

60TH ANNIVERSARY GALA



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2019

ACLU

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
FOUNDATION

Rhode Island

60TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

American Civil Liberties Union of Rhode Island

October 18, 2019

Honoring the Raymond J. Pettine

Civil Libertarian of the Year:

ACLU of RI Lay Leadership

**ACLU of RHODE ISLAND'S
60TH ANNIVERSARY GALA**

5:30 PM – Cocktails

6:30 PM – Dinner

Welcome and Annual Business Meeting

Maureen Dunnigan

Presentation of the Raymond J. Pettine

Civil Libertarian of the Year Award

Carolyn Mannis and Christopher Corbett

Acceptance of Award

Allan Shine & Richard Zacks

Thomas Ramsbey & Vivian Weisman

John Blakeslee & Cherie Cruz

Keynote Speaker

Luis Mancheno

Concluding Remarks

Maureen Dunnigan

Officers

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Cherie Cruz – Vice-Chair
Craig Cerwonka – Secretary
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Raymond J. Pettine Civil Libertarian of the Year — ACLU of RI's Lay Leadership

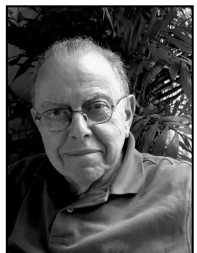
Representing 1959 - 1969



Allan Shine [Chair 1968-1969] — Allan Shine's law practice has concentrated on business reorganization and business consulting. He received a Gubernatorial Order of Commendation for his service as Receiver in the \$1.2 billion dollar Credit Union Crisis in 2001, where his work helped lead to the repayment in full of the more than 210,000 Rhode Islanders affected by that crisis. He has been regularly listed in both The Best Lawyers of America and New England Super Lawyers.

Allan became very active in the ACLU of RI shortly after its founding, working closely with Affiliate founder Milton Stanzler. He was heavily involved in the Affiliate's first case to make its way to the United States Supreme Court, *DiCenso v. Robinson*, a precedent-setting case that ruled unconstitutional a state law providing salary supplements to parochial school teachers.

Representing 1969 - 1979



Richard Zacks [Chair 1974-1976] — I am a Providence native, and a graduate of Providence Classical High School, Harvard College and Harvard Law School. As soon as I was admitted to the Rhode Island bar in the Fall of 1961, I joined the newly formed R.I. ACLU affiliate, organized while I was at law school, and volunteered to be a cooperating attorney, one of the few local lawyers then willing to participate in civil liberties cases. I chaired the affiliate's legal panel for many years, and, at a time when the affiliate had no paid staff, served as an ACLU lobbyist and a spokesperson in the local media. In 1986, I was recognized as the RI Affiliate's Civil Libertarian of the Year. I was a member of the ACLU National Board from 1962 to 2009 and for most of those years served as the ACLU's Treasurer.

I am now fully retired from the law and the ACLU and live with my wife Sarah and our cats, Jill and Jack, in a converted 1830s barn a short walk from the ocean in Bellport, NY.

Representing 1979 - 1989



Thomas Ramsbey [Chair 1982-1983, 1987] — Thomas W. Ramsbey grew up in South Bend, Indiana; received a BA from MacMurray College, Jacksonville, Illinois; and STB and PhD degrees from Boston University. He taught at Rhode Island College for 32 years, serving as the chair two terms in the Sociology Department. He was also active in the United Methodist Church.

Having been arrested in Montgomery, Alabama in 1960 while on a college field trip (not a demonstration), his introduction to the ACLU came in the form of an ACLU lawyer to defend the group, who were eventually acquitted at the U.S. Supreme Court level. Moving to Rhode Island in 1970, he and his wife Theil joined the ACLU, and eventually Thom served on several committees and as chairperson of the ACLU Board. He appeared on the Affiliate's cable show "Rights of a Free People" and represented the ACLU in speaking to schools and other groups. He and Theil have three children, Lance Ramsbey, Natalia Sweet, and Noel Cain; and four grandchildren.

Raymond J. Pettine Civil Libertarian of the Year — ACLU of RI's Lay Leadership

Representing 1989 - 1999



Vivian Weisman [Chair 1990-1992] — Vivian has volunteered for the RI ACLU since 1982, serving on and/or leading the Church State Committee, development efforts and of course, our Board of Directors.

Her services have included working on the Affiliate's 50th and 60th Anniversary plans and various ad hoc roles in personnel searches and editing. She served as our representative to the National Board and other external assignments. Her family's lawsuit, handled by the ACLU, challenging prayers at public high school graduations led to a major U.S Supreme court victory. In 2005, the Affiliate honored Vivian and her husband Dan as Civil Libertarians of the year.

Representing 1999 - 2009



John Blakeslee [Chair 2004-2005] — John Blakeslee became familiar with the ACLU through volunteer work on behalf of gay rights. He has been an ongoing board member since 1997 and has served as the affiliate board chairperson and as our representative on the National Board.

John was the plaintiff in *Blakeslee v. St Sauveur*, a successful ACLU case defending anonymous political free speech. In 2014, the Affiliate honored John as Civil Libertarian of the year.

Representing 2009 - 2019



Cherie Cruz [Chair 2017-2018]— Cherie Cruz, A.M. is the program manager of the Parents as Teachers program at CCAP. She is from Pawtucket/Central Falls and is a parent of four and gammy of Jazzy. Cherie is a first generation college student and received her undergraduate degree in Education with Honors and her Master's degree in Urban Education Policy. Cherie has been an active member in her community and State to work toward empowering the voices of families and community members in policy related initiatives and various grassroots campaigns, such as advocating for "Fair Chance Licensing" and the "Right to Vote."

Cherie incorporated the first Parent Teacher Student Organization in Central Falls and served on the initial school district Parent Advisory Board. Additional leadership activities include executive Board Member of the Transcending Through Education Foundation, working to reverse the School to Prison Pipeline through educational scholarships and mentorship, and more recently co-founding the Formerly Incarcerated Union of RI, a membership driven organization which works to support lifting up the voices of those directly impacted by the criminal justice system. Most notably for Cherie is her involvement here at the ACLU of RI, where she has been a member of the ACLU of RI Board for the past 8 years, holding positions as Chair and currently Vice Chair.

**CHAIRPERSONS OF THE ACLU OF RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
1959-2019**

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1963-1965: Charles A. Baldwin
1965-1967: William G. McLoughlin
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1973-1974: Charles G. Edwards
1974-1976: Richard Zacks
1977: Joseph Gurland
1978-1979: Dorothy Zimmering

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1990-1992: Vivian Weisman
1993-1994: Michael DiBiase
1995-1996: Jonathan Lubin
1997: John J. Carroll
1998-1999: Judith Anderson

2000-2001: Andrew Horwitz
2002-2003: Elizabeth V. Earls
2004-2005: John Blakeslee
2006-2007: Carolyn Mannis
2008-2009: Jennifer Azevedo

2010-2011: Anne Mulready
2012: Christine Lopes
2013: Anne Mulready
2014: Christine Lopes Metcalfe
2015-2016: Karen Davidson
2017-2018: Cherie Cruz
2019: Maureen Dunnigan

60th Anniversary Gala Keynote Speaker: Luis Mancheno

Luis Mancheno is a Supervising Attorney at The Legal Aid Society in New York. In his role as Supervising Attorney, he co-manages the New York Immigrant Family Unity Project, the first program in the country to offer universal representation to immigrant detainees facing removal proceedings in New York.



He received his J.D., cum laude, from Roger Williams School of Law. After graduating from law school, he worked as an Immigration Attorney at the Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project in Arizona where he represented men and transgender women in removal proceedings. In 2014, he was selected as part of the inaugural class of Immigrant Justice Corps Fellows in New York and was placed at the Bronx Defenders where he represented detained people in immigration and federal courts in New York. Luis also worked as a Clinical Teaching Fellow in the Kathryn O. Greenberg Immigration Justice Clinic at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. More recently, Luis worked as a Refugee Status Determination and Resettlement Expert for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in El Salvador, the Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Curacao, and Washington, D.C.

Luis was granted asylum in the United States in 2009 due to suffering extreme violence in Ecuador, including being the victim of conversion therapy and a murder attempt due to his sexual orientation.

Luis's writing has appeared in The Guardian, The Huffington Post, Public Radio International, Vox, Out Magazine, and the Providence Journal. His immigration story and his work as an attorney have been featured in The New York Times, NBC News, and elsewhere. Luis is also a frequent expert commentator on CBS News.

In 2017, he was selected as one of the 30 LGBTQ change-makers and rising stars in the country by NBC News and as the LGBTQ activist of the year by the New York City Comptroller's Office. A documentary about his life and work was released by DirectTV in October of 2018.

Luis is also one of the producers and the expert host of Martes De "Migra" (Immigration Tuesdays), a weekly community education segment on NY1Noticias, a local Spanish channel in New York.

Luis, por supuesto, habla Español.

ACLU of RI YEAR IN REVIEW (November 2018-September 2019)

Each year the Affiliate lobbies on hundreds of bills at the State House, speaks at dozens of events, and contacts innumerable government officials to seek redress for civil liberties violations. At any given time, we are involved in more than 30 cases before the courts and administrative agencies. The list below highlights a small sample of the ACLU of RI's activities this past year; we hope it provides some perspective on the breadth of our work.

First Amendment Rights

ACLU litigation prompted the Department of Administration to reverse its policy of denying a sales tax exemption to Rhode Island-authored works of non-fiction on the grounds that such works were not "creative and original."

The ACLU jumped in to defend a controversial blogger who, without notice, was slapped with a judicial "gag order" requiring him to remove from his website any reference to a person who was suing him for defamation.

The ACLU successfully objected to a "lobbying tax" contained in the Governor's proposed budget that would have severely affected non-profit organizations that engage in lobbying.

ACLU advocacy convinced the new Attorney General to withdraw the State's name from a U.S. Supreme Court brief filed by his predecessor that supported the constitutionality of a city's sponsorship of a 40-foot-tall Latin Cross.

At the ACLU's urging, the City of Central Falls repealed its juvenile curfew ordinance.

Equal Protection of the Laws

As a result of litigation filed by the ACLU in conjunction with two other groups, the Providence School District agreed to provide compensatory services to students with disabilities who were unable to get to school during a citywide school bus strike.

The ACLU joined with RI Legal Services (RILS) in filing an administrative challenge to the inadequate educational services being provided by the Providence school district to English learning students.

The ACLU lobbied in support of a bill passed by the legislature that provides state veterans' benefits to individuals who were given dishonorable discharges due to their sexual orientation or gender identity.



Fiction or Non-fiction?



The Affiliate favorably settled a sex and age discrimination lawsuit on behalf of a Twin River employee who for years was paid less than a younger male colleague with the identical job responsibilities.

Privacy

Working as part of a huge coalition, the Affiliate helped draft and win passage of the Reproductive Privacy Act (RPA), a bill codifying the protections of *Roe v. Wade* into state law.

The ACLU filed a “friend of the court” brief supporting the constitutionality of the RPA in response to a lawsuit brought to challenge its passage.

The Affiliate joined with other New England Affiliates in filing a brief arguing that police need a warrant in order to obtain access to state drug prescription databases.



As the result of a successful lawsuit, the Smithfield Town Council repealed a restrictive medical marijuana ordinance that barred cultivation of the drug by patients and caregivers.

Immigrant Rights

The Affiliate joined with the ACLU’s Immigrants’ Right Project in filing a brief to challenge the federal government’s claim that a person who will likely be tortured if extradited back to his home country cannot rely on that fact to prevent his return there.

The South Kingstown School Committee adopted an ACLU-drafted policy which protects immigrant students and their families by limiting school district collaboration with immigration officials.

Students’ Rights

As the result of ACLU prodding, the Woonsocket School Committee joined virtually every other school district in adopting a strong policy protecting the rights of transgender students.

The Affiliate obtained a favorable decision against the Barrington school district’s inappropriate out-of-school suspension of a student, reinforcing a 2016 law that restricts schools from issuing such suspensions for non-disruptive behavior.

Open Government

The Affiliate sued the Pawtucket Police Department, and successfully settled a complaint against the Woonsocket PD, over public access to reports of their investigations of police misconduct.

The Attorney General, favorably responding to ACLU court action, reversed his predecessor and released thousands of pages of unredacted documents relating to that office's expenditure of "Google settlement" funds.

An ACLU and RILS open records lawsuit led to the release of a Department of Justice memo documenting the Providence school district's blatant violation of the rights of English learning students.

Due Process of Law

The Affiliate favorably resolved a lawsuit, resulting from the state's disastrous UHIP computer system, that obtained relief for certain Medicaid patients who had been kicked off the program without due process.

The ACLU obtained a favorable settlement against the City of Woonsocket after it unlawfully withheld grant funds from Sojourner House, a social service agency that helps victims of domestic violence, for retaliatory reasons.



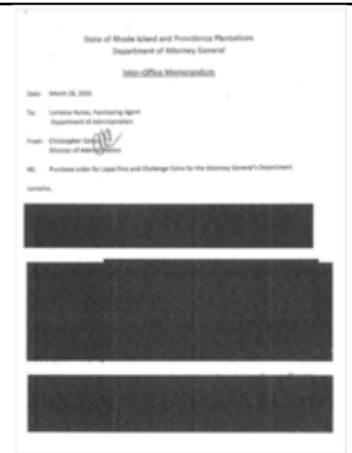
The Affiliate helped organize successful opposition to state legislation allowing for the emergency commitment of individuals with substance use disorders.

The Affiliate obtained damages on behalf of a North Smithfield resident for the violation of his due process rights when the Police Department refused, for six years, to return lawfully possessed weapons they had seized from him.

Rights of Prisoners

An emergency lawsuit by the ACLU forced the Department of Corrections to fix a mechanical problem that had left an ACI facility without heat in the dead of winter.

The ACLU filed a lawsuit to challenge an archaic state law that declares inmates serving life sentences to be "civilly dead" with respect to all their civil rights.



ACLU of Rhode Island Volunteers

Listed below are many of the non-Board members who have assisted the ACLU in 2019. These are the volunteers who did speaking engagements, served as cooperating attorneys, helped with fundraising, assisted in the production of our cable television show, lent their time and talent to Affiliate events, and so on. It cannot be overstated that the ACLU's strength comes from its volunteers, and we express our grateful appreciation to them.

Charlotte Abotsi	William Dimitri	Christine Marinello
Denise Acevedo Perez	John W. Dineen	Robert McConnell
Alyah Achabi	Astrid Drew	Neal McNamara
Steve Ahlquist	Ariane Famiglietti	John Meara
Edith Ajello	Julie Fischer	H. Jefferson Melish
Stine An	V. Edward Formisano	Amy Moses
Jeffrey Ankstrom	Bill Flynn	Kizzy Mota
Armando Batastini	Muggs Fogarty	James Musgrave
Gretchen Bath	Mark Freel	Helen O'Grady
Brett Beaubien	Amelia Gaffney	Matthew Oliverio
Chris Belleau	Charles Galligan	Katherine Perry
Edward Benson	Philip Gasbarro	Jonathan Pierre
Ellen Berren	Lise Gescheidt	Matthew Plain
Barry Best	Catherine Gibran	Stephen Prignano
Carolyn Betensky	John Glasson	Matthew Provencher
Richard Bicki	Jared Goldstein	Jacob Richman
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Beverly Boke	Marc Gursky	Amy Lloyd Rippe
Nick Boke	Laura Harrington	Shey Rivera
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Darlene Trew Crist	Thomas W. Lyons	George Welly
James Cullen	John MacDonald	Elizabeth Wiens
Amato DeLuca	Alex Maddalena	Kristen Williams
Sonja Deyoe	Peter Marguiles	Elizabeth Woodhouse

**Thanks to all of our predecessors who made our
Affiliate as strong as it is today.**

**From the Board of the American Civil Liberties
Union of Rhode Island**

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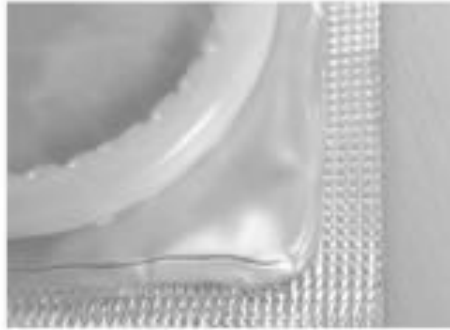
IN MEMORIAM: DANIEL SCOTT, III



Daniel M. Scott III, 58, passed away in April 2019. A professor at Rhode Island College for more than twenty-five years, Daniel also published widely on the topics of African-American literature and gay literature. He was a very active ACLU of RI volunteer and Board Member, serving as the Affiliate's Treasurer for many years. He was also an early Board member of Youth Pride. He will be remembered for both his steadfast commitment to civil liberties, and his dignified, unpretentious and welcoming presence.

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**RHODE ISLAND
MEDICAL SOCIETY**

*2001 Raymond J. Pettine Civil Libertarian of the
Year Award Recipient*

**Thanks to all of the volunteers,
donors and staff that made the
first 60 years a success!**

Newell E. Warde, PhD
Executive Director

Steve DeToy
Director, Government & Public Affairs

*The 207 year-old RI Medical Society is the 8th
oldest medical society in the country.*

THE TIME IS NOW



RI NOW STANDS WITH AND SALUTES THE ACLU

If 40 million people say a foolish thing it does not become a wise one.

—W. Somerset Maugham

The charm of history and its enigmatic lesson consist in the fact that, from age to age, nothing changes and yet everything is completely different.

—Aldous Huxley

We have enjoyed so much freedom for so long that perhaps we are in danger of forgetting that the Bill of Rights, which cost so much blood to establish, is still worth fighting for.

—Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.

Under current law, it is a crime for a private citizen to lie to a government official, but not for a government official to lie to the people.

—Donald M. Fraser

I believe there are more instances of the abridgment of the freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachments of those in power than by violent and sudden usurpations.

—James Madison

We've got to make change our national pastime and hold protests more regularly than weekend parties.

—Rivera Sun, Steam Drills, Treadmills, and Shooting Stars

RESIST! RISE UP! RALLY!

LISE M. IWON

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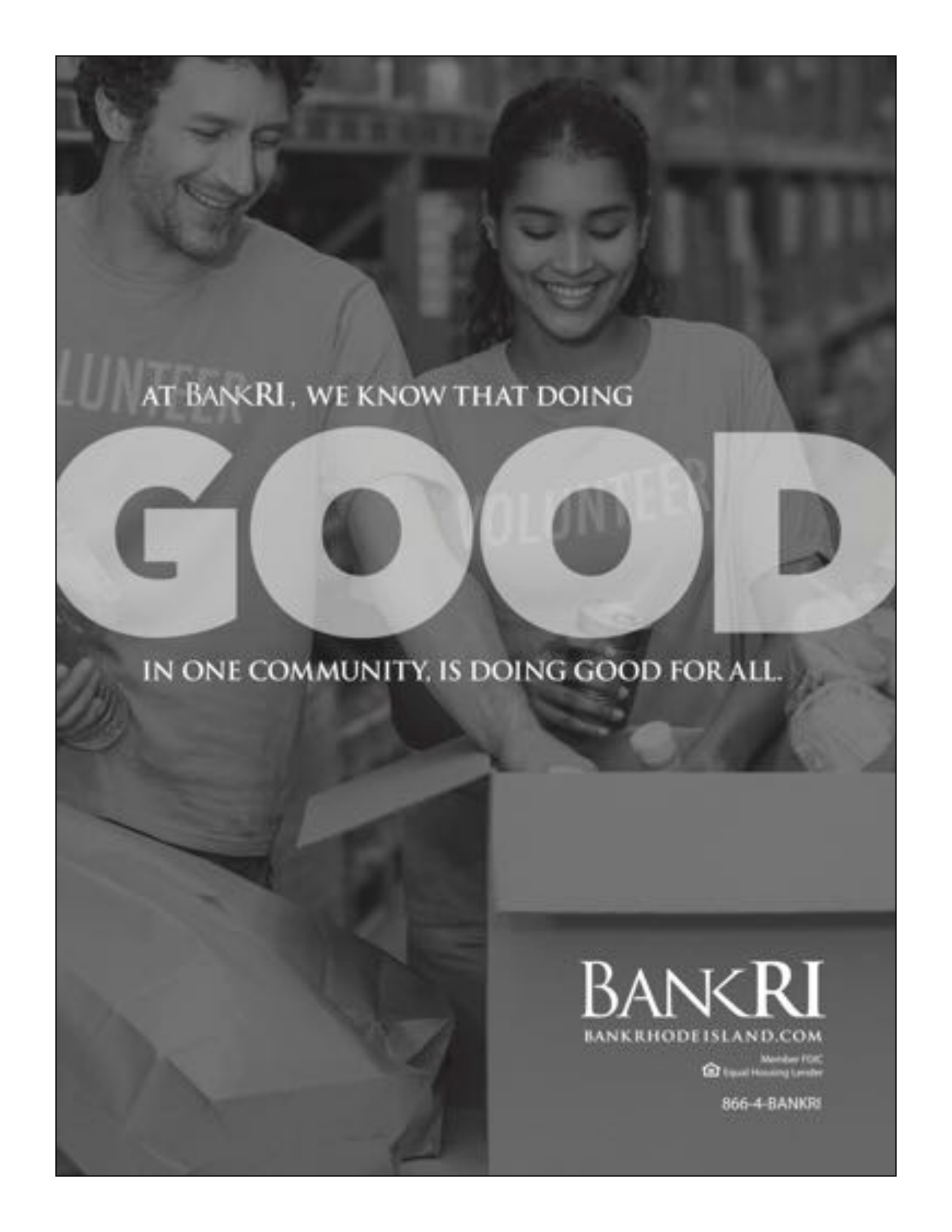
Steven Brown

Thank you not only for tirelessly fighting for liberty and justice for all over the past four-plus decades, but also for always being such an amazing and encouraging inspiration and role model for me and for so many others.

Love, Rachel

KEEP GOING!

THANKS,
HELEN DREW



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To all of our visionaries, volunteers, and lay leaders,
past and present, we offer some words of recognition
and gratitude.

Thank you for giving freely of your time and talents to
the Rhode Island ACLU. Without your vitality and
energy, the substantial, sometimes momentous work
of the past 60 years would surely have been
diminished beyond recognition.

Leading, fundraising, educating, collating, accounting,
and stapling – and by so doing inspiring others – this
has been your gift to all of us and to the future of civil
liberties in Rhode Island.

Christopher Corbett
Former Assistant to the Director

Carolyn Mannis
Former Public Education Coordinator



**Thank you to the
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**Congratulations on
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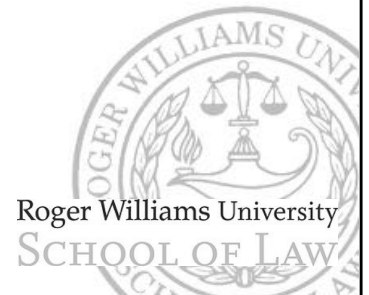
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COGENS Ad

Congratulations to the Rhode Island ACLU on its 60th anniversary of providing outstanding service in defense of civil liberties.

Further congratulations to Cherie Lynn Cruz upon her selection as Board Chair Representative of the Decade in recognition of her tireless efforts in support of the agenda and programs of the Rhode Island ACLU.
A most deserved honor and award!

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the Honorees**

Bruce Thompson, PhD
Psychotherapy

Life Review ← Integration → Consolidation

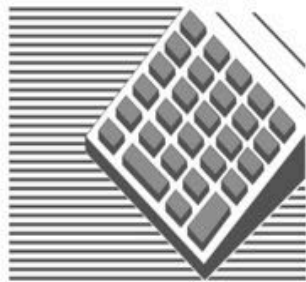
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Happy 60th
anniversary, ACLU.
Thank you for your
commitment to
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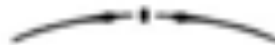
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*from your friends and colleagues
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Keep Fighting the Good Fight!!



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PLACE WHERE THERE IS NO
DARKNESS.**

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Congratulations to

**The Rhode Island Chapter of
the American Civil Liberties
Union for another successful
year of defending civil liberties**

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to both of you and to all the volunteers and staff
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Heartfelt gratitude,

Mary Ann Sorrentino

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We are honored to dedicate this ad in memory of our esteemed colleague, Daniel M. Scott, III, who was long an officer of the Rhode Island ACLU, recently serving as its treasurer. Dr. Scott was deeply committed to free expression; we share that commitment and mourn his passing.

60th ANNIVERSARY GALA

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60th ANNIVERSARY EVENT SERIES



PARTY: 60TH ANNIVERSARY KICK-OFF

Thursday, January 24, 2019

Our official 60th Anniversary kick-off party held at Ogie's Trailer Park. Attendees witnessed the unveiling of The Panels.



MOVIE SCREENING: ON THE BASIS OF SEX

Thursday, February 28, 2019

A complimentary screening of the movie about the life of Ruth Bader Ginsburg - founder of the ACLU Women's Rights Project.



PANEL DISCUSSION: WHAT PRESS? WHOSE TRUTH?

Thursday, March 14, 2019

A lively panel discussion, co-sponsored with the Brown University ACLU and moderated by Professor David Estlund, this event included panelists Karen Bordeleau, CJ Chivers, Scott MacKay, and Francesca Procaccini.



MUSIC: 60TH BIRTHDAY BASH

Sunday, April 28, 2019

Live music from members of The Gnomes and Greyhound Dream ushered in our 60th birthday bash!

RI PRIDEFEST 2019

Saturday, June 15, 2019

Spin-to-Win was back by popular demand, and thankfully, it was the least likely game to get blown away by the unseasonable winds. Thanks to everyone who came out to our table!



2019 LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP (& DESSERT NIGHT)

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Our popular annual event - the ACLU of RI Legislative Wrap-Up. Thank you to Rep. Edith Ajello and Rep. Liana Cassar for the insightful commentary!



BANNED BOOKS LIVE

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

In honor of Banned Books Week 2019, local authors and poets read aloud from their favorite banned books. Readers included Matt Burriesci, Tina Cane, Colin Channer, John Stephenson and Vikki Warner.



Photo © Mary Murphy

REFLECTIONS ON THE 1ST AMENDMENT

Saturday, September 28, 2019

Local poets and spoken word artists reflected on the First Amendment in honor of our 60th and Constitution Day 2019.



Special thanks to everyone who hosted house parties to raise funds for the ACLU of RI's 60th Anniversary!!

MUSINGS on 60 YEARS OF VIGILANCE

A look back from some former and current ACLU of RI staff members and Board Chairs

CHRISTOPHER CORBETT STAFF, 1992-1997

In the early 1990's, Nat Hentoff's column in the Village Voice turned me on to the ACLU. I finally sent in the twenty dollars and became a member. Not long thereafter, I received a postcard announcing an open position at the ACLU of RI office. Intrigued, I applied. The interview was at the ACLU of RI office, then located at 212 Union Street, a one-time retail space in a derelict building surrounded by dark alleys and the Travelers Aid Society. I loved it.

I met with Vivian Weisman and Jonathan Lubin, two indefatigable, steadfast civil libertarians who later taught me volumes about our organization, and for whom I would eventually develop the utmost admiration and respect. There were many more I would later come to know and esteem.



NAT HENTOFF in his office at the Village Voice. (Incidentally, this looks like Steve Brown's office at the ACLU of RI.)

At the time, I was 28 years old with a fair amount of general office experience and an affinity for the mission of the organization. My first day on the job, Steve Brown handed me a one-page missive of some kind on which he had scrawled, "Please type this in." I had sold myself as a sort of expert keyboardist, so I figured it was some sort of test. Perhaps it was, I may never know, but I passed.

The office was, to be frank, a frightening mess. Piles of paper, some several feet high, and boxes lined the floor and every corner. So, in addition to the phone calls and complaints, and regular assigned tasks, I got to work on cleaning it up. It took a while. The stacks and files in Steve's office, well, they were mountainous. I didn't touch those. Over time I would come to appreciate that he knew exactly where everything was and could locate things within seconds. It was a couple of years before I realized that the top of Steve's desk was actually painted yellow.

KAREN DAVIDSON

BOARD CHAIR, 2015-2016

One would think that going to law school and taking the mandatory Constitutional Law class would have given me a clear idea of the Constitution's broad application. It did not. In fact, until I moved to RI in 1984, the broad range of Constitutional implications on everyday life eluded me. Enter the ACLU of RI to enlighten me. I remain ever grateful.

Being on the board and executive committee, taking cases, and serving as Board President broadened my perspective on the subtleties of constitutional impact and the misuse and misinterpretation of legislative, executive and sometimes judicial power. RI is the perfect Petri dish or fishbowl to view constitutional abuse. Watching the ACLU of RI and its hardworking staff, members and volunteers upholding everyone's constitutional rights and fighting their abuse is an education unto itself. I salute all of you who continue to work so diligently to protect those precious rights and thank you sincerely for educating me and allowing me to participate.

HILLARY DAVIS

STAFF, 2010-2016

If somebody wishes aloud that they could be in two places at once, they have never been part of the ACLU of RI. Here, not only is testifying simultaneously in two different legislative committees a necessary skill but a fairly light workday. This was the first of a thousand lessons I learned from the ACLU of Rhode Island about how to achieve the practically impossible.

I could speak for days about the moments I was proud to represent the ACLU - the time I sat in the Senate chamber at 5am on a Saturday morning as our once-dead bill protecting cell phone location information suddenly roared back to life and then became law, or when a group of students moved a committee chairman from saying school suspensions weren't an issue to promising them action. The list goes on. But I'm most proud knowing the people who make up the ACLU and their relentless spirit.



When Rhode Island finally passed marriage equality, people came from all over the state to stand on the steps of the State House as the bill was ceremonially signed. The ACLU and others had been fighting the battle for decades, and all were elated that marriage equality was finally a reality. I heard the celebration from the hallway outside the Senate Judiciary Committee, where I was waiting to testify on a little bill nobody was paying any attention to. I believe Steve made an appearance at the celebration ... and then went and testified - simultaneously - on two other bills.

That's the ACLU of RI in a nutshell. We fight for years, we have our setbacks, we refuse to give up and, when the moment finally comes and people's lives are changed, we are already off to focus on the next important thing. This work is sometimes hard, frequently unpopular, and often exhausting. But in my six years with the ACLU of Rhode Island, Steve, Megan, Meg, Johanna, and the board members and volunteers showed up time and time again to face intractable problems with dedication, snark, and very high standards, and I am so proud to have been part of it.

GREG FRAZIER

BOARD CHAIR, 1981

My most interesting experience was as a plaintiff in a case decided by the US Supreme Court where the true "Meaning of Christmas" was litigated. The case involved the City of Pawtucket erecting a display containing a Nativity Scene in a public park near City Hall. The ACLU of RI sued to have it removed, and I and others were added as plaintiffs to assure jurisdiction. The federal District Court ruled in our favor, and by that time the local media were interested. The federal Appeals Court also ruled in the ACLU's favor. This provoked interest in the national media.

When the Supreme Court agreed to hear the case, interest flared. National television ran stories. Phil Donahue filmed an entire episode in Providence about the case. Many of my ACLU friends were there with me in the audience and it was my first (and only) opportunity to talk on national TV. The Supreme Court decision which allowed the display (as erected) was disappointing, and it took a later decision to establish that a crèche displayed alone by a public entity violated the Constitution.

LIZ JONES

STAFF, 1998-1999

I can't say working "in the trenches" on civil rights changed my world view, since I wouldn't have wanted to work at the ACLU if I didn't believe in their mission, but it did reinforce my belief that one should stay engaged even when you disagree with some of their positions. We argued about the ACLU's take on the 2nd Amendment, for example, and I'd be surprised if those arguments weren't still going on!

I was also impressed with how much the ACLU of RI accomplished with such a small staff and limited resources. When Steve wanted a database created of the many, MANY bills he has to review during the legislative session, there was no budget to hire an IT consultant, so I was directed to lean on people who were experienced with the software, so I could learn enough to do it myself. And although people were often disappointed when we couldn't offer them assistance with their (non-civil liberties related) problem – we tried to offer guidance

and referrals to those who reached out to us. In fact, I wonder if the current staff still does it via “snail mail,” as we did in the 90s!

MEGAN KHATCHADOURIAN

STAFF, 2006-Present

There were probably a lot of things you could have said to me about this job when I started that I never would have believed, but looking back over these past 13 years I’m not sure any of it would have prepared me for life as an ACLU of RI employee.

I came in only five short years after 9/11 when civil liberties became a casualty of the “war on terror.” With a steady (and patient) hand we slowly worked to right the ship. It was during those years that I learned what it meant to be the ACLU of RI. As an organization we’re agents of change, but on a personal level, working here changes you as well. It changes the way that you view the world, read the paper and watch the news. You learn to never take anything at first glance -- especially when it comes to politics and policy.

We’re not here to make friends, we’re here to take a principled stand and fight for what’s right – and often times unpopular. Raising your voice for the voiceless day in and day out is not for the faint of heart. I’ve been cussed at, berated, called every name in the book, had my morals called into question...I’ve even been threatened with disbarment (spoiler alert: I’m not even an attorney!) It takes an unimaginable amount of caffeine sprinkled with a heavy dose of snark to keep you sane, but the pride I have knowing that at the end of the day despite all that’s happened I, we, the ACLU of RI will have helped someone makes it all worth it!

I’m thankful that I made it through a Steve Brown job interview, because I’ve since had the opportunity to meet and work with some amazing people. Our little corner of the world is that much better because of the dedication and hard work that everyone that’s come before me has done and everyone who will continue on after me will do, and I’m honored to share the title of “ACLU of RI employee” with them.

STEPHANIE LATOUR

STAFF, 1986-1988

I worked for the ACLU of RI at the tail end of the Reagan administration. The “war on drugs” was filling prisons, and William Rehnquist became the Supreme Court’s Chief Justice a few months after I started. By that time, it was obvious that the federal courts were less interested in protecting constitutional rights than they had been in the 1960s and ’70s, and that the ACLU could not rely exclusively on federal litigation to protect those rights. I remember going to an ACLU convention where leaders of the National organization talked about starting legislative advocacy, litigating under more favorable state constitutions, expanding public education, and other strategies.

The ACLU of RI was way ahead of them. In addition to managing the cooperating attorneys' active caseload, Steve Brown was active at the State House during the legislative session, warding off anti-civil-liberties bills and proactively pushing pro-civil-liberties ones. In fact, Steve had the foresight to propose legislation limiting random workplace drug testing before the practice became widespread everywhere else.

While there, I worked on a report about the Open Meetings Act, which resulted in favorable legislative amendments. We also worked with Planned Parenthood and other groups in the "Stop 14" coalition to defeat a proposed anti-abortion amendment to the state Constitution. Beyond this, we always made time to keep members and the general public informed about pressing civil liberties issues. We even started our own cable TV show on public access.

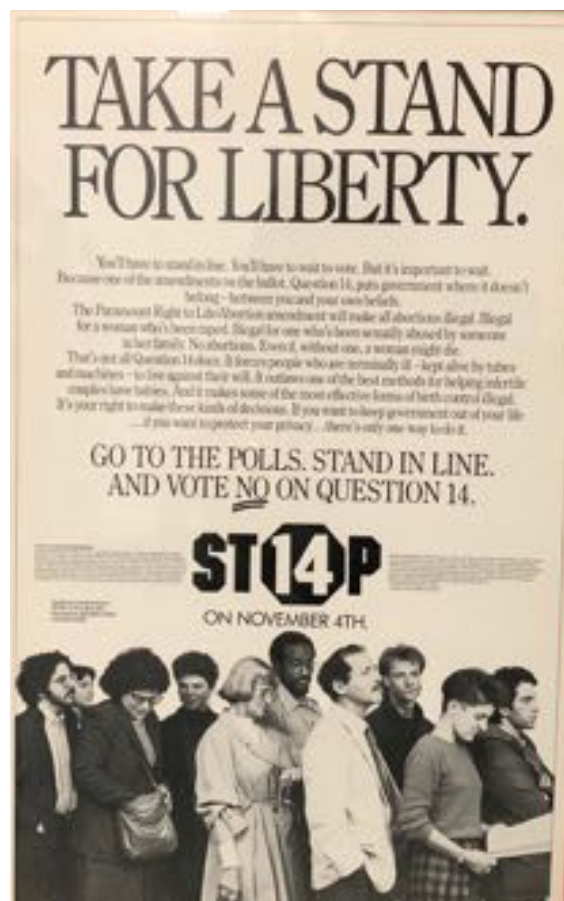
The ACLU of RI had a tiny budget, but it accomplished a tremendous amount during those years. I am proud to have been part of the ACLU of RI's 60-year history. And although it has been more than 25 years since I went off to law school and moved to NY, I still ask my mom to save her ACLU of RI newsletters for me. Of course, no battle stays won, but the amazing "Biggest Little" affiliate continues to fight – and inspire – on so many fronts.

JONATHAN LUBIN

BOARD CHAIR, 1995-1996

One memory, among many, that stands out is our involvement with the RI Coalition Against the Death Penalty. In the mid Nineties, some RI legislators wanted to bring back the death penalty. I don't know who pulled the Coalition together, but Steve Brown and I met frequently with other organizations. We had Tom Ahlburn of the First Unitarian Church, Sister Claire Dugan, Pierre Morenon representing the Friends, folks from the Mennonites, and many others.

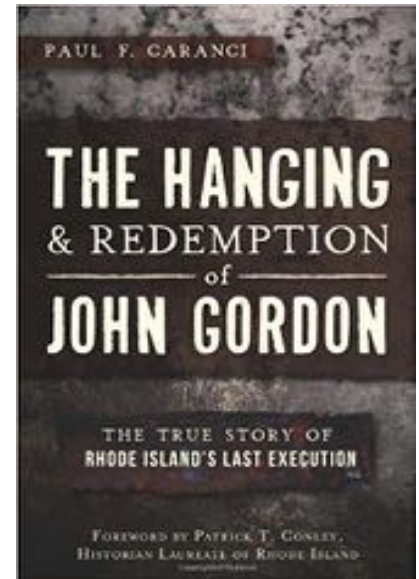
There were hearings in the House on this bill to restore the death penalty, and we gathered people not only to testify against it, but also to show up and fill the hearing room. I realized then that the support for the reintroduction of the penalty was miles wide but only a



millimeter deep. In fact, there were very few testifying for the reintroduction, but the number of people testifying against reintroduction was overwhelming.

In 1995, we decided to commemorate the last death penalty ever inflicted in Rhode Island. It happened in 1845, and it is generally agreed that the defendant, John Gordon, had been innocent after all.

On a cold spring morning in the North Burial Ground, near where Gordon was buried, a small band of shivering supporters gathered and spoke against the reinstitution of the death penalty. Thankfully, legislative support faded, and it was not reinstated. But we must remain vigilant to prevent reinstitution of this grotesque outrage.



ANNE MULREADY BOARD CHAIR, 2010-2011

One memory that comes to mind is when, over several years, I participated in a coalition convened by the ACLU of RI which opposed high-stakes testing in schools. Through the Affiliate's leadership and facilitation, the group used administrative, legislative, legal, and media strategies to successfully counter state and local efforts to require students to pass a high-stakes test in order to graduate. I found the students' advocacy particularly inspiring and hopeful, as their commentary was always articulate and thoughtful.

Another memory from my tenure on the Board: the Affiliate successfully brought a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of a prayer mural displayed in a Cranston public high school, on behalf of a student who spoke out against the school's display. During the course of her advocacy, the student experienced a surprising number of threats to her safety.

The judge's determination that the display was unconstitutional was a welcome result, as was his acknowledgement of the courage displayed by the young student plaintiff who took a difficult stand. The student's perseverance was impressive, and a reminder of the personal hardships individuals often experience as plaintiffs in civil liberties litigation. The Affiliate presented the student, deservedly, with a First Amendment award at our 2011 Annual Dinner.



THOMAS W. RAMSBEY

BOARD CHAIR, 1982-1983, 1987

The ACLU first came to my attention when I was on a college field trip through the South in 1960. The object of the trip was to gain knowledge of segregation and the beginnings of change in the deep South. Along with nine other students (I later married one of them), our professor and his wife and young daughter were arrested at a black-owned café with a number of others in Montgomery, Alabama. Unbeknownst to us, the authorities of the city were testing their ordinances concerning disorderly conduct and disturbing the peace which were meant to replace recently repealed segregation laws. We were offered legal support through an ACLU lawyer. Ultimately, it was decided that the arrests were illegal.

When we came to RI after graduate school, my wife and I joined the ACLU of RI, and I later became a member of the Board of Directors. During my tenure, the Affiliate instituted the practice of pledging as a means of financial support, and the annual meetings became more substantial and festive. When the ACLU of RI created a cable show on public access television, I was one of the organizers and also hosted the show for a time. I also represented the Affiliate on numerous occasions in speeches, at schools, and on television when civil liberties was in the news, and served as an expert witness in two ACLU cases.

DIANNE SINCLAIR

BOARD CHAIR, 1984-1986

I was involved with the ACLU of RI in the '80s as a member of the Separation of Church and State Committee and later as Board President. My fondest memories are of the Church-State Committee meetings. We had so much fun! Someone would bring up an outrage they had just discovered: the Ten Commandments over the entrance to a public school, a religious monument in the center of a town-owned traffic circle. The cry would go up: "Field trip!"

The outrages came so fast and furious that it was hard to keep up. So we suggested developing a form letter: Dear [elected official's title and name]: We at the ACLU of RI were [choose one] upset/stunned/outraged to learn that [describe problem]. This is a clear violation of the First Amendment to the US Constitution. We respectfully request that you [correction needed] by [deadline] or we will [threatened action]. We didn't implement it, but it was all part of the fun. This is not to say that we didn't take the work seriously, but we didn't take ourselves seriously.



Our most notable Church-State battle was the Pawtucket Nativity scene case, which made it to the US Supreme Court. We lost but were still proven right. We said that if government got involved in religious matters, religion would lose. A number of denominations supported us. As I remember it, the decision was that the display of this particular crèche was not religious because it was surrounded by an elephant in a tutu and other secular figures.

AMY VITALE

STAFF, 2006-2010

Program Coordinator for the ACLU of RI was my first job out of college, and I remember how lucky I felt to be chosen to be part of such an important organization. The ACLU offered me an opportunity to learn so much, and I will always look back fondly on my time there. Some of my favorite memories include the long nights at the State House, the hurry up and wait atmosphere during the final days waiting for the budget to pass, planning and executing so many events – movie screenings, Annual Dinners, Legislative Wrap-Ups, filming the cable program, and representing the ACLU of RI at Pridefest.



I met and worked with so many amazing people and together we were important agents for change. Thank you, ACLU of RI, for all you do and for how you helped me grow.

KRISTEN WILLIAMS, PH.D.

STAFF, 2000-2001

I worked at the ACLU of RI from 2000-2001. It was my first job after I graduated from Rhode Island College. At that time, the office staff was just Steve Brown, Amy Moses, and myself. Since then, I have worked at a national pro-choice organization and served as an instructor and professor at several colleges and universities, and in 2016 I returned to RI to take on a leadership position at Dorcas International Institute of RI. The professional expertise I gained from working with Steve and Amy and a dedicated board gave me proof that my political beliefs, my values, and my ethics were assets, not liabilities. Every day I worked with people who lived and acted on their beliefs and gave me the support I needed to do the same. Two decades later, Steve and Amy remain good friends of mine.

There are many positive memories I have from my time at the ACLU, including our partnership with Trinity Repertory Company to produce the first ever Banned Books Event; sharing a Ben and Jerry's peace pop with David Cicilline at our annual Legislative Review; getting my parents to sue the City of Warwick during Election 2000 over the right to post

political signs on their lawn; and the impact I had reading and responding to letters from incarcerated individuals who needed information about their legal rights.

But the most poignant memory I have about the time I spent with the ACLU is one of our losses. Bernard Flowers, an African American man of advanced age, wrote us a letter about the poor treatment he was subject to during a routine traffic stop. He suffered a cardiac incident as a result of the stop, during which he was held at gunpoint and ultimately charged with no crime. We worked with a volunteer attorney to prosecute



Bernard and Marcia Flowers during a press conference at the ACLU office

photo by David Brock

this “Driving While Black” case, and despite months of concentrated effort, we did not obtain a favorable decision in the case. I will always remember that case, and that plaintiff, because the loss is why the ACLU continues to be relevant. It is why the work that the staff do is invaluable; why the time and effort of the volunteer attorneys matters so very much; and why the organizational efforts of the Board remain so integral. What happened to that very kind man should not have happened, and when it did, it should have resulted in an apology by the police department, but one never came. Clearly, we have more work to do.

Because of what I experienced when I worked at the ACLU, I know that change is possible, and that the losses, however painful, are important steps to solving pervasive, systemic problems. Progress is slow-going and hard-won, but it is achievable, and the ACLU of RI proves that every time it doesn’t back down from a challenge.

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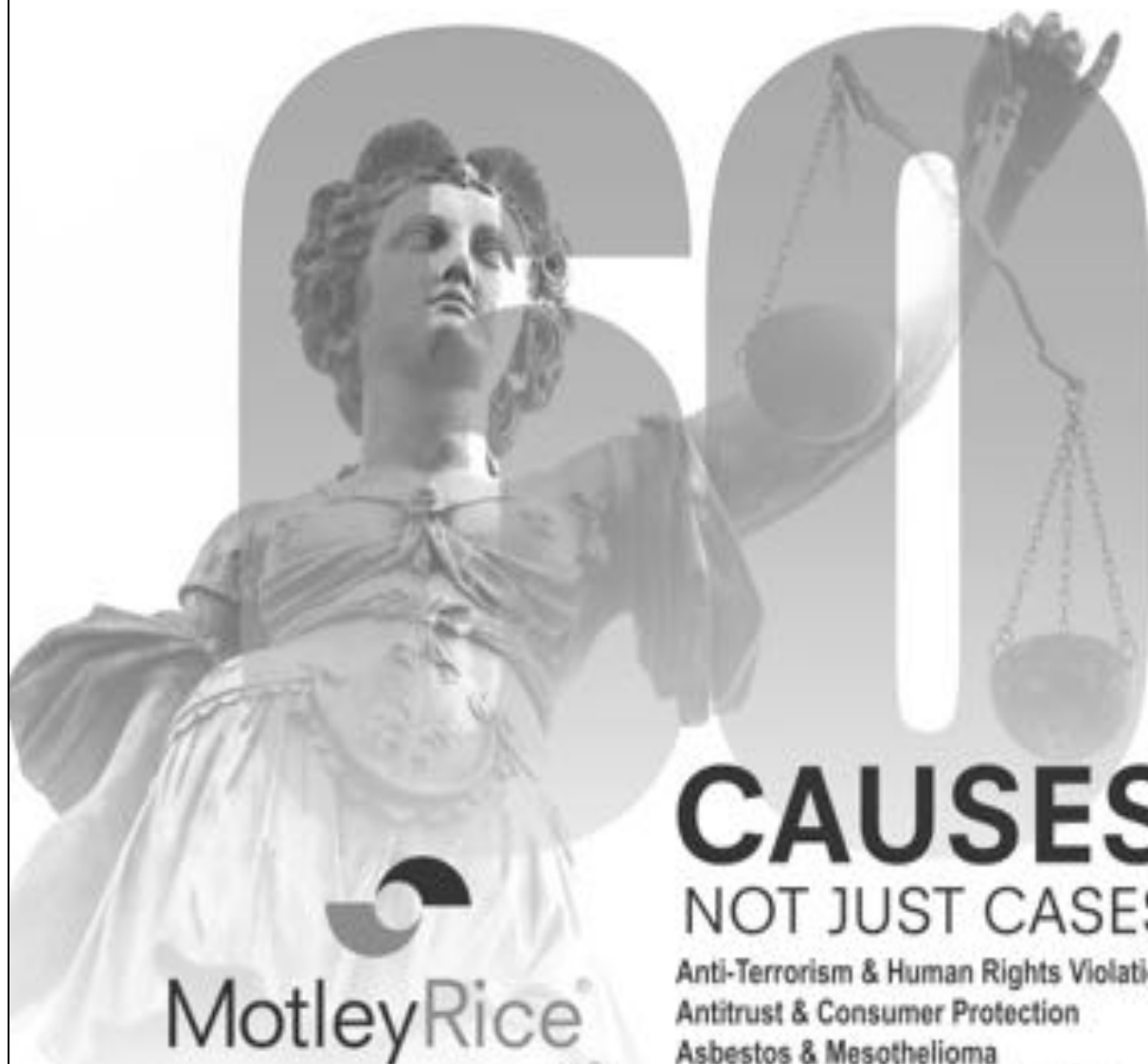
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John J. Lombardi, Esquire

Attorney at Law

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Anniversary!**

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Attorney at Law

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hj.melish@verizon.net

**The work you do has never been more important.
Thank you, RI ACLU, and happy 60th!**

***In Memory of Elton Rayack
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The Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless is grateful for the ACLU's dogged pursuit of justice in our state. Together we can end homelessness in Rhode Island.

Thank you ACLU for Protecting Workers' Rights



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**HI: I'M PHOEBE – A DOG.
AND I'M CAT – A CAT.**

WE WRITE a blog called *Tracking Trump*, in which we ask: What can we do about Donald Trump?

The answer: Everybody should do something to get Trump out of the White House and away from the nuclear codes and the toadies who make his cruel, dangerous and depraved presidency possible.

YOU ASK: What good does your blog do? You're just a cat and a dog!

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO END THE TRUMP NIGHTMARE?



OUR ANSWER: Don't be a species snob. We listen. We listen to NPR, which gets on your nerves. But you already know that, since, if you're at an ACLU dinner, you probably listen to NPR too much, too.

WE ALSO READ. We discuss. We argue. And sometimes, occasionally, even annually, we have something important to say.

When that happens, you look up from your computer and call out:

HEY MARGE: Guess what the *Tracking Trump* blog says today?

MARGE SAYS: Are you out of your supposed mind? They're just a cat and a dog!

YOU YELL BACK: *They say to keep Trump in check, write a big FAT check to the ACLU. They're on the front lines, defending the Constitution, your rights, everybody's rights, fighting for freedom – but freedom isn't free.*

MARGE SAYS: *That's one smart dog and one smart cat. Bring the checkbook. And hurry!*

Too late, Marge realizes she's emptied their bank account for the ACLU. But that's okay. Because, if freedom isn't free, the *Tracking Trump* blog is. To read it, go to:

www.OnTrumpTrail.com

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years of protecting the
foundation of our democracy!**



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“Bad men need
nothing more to
compass their
ends, than that
good men should
look on and do
nothing.”

- John Stuart Mill



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The Center for Prisoner Health and Human Rights

The Center for Prisoner Health and Human Rights proudly supports the

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And its excellent work to support *all* our civil liberties
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*To learn more about the nation's epidemic of incarceration,
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CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S RI ACLU HONOREES!



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Disability Rights

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formerly the Rhode Island Disability Law Center

Congratulations to the ACLU of RI
on your 60th Anniversary!

Disability Rights Rhode Island (DRRI) is the federally funded, independent, nonprofit legal organization designated as the Protection and Advocacy (P&A) System for the state of Rhode Island. As a P&A agency, our job is to promote the civil rights of individuals with disabilities by providing individual representation, advocating for systems change, and reviewing abuse and neglect investigations.

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The employees of the
RI Public Defender are proud
to support the work & efforts
of the ACLU and everything
you have done for our clients
and the great people of Rhode
Island.

Happy 60th Anniversary!
Thank you for standing up
for civil rights.

~Senator Dawn Euer



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Congratulations on 60
years of Leading the
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The R.I. Center for Justice



Formerly Incarcerated Union of RI

The Formerly Incarcerated Union's mission is to support the successful reentry of returning citizens through advocacy, mentorship, and support by increasing access to behavioral health, education, housing, professional development and employment, thus strengthening our communities and families as a whole.

formerlyincarceratedunion@gmail.com

BEST WISHES TO THE RI ACLU ON THEIR ANNUAL MEETING



State of Rhode Island

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ALL TAXPAYERS DESERVE A RHODE ISLAND DRIVERS' LICENSE

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**Congratulations ACLU RI for 60 years
protecting and advocating for our
fundamental American freedoms!**

Congratulations



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on **60 Years** of fighting for the
rights of all in the Ocean State,
and our own **Luis Mancheno '13**,
the evening's keynote speaker



First they came for the
socialists, and I did not speak
out—Because I was not a
socialist. Then they came for the
trade unionists, and I did not
speak out—Because I was not a
trade unionist. Then they came
for the Jews, and I did not speak
out—Because I was not a Jew.

**Then they came for me—and
there was no one left to
speak for me.**

-Martin Niemöller



Thank you ACLU of Rhode Island
for 60 years of vigilance.



Senator
Donna M. Nesselbush

D-District 15
Pawtucket • North Providence



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Congrats to the RI ACLU
on 60 years of protecting
Rhode Islanders' civil
rights and liberties!

-Art Handy

eliminando el racismo, potenciando a la mujer

**eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca**



Congratulations to
the ACLU on your
60th Anniversary.

*Senator Ana B.
Quezada*

Go get 'em!

-Bob Sabel

Liberty lies in the hearts of men and women; when it dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it; no constitution, no law, no court can even do much to help it.

- Learned Hand



Congratulations on 60 Years!



Honored to Support the
Rhode Island ACLU

Thank you for 60 years of service
protecting the rights of Rhode Islanders

Paid for by The Cicilline Committee

We support the
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Nate Halda
Max Kaufman
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The RI Welcome Back Center: Working since 2008 to integrate internationally trained professionals who are unemployed or underemployed into the RI Workforce.

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ACLU of RI LITIGATION: The TOP 60

Although founded in 1959, the ACLU of Rhode Island only began keeping a formal case docket in 1973. Since then, the Affiliate has been involved in over 650 cases, so attempting to choose the “Top 60” is a daunting, and ultimately arbitrary, task. That said, the 60 cases below – listed chronologically – offer an idea of the scope and impact of the Affiliate’s work over the past six decades.

Quince and Ward v. Langlois. (1959) The Affiliate’s first formal case was a successful lawsuit resulting in the release from prison of, and award of damages to, two migrant workers who had been jailed for five months as material witnesses in a murder case.

State v. Settle. (1959) The Affiliate’s first “friend of the court” brief in the R.I. Supreme Court contested the constitutionality of a state statute banning the sale or exhibition of “indecent” publications to minors.

Pelletier v. Langlois. (1962) This major Affiliate lawsuit successfully challenged the confinement of “defective delinquents” at the ACI.

Murray v. Vaughn. (1969) In this nationally watched case, the Affiliate successfully represented a Peace Corps volunteer terminated and threatened with induction for writing a letter to the editor opposing the government’s Vietnam War policy.

Buffi v. Ferri. (1970) In this case that spurred a prompt legislative response spearheaded by the ACLU, the R.I. Supreme Court ruled that the state’s fair housing law did not prohibit landlords from restricting a tenant’s visitors based on the race of the visitor.

DiCenso v. Robinson. (1971) In the first of a trio of ACLU of RI church-state cases that have been heard by the U.S. Supreme Court, the Court ruled unconstitutional a state law providing salary supplements to parochial schoolteachers.

Gardner v. Cumberland School Committee. (1971) In this still-cited student rights case, the R.I. Commissioner of Education ruled that schools can generally adopt dress codes only to address issues of health, safety or disruption.

Coalition of Black Leadership v. Doorley. (1973) This class-action lawsuit, challenging brutality against racial minorities by the Providence police, resulted in the entry of a comprehensive consent decree, including the creation of an internal complaint review process.

Doe v. Israel. (1973) In the first of many ACLU/RI challenges to state-enacted anti-abortion laws, a court struck down a statute, enacted immediately after Roe v. Wade, declaring that “life begins at conception.”

Fortin v. Darlington Little League. (1975) A favorable court decision held that the Little League could not exclude girls from participation.

Reilly v. Noel. (1975) A federal court ruled that the State House rotunda was a “public forum,” and barred the Governor from prohibiting its use for a peaceful protest.

Palmigiano v. Baxter. (1976) The U.S. Supreme Court heard this ACLU/RI case dealing with the due process rights of inmates in prison disciplinary proceedings.

Toward a Gayer Bicentennial Committee v. McQueeney. (1976) After a permit was denied by Providence police, a federal judge issued a restraining order allowing the state’s first gay pride parade to proceed.

McCarthy v. Noel. (1976) A court struck down a restrictive election statute that prevented independent Presidential candidate Eugene McCarthy from appearing on the ballot.

Palmigiano v. Garrahy. (1977) The federal courts found that conditions at the ACI constituted “cruel and unusual punishment” in this long-running prison lawsuit that led to comprehensive changes at the state prison.

Driver v. Helms. (1978) This class-action suit against various officials of the CIA, FBI and Post Office led to an award of damages to the plaintiffs for the illegal opening of their first-class mail without a warrant.

Wisner v. Ricci. (1978) This successful lawsuit permitted the display of a controversial art exhibit that had been raided by Providence police because it was deemed “obscene.”

Traugott v. Petit. (1979) The state Supreme Court held that married women have a common law right to use the name of their choice on their driver’s license.

The Independent Press v. Brunelle. (1981) Calling the plaintiff a “modern John Peter Zenger,” a federal court ruled that the Chariho School Committee could not bar a student from distributing an alternative school newspaper on school premises.

The Rake v. Gorodetsky. (1983) Issuing its first interpretation of the state’s “open records” law, the R.I. Supreme Court ordered the Providence Police Department to release reports of civilian complaints of police abuse to student newspaper reporters.

Planned Parenthood v. Board of Medical Review. (1984) This was a successful challenge to a law requiring husbands to be notified before a woman could obtain an abortion.

Donnelly v. Lynch. (1984) In upholding the legality of a nativity scene display sponsored by the city of Pawtucket, a divided U.S. Supreme Court ruling set the outer boundaries for government sponsorship of religious symbols.

Puerto Rican Political Action Committee v. DiStefano. (1984) This federal lawsuit successfully challenged, as an illegal literacy test, a complex state “verification procedure” for newly registered voters.

Deleiris v. Scott. (1986) This was a successful federal challenge to a Health Department policy withholding birth certificates from parents who refused to answer various intimate questions contained on a “hospital birth worksheet.”

Pimental v. Department of Transportation. (1989) The Affiliate filed a “friend of the court” brief in this major RI Supreme Court case which held that drunk driving roadblocks violated the state Constitution’s ban against unreasonable searches and seizures.

Kass v. Newton. (1989) This case successfully challenged a state “gag rule” that barred people from publicizing complaints that they filed with the R.I. Ethics Commission against public officials.

Yang v. Sturner. (1990) This lawsuit on behalf of a Hmong family whose son was autopsied against their religious beliefs helped lead to Congressional passage of the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

Atlantic Beach Casino v. Morenzoni. (1990) The Affiliate successfully represented a nightclub that had been threatened with revocation of its entertainment license by the Town of Westerly after booking the rap group “2 Live Crew.”

In re Lucille Riccitelli. (1990) Highlighting the principle that no civil liberties battle ever stays won, it took an ACLU suit to reverse a Probate Court judge’s ruling which had denied a married woman the right to change her name back to her birth name unless she got her husband’s consent.

Weisman v. Lee. (1992) This major church-state lawsuit that went up to the U.S. Supreme Court led to a ruling that the practice of having prayers at public school graduation ceremonies was unconstitutional.

Duke v. Connell. (1992) This suit successfully challenged the Secretary of State’s decision not to place Presidential primary contender David Duke on the ballot on the grounds that he was not a “bona fide” candidate.

Cook v. Department of Mental Health, Retardation and Hospitals. (1993) In this precedent-setting anti-discrimination lawsuit, the Affiliate successfully challenged the state’s denial of employment to the plaintiff solely on the basis of her obesity.

Sammataro v. Sammataro. (1993) A favorable ruling was issued in this state court appeal on behalf of a mother who lost custody of her daughter solely because she was receiving welfare assistance.

Hometown Properties v. Fleming. (1996) In the first major case involving the state's SLAPP suit law, the ACLU successfully defended a North Kingstown woman who was sued for defamation based on a letter she sent to the DEM expressing environmental concerns about a local landfill.

Barense v. Town of Barrington. (1996) This federal lawsuit successfully challenged a Town's practice of providing free snow-plowing services to churches, but to no other private facilities in the town.

Goncalves and Lee v. Pawtucket School Committee. (1997) In a memorable example of "zero tolerance" gone amok, the Affiliate helped overturn the 10-day suspensions imposed on two Pawtucket first grade students for having a toy ray gun in school.

Westenfelder v. Ferguson. (1998) This suit overturned a state law providing reduced welfare benefits to residents if they had not lived in Rhode Island for the previous twelve months.

Dickerson v. Vose. (1998) A habeas corpus petition filed by the Affiliate led to the immediate release of a woman who, without any legal representation, had been incarcerated for over two years for failing to pay child support.

Fernandes v. Immigration and Naturalization Service. (1999) The Affiliate successfully challenged an Immigration and Naturalization Service practice of indefinitely jailing lawful permanent residents who were awaiting deportation.

Doeg v. Ferguson. (2000) This class-action suit led to significant changes in Department of Human Services' procedures, including the questionable use of a handwriting analysis "expert," in conducting food stamp fraud hearings.

Parent v. School Committee of the Town of Johnston. (2000) This post-Columbine federal lawsuit challenged the summary suspension of a high school student based solely on the purportedly "violent" content of a "free write" composition he wrote for his English class.

R.I. ACLU v. Providence Police Department. (2001) This lawsuit led to the imposition of numerous obligations on the Providence Police Department to ensure accurate and thorough compliance with the state's new racial profiling prevention law.

Lanoue v. City of Woonsocket. (2003) The Affiliate obtained damages on behalf of a woman who was strip-searched by police and left naked in a holding cell for over five hours after she was arrested for "driving under the influence."

Melendez v. Town of North Smithfield. (2003) This was a successful federal lawsuit, on behalf of a female Hispanic firefighter applicant, challenging an unprecedented state law that gave a town a one-time exemption from the Fair Employment Practices Act in order to allow its acquisition of an all white, all male private fire and rescue service.

Tiverton School Committee v. McCullough. (2005) The ACLU successfully represented a married lesbian couple living in Massachusetts, one of whom was a retired Tiverton teacher, when the school district sought a ruling that it need not provide health insurance benefits to the spouse because Rhode Island did not recognize same-sex marriages solemnized outside of the state.

Spratt v. Wall. (2006) In an important decision under a federal law protecting religious freedom, the ACLU successfully challenged a warden's decision to bar an inmate from supervised preaching at religious services.

Women's Studies Organization of Rhode Island College v. Rhode Island College. (2006) This lawsuit successfully challenged a college's censorship of a campus sign display in support of reproductive freedom that had been sponsored by a student women's rights group.

Estrada v. R.I. State Police. (2007) In a classic case of racial profiling, this lawsuit challenged the legality of the stop, hour-long detention, and transporting to immigration officials of fourteen Guatemalans by state police, based solely on the ethnicity of the driver and passengers.

R.I. ACLU v. Moran. (2007) This successful open records lawsuit challenged a police department's refusal to release the report regarding the fatal shooting of a local resident by police.

Block v. Mollis. (2009) Affiliate litigation overturned a statute that made it extremely difficult for newly-formed political parties to obtain the signatures necessary for official party status.

Qu v. Central Falls Detention Facility Corporation. (2009) This successful lawsuit was on behalf of the family of a 34-year-old Chinese detainee whose medical needs were blatantly ignored, resulting in his death while in the custody of immigration officials at the Wyatt Detention Center.

RI NOW v. Wall. (2010) This open records lawsuit forced the Department of Corrections to disclose its policies relating to the use of restraints on pregnant prisoners.

Ahlquist v. City of Cranston. (2011) This lawsuit successfully challenged the constitutionality of a prayer mural addressed to "Our Heavenly Father" displayed in a public high school's auditorium.

Gianfrocco v. Cranston School Department. (2012) This lawsuit led to the revision of a school district policy that had barred parents with any felony drug offenses from serving as school volunteers.

Morales v. Chadbourne. (2013) This successful federal lawsuit was on behalf of a local resident who was twice wrongfully detained and jailed by Immigration and Customs Enforcement as a deportable alien even though she is a U.S. citizen.

J.A. v. Town of Tiverton. (2016) This favorably settled lawsuit challenged school and police actions in searching, arresting and detaining an eight-year-old child without cause.

Alves v. City of Woonsocket. (2016) This favorably settled lawsuit challenging the unlawful arrest and detention of a deaf teenager prompted statewide changes in police department policies governing the accommodation of deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals.

Gemmell v. RI Department of Human Services. (2017) This federal class-action lawsuit successfully challenged the state's widespread failure to provide SNAP benefits in a timely manner to needy families due to its transition to a new, and very troubled, computer system.

Association of R.I. Authors v. Savage. (2019) This lawsuit successfully challenged the state's policy of denying a sales tax exemption to Rhode Island-authored works of non-fiction on the grounds that such works were not "creative and original."

R.I. Legal Services v. City of Providence. (2019) This open records lawsuit led to the release of a Department of Justice memo documenting the Providence school district's blatant violation of the rights of English learning students.



60 EXAMPLES OF ACLU of RI ADVOCACY OUTSIDE THE COURTROOM

Freedom of Speech

1985 – ACLU of RI advocacy reversed a federal ban on off-hours political activities by VISTA volunteers

1995 – The ACLU organized a large coalition to defeat a bill that would have required non-profit organizations that use volunteer lobbyists to disclose the names and addresses of all their members

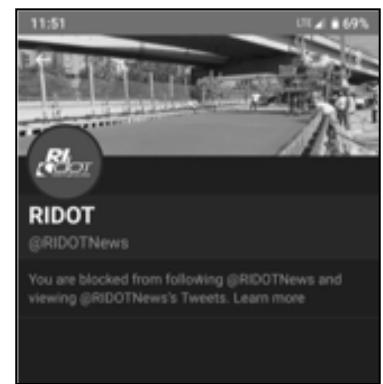
1998 – ACLU advocacy prompted the mayor of Providence to back down from plans to seize - by eminent domain - a movie theater showing adult films

1999 – In an important win for academic freedom, the Affiliate successfully organized opposition to a bill that would have allowed the state to scrutinize and reject public university grants on the basis of their content

2010 – The Affiliate successfully assisted Marriage Equality RI in five communities where police had initially barred its volunteers from engaging in door-to-door canvassing

2012 – The General Assembly enacted an ACLU bill repealing a law that made it a crime to post false information on the Internet

2018 – After threat of an ACLU lawsuit, the R.I. Department of Transportation unblocked critics from the agency's Twitter account



Separation of Church and State

2000 – ACLU objections stopped the Department of Health from providing smoking cessation grants to religious institutions



2004 – ACLU advocacy resulted in the removal of a long-standing Ten Commandments monument from Roger Williams Park

2005 – Heeding ACLU concerns, the state Department of Education stopped providing sex education grants to a religious-based abstinence-only organization

2013 – With other groups, the Affiliate secured a Gubernatorial veto of a bill authorizing “Choose Life” license plates, the proceeds of which would have gone to a religious organization

Equal Protection of the Laws

1987 – ACLU advocacy forced Newport schools to scuttle a policy requiring that seniors bring only opposite-gender dates to the prom

1991 – ACLU-sponsored legislation strengthened the state's Fair Employment Practices Act in response to a series of SCOTUS decisions severely limiting the reach of federal anti-discrimination laws

1991 – The legislature passed an ACLU-sponsored bill barring the use of a discriminatory standardized test for teacher certification

1998 – ACLU amendments to a bill authorizing charter schools ensured that they must abide by the civil rights and student rights' laws applicable to public schools

2000 – In passing an ACLU-drafted bill, Rhode Island became the first state in the country to require the statewide collection of police stop data to examine the problem of racial profiling

2002 – An ACLU-drafted bill barring discrimination in housing against domestic violence victims was approved by the General Assembly

2012 – The ACLU was instrumental in drafting a law making Rhode Island the first state to enact a judicially enforceable “homeless bill of rights”

2013 – ACLU action ensured that the state’s health benefits exchange would provide persons using the system the opportunity to register to vote

2015 – Advocacy by the ACLU and others led to passage of anti-racial profiling legislation limiting “consent” searches of juveniles and pedestrians

2015 – The ACLU joined with other advocacy groups in pushing for the successful passage of a bill protecting military veterans from housing discrimination

2016 – ACLU advocacy prompted judicial authorities to adopt breastfeeding accommodations for applicants taking the state bar examination



Privacy

1996 – The ACLU helped pass a strong Health Care Confidentiality Act after a RI Supreme Court decision limited the effectiveness of the then-current law



2002 – ACLU advocacy halted plans by the RI Airport Corporation to implement facial recognition technology at T.F. Green Airport

2015 – ACLU advocacy ended a cooperation agreement between Motel 6 and the Warwick Police Department providing for the sharing of guest information

2018 – Incorporating ACLU recommendations, the DOT adopted strong privacy protections for the use of data collected by the state’s new truck toll gantries

Reproductive Freedom

1986 – The ACLU and Planned Parenthood led a major statewide campaign to successfully defeat at the polls a proposed state constitutional amendment designed to ban abortion

2000 – A bill drafted and promoted by the ACLU, ensuring contraceptive equity in health insurance plans, was enacted

2011 – ACLU advocacy halted passage of a bill that would have allowed genetic counselors to refrain from telling clients about abortion options

2018 – The General Assembly passed ACLU legislation barring the shackling of pregnant women going to and from court proceedings

2019 – The ACLU helped draft, and joined with a large coalition to obtain passage of, a bill codifying the protections of *Roe v. Wade* into state law

LGBTQ Rights

2007 – The General Assembly adopted ACLU-crafted legislation ensuring that state pension benefit laws applied to domestic partners

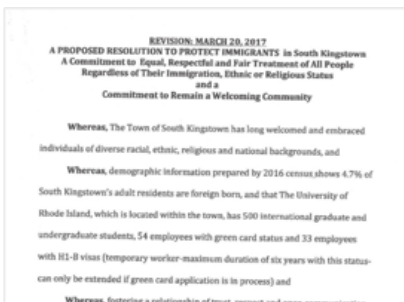
2014 – ACLU advocacy prompted the Department of Health to amend its regulations in order to allow gender designation changes on birth certificates for transgender individuals

2018 – ACLU advocacy led to the adoption by the Department of Education of strong regulations to protect the civil rights of transgender students



Immigrant Rights

1996 – The General Assembly approved an ACLU bill revising numerous professional licensing laws in order to remove citizenship as a requirement for licensure



2000 – An ACLU bill was enacted requiring courts to notify defendants of potential immigration consequences when pleading to various crimes

2008 – The General Assembly enacted an ACLU bill requiring the adequate provision of language interpreter services to DHS clients

2017 – The ACLU provided municipalities with a comprehensive model ordinance designed to protect immigrants in their community by restricting local collaboration with federal immigration agencies

Workplace Rights

1987 – An enacted ACLU-sponsored bill established one of the strictest standards in the country for drug testing in the workplace

1987 – An approved ACLU bill made Rhode Island the first in the country to restrict “honesty testing” in employment

1992 – An ACLU bill banning genetic testing in employment was approved by the legislature

2014 – The General Assembly passed an ACLU bill that barred employers from demanding access to employees’ private social media accounts

Criminal Justice

1989 – Efforts spearheaded by the ACLU halted a concerted state effort to reinstate the death penalty

2004 – Quick ACLU action forced the Governor to withdraw a proposed “homeland security” bill, based on the USA Patriot Act, that would have made it illegal to “advocate” terrorism.

2016 – An ACLU bill approved by the General Assembly barred police from obtaining cell phone tracking information without a warrant

Open Government

1986 – Based on the Affiliate's review of state agency practices, an ACLU-promoted law was enacted to limit how much public bodies can charge for copying public records

2009 – As a result of ACLU objections, the RI Supreme Court agreed not to implement a 25-year-old law allowing retired judges to preside over secret civil cases for compensation

2012 – Working with a coalition of open government organizations, the ACLU succeeded in lobbying for major changes that strengthened the Access to Public Records Act

Students' Rights

1993 – An enacted ACLU bill halted the Department of Education's plan to use Social Security Numbers as student identifiers

2005 – Prompted by a school district's effort to use RFID technology to track students, the legislature approved an ACLU bill barring this practice

2007 – An enacted ACLU-sponsored bill banned the use of "zero tolerance" policies for students disciplined for weapon and drug-related offenses

2014 – The ACLU spearheaded a successful coalition in halting "high stakes testing" for high school graduation

2016 – An ACLU-drafted bill barring out-of-school suspensions for non-disruptive student conduct was enacted

2017 – The ACLU helped draft an enacted piece of legislation protecting the rights of student journalists from censorship by school officials



Rights of People with Disabilities

1984 – An ACLU bill requiring polling places to be accessible to individuals with disabilities was enacted

2001 – The ACLU successfully lobbied for enactment of a bill requiring specific due process protections before the state could deny handicap parking permits to individuals

2017 – Advocacy by the ACLU and RI Disability Law Center prompted numerous police departments to revise practices to accommodate victims, witnesses and arrestees who are deaf or hard of hearing

Rights of Ex-Offenders

2006 – The ACLU, joining with many other groups, worked in a successful coalition to pass a constitutional amendment restoring to ex-felons the right to vote

2007 – ACLU advocacy led to changes in state victim compensation regulations that had barred individuals from qualifying for compensation based on a drug offense history

2017 – In response to ACLU lobbying, the state revised regulations that had significantly limited veterans for burial in the veterans' cemetery based on their criminal record



60 **ACLU**
YEARS
OF
VIGILANCE **Rhode Island**

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