



### Fairness in Property Tax at Heart of Debate

ANCHORAGE — Oral arguments were heard on February 28th in a case before the Alaska Superior Court to overturn a new law that provides a special property tax exemption for housing for religious school teachers. In June, 2006, the ACLU of Alaska and two Anchorage residents filed suit against the State of Alaska challenging the new tax exemption law. In the lawsuit, the ACLU argues that this tax exemption violates the Establishment Clauses of both the United States and Alaska Constitutions because it discriminates in favor of religious organizations by providing a benefit that is not available to non-religious groups. Since the time the case was filed, three churches have been added as defendants (Anchorage Baptist Temple, Hamilton Acres Baptist Church, and Valley Baptist

Tabernacle) and the case was consolidated with a similar suit filed by another group of Anchorage residents. The case is *Coonrod, et al. v. State of Alaska, et al.*, Case No. 3AN-06-08866CI. It was consolidated with *Baxley, et al. v. State of Alaska, et al.*, Case No. 3AN-06-08943CI.

To find out more:

<http://www.aclu.org/religion/govtfunding/26028prs20060612.html>

### Drug Law Reform

JUNEAU — The Alaska Supreme Court heard arguments March 20th in a case concerning the right of adults to possess small amounts of marijuana within their homes. In May 2006, the Alaska legislature enacted a law that would criminalize private, adult marijuana possession, which has been legal in Alaska since 1975. The American Civil Liberties Union challenged the law, arguing that the state constitution’s privacy provisions protect adults who use and possess marijuana in their homes from police surveillance, searches, arrest and prosecution.

“The fundamental right to privacy is something we in Alaska take very seriously,” said Jason Brandeis ACLU of Alaska Staff Attorney. “We must not allow irrational fears of private conduct by other adults to erode our most basic constitutional protections.”

The Alaska Supreme Court has repeatedly ruled that the state constitution’s privacy provisions protect adults’ possession of small amounts of marijuana in the home. The Court’s initial ruling came in 1975, in *Ravin v. State*, and was most recently reaffirmed in 2004, in *Noy v. State*, which overturned a measure markedly similar to the law currently being challenged.

Based on these rulings, on July 10, 2006 a Juneau Superior Court judge struck down the legislature’s most recent attempt to criminalize private, adult marijuana possession. The ACLU is

asking the Supreme Court to affirm this lower court ruling.

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“The federal government’s failed marijuana policy need not serve as a model for the fifty states,” said Adam Wolf, an attorney with the ACLU Drug Law Reform Project,

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### Voting Rights Act

ANCHORAGE — On behalf of four Alaska Natives and four tribal governments, the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) and the American Civil Liberties Union filed a motion in federal court on May 5th ordering state and local elections officials to provide effective oral language assistance and voting materials to citizens who speak Yup’ik, the primary language of a majority of voters in the Bethel region of Alaska. The motion comes in a lawsuit filed in 2007 charging state and local elections officials with ongoing violations of the federal Voting Rights Act.

“The state of Alaska and city of Bethel continue to violate the Voting Rights Act by blocking Alaska Natives from participating in the democratic process,” said NARF attorney Natalie Landreth, who is lead co-counsel in the case. “Election officials expect Yup’ik voters to understand translations which are incomprehensible, inaccurate, confusing, and cause them to vote the wrong way. Under federal law, state and local elections officials must provide oral language assistance in Yup’ik and

Voting Rights continued on page 8

### Northern Rights Online

In the coming months, the ACLU of Alaska is going to do our part for the environment. Our next newsletter will be available in two formats, online or print. This will reduce our carbon footprint while allowing for more informed content in our stories, including live links and more. The ACLU of Alaska is partnering with the national office to create a system of monthly emails that will inform our supporters of our legal and legislative work as well as public events and issues of national importance. To sign up for the ACLU -CAN program, send an email to [mserres@akclu.org](mailto:mserres@akclu.org). To sign up for electronic versions of our newsletter, and removal from our print newsletter mailing list, email [jsmerud@akclu.org](mailto:jsmerud@akclu.org).

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**Executive**  
**Director Report**  
**Jeffrey A. Mittman**

As summer in Alaska begins, the ACLU team is taking advantage of the long hours of daylight to move forward on many projects.

Our litigation program continues in overdrive. Following our recent Supreme Court victories, we continue with pending federal and state cases concerning, amongst other issues, the right to vote, privacy, prisoners' rights, and religious freedom.

Our legislative advocacy during this last session in Juneau included successful passage of a bill prohibiting expenditure of state funds to implement the very problematic federal REAL ID Act. We are hopeful that, by the time you receive this newsletter, the Governor would have signed the bill into law. During interim, we are working in coalition with our allies to protect a woman's right to choose and to prevent introduction of the death penalty into state law. And on numerous other issues, we are laying the groundwork with coalition partners to be able to meet the challenges that lay ahead in the next legislative session.

Our public education efforts have also recently increased. Supported by the Tides Foundation's State Equality Fund, a philanthropic partnership that includes the Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund, the Gill Foundation, and other anonymous donors, we've just added a new member to our team – the first ever permanent full-time staff member dedicated solely to the advancement and protection of LGBT rights in the state of Alaska.

Importantly, the national ACLU has re-committed to partnering with us as we move to continue and expand our prisoners' rights work. By our next newsletter, we hope to have important news on that front.

This high level of program work requires a strong infrastructure. Here, too, we are busy. On the "systems" side, the affiliate is working with the national communications team to improve our electronic communications abilities – so that we can quickly and effectively mobilize our members and activists to become an even stronger presence in state, local and federal advocacy. If you have not already done so, please consider providing us your email address.

Of course, none of this work would be possible without the support of our members and donors. Our development team has already begun several new initiatives to increase our resources and grow our litigation, legislative advocacy, and public education and organizing.

On a personal note, I'd like to thank the many members and supporters who have welcomed me so warmly to our community. It is difficult to imagine a more exciting time to be joining the ACLU of Alaska. As a state, we are preparing to commemorate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. As a nation, there are signs everywhere of a deepening understanding of the incredible damages that have been inflicted on our constitutional liberties, and a renewed sense of purpose to be involved in the battles to restore our rights.

As I begin my travels around the state meeting ACLU members, supporters, coalition partners, and even opponents in the important public policy debates ahead, I am struck by the depth of passion for freedom and privacy. Your ACLU stands ready to defend freedom. If you have an issue you'd like us to know about, if you'd like our team to visit your town or village, if you want to help us – we are always available by phone or email.

I look forward to working with you!

# Introducing the **Northern Rights Clubs**

Leslie Dickson, Stephanie Pawlowski and Jason Brandeis co-hosted our inaugural Anchorage Amicus Club get-together at Bernie's Bungalow on May 13th. The event not only raised funds, matched by a generous challenge grant by Robin Smith and Eric McCallum, to support our programs and outreach, but also turned a lot of people on to the idea of defending freedom for as little as \$10 a month.



From Left: Jeffrey Mittman, Leslie Dickson  
Stephanie Pawlowski, Jason Brandeis



Civil Liberties and Disco Balls, a perfect combination



Board member Rich Curtner and Jeffrey  
Mittman talk with party guests.

## Club Levels

\$100 and above-Constitution

\$50-\$99 per month-Advocate

\$10-\$49 per month-Amicus

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## Benefits of Becoming a Monthly Donor

- Saves time and money by not having to mail in your gifts.
- Safe and easy way to protect civil liberties since your gift is automatically made through your bank account or credit card.
- Cost effective for ACLU of Alaska because we can reduce the volume of mail we send. By keeping our administrative costs low, we can direct more of our resources into on-the-ground projects—in places where we're needed the most.
- Stable and reliable source of funding to ensure the long-term future of ACLU of Alaska programs.

Join Today! Find out more at [www.akclu.org](http://www.akclu.org)

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## Protecting the Public, Protecting Individual Civil Rights

ANCHORAGE — The American Civil Liberties Union of Alaska (ACLU) argued, as amicus curiae, before the Court of Appeals, that the State of Alaska must make in-prison sexual offender treatment available to prisoners amenable to receiving it.

“The Alaska Constitution is clear,” said Jason Brandeis, ACLU Staff Attorney. “The right to rehabilitation means the Department of Corrections cannot simply warehouse prisoners and then release them into the general public without providing treatment during incarceration. Failure to do so not only ignores the Constitution, it is an abdication of the DOC’s responsibility to protect the public and provide offenders with the tools necessary to reintegrate into society.”

The trial court judge in these consolidated appeals had ordered in-prison treatment based on legal precedent and sound public policy. The ACLU urged the Court of Appeals to uphold these orders. The State, however, has terminated all in-prison sex offender treatment.

In the past, the Alaska Supreme Court has made it clear that a prisoner has the right to begin the process of rehabilitation while in prison.



### President's Report

By Susan Wingrove

I continue to be excited by the breadth and depth of public education and advocacy our ACLU affiliate engages in.

On February 23, over 150 students gathered at Bartlett High for the ACLU Student Conference, focusing on free speech. Special guest speakers included Mary Beth Tinker, plaintiff in the *Tinker v. Des Moines* free speech case at the United States Supreme Court, as well as Doug Mertz, counsel in our own "Bong Hits 4 Jesus" *Morse v. Frederick* U.S. Supreme Court matter. Anchorage School District Superintendent Carol Comeau and School Board Member

Jeff Friedman also participated with Tinker and Mertz in a panel presentation on free speech in the school context. There was robust questioning by students on a variety of topics, and it is clear that this generation is not only knowledgeable about civil liberties issues, but engaged in a thoughtful way. I saw many future civil liberties activists.

I am also pleased that the ACLU was able to arrange for students from the Nuniwarmiut School, in Mekoryuk (on the north shore of Nunivak Island in the Bering Sea) to attend the Conference. As part of our affiliate's expansion, our Board has committed to increasing our work in protecting the rights of Alaskans in rural parts of the state. Establishing ongoing relationships with residents from rural Alaska, and enabling participation in events such as this go a long way towards implementing our rural outreach efforts.

Finally, I want to recognize the work of Bartlett High students who assisted in making the Conference a success. Jacqui Bolling and Alexis Layne moderated the breakout panels, and Freddy Camarena coordinated the large panel presentation.

This newsletter also marks the first Report from our new Executive Director. Sharon Legenza, who so ably served as our Prison Rights Project Attorney and stepped in to serve as Interim ED, is heading back to Chicago, where she will be Executive Director of Housing Action Illinois, an affordable housing public policy and advocacy group. While Sharon's departure is a loss for us, we are very happy for her and know she will be a great success in her new position. Taking over as our new ED is Jeffrey Mittman, who comes to us from our ACLU Washington Legislative Office. We are pleased Jeffrey has joined our team, and he is already working with the Board on several important initiatives which we will be telling you about in the coming months.

If you have not already marked your calendars and registered, please consider joining me for a last minute weekend getaway at "Stand Up for Freedom," the ACLU Membership Conference in Washington, DC, from June 8 to 10. The Conference promises to be engaging and informative, with speakers such as Arianna Huffington, Rachel Maddow, Glenn Greenwald, Adaora Udoji, and Barry Lynn, not to mention three U.S. Supreme Court Justices. Also appearing will be Kal Penn (more commonly known as "Kumar" in the recently released *Harold And Kumar Escape From Guantanamo Bay*). You can sign up on the ACLU website at [www.aclu.org](http://www.aclu.org).

## Calendar of Events

### 06/14/2008: Flag Day Fundraiser



Preliminary Co-Host List: Nancy Groszek, Virginia Allen, Jane Angvik, Randall Burns, Harriet Drummond, Vic Fischer, Elstun Lauesen and Stephanie and Mark Pawlowski. Join us in one of the loveliest backyards in all of Alaska for an afternoon of patriotic fun as we "Take Back the Flag" once more. For more information, or to R.S.V. P. log on to our website [www.akclu.org](http://www.akclu.org) or call 258-0044 x111

### 7/26/2008: Raffle Ticket Sales Start

### 7/26/2008: Board Meeting

### 10/11/2008: Stewart Memorial Dinner-Juneau-volunteers needed!

Call Jennifer at 258-0044 x111 to volunteer.

### 10/24/2008: Raffle Drawing

### 10/25/2008: Board Meeting

### 11/01/2008: Liberty Awards Tickets On Sale

### 01/09/2009: Our Alaska

### Constitution: The Next 50 Years

Stay tuned for more information!

### 01/10/2009: Liberty Awards Dinner-Anchorage

Interested in helping us celebrate 50 years of statehood? Call Jennifer at 258-0044 x111 to volunteer.

### ACLU 2008 MEMBERSHIP CONFERENCE WASHINGTON DC

JUNE 8-10 2008

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD. STAND UP AND STOP THE ABUSE OF POWER.

Take part in discussions with current Supreme Court Justices, elected officials, celebrities, ACLU staff and many others. Get hands-on training and participate in activist workshops on Free Speech, Privacy, Human Rights and more.

To register, and for more information visit [www.aclu.org/conference](http://www.aclu.org/conference).

STAND UP FOR FREEDOM



# Supporting Lilly: The Battle for Fair Pay

The American Civil Liberties Union is working for passage of H.R. 2831, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, legislation aimed at restoring the right of American workers to seek justice if they find themselves subject to wage discrimination, a right jeopardized by the 2007 Supreme Court decision *Ledbetter v. Goodyear*.

Lilly Ledbetter was almost 60 years old and on the verge of retiring when she first caught on that she was being shortchanged at work by what her lawyer called a "good old boys" network. An anonymous letter turned up out of the blue and revealed to Ledbetter she was making substantially less money than male co-workers at the Goodyear tire plant where she worked. It was 1979 when Ledbetter was hired as a supervisor at Goodyear's tire assembly department in Gadsden, Alabama. During the first weeks she spent on the job, her wages were exactly on par with those of a male employee working by her side. As in any corporation, Goodyear employees' wages are kept secret, so Ledbetter didn't know her first paychecks matched her co-workers' paychecks. She just assumed they did. But by 1998, when the anonymous note turned up, Ledbetter's annual salary was lagging \$15,000 behind that of her original male co-worker. In fact, she was being paid less than all her male counterparts in the tire assembly department, even recent hires with far less on-the-job experience.

The U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Ledbetter v. Goodyear* rolled back decades of civil rights law, all but shutting the courthouse doors on victims of wage discrimination. Thanks to this ruling, Americans now have only 180 days from the time their employer decides to discriminate against them to file a claim. Before *Ledbetter*, it was well accepted that each paycheck that was lessened by ongoing discrimination reset the 180 day clock. This legislation is vitally important – particularly in those workplaces where employees are discouraged, if not forbidden, from discussing their salaries. It would be all too easy for unscrupulous employers to hide their unfair pay structure for 180 days, and never be held to task for discriminating. Employers should not be allowed to benefit from wage discrimination.

Equal pay for equal work is a core American value. In these difficult economic times, when every dollar counts, we are hopeful that our elected officials will stand up to end discrimination.

For more information, see: <http://action.aclu.org/site/VoteCenter?congress=110&page=voteInfo&voteId=8265>



## Anchorage Premiere of Abu Ghraib Documentary

"Standard Operating Procedure" is a documentary by Academy Award-winning filmmaker and card-carrying ACLU member, Errol Morris about 12 photographs that distill the abuse and torture that took place at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq. The film features interviews with the Army personnel who took the pictures or, in some cases, are in the pictures.

"Standard Operating Procedure" explores how the soldiers at Abu Ghraib were scapegoated as "a few bad apples" to cover up the torture policies that were authorized at the highest levels of the Bush administration.

The ACLU has allied with Participant Media in their social action campaign around "Standard Operating Procedure." Errol Morris spoke with Jameel Jaffer, Director of the ACLU's National Security Project, about the film and how the photos and documents the ACLU helped release through the Freedom of Information Act together tell a pretty damning story of the administration's abuses of power at every level.

Director Errol Morris received an Academy Award for his 2004 film "The Fog of War," a profile of Robert S. McNamara, Secretary of Defense during the Vietnam War. Find out more at [www.aclu.org/sop](http://www.aclu.org/sop).

**Premieres Friday, June 20th, in Anchorage, at Dimond Center 9**

# Freedom Leaders Week



Mary Beth Tinker and Jeffrey Mittman in the lobby of the Alaska Wild Berry Theater

The third annual Bartlett Civil Liberties Club Student Free Speech Conference snagged a big star this year with civil rights activist and labor organizer Mary Beth Tinker. While she is known primarily for being the teenager behind the 1968 landmark case securing free speech rights for students, Tinker speaks to students all over the country about the importance of standing up for what you believe in.



Sharon Legenza and Jeffrey Mittman



From George Christian's presentation: The text reads, "Careful they're not just any librarians, they're Connecticut Librarians."

On February 28th, George Christian spoke in Anchorage. Christian is the Executive Director of the Connecticut Library Association, a nonprofit consortium of libraries that received a National Security Letter and successfully challenged the USA PATRIOT Act. Christian also spoke at an ACLU of Alaska event hosted by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fairbanks.



From L to R: Connie Ozer, Giant Polar Bear, George Christian, Lloyd Eggan

## Board Election Results

These individuals were elected to positions on the ACLU of Alaska and the ACLU of Alaska Foundation Boards.

Congratulations and Thank You to:

Kirsten Bey

Katie Hurley

Rich Curtner

Galen Paine

Lloyd Eggan

June Pinnell-Stephens

Being a member has its benefits. Participate in the democratic process and let your voice be heard. Email [jsmerud@akclu.org](mailto:jsmerud@akclu.org) or call (907)258-0044 ext.111 to find out your membership status.

Drug Law continued from page 1

who argued the case. "Alaska has sensibly placed the fundamental commitment to privacy, enshrined in the state constitution, before the pressure to kowtow to reefer madness."

In the current case, *ACLU of Alaska v. State*, the ACLU represents two individuals who use marijuana within the privacy of their homes, Jane Doe and Jane Roe. Both plaintiffs must remain anonymous, as they are subject to arrest and prosecution for their use of marijuana under the new law. The ACLU of Alaska is also a plaintiff on behalf of itself, as a civil liberties organization, as well as its members, some of whom use marijuana in the privacy of their homes.

The State of Alaska and Alaska Attorney General David W. Marquez are named as defendants.



## LGBT Program Update By Tiffany McClain

In May, I joined the staff as the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Public Policy Coordinator. I am proud to be the first permanent full-time staff member dedicated solely to the advancement and protection of LGBT rights in the state of Alaska.

I graduated from Mount Holyoke College and earned an MA from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, where I studied the politics of gender and race in U.S. history. Originally from St. Louis, MO, I first came to Alaska for a working vacation during the summer of 2007 and am happy to be making Anchorage my home. I feel privileged to have been offered an opportunity to work on such an important project—protecting the equality and civil rights of LGBT people—in a state for which I have so much respect and affection.

As the LGBT Public Policy Coordinator, my primary responsibilities are 1) to ensure that the State of Alaska and its municipalities are following through with the extension of domestic partnership benefits to their employees on a fair and equal basis 2) to defend against any proposed challenges to the constitutional rights of LGBT individuals and 3) to help build an organizing strategy and public education/outreach campaign to advance the rights of the LGBT community in Alaska.

One of my first outreach opportunities is to plan the ACLU's participation in this year's Anchorage Pridefest. The ACLU of Alaska has a long history of sponsoring this event, marching in the parade, and staffing a booth. It's a great opportunity to visibly demonstrate our solidarity with the LGBT community. But I also want to use it as an opportunity to advance our organizing goals. To this end, ACLU staff and volunteers will be encouraging people to complete a brief community interest survey and to help build a database of supporters who are specifically interested in the ACLU's work to protect the civil rights of LGBT people. Come join us for a fun, yet productive day of work!

## Wanted: Pridefest Participants

Support the ACLU and Alaska's LGBT Community at Anchorage Pridefest 2008!

### When?

Saturday, June 28, 2008 10:15 am (parade) 12:00-7:00 (festival)

### Where?

Parade Check-in: parking lot at 8<sup>th</sup> & D Street; Festival: Delaney Park Strip between I & L Streets

### How?

Contact Tiffany McClain if you would like to march with us or sign-up for a shift at our booth—or both!

[tmccain@akclu.org](mailto:tmccain@akclu.org) or 258-0044 ext. 101

### Not Going to Be In Anchorage on June 28th?

If you live outside of Anchorage and can't make it to PrideFest, we'd be happy to send you some of our education and advocacy materials to distribute at LGBT events in your town.

[tmccain@akclu.org](mailto:tmccain@akclu.org) or 258-0044 ext. 101



2007 ACLU of Alaska Marchers (and Elliot the dog) line up to begin the parade.

ballots and other voting materials translated into Yup'ik – an obligation with which they have never complied."

In the motion filed May 5th in federal district court in Anchorage, plaintiffs Anna Nick of Akiachak, David O. David of Kwigillingok, Billy McCann and Arthur Nelson of Bethel, and the native villages of Kasigluk, Kwigillingok, Tuluksak, and Tuntutuliak asked the court to order state and local election officials to comply with the voter and language assistance provisions of the Voting Rights Act before the August primary elections and to appoint federal observers to oversee future elections in the Bethel area through the end of 2012. Specifically, NARF and the ACLU are seeking to ensure that people who need assistance to vote receive it from someone of their own choosing, and that election officials provide bilingual staff to help voters at the polls and translate ballots and other election materials and information into Yup'ik.

With the exception of two incomplete and poorly translated radio ads aired in 2006, no election information has been publicized in Yup'ik. All information is in English only. Bilingual translators have been absent from over one-third of polling places, and poll workers are trained less than 10 percent of the time. Even when Yup'ik translators are in polling places, many of their translations are incomplete and ineffective. For example, a 2002 statewide natural gas ballot question used the Yup'ik word for bodily function.

"This case has uncovered the systematic disenfranchisement of Yup'ik speaking voters in Bethel. Election officials have failed to ensure that Yup'ik speaking voters in this area are able to understand a ballot and cast their vote – as required by the Constitution and the Voting Rights Act," said Jason Brandeis, staff attorney at the ACLU of Alaska. "The lack of adequate voting assistance, qualified translators, and meaningful outreach from the state or local officials to inform voters of their rights represent clear violations of the law. We are confident the court will provide these voters with the necessary and constitutionally mandated tools they need to participate in the most fundamental act of citizenship."

"The high illiteracy rates of Yup'ik voters are a result of the state's segregated public schooling system that the voters grew up with. As a result, more than one in five non-English speaking Yup'iks cannot read and write today," said James Tucker, an attorney with the ACLU's Washington Legislative Office. "The state and city view compliance with the Voting Rights Act as optional, something that gets in their way of running an election instead of one of their core responsibilities. Federal law requires language assistance for Yup'ik voters for every election, not merely when it is convenient for election officials."

Alaska is one of just five states that is covered in its entirety by the language assistance provisions of the Voting Rights Act. Those provisions, sections 4(f)(4) and 203, apply to areas that meet certain threshold requirements for numbers of citizens with limited English proficiency. Section 203 has nationwide applicability and gives "any voter who requires assistance to vote by reason of blindness, disability, or inability to read or write" a right to receive "assistance by a person of the voter's choice." The temporary provisions of the Voting Rights Act, including sections 4(f)(4) and 203, were reauthorized by Congress in 2006 for an additional 25 years.

Defendants in the lawsuit include Lt. Governor Sean Parnell, Division of Elections Director Gail Fenumiai, Regional Elections Supervisors Becka Baker and Michelle Speegle, and Bethel Municipal Clerk Lori Strickler.

Attorneys for the Alaska Natives are Landreth of NARF, Brandeis of the ACLU of Alaska, Neil Bradley of the national ACLU Voting Rights Project, and Tucker of the ACLU's national Legislative Office in Washington, D.C.

The motion for a preliminary injunction is online at: [www.aclu.org/votingrights/gen/351631g120080502.html](http://www.aclu.org/votingrights/gen/351631g120080502.html).

More information about the ACLU's work on voting rights is available at: [www.votingrights.org](http://www.votingrights.org).

## *House Party Toolkit*

The ACLU of Alaska Foundation receives all of its funding from individual donors and small grants.

We need your help to continue providing protection for your Constitutional rights.

Contact us about planning a House Party for the ACLU of Alaska!

Please call Jennifer at (907) 258-0044, ext. 111 for more information or email [jsmerud@akclu.org](mailto:jsmerud@akclu.org).





**Legal Program  
Update  
Jason Brandeis**

**Cases Currently Being Litigated:**

**Nick, et al. v. Bethel, Alaska, et al.**

ACLU and Native American Rights Fund (NARF) lawsuit charging that state and local officials have denied voter assistance and failed to provide oral language assistance and voting materials to citizens who primarily speak Yup'ik in the Bethel region. A motion for preliminary injunction has been filed.

**State v. Callahan / State v. Lundy / State v. Chase**

ACLU filed a friend-of-the-court brief in the Alaska Court of Appeals in support of Superior Court decisions requiring the Department of Corrections to provide in-prison sex offender treatment to prisoners. Oral argument in the Alaska Court of Appeals was heard on May 7th.

**State of Alaska v. ACLU of Alaska**

ACLU lawsuit overturned a state law re-criminalizing an adult's private possession and use of small amounts of marijuana in the home. The state appealed and oral argument in the Alaska Supreme Court was heard on March 20, 2008.

**Coonrod v. State of Alaska**

ACLU lawsuit challenging a state law that provides a property tax exemption for religious school teacher housing. Oral argument in the Alaska Superior Court was heard on February 28, 2008.

**Recent Decisions:**

**Planned Parenthood of Alaska v. State of Alaska**

ACLU successfully challenged state law requiring parental consent for abortion.

**Alaskans for a Common Language v. Alakayak**

Alaska Supreme Court struck down Alaska's "English-Only" law.

**Hinman v. State of Alaska**

ACLU lawsuit seeking to stop the Division of Occupational Licensing from making the home addresses of licensed nurses available to the public through the state's website. Oral argument was held last October and the court recently issued a decision that did not uphold our concerns regarding privacy rights.

**Murtagh, et al. v. State of Alaska**

Alaska Supreme Court struck down portions of the Alaska Victims Rights Act that restricted the investigative techniques available to criminal defendants.

The ACLU of Alaska Foundation has survived for 36 years only because our supporters in the State of Alaska generously donate to keep us in the forefront of the fight to protect civil liberties. We are here because of you. Your tax-deductible contributions fund our litigation and public education programs.

**YES! I want to make a tax-deductible donation to the ACLU of Alaska Foundation.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is my **check** made payable to the ACLU of Alaska Foundation in the amount of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I wish to donate on my **MasterCard, Visa or American Express**

Amount of contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Cardholder: \_\_\_\_\_

Three-digit number on back of credit card: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Zip Code for Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return to:           ACLU of Alaska Foundation  
                          P. O. Box 201844  
                          Anchorage, AK 99520-1844**

*Call the ACLU of Alaska Foundation at (907) 258-0044 to charge donation by phone.  
Or donate online at [www.akclu.org](http://www.akclu.org)*

# Thank you

The ACLU of Alaska is privileged to be supported by many individuals who give of their time and resources to sustain us in our mission.

**Patrick and Patti Higgens:** The third annual Mardi Gras fundraiser was yet another evening of good food and good times.

**Susan Wingrove and the students of Bartlett High School Civil Liberties Club:** Once again the staff and students of Bartlett orchestrated an outstanding conference on free speech and youth activism.

**June Pinnell-Stephens:** June's hard work and frequent flier miles brought George Christian to Anchorage and Fairbanks to share his inspiring story. Additional thank you to **Richard Seifert and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fairbanks** for hosting an ACLU of Alaska Foundation public meeting with George.

**House Party Hosts:** Lisa Fitzpatrick and Bob Evans, Connie and Kerry Ozer, Galen Paine and Donald Surgeon, Tony Strong, Janell Hafner, Leslie Dickson and Stephanie Pawlowski.

**Departing Interns:** Thank you and Good Luck to Joelle Brown and Julie Shefchik for spending the winter slogging away through mounds of intake.

**Incoming Interns:** Welcome Summer Law Clerks - Emily Viglietta and Shelby Lewman and Communications Intern - Jason Cline

**Robin Smith and Eric McCallum:** Thank you for supporting the ACLU of Alaska's goal to encourage philanthropy amongst the next generation of Alaskans through your generous challenge grant.

**Nancy Grozsek and the 3rd Annual Take Back the Flag Fundraiser Host Committee:** Nancy, Virginia Allen, Jane Angvik, Randall Burns, Harriet Drummond, Vic Fischer, Elstun Lauesen and Stephanie and Mark Pawlowski.



# Make an Immediate Impact on Freedom in America -Join the ACLU Today

The American Civil Liberties Union is the only national organization that has been defending liberty in America for more than 80 years. From the internment of some 110,000 Japanese-Americans during World War II to the abusive domestic spying, blackmail and harassment by the FBI during the McCarthy era, the civil rights movement and the Vietnam War, the ACLU has successfully defended the basic rights and freedoms of every American when they are at their most vulnerable.

That proud history continues today as the ACLU is leading the charge against the Bush Administration as it attempts to extinguish many of our basic freedoms and corrupt the cornerstone of American democracy-the rule of law. Today's battle for liberty is being fought in courtrooms and statehouses across the country, forums in which the ACLU has proven it has no equal.

The threat we face today, however, is greater than any we have ever encountered. We are now fighting countless battles to uphold liberty, justice and equality—and we need support of committed individuals to help share the load. **Our strength is entirely dependent upon membership. Our efforts to defend liberty are made possible by donations from concerned individuals.**

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