



KEEP AMERICA
SAFE AND FREE

THE ACLU CAMPAIGN TO DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION

Laura Murphy
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Laura Murphy heads the Washington Office of the ACLU, the nation's oldest and largest civil-liberties organization, and directs its federal lobbying operation. She is also a leading spokesperson for the national organization, working to bring meaning to the Constitution and the Bill of Rights through her advocacy in and out of Congress.

Murphy has particular expertise in campaign-finance reform, criminal-justice and free-speech issues, and the civil-liberties implications of the Bush administration's anti-terrorism measures, and has testified a number of times before Congress on these issues. Since Sept. 11, she has appeared in dozens of television and radio news programs, including the PBS News Hour with Jim Lehrer, CNN's Crossfire, and the Chris Matthews show, and has been profiled in publications from the Washington Post to Rolling Stone.

Murphy, the first woman and the first African American to head the Washington office of the 300,000-member ACLU, assumed her position in February 1993. In 1998, she was cited for her First Amendment work by the oldest paper on Capitol Hill, Roll Call, as "one of the 50 most influential Washingtonians in congressional politics." She has also been honored with awards from the Congressional Black Caucus (1997) and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund (1985) and with special recognition from Ebony and California Journal magazines. In 1998, she was appointed to the American Bar Association's Advisory Commission to the Standing Committee on Election Law.

Prior to 1993, Murphy worked with the ACLU in other capacities: as a lobbyist on women's and civil rights for its Washington Office, as development director of the ACLU Foundation of Southern California and as a board member for ACLU affiliates in California and Illinois. She also has been a legislative assistant to two members of Congress and was chief of staff for the Assembly Speaker of California. She is a graduate of Wellesley College.