

2015 IMPACT REPORT



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On behalf of all of us at the ACLU, it is my honor to take this occasion to thank you for your leadership and ongoing efforts to help advance our work.

We've prepared this *2015 Impact Report* for you, highlighting some of the important victories that we have achieved over the past year. I hope that you will take a few minutes to read through it and to celebrate the role that you have played in helping to move freedom forward.

What really strikes me as I look through this report is what can happen when an organization like the ACLU – with our 95 years of experience, on-the-ground expertise in all 50 states and sheer force of will – unites with dedicated supporters like you who help ensure that we can be there wherever and whenever necessary to fight for our rights, for however long it takes.

Working as one, we have a profound impact on the lives of millions across this country.

Thank you for standing with us and for all that you do to advance civil liberties.

Anthony D. Romero

Court cases cited in the Supreme Court's marriage decision:

- *The ACLU represented plaintiffs*
- *The ACLU filed a friend-of-the-court brief supporting the plaintiffs*

Love Wins!

The journey toward marriage equality has been long and the ACLU has been there every step of the way.

U.S. COURTS OF APPEALS DECISIONS

Adams v. Howerton
Smelt v. County of Orange ●
Citizens for Equal Protection v. Bruning ●
Windsor v. United States ●
Massachusetts v. Department of Health and Human Services ●
Perry v. Brown ●
Latta v. Otter ●
Baskin v. Bogan ●
Bishop v. Smith ●
Bostic v. Schaefer ●
Kitchen v. Herbert ●
DeBoer v. Snyder ●
Latta v. Otter (2014) ●
Latta v. Otter (2015) ●

U.S. DISTRICT COURT DECISIONS

Adams v. Howerton
Citizens for Equal Protection, Inc. v. Bruning (2003) ●

Citizens for Equal Protection v. Bruning (2005) ●
Wilson v. Ake
Smelt v. County of Orange
Bishop v. Oklahoma ex rel. Edmondson
Massachusetts v. Department of Health and Human Services ●
Gill v. Office of Personnel Management ●
Perry v. Schwarzenegger ●
Dragovich v. Department of Treasury (2011)
Golinski v. Office of Personnel Management
Dragovich v. Department of Treasury (2012)
Windsor v. United States ●
Pedersen v. Office of Personnel Management
Jackson v. Abercrombie
Sevcik v. Sandoval
Merritt v. Attorney General
Gray v. Orr ●
Lee v. Orr (2013) ●

Kitchen v. Herbert
Obergefell v. Wymyslo ●
Bishop v. United States ex rel. Holder
Bourke v. Beshear
Lee v. Orr (2014) ●
Bostic v. Rainey
De Leon v. Perry
Tanco v. Haslam
DeBoer v. Snyder ●
Henry v. Himes
Latta v. Otter
Geiger v. Kitzhaber ●
Evans v. Utah ●
Whitewood v. Wolf ●
Wolf v. Walker ●
Baskin v. Bogan
Love v. Beshear
Burns v. Hicklenlooper
Bowling v. Pence
Brenner v. Scott ●
Robicheaux v. Caldwell
General Synod of the United Church of Christ v. Resinger
Hamby v. Parnell

Fisher-Borne v. Smith ●
Majors v. Horne
Connolly v. Jeanes
Guzzo v. Mead
Conde-Vidal v. Garcia-Padilla
Marie v. Moser ●
Lawson v. Kelly ●
McGee v. Cole
Condon v. Haley
Bradacs v. Haley
Rolando v. Fox ●
Jernigan v. Crane
Campaign for Southern Equality v. Bryant
Inniss v. Aderhold
Rosenbrahn v. Daugaard
Caspar v. Snyder ●
Searcey v. Strange
Strawser v. Strange ●
Waters v. Ricketts ●

STATE HIGHEST COURT DECISIONS

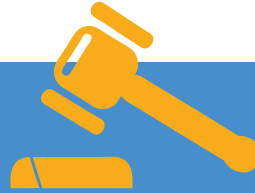
Baker v. Nelson ●
Jones v. Hallahan

Baehr v. Lewin ●
Dean v. District of Columbia ●
Baker v. State ●
Brause v. State
Goodridge v. Department of Public Health ●
In re Opinions of the Justices to the Senate ●
Li v. State ●
Cote-Whitacre v. Department of Public Health ●
Lewis v. Harris ●
Andersen v. King County ●
Hernandez v. Robles ●
Conaway v. Deane ●
In re Marriage Cases ●
Kerrigan v. Commissioner of Public Health ●
Strauss v. Horton ●
Varnum v. Brien ●
Griego v. Oliver ●
Garden State Equality v. Dow ●
Ex parte State ex rel. Alabama Policy Institute

The Use of Religion to Discriminate

Since launching our Campaign to End the Use of Religion to Discriminate, the ACLU has identified, elevated and framed this issue in the media and with intellectual leaders; advocated against exemptions; and challenged claims regarding the right to refuse in court.

IN THE COURTS



- We are appealing a case on behalf of our client, Tamesha Means, against the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) for forbidding Catholic hospitals to provide medical information and appropriate care to women suffering miscarriages.
- We won lawsuits in Colorado, New York and Washington challenging business owners' refusals, based on their religious beliefs, to provide services to LGBT people.
- We filed lawsuits in Louisiana and Kentucky challenging actions to avoid complying with the U.S. Supreme Court marriage recognition ruling.

IN LEGISLATURES

- We worked to ensure that of the more than 70 bills introduced this legislative session to permit the use of religion to discriminate, only seven were enacted into law.
- We successfully defeated nine out of ten state Religious Freedom Restoration Acts (RFRAs) introduced in 2014, including Arizona's high-profile SB1062.
- We initiated a campaign to amend a broad health care refusal law in Illinois – the first campaign of its kind.



ON THE GROUND

- We secured a regulation in the State of Washington that requires hospitals to issue a notice about reproductive health care services not provided, but available elsewhere.
- We released a report entitled *Miscarriage of Medicine: The Growth of Catholic Hospitals and the Threat to Reproductive Health Care*, which details how the growth of the Catholic health care system threatens patients' access to reproductive health services.
- We secured major news stories – including in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *Cosmopolitan* magazine – that highlight our clients and demonstrate the harms caused by religious refusals.



Please consider a special tax-deductible contribution to sustain the ACLU's never-give-up spirit and achieve even more victories in 2015, and beyond.

- ☐ \$1,000
☐ \$2,500
☐ \$5,000
☐ Other \$ _____

____ Enclosed is my check for \$_____ made payable to the **ACLU Foundation**.

____ Please charge my tax-deductible contribution of \$_____ to:

☐ American Express ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover

Card Number _____

Exp. Date _____

Name as it appears on card _____

Signature _____

Email Address _____

Please make your tax-deductible check payable to the **ACLU Foundation** and return it with this form to Anthony D. Romero, ACLU Foundation, 125 Broad Street, 18th Floor, New York, NY 10004-2400. To make your contribution online, please visit www.aclu.org/2015impact. Thank You!

Turning the Tide on Surveillance

In early May of this year, the ACLU won a landmark victory when a federal appeals court ruled, in *ACLU v. Clapper*, that the massive phone surveillance program run by the National Security Agency (NSA) is unlawful.

It was whistleblower and ACLU client Edward Snowden who, in 2013, helped expose that telecommunications companies had been handing over to the NSA, on a daily basis, their customers' phone numbers – along with data about who they called, when and for how long. **Hundreds of millions of Americans were subject to this colossal surveillance program** launched in the early days of the George W. Bush Administration.

The ACLU filed suit against the NSA just days after the revelations. When the case was dismissed by a district court, we took it to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals and in May, we won!

This momentous victory set the stage for congressional approval of the USA Freedom Act in June. And while we feel that this Act does not go fully far enough in reforming the system, we do believe that it represents a radical change in Washington. It is the first substantial effort by Congress to rein in out-of-control government surveillance in more than 30 years.

The court's ruling effectively undercuts the government's justification for mass surveillance and implicates other mass spying and bulk collection programs, some of which have not yet been officially acknowledged.

Even if the government doesn't choose to reconsider such programs of its own accord, private entities whose assistance is needed, such as telecommunications, financial and technology companies, may begin to resist demands that they might have easily complied with prior to the ruling.

This has been a long and hard-fought victory with far-reaching impact. While the case itself was filed in 2013, it follows a long line of ACLU challenges to the Patriot Act dating back over a decade. The persistence, dedication and sheer determination that it took to get us this far would not have been possible without our brilliant ACLU attorneys, advocates, communications professionals and dedicated supporters, like you. While only the future will tell how significant this decision is, we already know that it has the potential to dramatically change the government's approach to surveillance in the months and years ahead.

What's Next

MOST CRITICAL ISSUES ON THE HORIZON IN THE COMING MONTHS

PROTECTING VOTING RIGHTS

A flood of voter suppression tactics has emerged after a 2013 Supreme Court ruling invalidated parts of the Voting Rights Act. In 2014 alone, 14 states enacted voting restrictions for the first time. With the 2016 elections right around the corner, the time to act is now.

DEFENDING REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

In the first quarter of 2015, more than 330 abortion restrictions were introduced in 43 states. Often, the ACLU is the only thing standing between women and those who seek to take away their right to choose.



ACLU client Kevin Thompson (shown here with his niece) was jailed because he couldn't afford traffic fines.

REFORMING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

The United States represents five percent of the world's population and 25 percent of its jailed inmates. "Tough-on-crime" politics fueled an explosion in incarceration rates over the past 40 years. Now, with support from across the political spectrum, we are poised to drive real change.



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INSIDE:

- Integrated Advocacy
- Turning the Tide on Surveillance
- Critical Issues on the Horizon

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KEY ACLU 2015 VICTORIES

LGBT RIGHTS • We were victorious at the Supreme Court when the Justices handed down a historic decision that the freedom to marry is now the law nationwide.

SURVEILLANCE REFORM • We won a major appeals court ruling that declared illegal the National Security Agency's (NSA's) bulk collection of Americans' phone records.

RACIAL JUSTICE • We secured a settlement on behalf of a client who was removed from a plane, handcuffed and strip-searched because passengers and authorities decided that she and the two individuals seated next to her – all people of color – were “suspicious.”

IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS • With a big win in Nebraska, we successfully concluded a three-year, state-by-state legal and political fight to ensure that young adults who were brought to the country as children without documentation (DREAMers) have the right to get driver's licenses in all 50 states.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE • We achieved a precedent-setting decision against an unconstitutional debtors' prison system in DeKalb County, Georgia, where indigent people unable to pay misdemeanor fines were routinely jailed.

MASS INCARCERATION • Together with our allies, we convinced President Obama to commute the sentences of 46 non-violent drug offenders, 13 of whom were serving life without parole.



ACLU client Jim Obergefell outside the Supreme Court on the day of the historic marriage decision.