



ACLU of Utah *Reporter*

January 2012

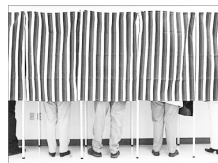
Newsletter of the American Civil Liberties Union of Utah

Get Ready Now for...

POWER OF THE PEOPLE!

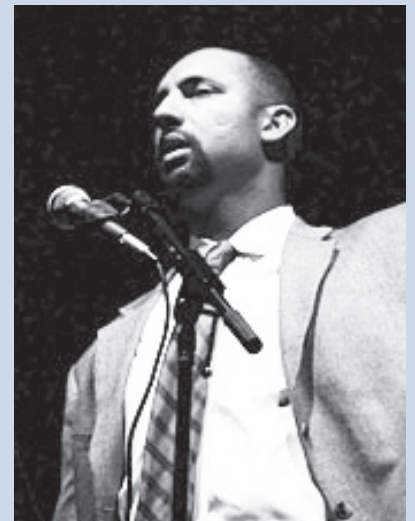
the 2012 Bill of Rights Celebration

supporting the work of the ACLU of Utah Foundation



Just \$100 buys your ticket to inspiration, music, conversation, laughter, dinner and drinks, and awards for deserving civil liberties heroes. And, of course, your ticket purchase and donations help to secure another year of vigorous

protection of our Bill of Rights by the ACLU! Dinner Sponsorships are available, as are opportunities to help swell the crowd by becoming a Table Captain. Learn more at www.acluutah.org or by calling (801) 521-9862 ext 100.



Can small donor money outweigh big donor money?

Which barriers make U.S. voter participation rates among the lowest in the world?

These are the questions that drive

DR. SPENCER OVERTON

Professor of Law at George Washington University, author of *Stealing Democracy: The New Politics of Voter Suppression*, and KEYNOTE SPEAKER @ THE ACLU OF UTAH'S 2012 BILL OF RIGHTS CELEBRATION. Overton has also served as Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General at the Department of Justice in the Office of Legal Policy, and was a commissioner on the Jimmy Carter-James Baker Commission on Federal Election Reform.

WEDNESDAY
MAY 2, 2012
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

At the Rail Event Center
235 N. 500 W. in Salt Lake City

Tickets on Sale March 1.

Visit www.acluutah.org or
call (801) 521-9862 ext 100 for details.

ON THE HILL: 2012 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The 2012 Legislative Session is quickly approaching and the ACLU will be a constant presence on the Hill, working to protect civil liberties in our state. While the session is fast-paced and often brings about many surprises, some issues can be anticipated. The ACLU of Utah identified the below listed priority areas that will be the focus of our work this session (you may download our expanded 2012 Legislative Priorities Guide at www.acluutah.org/2012LegislativePriorities.pdf).

IMMIGRATION

- **RETAIN** in-state tuition for all eligible Utah residents.
- **OPPOSE** legislation that enables the state of Utah to regulate immigration, either in the form of guest worker or enforcement, Arizona-style legislation.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

- **OPPOSE** legislation that singles out and bans use and/or reference to Sharia law by Utah courts.
- **OPPOSE** legislation that provides government funded vouchers for use in parochial schools.

PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY & OPEN GOVERNMENT

- **OPPOSE** legislation that unconstitutionally or unnecessarily encumbers the right to vote, including efforts to improperly purge voters from voting rolls.
- **OPPOSE** legislative efforts to restrict state open records and open meetings laws.
- **SUPPORT** legislation that allows for electronic signature use in voting.
- **SUPPORT** legislation that encourages voter participation, including same day registration.
- **SUPPORT** legislative efforts to allow public access to legislative caucus meetings.

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

- **OPPOSE** legislative efforts to defund women's health organizations such as Planned Parenthood.

EQUALITY & EQUAL PROTECTION

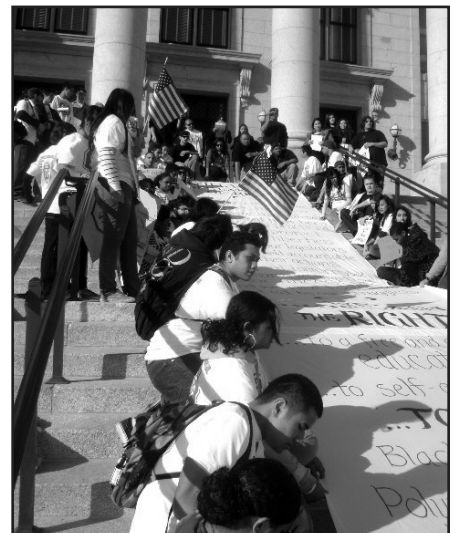
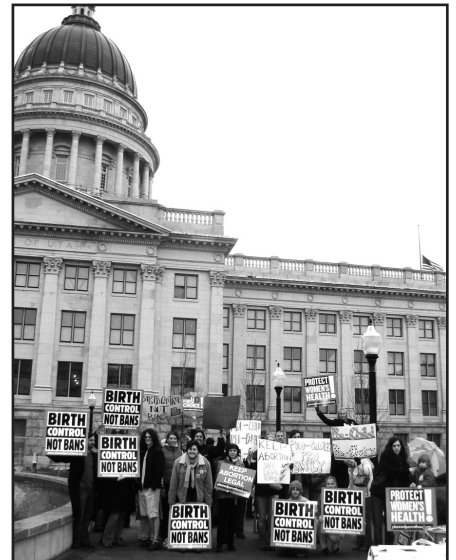
- **OPPOSE** legislation to ban equal opportunity programs in public education and employment.
- **SUPPORT** legislation to ban discrimination in housing and employment on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE/4TH AMENDMENT

- **SUPPORT** legislation to allow certain categories of sex offenders to petition courts to be removed from the sex offender registry.
- **SUPPORT** legislation that provides guidance to jails and prisons regarding an inmate's right to engage in a hunger strike.
- **OPPOSE** legislation that would require welfare beneficiaries to submit to suspicionless drug tests.

More information about our legislative work can be found at www.acluutah.org/legislation.shtml

Don't forget to follow our work and get up-to-the-minute legislative updates through email action alerts, our website, facebook and twitter.



"Show Me Your Papers" Law Faces Second Suit

On November 22, 2011, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) filed a lawsuit against the State of Utah seeking to declare invalid Utah's "Show Me Your Papers" law, HB 497. The DOJ's lawsuit, *U.S.A. vs. the State of Utah and Herbert*, is the second against HB 497. The first lawsuit was filed by the ACLU of Utah and the National Immigration Law Center in May of 2011 and is titled, *UCLR vs. Herbert, et al.* The DOJ's lawsuit argues, similar to the ACLU of Utah lawsuit, that certain provisions of HB 497 are preempted by federal law

**SAY
NO
TO
HB497**

and violate the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution. Both the DOJ and the ACLU of Utah believe these constitutional deficiencies mean the law should be declared invalid.

Both cases will be heard by federal court Judge Clark Waddoups who granted a temporary restraining order ("TRO") in May after the UCLR lawsuit was filed. The TRO served to block HB 497 from going into effect. The preliminary injunction hearing is currently scheduled for Friday, February 17, 2012 at 8:30 a.m. in front of Judge Waddoups. Both cases will be heard at that time.

More information at <http://www.acluutah.org/UCLRvHerbert.html>



Protecting The Right To Dance -

In early October we received a disturbing

complaint from the parent of a high school student who was ejected from her homecoming dance when school officials discovered that her date was another girl. The ACLU of Utah sprung into action launching a state-wide campaign to urge every School District Superintendent in the

State to remind each of their school principals that school sponsored events, like homecoming dances and proms, must be accessible to all students regardless of their sexual orientation. We are proud that over 12 school districts confirmed their commitment to equal access, and that the school district where the initial incident occurred conducted a comprehensive training with its principals to address not only LGBT access to school functions, but also LGBT rights more generally.

More information at www.acluutah.org/SchoolDances2011.html



Protecting The Right To Occupy -

From the Tea Party, to Immigrant Rights activists, to the Occupy SLC movement, 2011 saw Utahns exercising their free speech rights in extraordinary numbers. Through all of this activity, the ACLU of Utah has been working hard behind the scenes to foster government respect for these activities and to encourage our elected officials and government administrators to view these demonstrations as essential aspects of a free society to be celebrated and promoted as opposed to an inconvenience or even as a threat. This process, involving government agencies, private stake-holders, and activists will hopefully result in the beginning of a new era of Free Speech in Utah. More information at www.acluutah.org/Protecting_the-right-to-peacefully-assemble.html

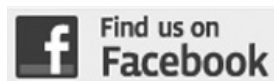
Get Involved!

Be an effective citizen lobbyist and help the ACLU of Utah protect civil liberties in our state!

Sign up for our **EMAIL ACTION ALERTS** from our website at www.acluutah.org

Keep up-to-date with our work and opportunities to take action by being a fan on **FACEBOOK** (ACLU-of-Utah)

Monitor our daily efforts at the State Capitol during the legislative session by following us on **TWITTER** (@acluutah)





355 North 300 West
Salt Lake City, UT 84103
Phone: (801) 521-9862
Fax: (801) 532-2850
aclu@acluutah.org
www.acluutah.org

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Polygamy, Peyote and the Pledge of Allegiance: the Religious Minority Experience in America

a free & fascinating public discussion with

MR. DANIEL MACH

Director of the national ACLU's
Program on Freedom of Religion and Belief

Controversies over unpopular religious practices, and intolerance toward minority religions, are older than the document that protects them! ***What is and is not protected under the First Amendment?*** The question has been asked time and time again throughout our nation's history, each time with the blinding spotlight of public scrutiny shining on a different minority religious group. Dan Mach will share some choice historical examples as we examine America's love/hate relationship with religious freedom, as seen through the lens of the Bill of Rights.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 10:30 a.m.
@ Weber State University in Ogden
Check www.acluutah.org for details!

The ACLU Board of Directors

In 2011 five members, Jennifer Allred, Beverly Dalley, Bonnie McBride Huntsman, Richard Van Wagoner, and Doug Wortham retired from the Board. We are extremely thankful for their years of dedicated service.

This year five new members, Barry Gomberg, Catherine Putnam-Netto, Leonor Perretta, Clifton Uckerman, and John Witmer, joined the board. We are grateful for their willingness to serve in this important capacity.



Board members present at the first working Board meeting of 2012. *Seated from L - R:* Andrew Riggle, Catherine Putnam-Netto, Cathleen Powers, David Reymann, Jill Shienberg, John Witmer. *Standing from L - R:* Rebecca Chavez-Houck, Clifton Uckerman, Alex McDonald, Leonor Perretta, Barry Gomberg, Robert Wood, Tarek Nosseir. Board members not pictured: Chase Clyde, Debra Daniels, and Iqbal Hossain.