

2020/2021 ANNUAL REPORT



FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PETER SIMONSON



Donald Trump may be gone from the White House, but that does not mean the ACLU is resting easy. The asylum system was left in shambles. Policing is broken. And voting rights and reproductive justice are under systematic attack. We have spent the last ten months fighting on all these fronts. And together, we have accomplished some monumental victories!

During the 2021 legislative session, we helped pass the New Mexico Civil Rights Act, creating a legal remedy for New Mexicans to bring claims in state court against police officers and other public officials who violate their rights under the New Mexico Constitution. The passage of this bill came nearly a year after protests swept the country in the wake of the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Tony McDade and as communities demanded an end to racialized violence in policing. The new law is a triumph for Black, Brown, Indigenous, and other marginalized people who are disproportionately harmed by police and who now have a fair chance at achieving justice.

After years of working with our partners in the Respect New Mexico Women coalition to pass legislation to remove New Mexico's old abortion ban from 1969, our efforts finally paid off. In February, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham signed the bill into law. Now, as other states double down on efforts to ban abortion, our staff is working to expand access to abortion care and making sure the full scope of reproductive health services are equitably available to all in our state.

As America's inhumane immigration enforcement system continues to inflict trauma on migrants, we are fighting back at every level. When CoreCivic guards pepper-sprayed asylum-seekers at Torrance County Detention Facility for engaging in a peaceful hunger strike, we joined with the New Mexico Immigrant Law Center to sue on behalf of nine people detained there. We also filed a lawsuit on behalf of a 64-year-old New Mexican man who was viciously attacked by a CBP officer at the Columbus port of entry. And we've worked alongside ACLU national and other border affiliates to mobilize community leaders, elected officials, and advocates to call on the Biden administration to stop exploiting a public health crisis to deny people the right to asylum.

With New Mexico's redistricting process in full swing, we are fighting to ensure the voting strength of Indigenous communities. And as lawmakers grapple with a recent rise in crime, we are working to ensure that the state adopts policy solutions that address the root causes of crime and do not add to our over-bloated prison system or give police more freedom to harm Black and Brown people.

The challenges we've faced over the last year and continue to face are immense, but so is our determination. Just as you helped us go toe-to-toe with the Trump administration, we hope you will stick with us now. We fight on, together, to advance liberty, justice, and equality.

COVER ART: "TOGETHER" BY BARUCH CAMPOS-GALLARDO

Baruch Campos-Gallardo is an immigrant and a dreamer who brings eight years of experience with violence prevention and youth-led programming. An artist at heart, he has integrated traditional and mix-media art as a core value in his community organizing. Baruch has also participated for Together for Brothers (T4B) with the Anti-Racism Youth Leadership Institute (AYLI) and also serves on the New Mexico Land Water Conservation Fund Advisory Committee.

"While creating this artwork I thought a lot about the diversity and resilience of our communities. The work of the American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico reminds me of how crucial it is for us to come together as people like a well woven basket in resistance and solidarity for better days. The river reminds us to go upstream to tackle root causes to systemic discrimination that our communities of color often face. Together we can play to our strengths to make real authentic change."

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WHERE WE'VE BEEN

ACLU-NM SUCCESSES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The ACLU of New Mexico, the New Mexico Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (NMCDLA), and several incarcerated individuals, filed a class action lawsuit in the First Judicial District Court against the State of New Mexico for failing to protect the lives and constitutional rights of people detained in the state's prison system.

After Gisell Estrada, a 17-year-old student at Albuquerque High School, was wrongly accused of murder and sent to jail for seven brutal days, the ACLU of New Mexico, along with civil rights law firm Kennedy, Kennedy, & Ives, filed a lawsuit against the City of Albuquerque for falsely arresting, imprisoning, and depriving Gisell of her state constitutional rights.

During the 2021 legislative session, we helped pass landmark legislation, including the New Mexico Civil Rights Act, which created a legal remedy for New Mexicans to bring claims in state court against police officers and other public officials who violate their rights under the New Mexico Constitution, and a bill that removed a dangerous abortion ban from 1969.

Through advocacy work and legal representation, we helped get the longest-serving life-sentenced child released after serving 40 years in prison and being denied parole five times.

The ACLU of New Mexico settled a lawsuit filed in the First Judicial District Court on behalf of Diane Roberts, a transgender diesel mechanic, who was wrongfully terminated and discriminated against by ABF Freight System when she was employed there.

The ACLU sent a letter to Department of Homeland Security Secretary Mayorkas calling for the closure of 39 Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facilities, including the Otero County Processing Center in Chaparral, New Mexico due to its extensive record of civil rights violations and inhumane treatment.

After CoreCivic guards sprayed asylum-seekers at Torrance County Detention Facility with chemical agents for engaging in a peaceful hunger strike, the ACLU of New Mexico and the New Mexico Immigrant Law Center filed a lawsuit on behalf of nine individuals and the Santa Fe Dreamers Project.

When our client, a woman diagnosed with severe opioid disorder, was sentenced to time in the New Mexico Department of Correction custody, which does not allow the use of medication treatment for addiction, we filed a lawsuit to ensure she could remain on treatment.

The ACLU of New Mexico and Rothstein Donatelli LLP filed a lawsuit on behalf of Tabitha Clay, a reporter who was harassed and retaliated against by the Rio Arriba Sheriff's Office (RASO) in 2019 after reporting on deputy misconduct in the Rio Grande Sun.

After we received news that the Alamogordo Public Schools Board of Education was considering a resolution that would ban trans girls from participating in school sports, we sent a letter advising them that passing such a policy would violate state and federal law. Shortly after, the Board removed the resolution from their agenda.

After a Columbus Port of Entry Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) officer viciously attacked Anastacio Granillo, a 64-year-old New Mexican man returning home from visiting family in Mexico, we filed a lawsuit against CBP for use of excessive and unnecessary force against Mr. Granillo.

The ACLU of New Mexico and the ACLU of Texas sent a letter demanding that Customs and Border Protection (CBP) conduct an independent investigation into a vehicle pursuit by Border Patrol, which killed two people and resulted in the hospitalization of eight others. We also demanded they release their vehicle pursuit policy, which the agency has refused to make public.

American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico and the American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico Foundation consolidated statement of activities for the years ended March 31, 2021 and March 31, 2020.

	2021	2020
SUPPORT & REVENUE		
Grants & support from National	\$ 2,542,101	\$ 2,442,659
Contributions & Bequests	\$ 1,572,364	\$ 1,350,139
Donated Legal Services	\$ 156,398	\$ 122,604
Program income	\$ 230,555	\$ 95,008
Other Revenue	\$ 153,987	\$ 53,147
Total Revenue and Support	\$ 4,655,405	\$ 4,063,557
EXPENSES		
Program Services	\$ 2,324,654	\$ 2,131,068
Management & General	\$ 275,409	\$ 267,081
Fundraising	\$ 322,848	\$ 297,604
Total Expenses	\$ 2,922,911	\$ 2,695,753
Change in Net Assets*	\$ 1,732,494	\$ 1,367,804
Net Assets		
Beginning	\$ 6,326,196	\$ 4,958,392
Ending	\$ 8,058,690	\$ 6,326,196

* Includes unspent temporarily restricted funds that are carried forward and may produce deficits in the years that they are expended.

WHERE WE'RE GOING

OUR PRIORITIES MOVING FORWARD

In close coordination with the national ACLU and other ACLU border affiliates, we will be ramping up efforts to rebuild our asylum system and establish humane alternatives to immigration detention. We aim to ensure people seeking asylum are met with respect, dignity, and due process as required by our laws and our values, rather than punishment.

Following our success passing a New Mexico Civil Rights Act, we will focus on passing legislation that continues to ensure accountability for police officers who abuse their power, as well as legislation that reduces the number of people in our prisons and jails, challenges criminal legal system racism, and eliminates destructive court ordered fines and fees.

We were chosen by the national ACLU to host a Indigenous Justice coordinator position to facilitate Indigenous justice work across all affiliates. Over the next year, we will expand our work to defend the rights, dignity, and sovereignty of Indigenous communities in New Mexico and throughout the United States.

As reproductive healthcare becomes increasingly difficult to access across the country, we will continue to work to protect and expand access to reproductive healthcare and gender equity through proactive reproductive rights advocacy. We will also support criminal legal reform and immigrant rights as key pieces of our reproductive justice vision for New Mexico.



FINANCIALS