



NOW, MORE THAN EVER...

ACLU

Utah

2017 Annual Report



NOW, MORE THAN EVER...



Michael Weinholtz
Board President

Brittney Nystrom
Executive Director



As I complete my term as Board President at the end of this year, I am excited to pass the torch with great confidence to my successor, Dani Hawkes; and I remain enthusiastic about the important work of the ACLU of Utah.

Throughout 2017, we have seen unprecedented attacks on Americans' civil liberties and basic rights. Here in Utah, the ACLU of Utah staff has tirelessly fought in courtrooms, fiercely advocated on Capitol Hill, and accepted every opportunity to aid and educate those in our community who feel threatened or marginalized by these attacks.

It is during trying times like these, and a year like we have just weathered, that our limits are pushed and the strengths and weaknesses of our democracy are exposed. Yet, it is because of the ACLU that we can take comfort in knowing that our rights and freedoms will be diligently defended and preserved.

Like the other 7,500 ACLU of Utah members, I am glad to support an organization that fearlessly and vigorously stands up for our civil liberties. As we continue to move forward, the ACLU of Utah has never been more important.

In Solidarity, Michael Weinholtz

Chaos at America's airports as Muslims with valid visas are suddenly banned from entry, detained, and deported. Active military members facing dismissal because of their gender identity. A recommitment to failed criminal justice policies that fueled mass incarceration.

These are just some of the grave threats to our democracy and civil liberties that emerged this year, and the threats keep coming. But the ACLU has fought and overcome threats of this magnitude before. Drawing on your determination and support, the ACLU is fighting for justice in Utah and in every state across the nation.

Now, more than ever, it is your support that sustains our struggle for equality, liberty, and justice for all. And the victories we win also belong to you.

Thank you for the many ways you are making us stronger than ever!

Sincerely, Brittney Nystrom

Since November 2016,
ACLU of Utah Membership
more than **TRIPLED!**

November 2016
1,500
Members

November 2017
7,500
Members

7452

CARD-CARRYING MEMBERS

28 COOPERATING ATTORNEYS

17 INTERNS

37 VOLUNTEERS

BY
THE
NUMBERS

ORGANIZED OR PARTICIPATED IN

137

EVENTS, TRAININGS, OR PRESENTATIONS

93

BILLS
ACTIVELY
WORKED
ON

8

POSITIVE
BILLS
PASSED

14

NEGATIVE
BILLS
STOPPED

10

LAWSUITS IN ACTIVE
LITIGATION OR RESOLVED

RESPONDED TO

734

LEGAL COMPLAINTS



Marina Lowe speaking on KUER's The Hinkley Report

Anna Thomas speaking at a protest of the Ogden Gang Injunction



CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Legal Advocacy

- **Ogden Gang Injunction** (filed in 2014)

After successfully vacating one conviction under the unconstitutional Ogden Gang Injunction, we filed federal lawsuits for two individuals subjected to the injunction.

Why does it matter? Our successful actions will discourage future over-broad and unconstitutional injunctions.

- **Remick v. Utah** (filed in 2016)

Our “Yes on Six” campaign advances as a lawsuit against the State of Utah for failing to meet its Sixth Amendment obligation to provide effective legal representation to indigent defendants.

Why does it matter? The right to effective legal counsel is fundamental to achieving justice.

- **Police and Transparency**

We prevailed in our demand to review police body-cam footage of a 2016 officer-involved shooting of a teenage Somali refugee.

Why does it matter? Our efforts prompted Salt Lake City to institute a new policy to release body-cam footage within 10 business days of a critical incident.

DAGGETT
COUNTY
JAIL



ACLU says Operation Rio Grande is 'business as usual' and, so far, prioritizes jail over treatment
- *Headline in Salt Lake Tribune, August 17, 2017*

Legislative Advocacy

- We worked with community partners to urge the legislature to reform juvenile sentencing.
- We cheered when a civil asset forfeiture reform bill passed the Utah Legislature, while we also worked to expand reporting by Utah law enforcement.

Why does it matter? Civil asset forfeiture laws are prone to abuse and can permanently deprive owners of their property.

- This year we helped pass several positive “re-entry support” bills, including legislation that helps otherwise qualified tenants with a criminal record access housing.

Why does it matter? Real criminal justice system reform should emphasize improved reentry opportunities.

Policy Advocacy

- We met with community leaders and parole administrators to increase transparency and fairness in the parole process. In 2018 we will launch a campaign to promote smarter justice through Utah’s parole system.

Why does it matter? We see reforming parole as an effective method to reduce Utah’s prison population and to promote fairness.

- We raised concerns publicly and directly with policymakers and law enforcement to ensure that “Operation Rio Grande” respects due process and individual rights, and extends equal treatment to all individuals.

Why does it matter? High-profile incidents provide useful reminders about the importance of civil liberties, especially when targeted populations are disenfranchised and vulnerable.



Community Lobby Training at the Salt Lake City Library

Public Engagement

- This year we organized frequent events to educate the community on how to exercise their constitutional rights—and how to defend the rights of others. These events include “Know Your Rights” seminars on free speech, “Legal Observer Training” to prepare impartial witnesses for demonstrations, and “Cyber Lobbying 101” workshops to inform and activate Utah’s constituent lobbyists.

Why does it matter? If you don’t know what your rights are, how can you prevent them from being limited?

- After receiving complaints, we informed Utah’s federal delegation of the growing legal standards related to social media censorship by public officials. This effort was celebrated by the public and amplified by the media, and we continue to hear from concerned social media users.

Why does it matter? Elected officials cannot use public forums to broadcast their ideas without being open to feedback and criticism.

FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS

Legal Advocacy

- *Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission v. San Juan County et al (filed in 2016)*

Our lawsuit on behalf of the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission to ensure voter access in San Juan County advanced towards trial. The suit asserts that the County's switch to a mail-only voting system violates the Voting Rights Act and the U.S. Constitution due to its adverse impacts on Navajo voters whose native language is not written.

Why does it matter? Limiting people's access to the ballot is never good for a durable democracy.

Legislative Advocacy

- Our efforts to maintain and expand Election Day Registration and Automatic Voter Registration suffered legislative setbacks in 2017. Undeterred, we are preparing renewed efforts on both fronts in 2018.

Why does it matter? In 2016 the six states with the highest levels of voter participation all offered same-day voter registration, while Utah still ranked below the national average.

Policy Advocacy

- The ACLU of Utah teamed with the Better Boundaries initiative to encourage our members and supporters to help advance their redistricting initiative on Utah's 2018 ballot.

Why does it matter? We believe an independent redistricting commission will boost voter participation and civic engagement.

**PARTICIPATORY
DEMOCRACY**



*Utah League of Native American Voters
at the Utah State Capitol Building*

**WOMEN'S RIGHTS
LGBTQ RIGHTS
REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS**





The Women's March at the Utah State Capitol Building on the first day of the 2017 Utah Legislative Session

Legislative Advocacy

- A major win during the 2017 Legislative Session was the passage of SB 196 to repeal “No Promo Homo,” the 1990s-era law prohibiting discussions of homosexuality in Utah’s public schools that could be considered advocacy. Working alongside Equality Utah to craft the bill, the ACLU of Utah gave meaningful testimony expressing the need for acknowledgment and support of LGBTQ youth.

Why does it matter? This clear success finally eliminates a chilling effect on teachers’ speech and acknowledges the experiences and needs of LGBTQ students.

- In wins for reproductive freedom, two harmful bills were modified by the ACLU of Utah and Planned Parenthood with support from new grassroots mobilization groups. First, a telehealth bill was stripped of language that limited providers’ ability to care for patients. Second, an anti-choice bill was altered to prevent providers from being forced to give misinformation to women. Plus, although a bill to remove burdensome regulations for abortion providers ran out of time for passage, the ACLU of Utah worked with the Department of Health to achieve the same result by altering administrative rules.

Why does it matter? Legislative efforts to chip away at reproductive freedoms in Utah face a well-mobilized and often successful opposition from the ACLU of Utah and our patrons.



IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS

Legal Advocacy

- *ACLU v. U.S. Customs and Border Protection* (filed in 2017)
The ACLU of Utah, with several partners, filed a lawsuit demanding information about the implementation of President Trump's Muslim Ban as it unfolded at the Salt Lake City airport. Our lawsuit is one of thirteen similar Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuits filed by ACLU affiliates as part of a nationwide campaign
Why does it matter? Legal cases rely on what people say or did, which means the chaos that engulfed airports after the Muslim Ban could provide key information to challenge these, and future, restrictions.





Jason Stevenson holding his portrait at the DACA Inside Out Rally

Policy Advocacy

- Under the Trump Administration, immigrants and refugees have been targets of extreme and even unconstitutional governmental action that generates fear among these communities. The ACLU of Utah continues to work with the legislature, state agencies, municipal police departments and mayoral offices, county sheriffs, school districts, and community groups to uphold the rights of all Utahns regardless of immigration status.

- Community groups, legal partners, and state legislators recently learned that applying for a Utah's Drivers Privilege Card exposes an individual with moving violations to deportation. The ACLU of Utah is working with state officials and legislators towards a positive solution.

- Trump's termination of DACA encouraged even greater collaboration with local partners in the immigrants' rights community and the National ACLU to support undocumented youth and families in Utah, including pushing our federal delegation to pass the DREAM Act.

Why does it matter? Malicious targeting of immigrants and refugees not only defies Utah values and traditions, but it also threatens the constitutional rights that protect everyone, whether your family came to Utah 170 years ago or just last week.

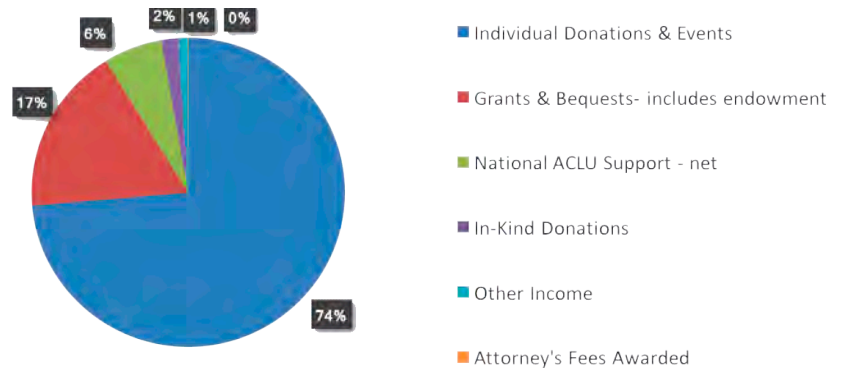


John Mejia speaking on behalf of DACA Recipients at the DACA Press Conference

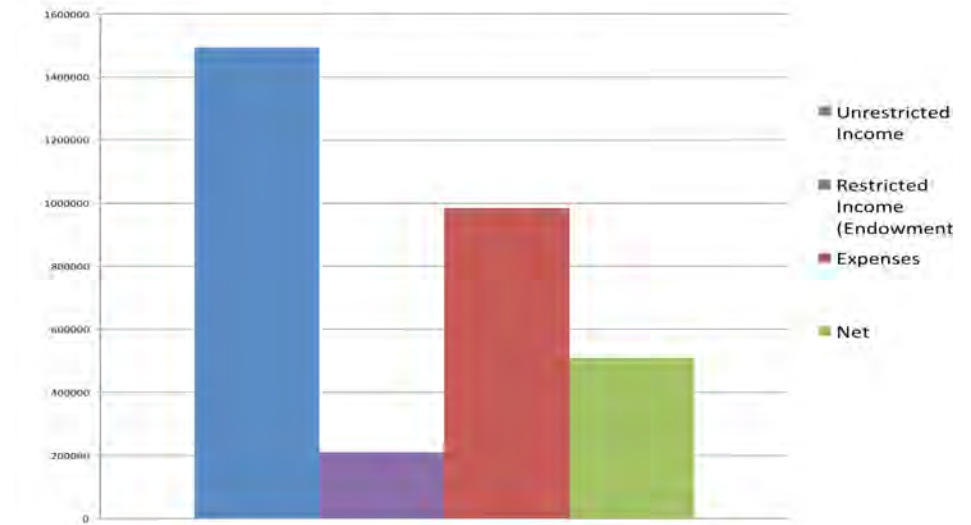
NOW, MORE THAN EVER...

WE ARE STRONG!

Revenue Breakdown: Combined Union & Foundation



Income and Expenses: Combined Union & Foundation



FINANCIAL
INFORMATION
FISCAL YEAR 2017

(April 1, 2016 - March 31, 2017)

Thank you!

All of the work featured in our Annual Report, and much more, is only made possible because of you!

We have been able to stand strong and fight harder than ever thanks to the generosity and encouragement of our long-time and new supporters alike.

We are humbled and heartened knowing that we are not fighting alone, and we are grateful to all who have joined us, worked with us, supported us, and cheered us on in our efforts, especially over the last year.

We are proud of what was accomplished in 2017, and we look forward to the new year with a strong sense of purpose and vigor.

With you beside us, we are ready!

**WE ARE
GRATEFUL!**





ACLU of Utah Staff

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 Jessica Andrews, Finance & Business Manager
 Leah Farrell, Staff Attorney
 Maria del Mar Gonzalez, Community Outreach Fellow
 Reinard Knutsen, Officer Manager
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 Margie Nash, Paralegal
 Jason Stevenson, Strategic Communications Manager
 Cassie Taylor, Development Director
 Utah, Office Mascot

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 Rusty Andrade
 Ruth-Arlene Howe
 Clemens Landau
 Tom Mitchell
 Nubia Pena
 David Reymann
 Kristina Ruedas
 Aaron Tarin

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 Karina Sargsian
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 Kristen Kiburtz
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Pioneer Justice Center

Stewart Gollan
 Trent Ricks

Parr Brown

Jeff Hunt

Latham & Watkins

Alfred Pfeiffer
 Dorey Schranz
 Kyle Virgien

Richards & Brown

Randy Richards

Maya Kane Law

Maya Kane

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

Arusha Gordon
 Ezra Rosenberg

DLA Piper

Harrison Carpenter
 Patrick Castaneda
 Brenna Kelly
 Jae Kim
 Nicole Orjiakor
 Lauren Wilchek
 Raymond Williams

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 KY Lee
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 Alex Brownlee
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 Madison Colledge
 Jeremy Davies
 Erin DeSpain
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 Amiee Finster
 Millie Fletcher
 Marcey Goldner
 Andrea Hardman
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