

RHODE ISLAND CIVIL LIBERTIES

A Bi-Monthly Publication of the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of RI

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Highlights:

ACLU Sues Over Ban On Access to Attorney Fee Awards	2
2005 Legislative Kick-Off	3-5
ACLU Urges Governor Not To Revisit Unconstitutional Roadblocks	6
Latest North Smithfield Discrimination Case Resolved	6
News Briefs	7

DISCRIMINATION CASES RESOLVED

Settlement Reached In Scituate Racial Profiling Claim

The R.I. ACLU has settled its racial profiling lawsuit against the Scituate Police Department in a case in which the ACLU alleged that Pawtucket resident Jean Philippe Barros, a person of Cape Verdean descent, was the victim of racial profiling when he was stopped, questioned and ticketed one day. Without acknowledging any wrongdoing, the Town has agreed to pay Barros \$10,500. Last October, a federal jury cleared the police, but the ACLU appealed, challenging significant restrictions on the evidence that the judge allowed the jury to consider. As a result of the settlement, the appeal has been dismissed.

The lawsuit, filed in 2003 by ACLU volunteer attorney Thomas G. Briody, argued that Barros' rights to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures and to equal protection of the laws were violated when he was pulled over by Scituate police officer Kevin Pendergast for not having a Rhode Island inspection sticker. That the car lacked such a sticker was not surprising since Barros was driving his sister's car, which had Missouri license plates. When Barros asked the officer if he was stopped because of his race, the officer, though having had no basis for pulling Barros over, demanded to see his license, registration and proof of insurance. When Barros was initially unable to find the registration, he was given a citation even though he found the document while the officer was still there. The officer also gave him a citation for driving without insurance. Both of the charges were later dismissed in court.

Barros claimed that the officer looked directly at him before pulling out behind him and tailing him, but at trial, the officer

(Continued on page 2)

Tiverton Gay Marriage Benefits Case Settled

The Tiverton School Committee and the Rhode Island ACLU have settled a suit the School Committee had filed seeking clarification of its obligations to Cheryl McCullough, a retired Tiverton School Department employee seeking to add her same-sex spouse to her health insurance plan. The lawsuit was filed in September against McCullough, a Tiverton guidance counselor and health educator for 27 years, and her spouse, Joyce Boivin. They were married last year in Massachusetts, where they reside, following that state's supreme court decision allowing same-sex couples to marry. After being sued, McCullough contacted the ACLU for assistance.

As a retired teacher, McCullough is entitled to receive family health care benefits until the age of 65 under the school district's collective bargaining agreement. When she sought to have her spouse added to her benefits, the School Committee, uncertain whether the couple was entitled to the same retirement benefits as opposite-sex married partners, referred the matter to Superior Court, where ACLU volunteer attorney Lynette Labinger agreed to represent the couple.

However, because the suit was filed without the opportunity for the school committee to have heard from McCullough, an executive session was held at which her counsel presented arguments on her behalf, including clarifying information from Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Rhode Island regarding the health insurance contract at issue. Because the school district's health insurance policy explicitly extends coverage for couples whose marriage is legally recognized in the state where they wed, and because there is no question of

(Continued on page 2)

ACLU Sues Over Ban On Access To Attorney Fee Awards

The American Civil Liberties Union Foundation and its Rhode Island counterpart (“ACLU”) have filed a lawsuit in federal court in Rhode Island, challenging the application of a 2002 R.I. Supreme Court ruling that bars attorneys from sharing court-awarded fees with the ACLU (or similar non-profit organizations) to fund its legal work. The lawsuit, filed by RI ACLU volunteer attorney Mark Freeland, argues that the prohibition, by impeding the ACLU’s ability to fund its litigation work, violates the First Amendment and the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution. The defendants are Attorney General Lynch and David Curtin, the state court’s chief disciplinary counsel, each of whom has enforcement powers over the prohibition.

The lawsuit notes that the ACLU litigates “hundreds of cases per year involving individual civil rights, using the services of ACLU Foundation staff attorneys and private cooperating counsel. Court-awarded attorneys’ fees resulting from this litigation are a significant source of funding for the

[organizations] and are used to support their litigation activities.”

Federal law authorizes the payment of attorneys’ fees to non-profit organizations such as the ACLU in federal civil rights litigation. Congress passed that law, the suit notes, “in recognition of the fact that civil rights laws depend heavily upon private enforcement, yet the vast majority of plaintiffs cannot afford legal counsel. Thus, the efforts of non-profit, public-interest organizations in bringing such cases are essential to the vindication of clients’ rights. In enacting [these laws], Congress specifically anticipated and intended that attorneys’ fees would be awarded to non-profit organizations such as the ACLU Foundation and the ACLU Foundation of RI.”

In ruling otherwise in 2002, the Rhode Island Supreme Court rejected the recommendations of its own Ethics Advisory Panel, which had concluded that “the prohibitions against fee sharing with nonlawyers ought not to apply to the sharing of court-ordered fees in [ACLU] sponsored pro bono

litigation” and that the Rules should thus be amended.

The suit claims that enforcement of the court ruling violates the ACLU’s First Amendment rights by impairing its “ability to fulfill a core ideological purpose of the [ACLU], which is to provide legal representation to individuals whose civil rights have been violated.” The suit further argues that the court ruling conflicts with the Constitution’s Supremacy Clause, under which a state may not enforce its laws or rules in a manner that is inconsistent with federal law.

Attorney Freeland said: “The ACLU has always played an important role, nationally and here in Rhode Island, in protecting the civil rights of citizens. It is critical to the mission of the ACLU that it be able to receive fees generated in civil rights litigation and re-invest those funds to pursue litigation. Congress has specifically provided for that and yet the current state of the law in Rhode Island does not permit it. We hope to be able to rectify that.”

Tiverton Gay Marriage Benefits Case Settled *(Continued from page 1)*

the validity of McCullough’s marriage in Massachusetts, Blue Cross indicated that it would provide coverage to her spouse under these circumstances.

As a result of that session, all the parties agreed that the matter was resolvable on narrow contractual grounds, and the School Committee voted to dismiss its suit and provide insurance coverage to Boivin. McCullough was also represented by John DeCubellis, Jr. of the NEA/RI, and additional assistance in the case was provided by Gary Buseck, Legal Director for Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders in Boston.

Settlement Reached In Racial Profiling Claim Against Scituate Police *(Continued from page 1)*

said that he was not aware of Barros’ skin color until he pulled him over. Pendergast also stated that it was his practice to demand license, registration and insurance information from all drivers, even those wrongly stopped. However, state law specifically limits any demand for insurance papers to Rhode Island-registered vehicles.

The ACLU appeal challenged rulings made by U.S. District Judge Mary Lisi during the course of the trial that limited the evidence heard by the jury. For example, the judge refused to allow the jury to hear testimony from the police chief acknowledging that Pendergast’s demand for the

information violated departmental policy. Also excluded was evidence of the state law that authorizes insurance information only for vehicles registered in Rhode Island.

ACLU attorney Briody said: “I am pleased that the Town has partially compensated Mr. Barros for the indignity that he suffered during the disputed traffic stop. We believe this suit has had a positive impact on the police department and its practices.” Barros added: “I am relieved that I have gotten some vindication, and that the police chief has acknowledged that steps have been taken to address racial profiling issues by the department.”

Legislative Kick-Off

2005 General Assembly Session Off to Contentious Start

A divisive House leadership fight has marked the beginning of the 2005 General Assembly session, but what that will mean for civil liberties remains unknown. As in past years, though, the Affiliate is proposing an ambitious pro-active legislative agenda of its own. What follows is a preview of some of those positive bills on which the Affiliate will be actively lobbying in the months ahead. They include some important initiatives regarding privacy rights, as well as legislation to limit post-9/11 infringements on civil liberties. As this newsletter went to press, however, the vast majority of other bills the General Assembly will be considering this year had not yet even been introduced. As for the many anti-civil liberties bills that will undoubtedly be placed into the hopper, they will be reviewed in next issue's newsletter.

"War on Terrorism"

One of the Affiliate's most significant legislative victories last session was prompting the quick withdrawal by the Governor of his proposed "homeland security" bill, which would have significantly impaired free speech rights and the public's right to know. In its place, the General Assembly passed an ACLU bill repealing more than a dozen archaic criminal laws – a few of which the Governor's bill had sought to expand – that violated the First Amendment. They included World War I-era laws barring advocacy of anarchy or revolution.

Continuing in that pro-active mode, the Affiliate is promoting two bills this year that are designed to stem the war on civil liberties that the government's "war on terrorism" has unleashed. One bill follows from the ACLU's disclosure in December that the Providence Police Department obtained over \$100,000 in federal homeland security money for police officers to attend a training on how to "handle" protests and "civil actions." Under legislation being sponsored by Rep. Fausto Anguilla and Sen. Charles Levesque, police departments would be barred from using funds to train their personnel in methods or procedures for conducting surveillance of, interfering

with, or obstructing lawful protests, demonstrations or other activities protected by the First Amendment. A second part of the bill addresses recent ACLU discoveries across the country of cooperative ventures between local and federal law enforcement authorities designed to spy on political groups. In response, the proposed legislation generally restricts police from collecting or maintaining information about the political, religious or social views, associations or activities of individuals.

A second bill, sponsored by Rep. Edith Ajello and Sen. Susan Sosnowski, seeks to repeal a 2002 statute, passed with virtually no debate, that exempts from the open records law various once-public records of water management supply systems. Passage of the 2002 law was apparently based on the theory that it would stop terrorists from dropping toxic chemicals in private wells across the state. The ACLU believes that the secrecy established by the three-year-old law created a dangerous precedent, and its only real effect has been to keep citizens in the dark about environmental problems with the water supply.

Open Government

Open Records: A coalition of open government advocates, including the ACLU, has reintroduced legislation, sponsored by Rep. Elizabeth Dennigan, to strengthen the state's open records law. Among other things, the bill would shorten the time period for public bodies to respond to requests for documents, and explicitly require public bodies to mail out requested documents rather than force requesters to personally retrieve any records they sought. The bill also would require police departments – the worst offenders in terms of compliance – to provide open records law training to their officers who deal with open records requests from the public.

House Rules: Proposed House of Representative rules, which dictate how the House conducts its business, led to some heated back-and-forth at the start of the session. As originally proposed, the rules barred any photographic or video recording of House sessions or committee meetings without permission of the House Speaker. Another rule change would have made committee votes on bills available to the public only upon *written* request – an unnecessary and burdensome requirement that conflicted with the state's open records law and would only delay the public's right to know.

In written and oral testimony before the House Rules Committee, the ACLU vigorously opposed these restrictions. As this newsletter went to press, it appeared that the House leadership had agreed to eliminate these two provisions from the rules. Much credit must be given to Rep. Fausto Anguilla and Rep. Edith Ajello for working with House leaders to favorably address these important open government concerns.

Legislative Kick-Off

Civil Rights

Voting Rights: In a major victory for civil rights last year, ACLU-drafted legislation that comprehensively addressed the problem of racial profiling was enacted by the General Assembly. This year's chief race-related initiative for the Affiliate will be promoting the passage of a constitutional amendment that would restore the right to vote to felons upon release from incarceration. Presently, they lose their right to vote until their sentence of probation or parole is completed, which can be years or even decades after they have returned to the community and become productive, tax-paying members of society. The restriction has had a particularly devastating impact on African-Americans. In fact, Rhode Island's law disenfranchises a higher percentage of blacks than many Southern states. The Affiliate is a member of a broad-based coalition working to pass the voting rights legislation, which is being sponsored by Rep. Joseph Almeida and Sen. Harold Metts.

"Sovereign Immunity": A diverse coalition of civil rights, labor, environmental and community groups is once again supporting an ACLU bill, sponsored by Rep. Paul Moura and Sen. Michael McCaffrey, to make clear that the state can be sued in federal court for violating federal civil rights and labor laws. In a series of devastating decisions in recent years, all decided by 5-4 votes, the U.S. Supreme Court has held that states generally cannot be sued in federal court for

violating the law unless the state has itself consented to be sued!

The most prominent local example of the consequences of those court decisions has been the case of Beverly Migliore, a former DEM employee allegedly fired for whistleblowing activities. A significant award of damages was thrown out by the courts on the grounds that the state could not be held liable for violating federal whistleblower laws. "Sovereign immunity" also bars people from obtaining legal remedies when the state violates anti-discrimination laws. The cases affect not just state employees, but clients and any other person who has dealings with the state. The proposed bill specifically cites a handful of major federal civil rights and labor laws and waives the state's immunity from suit for violations of those laws. The bill passed both Houses in 2001, but was vetoed by then-Governor Almond. Notwithstanding the possibility of another veto, the ACLU and other groups have decided to make the bill's passage a priority this session.

Gay Marriage: A well organized state Campaign for Marriage Equality, of which the ACLU is a member, will be promoting passage of a bill authorizing same-sex marriage. The legislation is being reintroduced by Sen. Rhoda Perry and Rep. Arthur Handy.

Privacy

Social Security Numbers: For over thirty years, a federal statute has made it unlawful (though admittedly with a number of exceptions) for any "federal, state or local government agency to deny to any individual any right, benefit, or privilege provided by law because of such individual's refusal to disclose his or her social security number." Incredibly, in a feat of legal legerdemain, some courts have recently ruled that, despite the clear language of the provision, the restriction applies only to federal agencies! Rep. Charlene Lima and Sen. Rhoda Perry have introduced a state version of the federal law that would explicitly require state and municipal agencies in Rhode Island to abide by that statute's important privacy protections.

RFID Tags: This month, a disturbing story from California reported how one school district there was requiring students to wear radio frequency identification (RFID) tags, which allows their identity and movement to be tracked electronically. RFID technology has been used to track cattle and commerce, but the privacy implications of its mandatory use on people are unsettling, to say the least. In response, Rep. Charlene Lima has introduced an ACLU bill that would bar the state or municipalities, including schools, from making use of RFID technology on students, employees or clients.

Abortion: As in recent years, over a dozen anti-choice bills have been introduced this session. No action has been taken on such bills since 2001, when the Senate passed a so-called "informed consent" and waiting period bill. The Affiliate will be working with pro-choice groups to prevent their passage again this year.

Workplace Privacy: Last year, the Affiliate received a shocking complaint from employees at a local establishment that their employer had installed video surveillance cameras in the employees' restrooms (purportedly in response to drug concerns). Because the complainants felt they could not pursue the issue legally, the Affiliate has proposed a bill, sponsored by Rep. Paul Moura and Sen. Frank Ciccone, to impose penalties on any employer who records employees in a restroom, locker room, or room designated by an employer for changing clothes, unless authorized by court order.

Legislative Kick-Off

Rights of Immigrants

Largely as a result of the government's on-going "war on terrorism," protecting the rights of immigrants is once again a high priority for the Affiliate this year. The ACLU will be supporting efforts to enact two bills that were also introduced last year.

Driver's Licenses: In 2003, the Governor unilaterally changed DMV policy to bar individuals without Social Security Numbers from getting drivers' licenses. Denying licenses to undocumented residents only forces them to drive without a license and without insurance, thus hindering public safety. Further, to the extent that "security" concerns prompted the Governor's actions, the ironic effect of his policy is to make it more difficult to track immigrants residing here. A bill drafted by the ACLU, and promoted by a coalition of immigrants' rights groups, has been reintroduced to address the problems faced by both legal and undocumented immigrants in getting drivers' licenses, while establishing clear and strict criteria to reduce fraud. The bill sponsors are Rep. Grace Diaz and Sen. Juan Pichardo.

College Admission: The state's colleges and universities have varying policies governing the admission of undocumented students, and a bill being reintroduced would bar public colleges from denying a student admission solely on the basis of his or her immigration status. A companion bill would allow immigrants who met certain residency criteria to qualify for in-state tuition rates. Last year, the General Assembly passed a resolution requesting the Board of Governors for Higher Education to address these issues, but it has thus far failed to do so.

Students' Rights

Student Interrogations: The increase of "school resource officers," police officers whose "beat" is the public schools, has sparked complaints to the ACLU from parents objecting that, without their knowledge, their children have been interrogated by police in the school setting on potentially serious crimes. A bill sponsored by Rep. Edith Ajello would set some standards for such interrogations, generally requiring parents of students in grades 1-8 to first be contacted, if possible, and offered the opportunity to be present at any such in-school interrogations. Last year, the ACLU investigated a complaint from parents in one school district where their child was questioned in school – in response to an anonymous tip – about allegedly having been pregnant and burying her fetus in the basement. There was no basis for the allegation.

Access to the Courts

Sharing of Attorneys Fees: Three years ago, in a devastating ruling for the ACLU, the R.I. Supreme Court held that ethical rules and state law barred volunteer attorneys from sharing court-awarded fees with the ACLU (or similar non-profit organizations) to fund its legal work. No other state faces this prohibition, and the Court's opinion rejected the recommendation of its own Ethics Advisory Panel. For two years the Senate has passed legislation, introduced by Sen. Daniel Connors, to make clear that such fee-sharing does not constitute the "unauthorized practice of law." However, the bill has died in the House. This year, a House version of the bill is also being introduced, sponsored by Rep. Amy Rice. The ACLU will be lobbying for its passage. (See related story, page 2).



Given that the vast majority of bills had not been introduced as this newsletter went to press, this summary only scratches the surface of civil liberties-related legislation in the 2005 session. The next issue of "Civil Liberties" will provide an update on these bills and others being considered by the General Assembly. For more information about particular bills, members are encouraged to contact the ACLU office, and to also call, write and testify on bills of interest and concern. Members can also sign up for legislative e-alerts by visiting our web site at www.riaclu.org.

Latest North Smithfield Discrimination Case Resolved

The ACLU of Rhode Island has favorably settled a discrimination complaint against the Town of North Smithfield on behalf of Thomas Bourgeois, who was denied appointment as a school coach last year solely because of his sex. The resolution of the case follows on the heels of the ACLU's successful closure of its lawsuit against the Town's attempt to hire as the municipal fire department the all-male, all-white private fire rescue service serving North Smithfield.

The settlement resolved an administrative complaint, filed in November by the ACLU with the R.I. Commission on Human Rights. The complaint, filed by volunteer attorney Lynette Labinger, alleged that last February, Bourgeois was passed over for selection to serve as the North Smithfield Junior High girls' softball coach solely so that a woman could be hired for the position instead.

Specifically, after Bourgeois applied for the position, he was told he was the only candidate. In addition, his name ap-

peared as the recommended candidate on the advance agenda for the School Committee meeting. On the night of the meeting, however, his name was struck out, and that of a woman written in his place. When the school superintendent was asked to explain his actions at a school committee meeting the next month, he stated that he believed that a woman should be appointed to the position, and that he had searched out a woman candidate, instead of recommending Bourgeois, for that reason.

At the time Bourgeois was denied the appointment on the stated basis of his sex, North Smithfield employed other men as coaches and assistant coaches for girls' sports. Bourgeois also had ten years' experience coaching softball in the town's Little League program.

Under the settlement, Bourgeois has been appointed as softball coach and the ACLU agreed to waive its entitlement to attorneys' fees.

ACLU Urges Governor Not To Revisit Unconstitutional Roadblocks

The ACLU has called on Governor Carcieri to reject a proposal that he ask the R.I. Supreme Court to revisit the legality of drunk driving roadblocks, which in 1989 the court found to be a violation of the state constitution's prohibition against unreasonable searches and seizures. In a recent letter, Attorney General Patrick Lynch asked the Governor to seek a Supreme Court advisory opinion reexamining the issue.

The ACLU has long opposed so-called sobriety checkpoints, which allow law enforcement officers to randomly stop cars and perform driver sobriety checks without any suspicion that the driver is intoxicated. The ACLU believes that giving police the power to stop and detain an individual without any grounds to believe that the person has committed a crime violates the principles underlying the Constitution's guarantee against unreasonable searches and seizures.

In response to the Attorney General's request, the ACLU sent its own letter to the Governor, questioning his legal authority to request an advisory opinion in this circumstance and urging him instead to focus on strategies that do not infringe on privacy rights, such as the expanded use of roving patrols on the highways that would target erratic driving and other behavior that might indicate an intoxicated driver.

The Governor has not indicated whether he will take any action on the Attorney General's request.

Civil Rights Groups Criticize Executive Order On Equal Opportunity

The Rhode Island Civil Rights Roundtable has publicly criticized a recent executive order on equal opportunity signed by Governor Donald Carcieri. The group, representing a broad array of civil rights organizations in the state, criticized the order as "weaker than any previous executive order issued on the subject in recent memory."

After urging the Governor to issue an order on this subject for over a year, the Roundtable's actions finally prompted the Governor's staff to draft an order last November. Alarmed at how weak that proposed order was, the ACLU and Roundtable members offered numerous suggestions to strengthen it at least to the level of the order issued by his predecessor, Governor Almond. But when Governor Carcieri announced adoption of the order at an annual Martin Luther King, Jr. breakfast last month, the final

version did not incorporate any of the Roundtable's substantive suggestions.

An analysis prepared with assistance from the ACLU summarized the many differences between Governor Carcieri's order and that of his Republican predecessor. Explicit bans on discrimination are replaced with vague or non-enforceable language; gone are procedures for oversight and for holding departments accountable. here is no mention of public reports required by statute. A ban on sexual harassment is included almost as an afterthought, and many components of Gov. Almond's order on sexual harassment are eliminated.

The Roundtable called on the Governor to significantly amend the order in light of these concerns.

News Briefs

Arguments Heard in Cornel Young Case

The U.S. Court of Appeals in Boston heard oral arguments this month on the legality of judicial sanctions imposed on attorneys in the Cornel Young, Jr. civil rights case for allegedly misrepresenting the trial judge's position in court papers. The ACLU filed a "friend of the court" brief in the appeal, arguing that the judge's actions "not only violated the due process and First Amendment rights of both the plaintiff and her attorneys, but will, if not reversed, chill and undermine the independent and vigorous advocacy that is an indispensable component of our system of justice."

The ACLU has also filed a separate brief in the appeal, challenging a local court rule that the judge used to prevent Leisa Young's lawyers from submitting relevant evidence on her behalf. The rule limits the number of pages of exhibits and appendices that can be filed on motions seeking or opposing "summary judgment," that is, deciding a case without the need for a trial. It is unclear whether the court will reach that issue when it renders its decision on the appeal.

Ten Commandments Resolution Introduced

The ACLU's success last year in convincing Providence city officials to remove from Roger Williams Park a large and long-standing granite monument of the Ten

Commandments prompted one City Council member to introduce a resolution calling for return of the display. The resolution was referred to committee, where it is expected to stay.

The monument had been on Park property since 1963, when it was donated, as part of a national campaign, by the Fraternal Order of Eagles. After investigating the matter last year, the City Solicitor's office ordered the FOE to remove the monument from the city park. The FOE did so, placing it in front of its main office in West Warwick. An FOE spokesperson expressed support for its new home, saying it will be better respected and more widely seen there.

Court Rules Against Probationers

A Superior Court judge has rejected ACLU arguments that the Department of Corrections failed to follow proper procedures when it adopted a policy that generally bars all out-of-state travel by sex offenders on probation, including casual in-and-out trips to neighboring states. The lawsuit, filed by volunteer attorney Richard Sinapi, argued that the policy should have been the subject of a public hearing before its adoption, where public input could have been gathered, but Judge Allen Rubine disagreed. The ACLU plans to appeal the ruling. A federal judge has already held that the policy does not violate probationers' constitutional rights to travel and to due process of law.

Affiliate Notes

2005 ACLU Student Media Award

The Rhode Island American Civil Liberties Union is seeking submissions for its 2005 Student Media Award, recognizing high school media that uphold the First Amendment or other freedoms. Submissions should address civil liberties or free press issues, or show courage of publication in the school context. All forms of media by R.I. high school students – individuals or groups – are eligible, including articles, cartoons, websites, radio and television excerpts, material from school publications, and material from "underground" or alternative publications. Please submit material produced during the 2004-2005 school year.

Professional journalists will judge submissions based on informational value; writing quality; courage in publication; impact; value as investigative reporting; and furtherance of interest in civil liberties. Winners will receive \$500 (shared in the case of joint winners), an award certificate, and ACLU membership.

Please send 5 copies of submissions to: Amy Myrick, RI ACLU, 128 Dorrance St. Suite 220, Providence, RI 02903. Include a cover letter with contact information including phone and e-mail. Entries must be post-marked by March 7, 2005. Call 831-7171 for more information.

Board Officers and Directors Elected

The following are the results of the Year 2005 elections for the Rhode Island ACLU Board of Directors. The officers are: John Blakeslee, Chairperson; Carolyn Mannis, Vice-Chair; Daniel Scott III, Treasurer; and Jennifer Azevedo, Secretary. Nominees elected to the Board are: Elizabeth Earls, Michael Gerhardt, James Greer, Elizabeth Morancy, Katherine Powell, Erich Stephens, Nondas Hurst Voll, Robert Walsh, Jr., and Vivian Weisman.

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ACLU Foundation Announces Legacy Challenge: Your Gift for the Future Will Defend Freedom Today

Throughout the ACLU's history, thousands of Americans have chosen to act as stewards of our constitutional heritage by including the ACLU Foundation as a beneficiary of their estate. Now, through a generous commitment by National ACLU Foundation supporter Robert W. Wilson, a bequest provision in your will or trust will be matched with up to \$10,000 in immediate cash support to ACLU programs. Never before has your commitment to the ACLU been able to accomplish so much.

To request information about how your legacy gift can benefit the ACLU Foundation today, please contact the Office of Gift Planning at the following address: ACLU Foundation — Office of Gift Planning — 125 Broad Street, 18th Floor — New York, New York 10004. Or you can e-mail inquiries to: LegacyChallenge@aclu.org.

Additional information can be found at the web address: www.aclu.org/legacy.

ACLU Participates in Eastside Marketplace "Friendship Fund"

In an effort to give back to the community, Eastside Marketplace has devised an easy way for non-profit organizations to raise money. It's called the "Friendship Fund." Simply save your receipts from Eastside Marketplace and mail them to the RI ACLU office. Eastside Marketplace will issue checks at the rate of 1% of the total Eastside Marketplace register receipts redeemed. The more receipts redeemed, the more money we raise! Thank you Eastside Marketplace!

Visit the Affiliate's Website: www.riaclu.org

The R.I. Affiliate encourages you to make use of the Affiliate's website at www.riaclu.org. At the site, you can review recent news releases and court documents, access recently released Affiliate reports, and more. If you have any suggestions for improvement, or you just like what you see, e-mail us and let us know.