard journalist James Bamford, an expert on the National Security Agency, describe in fascinating detail the inner workings of the secretive agency.

#### REAL ID = Real Mess

Recognizing that a national ID is the hallmark of authoritarian government, our nation traditionally has balked at creating one. Washington is in the forefront of a rebellion by states seeking to block implementation of a federal law that would establish a national ID system by the back door.

Passed by Congress in 2005 without serious debate, the REAL ID Act requires states to produce standardized driver's licenses and to store the drivers' information in nationally connected databases – creating a de facto national ID card. By

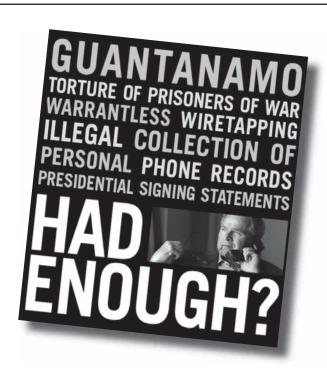
placing personally identifiable information in databases accessible across the country, REAL ID makes the information more vulnerable to identity theft and misuse.

As the ACLU sounded the alarm over privacy concerns, state officials were horrified by REALID's expense. In Washington, the net costs of implementing the new system would be \$250 million over the first five years, according to a survey by the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators.

With strong bipartisan votes, the Legislature passed a measure prohibiting state implementation of the Act, unless the federal government fully funds it and provides stronger protections for privacy. Senators Mary Margaret Haugen, Dan Swecker and Ed Murray sponsored the legislation. By summer, 17 states had adopted measures rejecting REAL ID.

#### Save Habeas Corpus

The writ of habeas corpus is the single most important protection against tyranny and oppression, preventing the govern-



This ad was placed by the ACLU in selected newspapers across the country, including *Seattle Weekly* and *The Stranger* in Washington. Additional text asked people to contact lawmakers and urge that Congress preserve our system of checks and balances.



Kevin Means is interviewed by a public radio reporter at Westlake Center while spreading the word about the restoration of habeas corpus.

ment from jailing someone on a whim and without cause. Habeas corpus, in plain English, means that government must show in court why someone should be held for trial. Yet last fall, Congress chipped away this fundamental right when it approved the Military Commissions Act.

The White House drafted the Act after the Supreme Court overturned its system of military tribunals to prosecute prisoners in Guantánamo. The Act suspended the writ of habeas corpus for anyone the president designates an "unlawful enemy combatant." It allows the president to hold such people captive indefinitely, without charges. It legalizes coerced confessions and the use of tainted information to prosecute others. It allows the government to use secret evidence against a person. And it gives immunity retroactively to people who may have broken the law to arrest or interrogate a suspect.

The ACLU has embarked on a nation-wide campaign to get Congress to repeal or amend the Military Commissions Act, restore habeas rights, and end U.S. government-sponsored torture and extraordinary rendition. The campaign features Mr. Habeas, a long-faced character who was reported missing since passage of the Military Commissions Act. The campaign Web site, findhabeas.com, provides the latest news of Habeas sightings and a host of resources for people who want to help us take action.

districts. They joined several thousand others at a rally on Capitol Hill, raising their voices and lobbying their lawmakers. The ACLU presented petitions with more than 250,000 signatures calling for the restoration of the writ. In Washington state, we organized a rally at the Federal Building in Seattle, featuring a black coffin, candles, songs by the Raging Grannies and presentations by allied organizations. To build support for the rally, ACLU activists clad in orange "Find Habeas" shirts distributed flyers at Westlake Center.

As part of the action, the ACLU placed classified ads for habeas corpus in major newspapers across the state. They read: "LOST! Habeas Corpus. Last seen on 10.17.06 in the U.S. Constitution. Help us restore Habeas."

#### Justice for an Iraqi Refugee

Ethnic profiling is both unjust and ineffective as a law enforcement tool. It stigmatizes all members of an ethnic community because of their background and appearance, and wastefully uses law enforcement resources on large numbers of people who have done nothing wrong.

This summer, the ACLU obtained justice for a man accosted by government agents simply because he looked Arabic at a train station. In 2003, Abdulameer

Yousef Habeeb, an Iraqi refugee who lives in Kent, was picked out of a group of passengers taking a station break during a train ride through Montana. Agents arrested him for failing to register for an immigration program targeting people from Muslim countries, even though, as a political refugee, he was not required to do so. Habeeb was strip searched, placed into deportation proceedings and imprisoned for eight days, before finally being released without an apology.

The ACLU sued the government for the wrongful arrest and detention. In a very disappointing 2006 ruling that boldly endorsed ethnic profiling, a federal district court judge in Montana found that government agents did not violate Habeeb's rights.

Photo by Paul Sanders

The Charles Swift one of the lawyers who arroyed the historic case of Hamdan

Lt. Cmdr. Charles Swift, one of the lawyers who argued the historic case of *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld* before the Supreme Court, spoke at the 2006 Bill of Rights Dinner. In the case, the court overturned the system of military tribunals for prisoners at Guántanamo. Swift gave an inspiring speech about his experiences in the military justice system, and the value of due process and individual rights.

The ACLU appealed, while continuing to negotiate with Justice Department officials. Habeeb spoke about his ordeal at the ACLU of Washington's Membership Conference this winter.

Vindication finally came in July 2007. The Justice Department agreed to compensate Habeeb for the unfair treatment he received and offered a long-overdue apology. The district court judge in Montana agreed to vacate his ruling, erasing a dangerous precedent from the books.

ACLU-WA Board President Jesse Wing of MacDonald Hoague and Bayless represented Habeeb, in collaboration with lawyers for the ACLU of Montana and the ACLU Immigrant Rights Project.

### Spying on Peace Groups

The government should not be in the business of spying on peaceful groups that voice opposition to its policies. Yet evidence has emerged in recent years that government has monitored opponents of the war in Iraq, vegans, and students protesting military recruitment.

Last year, the ACLU of Washington joined a nationwide ACLU effort to uncover the extent of surveillance of peaceful activists. We requested public records from the FBI, the Department of Defense, and the Seattle Joint Terrorism Task Force, regarding possible government surveillance of us and of 11 peace organizations across the state.

In response, this spring we received records revealing that the FBI secretly had kept track of activities of the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane since 2002. The documents show that agents monitored the nonviolent group's protest at the office of Rep. George Nethercutt, its protest at Fairchild Air Force Base, and the launch of community radio station KYRS. PJALS also suspects there had been a government infiltrator in its ranks, because of police presence and preparations ahead of the Fairchild protest.

Release of the files drew attention in the Spokane media. A column in the Spokesman-Review lampooned the FBI for treating the pacifist group as subversives. "I never would have had the foresight to waste time and taxpayer funds snooping" on PJALS, observed editorial writer Doug Clark.



This ad was placed on the *New York Times* Web site as part of the national ACLU campaign to restore habeas corpus and the Constitution. It was the basis for classified ads we ran in local papers.

Showing the campaign's strength, ACLU activists and supporters converged on our nation's capital on June 26 for a Day of Action to Restore the Law and Justice. The ACLU of Washington sent members from most of our stary's Congressional

## Join the ACLU-WA

**E-mail Activist Network** 

Receive Legislative Alerts so you can take action on key civil liberties issues when it matters most.

### Sign up at www.aclu-wa.org



Make a difference on important issues!



Photo by Paul Sanders

Abdulameer Yousef Habeeb

### Freedom of **SPEECH**

#### Let the Hosts Talk

ree discussion of political issues in the media is essential to democracy. The government should not limit robust debate during an election campaign. The ACLU stood up for this principle in a high-profile case before the Washington Supreme Court.

In 2005, KVI-AM hosts Kirby Wilbur and John Carlson promoted Initiative 912 on their talk radio show, a proposal to repeal gas taxes for transportation improvements. While on the air, they also asked for contributions to the "No New Gas Tax" Committee, which organized the initiative's campaign.

The committee was sued by San Juan County and three cities, who argued that the committee violated state campaign finance laws because it failed to report Wilbur and Carlson's on-the-air speech as "in-kind" campaign contributions. The Thurston Superior Court agreed, ordering the committee to disclose anonymous donations and to put a monetary value on the KVI broadcasts.

In an amicus brief to the Washington Supreme Court, the ACLU defended the hosts' free speech rights. The ACLU stated that talk radio shows are not paid advertisements and cannot be treated as campaign contributions that must be estimated and disclosed. Doing so would make broadcasters and other media hesitant to talk about political issues before an election. Even worse, new laws that limit the amount of contributions in the weeks immediately before an election could make illegal the opinions expressed in talk shows aired before that election.

In April, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously that regularly scheduled talk radio broadcasts are not campaign contributions, and cannot be regulated as such. ACLU cooperating attorney Mike Kipling and Staff Attorney Aaron Caplan wrote the brief.

#### Libraries and the Internet

Public libraries should not deny adults the opportunity to view whatever lawful information is available on its computers.

In November 2006, the ACLU filed a lawsuit on behalf of three library users who were denied open Internet access on public computers of the North Central Regional Library District (NCLR) in five central Washington counties. We also are representing the Second Amendment



Charles Heinlen, an ACLU plaintiff in the lawsuit challenging library Internet

Foundation, a nonprofit organization that maintains a Web site and sponsors several publications available online; the library system has blocked access to the Foundation-sponsored magazine Women & Guns.

At issue is the NCRL's practice of using software to filter Internet content on all public computers at its branch libraries. The library's software is supposed to block materials that may be obscene or inappropriate for minors, as required from libraries that receive some federal funds. But in practice, the Internet

filter also blocks access to many sites with constitutionally protected information, including political advocacy groups, the Seattle Women's Jazz Orchestra and

Federal law allows the library to turn off the filters upon requests from an adult. However, NCRL refuses to do so. The lawsuit contends that this practice violates the federal and state constitutions. The suit seeks an order directing the NCRL to provide unblocked access to the Internet when adults request it.

Handling the case for the ACLU are cooperating attorneys Duncan Manville and Robert Hyde of the firm Rafel Manville PLLC and Staff Attorney Aaron Caplan.



Lt. Ehren Watada

#### Military Free Speech

Joining the U.S. armed forces does not mean trading all your constitutional rights for a uniform. Soldiers should not be punished for explaining their political views when it does not adversely affect military functions. In a much-publicized case, the ACLU defended the free speech rights of a soldier who publicly voiced his opposition to the war in Iraq.

Army Lt. Ehren Watada believes the war is unlawful and that he has a duty as an officer not to participate in it. In early June 2006, he held a press conference and shared his views with individual reporters. Later that month, he refused to board the bus for his deployment to Iraq.

The Army initiated court martial proceedings. In addition to charges of refusing to report to duty, Watada was charged with violating military rules on the use of "contemptuous words" against the president and other top governmental officials and on "conduct unbecoming an officer."

The ACLU submitted an amicus brief in the court martial, stating that Lt. Watada did not violate the Uniform Code of Military Justice by expressing his respectfullyphrased opposition to the war. Shortly after



Police confront protesters during the 1999 WTO meetings in Seattle.

our brief was filed, the convening officer dismissed the charge of "contemptuous words" against the president.

"Lt. Watada was exercising his free speech rights as a citizen in a democratic society," said Kathleen Taylor, ACLU-WA executive director. In February 2007, a military judge declared a mistrial and set the case over for a new trial. Lt. Watada contends that a second trial would be double jeopardy, an issue that may take months or years to

Staff Attorney Aaron Caplan wrote the ACLU amicus brief.

#### **Judicial Gag Orders**

The threat of an ACLU lawsuit was enough to lift restrictions on the free speech of individuals who make official complaints about misconduct by judges.

The ACLU was ready to file a lawsuit against the Washington Commission on Judicial Conduct (CJC), on behalf of Bennett Haselton, an activist who runs peacefire.org, a Web site opposed to Internet filtering software. Haselton had previously filed a lawsuit against an e-mail spammer, and was dissatisfied with the treatment he received from the judge in the case. He filed a complaint with CJC, alleging improper conduct by the judge.

When the CJC began investigating the claim, it sent Haselton a notice that he could not tell anyone about the complaint, or he could be held in contempt. The CJC based this notice on an administrative rule designed to protect the confidentiality of investigations.

The ACLU intervened, contacting the CJC and threatening to sue. After a lengthy dialogue, the agency decided in June 2007 to amend its confidentiality rules, requiring silence only from CJC staff and court personnel, not the persons making a complaint against a judge.

The ACLU actions were handled by cooperating attorneys Marc Levy and Alex Wagner of K&L Gates.

#### Booted for a T-Shirt

Public events at a public school supported by tax dollars should be open to all, regardless of political affiliation. But in October 2006, students wearing t-shirts supporting U.S. Senate candidate Mike McGavick were barred from attending a speech by Senator Barack Obama at a campaign event for Senator Maria Cantwell at Bellevue Community College.

At the time, Cantwell campaign workers argued that they rented the hall and could decide who could attend. But a campus official had stated in an e-mail to the student body that all students were welcome. The rejected students contacted the press and much coverage ensued.

ACLU staff contacted the college administrators, who thought they had no legal authority to interfere with the decisions of the Cantwell campaign. The ACLU urged the college to amend future rental contracts to prevent event organizers from discriminating against attendees because of their political viewpoints. The ACLU also sent letters to colleges and universities statewide, advocating for this policy change.

#### Lesson for Police

Protest and the police response to it grabbed worldwide attention during the meeting of the World Trade Organization in Seattle eight years ago. The final settlement of an ACLU lawsuit reminded officials of the right to peaceful dissent in times of turmoil.

In 1999, Mayor Paul Schell issued an order to militarize two dozen blocks of downtown Seattle. Police restricted passage into this "no-protest zone" to persons with official WTO business, business owners, employees, customers, residents, and emergency personnel. In practice, police denied entry to anyone who displayed anti-WTO buttons, stickers, or signs.

The ACLU sued the city of Seattle on behalf of several citizens whose free speech rights were suppressed by police. Plaintiffs included Victor Menotti, a credentialed representative of the International Forum on Globalization, who was arrested for sharing his views on WTO policies with a journalist on a downtown street. Doug Skove, a resident of Vashon Island, had two signs seized by police because they criticized the WTO and advocated for the right to protest peacefully.

In 2005, a mixed ruling from the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said that the protections of the Bill of Rights apply even during a time of public unrest, but unfortunately also upheld the constitutionality of the no-protest zone. The court sent Menotti's and Skove's case back to the trial court to determine whether police enforcement of the zone had violated their rights.

In September 2006, the city finally settled their claims for a total of \$75,000. The city also paid \$1 million to settle a separate case by Public Justice on behalf of hundreds of protesters arrested at Westlake Center. These settlements resulted in better training for police and changes in policy to better respect the rights of protesters.

Staff Attorney Aaron Caplan and cooperating attorney James Lobsenz of the firm Carney Badley Smith & Spellman handled the case for the ACLU. ■

## Students & YOUTH

### Passing the Torch of Liberty

uestion: What were the three most valuable things you learned at today's conference?

Answer: I. Have. Rights.

That's how an 11<sup>th</sup>-grader summarized her experience at the ACLU's annual Student Conference on Civil Liberties this March at the University of Washington. The conference is the flagship event of the ACLU's "Torch of Liberty" project, which aims to prepare the next generation of civil libertarians.

This year's conference attracted more than 160 students and teachers from a dozen high schools for a day of workshops, poetry by the group YouthSpeaks, and skits by GAP Theatre, all designed to explain civil liberties issues. The highlight of the event was a presentation by former Army Chaplain James Yee, who shared stories and slides of his experiences at the Guantánamo Bay detention center. Yee, who counseled Muslim detainees, was falsely accused of spying and held in solitary confinement for 76 days, before he was released without an apology.

Other Torch of Liberty activities included an award to two high school newspaper editors during the annual ACLU Bill of Rights dinner, speakers on civil liberties at local schools, distribution of "bust cards" and other educational materials, and sponsorship of the youth-oriented Capitol Hill Block Party.

Activists at 10 ACLU student clubs in high schools and universities around the state raised their voices and educated their peers. University clubs organized meetings and forums, sponsored movies with civil liberties themes such as *V for Vendetta* and *The Road to Guantánamo*, and sponsored debates on hot topic issues such as the death penalty. In one especially ambitious project, ACLU student club members at



The ACLU student club at Garfield High School in Seattle. Pictured are Rhiannon Bronstein, Wang Ho, Maya Sugarman, Abel Teklai, Club President Sasha Riser-Kozitsky, Kristene Triandafilou, and Karin Frank.

Garfield High School in Seattle went into 20 classrooms in February to lead discussions about civil liberties since 9/11. They presented scenarios based on real-life situations the ACLU has encountered, asked thought-provoking questions, and generated many stimulating discussions.

#### **Sex Education**

Youth cannot make good choices about sex and sexuality if they lack accurate information. Some schools in Washington seemed happy to keep youth in the dark by providing false or biased information that fit their political or religious agendas. In fact, a survey by the Healthy Youth Alliance — of which the ACLU is a member — found 29 percent of school districts taught that abstinence is the only way to prevent pregnancy or sexually transmitted diseases, or that all sexual activity outside marriage is harmful.

This year, the ACLU and its allies successfully lobbied the Legislature to pass the Healthy Youth Act, which requires schools that teach sexual education to teach medically and scientifically accurate information about sex and sexuality.

It requires those schools to follow the 2005 Washington Department of Health guidelines for sexual education, which include information about both contraception and abstinence.

"This law will help provide youth in Washington with the facts they need to make responsible choices, and avoid sexually transmitted diseases and unintended pregnancies," said ACLU Field Director Genevieve Aguilar.

### Dinorah Flores Wins ACLU Youth Activist Scholarship

When Dinorah "Dino" Flores-Perez overheard students at her school joking about using A-bombs to get Mexicans to "go running back to where they belong," she

didn't laugh. She didn't respond in kind either. She got organized.

"Instead of letting those derogatory jokes continue, I decided it was my turn to speak," Dino said. "Instead of going off on rants and getting into arguments, I choose to put my hands, thoughts and skills where my mouth is."

She became a leader of Students Inspiring Political Activism (SIPA) at The Center

School in Seattle, a group dedicated to ensuring that the school is supportive of all students regardless of race. Through SIPA, she initiated dialogue between faculty, staff and students on the experience of being a student of color.

Dino also challenged the racial disparities in Washington's standardized testing system, which fails more low-income students and students of color than students of other are to be discrimination. She represe generation of students who are to promote civil liberties," said ACI tive Director Kathleen Taylor.

groups. She collected signatures, published an editorial, spoke before the Seattle School Board, and masterminded an interactive "Haunted High" performance to spread

awareness about the disparity.

She saw her efforts pay off in the creation of a committee dedicated to ending the achievement gap and in greater schoolwide sensitivity to issues of race. She also mentored students of color.

Dino, the daughter of Salvadoran and Mexican parents who immigrated to the United States 12 years ago, was one of 11

students in the nation selected this year for the \$4,000 ACLU Youth Scholarship. Dino was nominated for the scholarship by the ACLU-WA.

"Dino Flores-Perez is a natural leader who is unwilling to back down in the face of discrimination. She represents a new generation of students who are working to promote civil liberties," said ACLU Executive Discrete Kathleen Taylor.



Dinorah "Dino" Flores-Perez

# ACLU WASHINGTON

Photo by Paul Sande Madeleine Marie Clifford, emcee at the Student Conference on Civil Liberties.

#### **NEED A SPEAKER?**

#### The ACLU 's got one for you.

The ACLU annually sends speakers to dozens of forums, community meetings, and high school and college classes around the state. If it's an civil liberties issue, we'll try find you the speaker.

To set up a speaking engagement for your school or organization, call the ACLU at 206.624.2184, or fill out a Speakers Bureau request form online at www.aclu-wa.org/resources.



### LGBT RIGHTS

#### Domestic Partnerships

ame-sex couples in committed relationships deserve legal protections for property and family rights. A year after the state Supreme Court failed to uphold marriage equality, the ACLU and other supporters of fair treatment for all loving couples scored an important victory in the 2007 state Legislature. Lawmakers passed a domestic partnership bill that provides many vital protections to same-sex couples in committed relationships.

Sponsored by Sen. Ed Murray, the bill creates a state registry of domestic partners. This registration extends to domestic partners some of the rights enjoyed by married couples, including the ability to make medical care decisions for a sick partner, to visit a partner in the hospital, and to inherit property without a will.

The state will also recognize domestic partnerships for heterosexual couples where at least one person is 62 or older. They were included in the bill because many older couples can lose pensions and other benefits when they marry.

To educate people about their rights, the ACLU quickly developed a guide to the new law (available on our Web site), and worked



Photo courtesty of Jim Malatak Jim Malatak and Richard Sturgill were the first in line to register as domestic partners

in Olympia

with allies to publish a brochure and to present public forums around the state.

Passage of the bill made Washington the eighth state to recognize domestic partnerships; so far, only Massachusetts allows same-sex couples to marry. The ACLU continues to pursue the long-term goal of civil marriage for all couples in Washington regardless of gender.

#### Protecting a Victory

In 2006, the Legislature amended the Washington Law Against Discrimination to add protections for lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgender people. This gain was the result of more than 30 years of work, and almost immediately after the measure passed, opponents of equality targeted it for repeal.

Anti-LGBT activist Ken Hutcherson, a senior pastor at Redmond's Antioch Bible Church, promoted Initiative 963, a measure that asked voters to roll back the new guarantees against discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The ACLU and the Northwest Women's Law Center filed a challenge to portions of the initiative's text that contained misleading language designed to confuse voters. Among other terms, the measure would have deleted references to "sexual preference" from the Washington Law Against Discrimination — a term that does not actually appear in the statute the initiative sought to change.

A Thurston County Superior Court judge agreed with the challenge and also clarified terms about the coverage of the law.

 $Happily, I-963\,did\,not\,muster\,enough\,sig-$ 

natures to qualify for the fall 2007 ballot.

#### Freedom to Serve

The ACLU is continuing to seek fairness for a decorated service member whom the U.S. Air Force has dismissed because she is lesbian.

Major Margaret Witt is a flight and operating room nurse assigned to McChord Air Force Base near Tacoma. During a distinguished 18-year career in the military, she served in the Persian Gulf, received many medals and commendations, and always had superb evaluations from her superiors. In 1993, she was selected to be the "poster child" for the Air Force Nurse Corps recruitment flyer.

Between 1997 and 2003, Major Witt was in a committed relationship with another woman, a civilian. In 2004, the Air Force began an investigation into an allegation that she had engaged in "homosexual conduct." She was placed on unpaid leave and told she could no longer participate in any military duties. In 2006, the Air Force informed Major Witt that she was being administratively discharged.

The ACLU filed a federal lawsuit seeking to restrain the Air Force from discharging her or from otherwise hampering her military career. The suit seeks a declaration that Witt's military discharge would violate her rights to engage in private activities without government interference.

In July 2006, the U.S. District Court in Tacoma dismissed the lawsuit. The ACLU has appealed to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Handling the suit are cooperating attorney James Lobsenz of the firm Carney Badley Spellman and ACLU Staff Attorney Aaron Caplan. ■

## Racial JUSTICE

### Racial Segregation in Schools

racially mixed student body better prepares all students for life in an increasingly diverse society and helps ensure that a school district will distribute educational resources equitably among its schools. In a much-watched test of desegregation programs, the ACLU urged the U.S. Supreme Court to affirm the importance of racial diversity in public schools – the key principle of its landmark ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education* decision.

This year the court reviewed combined challenges to voluntary desegregation programs that considered a student's race in decisions to assign students to public schools in Seattle and Louisville, Kentucky. In 2005, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals had upheld Seattle's use of race as a tiebreaker in pupil assignments.

Seattle's plan applied only to schools that received more applications than they could accept, with race as one of three factors in determining student assignments. The system allowed students to attend a high school outside of their neighborhood in which students of their ethnicity were in the minority.

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that public universities have a compelling interest in a racially diverse student body and may use race as a factor in their admissions

program, and that race-conscious programs must be narrowly defined to avoid quotas or mathematic formulas.

In an amicus brief defending Seattle's plan, the ACLU pointed out that it met those standards. Through a review of the federal government's own data, the ACLU showed that neither magnet schools nor student assignments based on socioeconomic criteria have proved sufficient to address the segregation and re-segregation that plagues so many school districts across the country.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled 5-4 in June to reject the Seattle plan because it was not narrowly tailored. A majority of the court, however, recognized that school districts do still have a compelling interest in racially diverse public schools. The ACLU will continue its efforts to bring fairness and equality to schools.

#### **Education Equity**

Education is a key to opportunity, but historically, access to a quality education has been limited by race, ethnicity and class. In response, the ACLU of Washington legal department formed the Education Equity Project, to address the disparities in discipline, truancy rates, and dropout rates for Washington's students of color.

The project has published four guides to inform parents and students about their rights in public schools and how to advocate for them effectively. Individual guides focus on school discipline proceedings, truancy proceedings, and advocacy with school boards to change policies. The fourth guide updates and expands our longstanding publication on the whole range of students' rights in schools – from free speech, due process, and discrimination, to rights in relation to police and privacy.

All are available on the ACLU-WA Web site and are being translated into Spanish.

We also obtained a grant from the national ACLU's Racial Justice program to hire a temporary education equity advocate in the Tri-Cities area. This advocate will form partnerships with the Latino community, organize parent meetings and other public forums, investigate disciplinary actions by school officials, investigate law enforcement interactions with students, and analyze relevant education and discipline data.

#### **School Testing**

In recent years, educational policy-makers increasingly have relied on high-stakes testing both to evaluate performance of individual schools and to determine whether individual students can graduate. The ACLU has been concerned about the serious racial disparities in test results and has questioned whether minority students are receiving an adequate education.

In September 2006, the ACLU published a report on the drastic differences in Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) test scores between students of different racial and ethnic groups in the state. The report pinpoints areas to investigate in order to understand the causes of the disparities.

According to the 2005 WASL results, 47 percent of white 10th-grade students passed all three sections of the test. But only 21.7 percent of Native Americans, 18.1 percent of African Americans and 20.1 percent of Latinos passed all three sections – less than half the passage rate for white students.

The report was submitted to the Washington State Institute for Public Policy, the state agency assigned by the Legislature to track student performance in the WASL

and to explain why students fail the test. A *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* editorial praised the ACLU report, observing that "As Washington state moves toward imposing tougher high school graduation standards, the issues require clear, urgent answers."

#### **Gang Ordinances**

Many communities are struggling to assure their residents that they are safe while effectively enforcing the law. Unfortunately, some local governments have attempted to curb gang violence by enacting overly broad "anti-gang ordinances" that make otherwise lawful activities a crime.

In May 2007, the ACLU raised objections to an anti-gang ordinance adopted by the city of Sunnyside. The measure makes it illegal to be a gang member or to participate in gang activities, and empowers the city to give tickets to parents whose children participate in gangs.

Its definitions of "gang activity" include wearing "identifiable apparel" of a gang in the wrong setting and associating with people the police believe to be gang members. Any organization with members who at any time in the past engaged in gang activity could be considered a gang. For example, a church-based support group for ex-gang members would be considered a gang under the Sunnyside ordinance.

Indeed, the law's vagueness means in practice that law enforcement will have much discretion in enforcement, and makes it more likely that police will rely on racial profiling. Existing laws already cover criminal behavior associated with gangs, making the ordinance unnecessary.

The cities of Yakima and Union Gap have since enacted similar laws. The ACLU has shared its concerns with civil rights organizations in the area and is watching carefully to see how the laws are enforced.

## Right to PRIVACY

### Guarding Freedom in the 21st Century

echnology is a double-edged sword when it comes to civil liberties. The same advances that enable us to quickly access public information and to more easily lobby elected officials can also expose us to identity theft, eavesdropping and remote tracking.

The ACLU of Washington has stepped up to these challenges by establishing a Technology and Liberty Project. The new project aims to ensure that government and business respect civil liberties principles in decisions about technology. Whether browsing the Internet or using public transportation, people should retain their rights to express themselves freely, associate with others, and maintain their privacy.

"Modern technology moves very fast. Corporations and government agencies adopt new tools, and only later does the public realize how rights have been affected," said Christina Drummond, the tech-savvy advocate who directs the new project. "We want to raise awareness about civil liberty impacts, so they can be addressed before implementation, not after."

Drummond is working closely with ACLU-WA Privacy Project Director Doug Klunder, and is coordinating strategy with the national ACLU's Technology and Liberty Project. Her project already has produced educational materials and has begun building partnerships with experts in academia and technology industries. It has published position papers on the impacts of the REAL ID law, Radio Frequency ID tags (tiny radio transmitters that send information remotely) in ID cards, and data harvesting from driver's licenses. Klunder and Drummond have also started a blog, available at http://blogs. aclu-wa.org/tlp.

This July, Drummond organized a symposium at the University of Washington on RFID and personal privacy. The event brought together academic, industry and

community leaders to discuss policies that will both protect our civil liberties and allow for innovation.

#### Privacy in Banks

Bank records can show much about people's lives, including what they buy and from whom, which political and religious organizations they support, and more. Government should not have access to this private information without proper due process — that is, without going before a judge and obtaining a court order.

The ACLU defended the privacy of personal bank records in a case decided by the Washington Supreme Court. *State v. Miles* stemmed from the Washington State Securities Division having issued an administrative subpoena to request all Washington Mutual banking records for Michael Miles, who was being investigated for fraud and other charges. The agency also told the bank not to inform Miles about the subpoena.

Miles's lawyers argued that evidence gathered this way was not valid and should have been suppressed. But the trial court ruled that since banks are "pervasively regulated" institutions, constitutional privacy rights do not apply to them.

The ACLU submitted a friend-of-the court brief in the appeal to the Washington Supreme Court. It contended that because bank records are private, the state needs to go through a neutral magistrate in order to get them – either by getting a search warrant, or by issuing a subpoena that the subject can contest in court. The ACLU also said that there is no pervasively regulated industry exception to our state's constitutional privacy right; or that if one does exist, it's very narrow and limited solely to business records, not personal information.

The Washington Supreme Court agreed, ruling unanimously in April 2007 that bank records are private, and that government needs a warrant or a subpoena that can be challenged in court before gaining access to them. Doug Klunder, director of the ACLU-WA Privacy Project, wrote the amicus brief.

#### **Privacy in Hotels**

The only privacy concerns of a hotel guest should be whether the walls are too thin or whether the drapes cover the windows.



Doug Klunder, ACLU-WA Privacy Project director, and Christina Drummond, director of the ACLU-WA Technology and Liberty Project.

Guests should not have to worry that police are looking through the hotel register and taking notes on who chooses to stay there or the company they keep.

The ACLU was appalled when it learned that the Pierce County Sheriff's Department was routinely viewing guest registries at local hotels. During a sweep in 2003, deputies examined the registry at the Golden Lion Motel in Lakewood. After finding outstanding warrants for Timothy Jorden, they entered his room, found drugs, and arrested him. A trial court convicted Jorden, and his conviction was upheld by the state Court of Appeals.

The ACLU submitted an amicus brief to the state Supreme Court, saying that the police "fishing expedition" violated Jorden's right to privacy under the Washington Constitution. The ACLU asserted that hotel registration records are private, and police may not access them without reasonable suspicion of a crime. Giving police blanket access to hotel records could allow the government to learn about all guests' personal information, not just those with outstanding warrants.

Reaffirming the state's historic commitment to privacy rights, the high court agreed and overturned Jorden's conviction in April 2007. Doug Klunder, director of the ACLUWA Privacy Project, wrote the brief.

#### Strip Search Limits

Under state law, local jails cannot stripsearch someone unless there is a compelling reason to do so. Yet until recently, mandatory strip searches had been standard procedure for all detainees at Pierce County Jail.

The Washington Court of Appeals has put an end to that practice. The court ruled in August 2006 in *Plemmons v. Pierce County* that people held in local jails while they wait to post bail cannot be strip searched without a warrant or reasonable suspicion that they are smuggling contraband.

In 2001, Abra Plemmons was stopped for speeding, and her name matched an arrest warrant for someone who forged a check. Despite being the victim of identity theft, a judge in Tacoma ordered Plemmons to be held until she could post bail. The Pierce County Jail subjected her to a strip search before placing her in a general intake area. Plemmons posted bail that evening and was released. The county eventually realized she was innocent and dismissed the forgery charges.

The court agreed with an ACLU amicus brief, which explained that when the Legislature enacted laws against strip searches at local jails, it clearly intended to rule out general policies to strip search of temporary detainees. The brief was written by cooperating attorney Robert Hyde of the firm Rafel Manville and Mathew Pile of Riddell Williams.

The state laws restricting strip searches of detainees were passed in 1986, after intense lobbying by the ACLU. The ACLU had litigated several cases on behalf of people unjustly strip searched without a warrant at jails and detention centers.

## Religious FREEDOM

### Exclusive Religious Clubs on Campus

Public schools cannot discriminate against students on the basis of religious beliefs. In a lawsuit before the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, the ACLU is seeking to ensure that student clubs respect this principle.

The case involves a student-run bible club at Kentridge High School that applied to receive funding and official recognition from the school's student government. The club would accept members only if they were Christian, as defined by the club. The Kent School District denied the club's request because the club's rules violated district policies banning religious discrimination in student activities. The club members sued, claiming that the school violated their First Amendment

rights by requiring them to abide by the school's anti-discrimination policies.

In July 2006, the ACLU submitted an amicus brief in *Truth v. Kent School District*, supporting a lower court ruling that upheld the school district's actions. The court found that the Bible club, by forcing students to take a religious test to become voting members, discriminated against students of other religions. The ACLU pointed out that school officials were not unfairly targeting the student group, because it could still meet and hold activities at school, in accordance with state and federal laws on equal access.

Cooperating attorney Jane Whicher wrote the ACLU brief.

#### Gravestones for Veterans

Under the First Amendment, the government may not endorse any particular religion – or religion in general – nor may it treat some religious groups differently from others. Yet when it came to veterans, it took action by the ACLU and a religious

freedom ally for the government to give equal recognition to the beliefs of all.

The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) of the U.S. Department of Veterans

Affairs provides headstones free of charge to mark the graves of eligible veterans. The memorial can include an emblem of belief, but it must be approved by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The approved list included different forms of the Christian cross, the six-pointed Jewish star, and the Muslim crescent, as well as symbols for atheists and secular humanists, among many others.

But since the mid-1990s, the agency had stalled requests by veterans and

their families to add the pentacle to its list. The ACLU-WA and national ACLU sued on behalf of two churches and three individuals, including the mother of a soldier who was killed in action in Iraq in 2004, who requested the engraving of the

Wiccan pentacle symbol on the headstones of service members of that faith.

Success came in April 2007 when the NCA finally agreed to add the pentacle

to its list of approved emblems of belief, and to provide pentacle-engraved headstones and markers to the families in the lawsuit. The settlement resolved a separate lawsuit on the issue, filed by Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

The first headstone bearing the pentacle was installed a month later at Arlington National Cemetery. It marks the grave of World War II veteran Abraham Kooiman, the father of Kathleen Egbert,

one of the plaintiffs represented by the ACLU.

ACLU-WA Staff Attorney Aaron Caplan represented the petitioners along with Daniel Mach of the national ACLU's Program on Freedom of Religion and Belief. ■



Photo by Debby Morris
The first tombstone in
Arlington National Cemetery
featuring a Wiccan pentacle.

## Right to **VOTE**

#### Modern Poll Tax

he right to vote should never be conditioned on one's financial means. Yet Washington denies the franchise to many people who've served time in prison solely because they owe debts imposed as part of their sentence. As a result, a person with more money is

after their release from prison. In 2006, a King County Superior Court judge found this modern form of the poll tax unconstitutional. But in July of this year, the Washington Supreme Court - ignoring economic realities - overturned the lower court's ruling. Handling the case were Peter Danelo and Molly Terwilliger of the firm Heller Ehrman White & McAuliffe, ACLU-WA Staff Attorney Aaron Caplan, and Neil Bradley of the ACLU Voting Rights Project

Now, attention turns to the state Legislature. When the 2007 session began, the ACLU's hopes were buoyed by increasing recognition from political leaders of the need for reform legislation. Governor



Voting Rights Restoration volunteers Bess McKinney and María Elena Ramírez.

far more likely to regain the right to vote. Our system for restoring voting rights is not only unfair, it is so complex and unreliable that officials have been unable to track accurately who is eligible to vote.

Disenfranchisement is a serious problem. In 2002, according to the Department of Corrections, 46,500 people with past felon convictions in Washington were unable to vote just because of outstanding "legal financial obligations."

The ACLU has worked to remedy this situation for several years. In the legal arena, we filed a lawsuit in 2004 (*Madison v. State*), challenging the state law on behalf of several citizens barred from voting

Chris Gregoire has said that withholding voting rights due to fines creates "a virtual debtors' prison."

We backed a measure that would streamline the process by automatically restoring the right to vote for people upon release. It would not waive individuals' courtimposed debts or change the conditions of sentences. Instead, it would create a clear distinction: People who are in prison cannot vote, and people who have been released can vote. Although the legislation won broad support from the League of Women Voters, the State Labor Council, the Paralyzed Veterans of America, and the Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs, it

## Immigrant RIGHTS

#### Discriminatory Initiative

ritics of immigration policy have in recent years sought to enact local ordinances that would wrongly put local officials in the position of attempting to enforce federal immigration laws. And they often are written so loosely that they would put unreasonable burdens on many people, particularly the poor and the elderly.

The ACLU successfully challenged the language of one such ballot initiative proposed in 2007. Initiative 966 would have required state and local government officials to verify the identity and status of every person applying for state and local benefits. Civil servants who did not report undocumented immigrants to authorities could be prosecuted.

Agreeing with our challenge to the ballot title, a Thurston County Superior Court judge altered language that failed to mention that I-966 would have affected access to more than 30 programs, including some dealing with the elderly, children and the disabled. The court also removed misleading language that neglected to say the measure would impact both citizens and noncitizens alike. The ACLU brought the challenge on behalf of the Children's Alliance, a statewide organization that advocates for services for children.

I-966 failed to get enough signatures to qualify for the ballot. The ACLU challenge was presented by ACLU cooperating attorneys Paul Lawrence, Martha

did not pass. The bill remains a priority for us, especially with the approach of another presidential election.

Meanwhile, volunteers with the ACLU-WA Voting Rights Restoration Project continue to help people navigate the Rodriguez-Lopez and Jessica Skelton of K&L Gates.

### The Language of Due Process

The right to due process includes a reasonable opportunity to understand legal proceedings, as well as to be heard. When people involved in litigation speak a language other than English, they should have access to a translator, so that they can protect their rights.

The ACLU is defending this right in an amicus brief submitted in the case of three Bosnian immigrants who are challenging decisions of the Board of Industrial Insurance Appeals over compensation for job injuries.

Hajrudin Kustura, Gordana Lukić and Maida Memišvić speak a dialect of Bosnian. But the Department of Labor and Industries offers only limited translation of documents and proceedings for people filing claims, which does not include Bosnian. The three claimants were not given access to a translator so that they could understand testimony and attorney discussions at their hearings; in fact, the board prevented Kustura from hiring a translator on his own.

Washington state already requires translation services during criminal proceedings. The ACLU says that this requirement should also apply to civil proceedings, such as reviews of worker compensation claims. The case is pending before the Washington Court of Appeals.

The ACLU brief was written by cooperating attorneys Christine Snyder and Pamela DeVet of the firm Gordon Tilden Thomas and Cordell, LLP, and Staff Attorney Aaron Caplan. The claimants are being represented by the Northwest Justice Project.

complicated, often bewildering process to regain their right to vote. Led by staffer Eric Nygren, the project has helped nearly a hundred people get their certificates of discharge, the court document required for them to be able to register and vote.

## Women's RIGHTS

### Pregnancy Is Not a Disability

hough sex discrimination in employment is illegal, some employers still find ways to deny job opportunities to pregnant women by claiming that pregnancy is a disability or a handicap that can't be reasonably accommodated.

But pregnancy is a natural condition, and bias against a pregnant employee must be treated as a form of sex discrimination. The ACLU and the Northwest Women's Law Center (NWLC) recently reminded the Washington Supreme Court of this in the case of *Hegwine v. Longview*.

Stacey Hegwine was fired from a job as an order checker for Longview Fibre Company after the company found out she was pregnant. The company argued that the job required her to lift more weight than she was able to. When Hegwine sued the company for violating the Washington Law Against Discrimination, her former employer asked that the case be considered a disability matter.

The ACLU and NWLC submitted a friend-of-the-court brief urging the Supreme Court to treat Hegwine's termination as sex discrimination. For more than 30 years, Washington law has prohibited adverse treatment of women because of pregnancy or childbirth, requiring employers to accommodate the needs of a pregnant employee whenever possible.

The brief was written by cooperating attorney Kathleen Phair Barnard of Schwerin, Campbell, Barnard and Iglitzin, ACLU-WA Legal Director Sarah Dunne, and Sara Ainsworth of NWLC.

#### Access to Medicines

Individuals have a right to access health care. While there may be cases where an individual pharmacist has a right to refuse to provide a prescription based on religion or belief, this refusal must not burden the patient or interfere with the patient's health.

After 18 months of pressure from the ACLU and its allies, the Washington Board of Pharmacy adopted new regulations based on this principle. The action came after reports emerged of pharmacists refusing to fill prescriptions for contraceptives, HIV and other medicines, based on religious or personal beliefs.



ESPN sports reporter Doris Burke and State Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles participated in a panel to celebrate the 35th anniversary of Title IX, sponsored by the ACLU-WA and the Women's Sports Foundation.

The board voted in April 2007 to obligate pharmacists to fill valid prescriptions regardless of their personal feelings about a particular medicine. Pharmacists who object on religious or personal grounds may ask another pharmacist on duty to provide the medicine, but in all cases the pharmacy must fill the prescription in a timely manner. Pharmacists will not be allowed to refer

customers to other pharmacies.

With the changes in regulations, the Board of Pharmacy has struck the appropriate balance between patients' rights of access to medication and pharmacists' individual rights. Patients are now assured that they can get prescriptions filled for HIV medication, emergency contraceptives, and other medications.

## Criminal JUSTICE

### Making Police Accountable

ociety vests police with the power to restrain and arrest people, and to use deadly force when the circumstances warrant it. These powers must be balanced with fair and effective means for the citizenry to hold police accountable when allegations of misconduct arise.

The ACLU continues to play a leading role in efforts around the state to seek greater police accountability. In King County, ACLU Legislative Director Jennifer Shaw served on a blue ribbon panel appointed by the County Council to examine the Sheriff's Office. The panel came in the wake of a hard-hitting series in the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* that detailed incidents of misconduct by county law enforcement officers.

After several months of work, the body issued an in-depth report pinpointing barriers to accountability, including insufficient investigators to handle complaints against officers and lack of solid methods for investigating employee misconduct. In October 2006, the Council voted to implement a key recommendation of the panel: creation of an independent office to review complaints of misconduct by Sheriff's Office employees. The new office will provide sorely needed oversight to the Sheriff's operations.

The Seattle Police Department already has a citizen review process, but the SPD also has come under fire from the media and community groups. Several years ago, pressure from the ACLU and others led to the creation of a civilian-led Office of Professional Accountability to investigate allegations of misconduct. However, Chief Gil Kerlikowske has recently overridden its recommendations in several incidents where officers allegedly used excessive force or planted evidence. In June 2007, Mayor

Nickels appointed the ACLU's Jennifer Shaw to another special panel that will examine how to improve Seattle's accountability system.

The city of Spokane also experienced two high-profile police incidents that high-lighted the need for independent oversight of police. In response, the ACLU helped organize a series of public forums on police accountability, including presentations by Jennifer Shaw and ACLU Board Member Brooks Holland of Gonzaga University Law School. The ACLU continues to work with advocates in Spokane to support the public commitment by Police Chief Anne Kirkpatrick and Mayor Dennis Hession to create an independent officer to monitor citizen complaints and promote good police practices.

### Death Penalty Juries

The fair selection of juries is a crucial element of any trial, especially so when that trial could result in the death penalty. People should not be excluded from serving on juries simply because they express reservations about applying the death penalty.

This issue was at stake when the ACLU filed an amicus brief with U.S. Supreme Court in the Washington state capital case of Cal Coburn Brown. At Brown's trial, a jury candidate was dismissed after saying he would consider a defendant's future dangerousness in deciding whether to impose the death penalty. However, the man confirmed that he would follow the court's instructions and the laws on sentencing, and that he would indeed consider imposing the death penalty.

The ACLU urged the court to uphold established constitutional and legal procedures, which recognize that the standard for jury selection must be whether candidates can put aside any personal beliefs about the death penalty and fairly apply the law.

However, in June 2007 the Supreme Court ruled 5-4 to reinstate Cal Brown's death sentence, which had been overturned by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The court's minority opinion pointed



Legislative Director Jennifer Shaw proudly displays the King County Sheriff's Blue Ribbon Panel report, which she helped to produce.

out that the ruling was a departure from previous decisions that allowed individuals opposed to the death penalty to serve on juries.

The brief was written by ACLU-WA Legal Director Sarah Dunne and Staff Attorney Nancy Talner, and national ACLU legal staff.

### Offender Housing Restrictions

Some local governments have adopted laws to restrict where people with convictions for sex offenses may live. While these ordinances may be politically popular, making it very difficult for former offenders to find housing does not make us safer. The ACLU and law enforcement officials alike agree the public interest is best served when individuals who re-enter society have stable living situations.

The city of Issaquah adopted an ordinance that limited sex offenders to living in undeveloped land or commercial and industrial buildings with no dwellings. In 2005, the ACLU filed a challenge on behalf of Kyle Lewis and his mother, in whose Issaquah rental property he was

living. Lewis had been convicted of a sex offense when he was a minor, had completed the terms of his sentence, and had not committed another offense for more than a decade.

In practice, the only way for him to comply with the law was to move out of the city.

The ACLU asserted that Issaquah's ordinance is inconsistent with state law, which does not restrict where sex offenders may live after they have completed their sentences. The city's law also imposed additional punishment on someone who had already served his time.

A superior court judge did not grant the ACLU's request for an injunction barring the law's enforcement. A settlement was reached in May 2007, with the city agreeing to pay \$5,000 to Kyle Lewis and his mother, to cover moving and other costs. The city's ordinance stayed in place. The case was handled by ACLU cooperating attorney Jeffrey Cohen and Staff Attorney Aaron Caplan.

Other cities will not be following Issaquah's lead. The 2006 Legislature adopted a measure prohibiting individual cities from adopting similar laws in the future.

## Drug Policy **REFORM**

### Medical Marijuana is Not a Crime

he War on Drugs has snared people whose only "crime" was relying on marijuana to manage severe pain or to cope with other symptoms of chronic illnesses. Though the people of Washington state in 1998 adopted an initiative allowing medicinal use of marijuana, nearly a decade later some medical marijuana patients, their caretakers and those who provide them with medicine still faced arrest and prosecution. This year the state Legislature passed an ACLU-backed measure to remedy the problem.

The Medical Use of Marijuana Act (I-692) allows patients with certain conditions to use marijuana as medicine, with a physician's recommendation. However, the law did not clearly specify how much marijuana patients and caregivers could possess

Addressing this and other concerns, Senate Bill 6032 directed the Department of Health to define a presumptive "60-day supply" and to provide recommendations

to the Legislature on how best to provide patients access to medical marijuana. The bill also clarified that the police do not need to confiscate and destroy patients' medical marijuana.

The bill should significantly reduce arrests of medical marijuana patients and caregivers. And for the first time, many legislators seriously discussed the value of marijuana as medicine and recognized the need to assist patients. The ACLU will continue to work for further reforms to the medical marijuana law.

#### Alternatives to Jail

The government has misdiagnosed drug dependency as a criminal problem, resulting in the prosecution and conviction of thousands of people who would be better served by treatment and support. The ACLU is working with advocacy organizations and other partners to keep individuals suffering from these illnesses out of the criminal justice system, and to help them function in society.

At the local level, ACLU-WA Drug Policy Reform Project staff helped design the "Clean Dreams" pilot project in Seattle's Rainier Beach community. Clean Dreams promotes public safety by providing social services to at-risk and drug-involved young adults, as an alternative to arrest and prosecution. At the state level, the Washington Legislature in 2007 enacted ACLU-supported legislation (SB 5533) that provides alternatives to prosecuting mentally ill people suspected of committing a criminal offense.

Last fall, the ACLU participated in a summit organized by law enforcement officials and advocates for the mentally ill that focused on how to prevent the recycling of individuals through the criminal justice system. Recommendations generated at this summit will be used to guide further reforms in the 2008 Legislature.

### Drug Testing in School

Drug testing invades privacy, and national studies have shown it to be ineffective in preventing drug abuse by students. Yet some schools have decided to test students without suspicion, as a condition to participate in extracurricular activities. The ACLU is challenging this policy in two Washington school districts.

In May 2007, the Washington Supreme Court heard oral arguments in our lawsuit on behalf of parents at the Wahkiakum School District in southwest Washington. Several years ago, the school board adopted a policy requiring all students in extracurricular athletic activities to agree to urine testing without suspicion. The suit

contends that suspicionless testing violates the "privacy clause" of the Washington Constitution (Article I, Section 7), which provides that "No person shall be disturbed in his private affairs, or his home invaded, without authority of law."

"I object to the urine-testing policy as an unwarranted invasion of privacy. I want school to teach our children to think critically, not to police them," said Hans York, a deputy sheriff and plaintiff in the Wahkiakum suit.

Also pending in Kittitas County Superior Court is an ACLU suit filed in 2005 against the Cle Elum-Roslyn School District on behalf of several parents, students, and a football coach. That year, the school board adopted a policy requiring any student in a cocurricular activity to consent in writing to suspicionless drug testing.

Studies have found that suspicionless student drug testing does not affect student drug use. The first large-scale study, published by researchers at the University of Michigan in 2003, found no difference in rates of drug use between schools that have drug testing programs and those that do not.

Cooperating attorneys Eric Martin and Natasha Black of Davis Wright Tremaine have handled the Wahkiakum case. Mat Harrington of Heller Ehrman is handling the lawsuit against the Cle Elum-Roslyn School District.

Cindy Jordan

Chad Kearney

Lorraine Kasprisin

## Thank You VOLUNTEERS

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Josh Adlin
Sheena Aebig
Sherri Allen
Mark Anderson
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Michael Schein Leaf Schumann Katie Sheehy Sarah Shifley Paula Shifley Korri Shimizu Brett Silton Hillela Simpson Marcia Skok Robert A. Skylstad Karl Smith Marilyn S. Smith Erica Snyder Bryan Sonderman Ian Spiers Thaddeus H. Spratlen Travis Spears Anita Srivastava Jay Stansell Richard Steele Ward Stern Lizzie Stewart Ward Stern Naomi Strand David Tagliani **Brad Thomas** Denise Thomas Tyrone T. Thorsen Kate Tylee John Ullman Art Vaeni Nick Verbon Heather Villanueva Ashish Wahi Chris Walker Kevin Wallace Ben Waters Colleen Waterhouse Peggy Weir Jane Wekell-Pulliam Jody Weller Henry Werch Alexis Wheeler Don White Vandana Whitney Steve Wilker Scott Willoughby Edward Wilson Walt Wilson Kate Winne Bob Withycombe Carmen Wong Tracy Wood LeeAnn Woodrum Janet Woodward Richard Wright Morgan Wynne

James Yi

Suk-Lin Zhou

## Chapters in ACTION



The ACLU of Washington brought the message of freedom across the state,

Rob Jones

Floyd Jones

Howard Jones

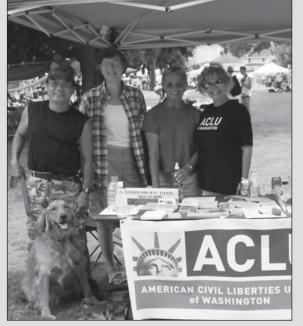
with the help of activists in its local chapters. They hosted tables at fairs and community events, distributed literature, organized public forums, wrote letters to the editor, showed

films dealing with civil liberties, marched in parades and more.

Chapter activists helped educate the public about abuses of power stemming from the War on Terror. Grays Harbor County members held a "wake" – coffin and all – for the Constitution, to mark the passage of the Military Commissions Act. ACLU activists in San Juan Island organized a forum on civil liberties and the War on Terror, featuring former U.S. Attorney John McKay. The Jefferson County Chapter welcomed a crowd of 150 people for a speech by former Guantánamo Army Chaplain James Yee.

Working at the grass roots, chapters helped to pursue LGBT equity in Washington. The Whatcom and Yakima County chapters tabled at their local Pride events. The Whatcom, Pierce and Yakima County chapters sponsored forums on domestic partnerships.

Chapter members also advocated for better accountability of police in their communities. In Spokane they helped organize a series of public forums featuring Police Chief Anne Kirkpatrick, investigative reporter Tim Connor and other local leaders. The Pierce County Chapter sponsored a talk by Tansy Haywood, member of the Tacoma Citizen Review Panel, to discuss the state of police accountability in the city.



Clark County Chapter members Quan Tran, Dianne Hibbard, Peggy Carroll and Melody Good.

The ACLU's annual Lobby Day on Feb. 13 was again a success. It brought supporters from 17 legislative districts around the state to Olympia to advocate for ACLU priority issues in the Legislature. Participants also attended and testified in a Senate hearing on a bill to restore voting rights to people who've completed prison sentences.

#### Volunteer ATTORNEYS

### Revenue & EXPENSES

Cohen & Iaria Jeffrey Bernstein Jeffrey Cohen

Carney Badley Smith & Spellman James Lobsenz

Columbia Legal Services Peter Greenfield

Davidson Czeisler & Kilptaric, P.S. Ken Davidson

Davis Wright Tremaine Kristina Bennard Natasha Black Randy Gainer Roger Leishman Eric Martin Lissa Shook

Dorsey & Whitney Sarah Evans Shawn Larsen-Bright John Schochet

Frank Freed Subit & Thomas LLP Michael Subit

Gendler & Mann Mickey Gendler

Gordon Tilden Thomas & Cordell Pamela DeVet

Pamela DeVet Christie Snyder Mark Wilner

Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro Barbara Mahoney

Hillis Clark Martin & Peterson Amit Ranade

Kipling Law Group PLLC Michael Kipling Timothy Moran Heller Ehrman Rima Alaily Peter Danelo Katherine Foley Justo Gonzales Lisa Hardie Mathew Harrington Mark Parris

Molly Terwilliger

Peggy Williams

Johnson & Flora PLLC Mark Johnson

K&L Gates
Jay Carlson
Michelle Jensen
Paul Lawrence
Marc Levy
Ryan Redekopp
Martha Rodriguez-Lopez
Michael Ryan
Matthew Segal
Jessica Skelton
Alex Wagner

McCullough Hill, PS Rich Hill

MacDonald Hoague & Bayless Tim Ford Kay Frank Jesse Wing

NASD Regulation, Inc. David Utevsky

Perkins Coie Breena Roos David Taylor James Williams

Peterson Young & Putra Felix Luna Jan Eric Peterson

Phillips Law Group, PLLC Matthew Geyman

Public Interest Law Group Hank Balson Rafel Manville PLLC Robert Hyde Duncan Manville

Schroeter Goldmark & Bender Adam Berger

Schwerin Campbell Barnard & Iglitzin Kathleen Barnard

Martin Garfinkel

**Skellenger Bender, PS** Beth Andrus Raegen Rasnic

Stoel Rives Laura Beveridge

Stokes Lawrence, P.S. Scott Johnson

Susman Godfrey Justin Nelson

Yarmuth Wilsdon Calf PLLC

Jordan Gross And Venkat Balasubramani David Boerner Jennifer Cosgrove-Smith Lafcadio Darling Fred Diamondstone Chris Gamache Christian Halliburton Doug Klunder Dan Laster Jeffrey Needle David Nichols Leigh Noffsinger Timothy McMichael Anita Ramasastry

Traci Ann Sammeth
Lila Silverstein
David Sorenson
John Strait
Ruth Todd
Jane Whicher
Sherri Wolson
David Zuckerman

#### 2006-2007 Revenue & Expenditures

(unaudited)\*

ACLU of Washington Foundation Support & Revenue

 Annual Fund Campaign
 1,263,089

 Workplace Giving
 136,139

 Bequests and Miscellaneous
 408,094

 Endowment Fund Income
 276,832

 Foundation Grants
 691,578

 Transfers from Designated Funds
 54,742

 Less sharing with National ACLU
 (358,332)

 Total
 2,472,142

**Expenses** 

 Communications Program
 405,716

 Legal Program
 528,906

 Field Program
 121,312

 Drug Policy Reform Project
 376,460

 Liberty & Technology
 39,853

 Development
 304,897

 Management & General
 403,615

 Total
 2,180,759

ACLU of Washington Support & Revenue

 Membership
 524,141

 Annual Fund Campaign
 66,250

 Bequests & Misc
 27,805

 Add sharing with National ACLU
 27,721

 Total
 645,917

**Expenses** 

\*Audited statements will be available from the ACLU-WA office late summer 2007

#### Nominating Underway

The Board Nominating Committee is reviewing candidates for this fall's election to the ACLU of Washington Board of Directors. The committee looks for individuals whose strong interest in civil liberties and civil rights is combined with a willingness and ability to make a serious time commitment to the organization's work, including fundraising. Nominees also should have skills and experiences that will enhance the work of the Board.

The Nominating Committee is committed to ensuring a diversity in Board membership that reflects the ACLU's mission of advancing equality for all and that enables us to reach out to underrepresented groups.

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

Ten of 30 at-large positions will be up for election. Members may submit suggestions for nominees to the Nominating Committee in care of the ACLU-WA office. Members also may be nominated by a petition signed by five ACLU-WA members and submitted to the Executive Director, along with a 150-word statement, by Sept.25.

The election takes place in the fall edition of Civil Liberties. New Board members are seated in January.

#### **Board of Directors**



Nancy Bristow
Eve Enslow
Judy Fleissner
Mary Gallwey
Chris Gamache
Moloy Good
Rebecca Guerra
Carol Guthrie
Christian Halliburton
Brooks Holland

Jesse Wing President

Kathleen Taylor
Executive Director

Roberto Sánchez *Editor* 

Abby Vogus *Design/Layout*  Suzanne Holland Cindy Jordan Mike Kipling Doug Klunder Daniel Larner Dan Laster Paul Lawrence B. Stephen Lee Judy Mercer Robert Plumb Amit Ranade RoseMary Reed Jean Robinson Trilby Robinson-Dorn Matt Segal Ashish Wahi Jesse Wing

#### **Civil Liberties**

Geoff Miller

Published four times a year at 705 2nd Avenue, 3rd Fl., Seattle, WA 98104-1799. Phone 206.624.2184. Membership is \$35 and up. *Civil Liberties* is a benefit of membership. Incorrectly addressed mail and address corrections should be sent to the above address. Every signed article in *Civil Liberties* is the opinion of the writer and not necessarily ACLU policy.

#### THE LEGACY CHALLENGE:

### Defend Freedom Today with Your Gift for the Future

You may have seen the mailings or even read the "Legacy of Liberty" brochure. The news that a major donor in New York had offered to make a cash donation of up to 10 per cent of any bequest to the ACLU Foundation included in or added to a will during 2005 and 2006 was exciting indeed. Equally newsworthy, however, is the fact that over 45 generous ACLU donors here in Washington notified us to say they were leaving more than \$4.3 million to the ACLU Foundation through planned gifts. As a result, the ACLU received over \$165,000 in matching donations—funds that were put to immediate use—from the Robert W. Wilson Charitable Trust.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to every Washingtonian who joined in that effort. Their foresight in planning for a future gift has helped to ensure that the ACLU will always be able to defend the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. What's more, in providing for future support of the ACLU, each of those individuals enabled us to receive a matching gift that we put to work right away.

The news gets better: We are thrilled to report that the Legacy Challenge has been renewed for another two years, with a retroactive start date of June 1, 2007. Now, when a donor notifies us for the first time that they've established a planned gift, the Robert W. Wilson Charitable Trust will once again make a cash donation of up to 10 per cent of the future gift's value, with a maximum match of \$10,000.

#### How does it work?

- 1. Complete your bequest provision for the ACLU Foundation in your will or trust.
- 2. Tell us about it. (Matching forms are available from our office, online or at your local affiliate.)
- 3. A cash donation of up to \$10,000 will be made by the Robert W. Wilson Charitable Trust.

For answers to any questions you may have, please call or e-mail Theda Jackson Mau, ACLU of Washington Director of Development at 206.624.2184, or at jacksonmau@aclu-wa.org. Or, if you prefer, visit www.legacy.aclu.org for estate planning checklists, gift calculators, how-tos, articles, and more information about the Legacy Challenge itself.

To reach the National ACLU Planned Giving staff, please e-mail legacy@aclu.org or dial toll-free: 877.867.1025.

#### Ways of Giving to the ACLU

The ACLU of Washington and the ACLU of Washington Foundation are separately incorporated nonprofit organizations. The ACLU is our membership and legislative lobbying organization, supported by dues, which are not tax-deductible. The ACLU Foundation is our tax-deductible arm and conducts litigation, research, and public education in support of civil liberties.

**Cash or Credit Cards**: We accept cash and checks as well as debit cards and credit cards via MasterCard or VISA. Monthly, quarterly, or other installment schedules are welcome.

Give online at: www.aclu-wa.org.

**Gifts of Stock**: By giving appreciated securities, you can usually deduct the full fair market value of your stock and avoid capital gains taxes.

**Workplace Giving:** If your employer has an employee giving campaign, payroll deduction is a convenient way to make a tax-deductible contribution.

**Matching Gifts:** Many companies match charitable contributions of employees. If your employer has a matching gift program, please designate the ACLU Foundation.

**Honorary and Memorial Gifts:** If you would like to honor someone special or the memory of a loved one, you may make a gift and include a personal message that we will send to the person or family.

**Gift Memberships:** Share your commitment to civil liberties with a friend or family member through a gift membership. They will receive a special acknowledgment and other materials to introduce them to the ACLU.

**Retirement Accounts:** When you designate the ACLU or ACLU Foundation as a beneficiary of your IRA, 401k, or other retirement plan, you may avoid estate tax and income tax.

**Life Insurance**: By naming the ACLU Foundation as the owner or beneficiary of a life insurance policy, you may generate a charitable income tax deduction equal to the current value of the policy.

**Bequests:** If you provide for the ACLU in your will, your bequest will fund our critical legislative efforts. By designating the ACLU Foundation, you support all of our work and may reduce the estate tax.

**Life Income Plans:** A gift annuity, pooled income fund, or charitable remainder trust pays income to you or another person over time and may provide a charitable income tax deduction.



**The Legacy Challenge:** When you designate the ACLU Foundation in your will or trust, up to \$10,000 of your gift's value will be matched!

For more information, please contact Director of Development Theda Jackson Mau at 206.624.2184 or jacksonmau@aclu-wa.org.

## ACLU in the **NEWS**

The actions and views of the ACLU of Washington were covered by these media (among others) in the past year:

#### **PRINT**

Aberdeen Daily World The Advocate Associated Press Bellevue Reporter Columbia Basin Herald Daily Evergreen (Pullman) Deseret News (Salt Lake City) Ellensburg Daily Record Everett Herald Grand Coulee Star Grant County Journal Issaquah Press Jib Sheet (Bellevue) Journal of Educational Controversy Journal of the San Juans King County Journal Kitsap Sun Lewiston Tribune (Idaho) Los Angeles Times New York Times Olympian Port Townsend Leader

Real Change News (Seattle)

Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Seattle Gay News

Seattle Times
Spokane Spokesman-Review
The Stranger (Seattle)
Tacoma News-Tribune
Tri-City Herald (Richland)
Vancouver Columbian
Washington Free Press
Washington Law & Politics
Wenatchee World
Yakima Herald-Republic

#### **RADIO**

KBCS (Bellevue)
KBKW (Aberdeen)
KBSN (Moses Lake)
KDRM (Moses Lake)
KEXP (Seattle)
KIRO (Seattle)
KIT (Yakima)
KLKI (Anacortes)
KMAS (Shelton)
KNCW (Omak)
KOMO (Seattle)
KOMW (Omak)
KPU (Tacoma)
KPQ (Wenatchee)

KSWW (Aberdeen)
KUGS (Bellingham)
KUOW (Seattle)
KWNC (Wenatchee)
KYRS (Spokane)
KZBE (Omak)
Metro Networks Radio
Northwest Public Affairs Network
Radio Cadena (Granger)
Sirius Satellite Radio
Voice of America
Washington News Service

#### **TELEVISION**

BBC
FVTV (Vancouver)
KAPP (Yakima)
KING (Seattle)
KLTV (Longview)
KOMO (Seattle)
KREM (Spokane)
Seattle Community Access Network
Snohomish County Community TV
Thurston Community Television

