

# the TORCH

The Newsletter of the American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico

FIFTY YEARS DEFENDING FREEDOM | 1962 - 2012

## in this issue

Then, Now and  
Down the Road P.2

What Makes Us  
Who We Are P.3

Timeline: 50  
Years Defending  
Freedom P.4

From the Desk of  
Julie Weinstein P.6

Board Candidate  
Bios P.7

Board Election  
Ballot P.8

## ACLU-NM at Fifty Years: A New Mexico Institution

An organization as influential as the ACLU is bound to generate a number of myths and misconceptions. One of the most remarkable I've come across is a relatively common misperception that the ACLU is a government agency. "Remarkable," of course, because, far from representing the government, the ACLU works to keep government in check. The organization even refuses government funding in order to avoid any weakening of the difficult, sometimes controversial, positions we must take to confront government overreaching.

The confusion about the ACLU stems, I think, from the fact that the ACLU has been around for as long as most people can remember, and we are widely recognized as a reliable authority on civil liberties, even if not everyone agrees with us. Much like a government institution, the ACLU endures over time and exerts a defining influence on the most important civil liberties questions of the day.

Nowhere is this more true than in the state of New Mexico. For the last fifty years, the ACLU has spoken out against injustice in our state and fought tooth and nail to preserve individual liberties whenever and wherever they are threatened. The ACLU has helped shape New Mexico history.

Just in the last ten years, the ACLU:

- Closed Springer Boys School, a juvenile detention facility that was widely known for its unsafe conditions and detrimental effect on youthful offenders;
- Stopped the City of Albuquerque from implementing a host of overzealous and ineffective laws targeting panhandlers, DWI suspects, and people convicted of sex offenses. We also had stopped Albuquerque's voter ID law from going into effect until a US Supreme Court ruling on a similar Indiana law changed the legal landscape for such laws;
- Played a key role in the statewide coalition that led the repeal of New Mexico's death penalty;
- Secured an agreement with the Hobbs Police Department to stop the unlawful targeting of African Americans. This may be the single largest class action lawsuit against police abuse in New Mexico history.

As the time line in this edition of the Torch will tell, the ACLU of New Mexico started out small, but has grown to become the single largest and most influential civil rights organization in the state.

When I became Executive Director eleven years ago, we had four staff working in an office located in Albuquerque. Volunteer attorneys carried out all of our le-



PETER SIMONSON  
Executive Director

gal work and we litigated only a handful of cases each year.

Today the ACLU of New Mexico has grown to 14 staff divided between offices in Albuquerque and Las Cruces. The latter carries out a special, regional mission to defend civil liberties near the border.

Three civil rights attorneys litigate a docket of 30-40 cases a year. No social justice organization in the state makes such active use of the courts to defend civil and human rights. Often allied organizations look to us to achieve through litigation what they have been unable to accomplish through community organizing, lobbying and other policy advocacy. For example, when voting rights advocates were frustrated by the Secretary of State's allegations that immigrants were voting fraudulently, the ACLU used public records laws to hold her accountable and shift the media's focus from "voter fraud" to questions about executive branch transparency.

We are a leading voice in legislative efforts to protect reproductive choice, voting rights, and fair treatment for immigrants. In coalition work, the ACLU lends specialized communications capacity to push forward policy aims through earned media strategies, online activism and finely-messaged editorial content.

With such a variety of abilities to influence policymaking, the ACLU presents a formidable check on government power in New Mexico. Very few threats to civil liberties escape our attention. Indeed, ACLU-NM President Gary Mitchell likes to call us the "fourth branch of government."

But, of course, we're not the government. We're the ACLU. An institution, yes, but fiercely independent.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter S. Simonson'.

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# Then, Now and Down the Road

## THE TORCH

The Torch is a quarterly publication sent to members and supporters of the American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico. Please send any comments, questions or article submissions to Micah McCoy, Editor and Communications Specialist at: [mmccoy@aclu-nm.org](mailto:mmccoy@aclu-nm.org)

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We've come a long way in fifty years. In 1962, Jim Crow was alive and well in the South, relegating African-Americans to second-class citizen status. It was in that year that César Chávez and Dolores Huerta founded the National Farm Workers Union (later to become the United Farm Workers) to address the deplorable treatment and dangerous working conditions field hands faced. Students were routinely made to recite Christian prayers in public schools. If a woman needed an abortion, she was forced to seek an illegal and dangerous "back alley" abortion that too often resulted in serious injury or death. Police would not be required to inform people they arrested of their rights for another four years. Consensual sex between men and gay, lesbian, transgender and bisexual Americans lived in fear of police raids and brutality.

For many Americans, 1962 was a far cry from the rosy Leave It To Beaver idyll. But with concerted and sustained effort in the courts and legislatures—often with the ACLU's involvement—we have achieved a far more just, free and open society. To paraphrase Dr. King, "the arc of history bends towards justice."

Though the arc of history does indeed bend towards justice, it is also, as Dr. King noted, long. We still struggle today to ensure that the promise of our Constitution is fulfilled in practice. Thematically, we see echoes of 1962 fifty years later in the 2012 New Mexico legislative session.

A woman's right to make private reproductive health decisions in consultation with her doctor is still very much under assault. Although abortion has been safe and legal now for 39 years, a determined minority is still working tirelessly to force their personal religious views on the majority and roll back the clock to 1962... or at least 1973. In the 2012 session, the ACLU of New Mexico lobbied against a dangerous and unnecessary bill that would force teens to obtain permission from a parent in order to get an abortion. Teenagers from troubled homes would be required to risk physical or mental abuse by disclosing that they are pregnant or are terminating the pregnancy.

Despite the enormous progress made in LGBT rights, anti-gay bills still make regular appearances in the New Mexico legislature. On Valentine's Day this year, the New Mexico House of Representatives debated a bill that would amend the state constitution to forever exclude committed and loving gay and lesbian couples from marriage.

Even in a state as diverse as New Mexico, discrimination against immigrants remains a problem in 2012. New Mexico is one of the only states to offer drivers licenses to undocumented immigrants, making our roads safer and reducing the number of uninsured drivers. However, over the last year top conservative leaders in the state waged a relentless campaign to strip undocumented immigrants of their licenses. Governor Susana Martinez dedicated the lion's share



of her political capital and energy these past two legislative sessions to fanning the flames of anti-immigrant sentiment—a fire that already burns too hot throughout the nation.

At first blush, it might be discouraging to see that fifty years after the founding of the ACLU of New Mexico we are still fighting the same battles. But as ACLU co-founder Roger Baldwin once declared, "No fight for civil liberties ever stays won." That's why civil libertarians joined together a half-century ago to create a New Mexico ACLU affiliate, so there would be an organization dedicated full-time to fighting the never-ending battle for the fundamental rights of all people in the state.

It does make one wonder what battles we'll be fighting fifty years from now in 2062. Will religious extremists still try to force their ideology between a woman and her doctor in matters of reproductive health? Will LGBT Americans still struggle for basic fairness and dignity? Will we still demonize and scapegoat immigrants?

But that's why the ACLU is here, ready to fight as long as it takes.

Certainly we can expect to face brand new threats to our liberty in the next fifty years, some of which we cannot even imagine. In 1962, who could have foreseen the technological explosion in store, and the degree to which technology would integrate into our daily lives? Today's science fiction is tomorrow's must-have accessory, and our increasingly intimate relationship with technology opens a whole universe of domestic spying opportunities to the government. In the fifty years to come, Americans will need an organization like the ACLU to protect the most intimate details of their private lives from prying government and corporate eyes.

So, with your continued support and dedication, the ACLU of New Mexico will continue to protect your rights and the rights of all New Mexicans. Together, we will bend the arc of history a little further towards justice, a little closer to the America we all know we can be.

**By Micah McCoy**  
*Communications Specialist*

# What makes us who we are?

## Our Dedication

We come from every imaginable background, race, creed and political party. But we all have one thing in common: dedication to the Bill of Rights and individual liberties. Every ACLU of New Mexico employee, member and volunteer shares a passion for protecting and extending freedom in the Land of Enchantment. We've been at it for 50 years now, we'll be at it for the next 50 too.

## Our Reach

The ACLU of New Mexico protects civil liberties across the entire state, from Farmington to Las Cruces, from Raton to Deming and everywhere in between.

## Our Members

You, the members, make our work possible. New Mexico is one of the least populous and poorest states in the nation, but in terms of ACLU members we rank near the middle nationwide. New Mexico members are also some of the most active, responding to email action alerts at a much higher rate than ACLU members elsewhere in the country.

## Our Legal Panel

For the first 40 years, the ACLU of New Mexico ran on a shoestring budget and employed no full-time legal staff. To organize and steer the state's legal efforts, the ACLU of New Mexico formed an all-volunteer panel comprised of the top civil rights attorneys in the state. The legal panel now serves as an advisory body to the ACLU-NM legal staff, providing a wealth of experience and knowledge for the legal team to draw on.

## Our Cooperating Attorneys

The ACLU of New Mexico relies heavily on the talents and passion of volunteer attorneys from all around the state. Many of the affiliate's greatest victories were won with the help of attorneys who donated their time and energy towards protecting freedom in New Mexico.

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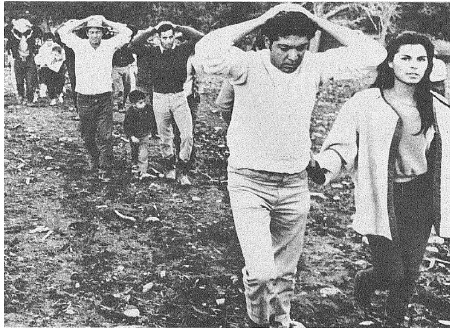
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We are the largest, oldest and most effective civil liberties organization in New Mexico.

# We are the ACLU





UPI PHOTO

**Tierra Amarilla Concentration Camp**

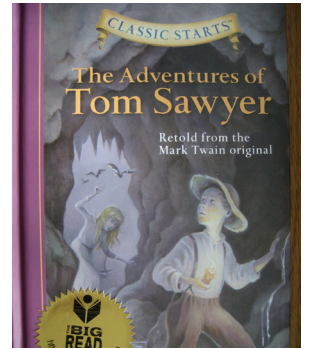
After Spanish-American land grant insurrectionists briefly seized the Tierra Amarilla courthouse, the New Mexico National Guard stormed a nearby community picnic and placed 50 people—mostly women and children—under detention. The guardsmen held the innocent people at gunpoint in a barb-wire sheep pen for 48 hours without access to potable water or restrooms. ACLU-NM files charges on behalf of the detainees and succeeds in securing some damages.



DURAN

**Duran Consent Decree**

In 1980, the New Mexico State Penitentiary in Santa Fe erupted in the most violent prison riot in American history. Pushed over the edge by horrific conditions, abuse, overcrowding and lack of programming, the inmates took over the prison for 36 hours, leaving 33 dead and hundreds injured. Shortly thereafter, the ACLU-NM and former inmate Dwight Duran win sweeping reforms to the New Mexico corrections system and two decades of federal oversight.



**Banning Book Banning**

The ACLU-NM successfully strikes down an anti-obscenity law that prohibited merchants from openly displaying books and magazines that contain pictures or text about nudity, sado-masochism, sexual conduct or sexual excitement. The law could have been interpreted to ban books like The Bible, The Diary of Anne Frank and The Adventures of Tom Sawyer.

1962 — 1967 — 1974 — 1980 — 1985 — 1986 —

National ACLU Board of Directors approves the charter for a New Mexico ACLU affiliate. ACLU-NM is run by all volunteer staff, operating out of private homes.

ACLU-NM legal panel forms.

**ACLU-NM Launches Massive Privacy Campaign**

As it comes to light that local police and federal law enforcement regularly engage in domestic spying against so-called “radical” community groups, the ACLU-NM launches a \$50,000 privacy rights awareness campaign, including a hot-air balloon over UNM with a giant eye. The campaign results in a 36% rise in the number of New Mexicans who believe invasion of privacy is a problem.



PHOTO: NANCY HOLLANDER

**Bernalillo County Seal**

ACLU-NM forces the County of Bernalillo to remove a Latin cross and the Spanish motto, “CON ESTA VENCEMOS” (With this we conquer) from its official seal.



# FIFTY YEARS OF DEFENDING FREEDOM IN NEW MEXICO



## The Chavez Era

The administration of Martin Chávez, mayor of Albuquerque (1993-1997, 2001-2009), proved to be a unique challenge for the ACLU. Over the course of two decades, ACLU-NM challenged a myriad of unconstitutional policies and actions generated by the Chávez administration, including:

- Three unconstitutional sex-offender ordinances
- Red light camera surveillance
- DWI vehicle seizure on arrest
- Mandatory photo ID to vote
- Suppression of city employee speech
- Police brutality and suppression of anti-war protesters' speech

## Taking Internet Censorship Offline

ACLU-NM wins a seminal Internet censorship case before the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals, striking down the 1998 New Mexico law that prohibited dissemination of material "harmful to minors" over the Internet.



## Making Medicaid Pay for Medically Necessary Abortions

The ACLU-NM wins a landmark victory for reproductive freedom in the New Mexico Supreme Court, forcing Medicaid to reimburse costs for abortions that are medically necessary or in cases of rape or incest.

## Expanding in Size, Reach and Impact

The ACLU-NM is one of the first affiliates to receive strategic funding from the national ACLU to expand its work in the state. This Strategic Affiliate Investment expanded ACLU-NM capacity, funded full-time legal staff and increased the legal docket by 400%.

Today, the ACLU-NM operates with a full time staff of 14, owns its own office building in downtown Albuquerque and operates the Regional Center for Border Rights in Las Cruces, NM

## Death Penalty Repeal

ACLU-NM plays a significant role in persuading the legislature and governor to repeal the death penalty in New Mexico.

1990 — 1997 — 1999 — 2007 — 2009 — 2012



## Fighting Domestic Spying

ACLU-NM wins a domestic spying case in the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals, establishing that the Albuquerque Police Department's torching of 1,300 records pertaining to their secret surveillance of controversial figures was unconstitutional. ACLU attorneys had previously obtained a restraining order preventing the destruction of the files, but APD used a 90 minute window before the order took effect to destroy the evidence of illegal domestic spying activity.

## Valencia County Jail Closure

ACLU-NM attorneys force closure of the Valencia County Jail, a facility notorious for its abominable living conditions, negligent health-care and prisoner mistreatment.

## Defending Free Speech in the Classroom

ACLU-NM represents Nadine Cordova, a high school teacher in Vaughn, NM, who was fired for teaching a "racist" and "un-American" Chicano history and culture curriculum to a student club. In a landmark victory for free speech in the classroom, ACLU-NM settles the case for \$520,000 in damages and expungement of Cordova's negative employment record.



## Reforming CYFD

ACLU-NM sues the New Mexico Children Youth and Families Department (CYFD), securing safer living conditions and essential rehabilitation services for youth in state juvenile justice facilities. As part of the settlement, the state agrees to completely shut down the Springer Boys School, a particularly abusive juvenile detention facility.

Pick up your local paper to find out!

## Checking Warrantless Searches

ACLU-NM sues the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office for conducting a warrantless search of the home of a suspected cop-killer's in-laws. In this landmark case, ACLU-NM definitively established that family relationship to a suspect alone is not probable cause for a search.

# From the Desk of Julie Weinstein

**phi•lan•thro•py:** *noun* \fə-'lan(t)-thrə-pē\ etymologically means “the love of humanity”; private initiatives for public good, focusing on quality of life; goodwill to fellow members of the human race.

## Share Your Appreciation with a Gift of Stock.

You can make a gift of appreciated stock to the ACLU of New Mexico Foundation while avoiding capital gains tax on transfers of securities held for at least one year and one day. You can also generally receive an income tax deduction for the current fair market value of the securities.

To make a gift of stock, share the following information with your broker.

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ACCOUNT NUMBER:

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BROKERAGE:

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Then, contact us with your name and the number and type of shares being transferred.

ACLU CONTACT:

Julie Weinstein

PHONE:

(505) 255 -5915 x1001

EMAIL:

[jweinstein@aclu-nm.org](mailto:jweinstein@aclu-nm.org)

We will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Dear Defender of Freedom,

The extraordinary attacks we’ve been witnessing this year on our most basic freedoms are nothing to turn a blind eye to—in fact, we’re seeing civil liberties and human rights threats in every corner of our state (and across the nation). Out-of-control police departments, deplorable prison conditions, anti-immigrant witch hunts, dangerous discrimination of our minority communities: it’s hard to recognize New Mexico sometimes. This firestorm of challenges to our most basic liberties can be intimidating.

It might be easy to give a fatalistic shrug, and say “Yes, it’s bad, but what can I do about it? Anything I do will just be a drop in the bucket.” But put enough drops into a bucket, and it can put out a fire.

We are making progress and achieving success on several fronts, but to effectively meet the extraordinary assaults on civil liberties that we face today, we must substantially ramp up our efforts. When I think about the power of philanthropy, I realize the great potential on our hands.

I hear the stories and see the faces of real people—sometimes your neighbors or friends—whose lives and families benefit from the work of the ACLU. Every day, we’re called upon to protect all the freedoms guaranteed in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, because here at the ACLU we know firsthand that “freedom can’t defend itself.”

Committed LGBT couples finally able to marry in New York or Washington, defeating the recent Alabama “personhood” initiative and thwarting Secretary of State Dianna Duran’s attempt to enact voter-suppressing mandatory photo ID in New Mexico are successes to be celebrated! We won these battles with sophisticated strategies, dedicated staff and resources on the ground. But, for most states (New Mexico included) there are still looming threats to families’ health and reproductive choices, threats to our voting process, hateful legislation that discriminates against LGBT individuals and couples, blatant attacks on religious freedom—the list goes on and on.

As we’ve seen here in New Mexico and in other states, staunch opponents to your civil liberties are often very well funded and organized. Your generous support enables the ACLU to be effective in the courts, in legislatures and throughout local communities. These extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures and extraordinary support. Be the philanthropist that you want to be, and have every confidence that your dollars have a very real impact on the “public good” and “quality of life”—affording fairness and equality for all New Mexicans.

All too often, people assume that a donation of \$50 or \$100 won’t make a difference in the work that they feel passionate about—but the reality is that every contribution truly makes a difference—especially in this economy. Everyone knows there’s a power in numbers! When investments of any amount are pooled with others, it can really add up.

Our fiscal year ends on March 31st and it’s imperative that we close out the year strong and successfully—so we can stay focused on continuing our fight to defend your freedom.

Please make your tax-deductible contribution to the ACLU, and count yourself among thousands of philanthropists taking a stand for freedom.

You can complete and send in the enclosed envelope or invest securely online at [www.aclu-nm.org](http://www.aclu-nm.org). Please feel free to call me if you’d like to discuss one of the many ways to make a planned gift. On behalf of the millions of people and families served by the work of the ACLU, thank you for proudly standing with us.

In solidarity,




Julie Weinstein  
Director of Philanthropy

# 2012 Board of Directors Election



The following are statements of interest from the eight individuals who are running for the seven open positions on the ACLU of New Mexico Board of Directors. A ballot to vote for Board members appears on page 8. **Candidates who are endorsed by the ACLU-NM Board Nominating Committee are indicated by a blue circle by the candidate's name.** ● Please mark your choices and return the ballot to the ACLU of New Mexico office, postmarked by April 14, 2012: ACLU-NM Board Ballot, PO Box 566, Albuquerque, NM 87103.

## ● Mark Ayers

It has been a privilege to be able to serve on the ACLU-NM board for the past three years. I began my term as the representative for the Central New Mexico Chapter. Since then, I have served the board in a variety of capacities: as Secretary, Chairperson of the Personnel Committee, Interim Chairperson of the Development Committee, Advisor for the Youth Advisory Board and currently National Board Representative. I have deeply enjoyed the different ways I have been able to be of service.

I would truly appreciate the opportunity to serve for the next three years. I have just begun my service at the National Board Level. I am committed to doing my utmost to represent the interests of our affiliate with integrity and commitment. As an educator, I am deeply committed to creating awareness about civil liberties to youth. Moreover, I appreciate the opportunity to make a pro-active difference serving on the ACLU-NM board.

## ● Gene Grant

It's become a standard line in times like these to say, 'this is a critical period in our nation's history for civil liberties' as explanation for board continuance. Even if true, what then, was the past decade for civil liberties? The challenge continues, certainly, and I would appreciate another term to further that contribution.

I'm very excited at the growth and prospects of our board. At this time two years ago, the board tasked itself to a hard look at our strengths and more importantly, where we could be doing better. My sense of the results is, while we continue to make steady and thorough progress on our needs, we discovered we actually had more capacity strengths than we knew once the approach to managing process got a close look.

Those processes continue to be scrutinized (particularly within the Governance Committee, on which I serve as well) but the result has been the ability for the board to be much more precise in its approach. Not just in decision making, but with interaction with the Executive Director and staff attorneys.

There is much to carry forward from the last two years. The addition of a Policy Director (leveraging solid work in the last legislative session's 'hybrid' approach with our Executive Director and an effective team), and a sharpened focus to our efforts.

The coming 50th anniversary will be a terrific time to celebrate great works in previous eras. But again, the fight continues.

## ● Paula Iñigo

Two years ago I took a leave of absence from the ACLU Board of Directors. At that time work demands made volunteer work unfeasible. In the interim I have successfully rearranged my time so participation in the important work of the ACLU seems, once again, possible. The 2011 Bill of Rights dinner served as a reminder of my desire to collaborate with our great staff and fellow board members.

Every day the news illustrates the need for the defense of our civil liberties. Education of our compatriots must continue. It seems that many take their constitutional right for granted and do not understand the importance of the defense of these rights.

I fear that we live in a time where we may be going in reverse with less and less ability to freely assemble and peaceably object to governmental policy. With the advent of digital media, searches of our phone conversations, e-mail, health data, etc have become easier and almost invisible. My family background has made me acutely and painfully aware of the fragile nature of democracies. My paternal grandparents lived a dream and subsequently a nightmare in Spain before and during the Spanish Civil War. My paternal grandparents and parents suffered during the coup in Chile, impeding my return to my homeland for

over 20 years. As I prepare to visit Chile for my 50th birthday, these historical events come alive again and serve to remind me that we should never rest on our laurels.

## ● Ellen Lacayo

It would be an honor to be elected to serve another term on the board of directors and I eagerly agree to three more years of hard work. This is an organization that gets results. The ACLU of New Mexico manages to be present in any city, town or reservation community across our state to defend our constitutional rights, while its staff and board members are also busy back at the office, dedicating many long hours to successful organizational capacity building and improvement projects.

I have worked to protect the civil liberties and human rights of people in America since I was a child growing up in the Deep South, witnessing injustice and inhumanity and the effective response to it as we joined together during the Civil Rights Movement. Part of my role as a board member has been to keep the ACLU-NM priority issues on the agenda in Northwest New Mexico. In recent years the issues that affect members of Gallup's very diverse community, such as the harassment of the local Arab Muslim community following the passage of the USA Patriot Act, have met with a prompt and thorough response by the ACLU-NM.

The Board of Directors of the ACLU-NM is well represented by members with a range of skills and experience. As a board member, I try to put to use the skills and abilities I've gained through 25 years of work as the executive director of various advocacy based non-profit organizations.

## Jeff Northrup

I enthusiastically joined the ACLU in 1968 while completing my degree at the Illinois Institute of Technology. My membership lapsed on occasion; my ACLU allegiance never wavered.

I've lived in Taos since 1990, opening two retail stores in 1994. After 13 years of 65 hour work weeks, I sold my Fedex/UPS award winning packing/shipping store, focusing on a Xerox copy and graphics shop owned with my younger sister.

Always politically active, I frequently speak at local government meetings, along with publishing scores of letters to the editor and a weekly column in the Taos News. Over the last four years I've become especially active, including at least weekly street side picketing (10-20 signs) on topics such as local government/media corruption (the mayor owns four radio stations), animal rights and local churches persecution of gays. I received 20% of the votes when running for Taos mayor in 2010.

The NM-ACLU came to my defense in mid-2010 after the town passed an ordinance specifically intended to substantially curb my picketing. This intervention helped for several months, but confrontations with the town (tickets and seizure of signs) are again becoming common.

Free speech protection is my favorite ACLU pursuit, countering attacks by the omnipresent and omnipotent (or so they think) forces of government. For this, and my love of the ACLU, I declare my candidacy for the NM-ACLU Board of Directors and would be honored and humbled to serve the citizens of New Mexico.

## ● Peter M. Ossorio

After one term on the ACLU-NM Board, I would like to continue. Civil liberties are under attack. Two areas which especially worry me are (1) the militarization of the border—resulting in profiling, unconstitutional stops and searches, and confinement violations; and (2) the threat to voting rights from the Citizens United decision and proposed drivers' license and voter identification legisla-

*Continued on Page 8*



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BOARD ELECTIONS

Continued from Page 7

tion. I helped create our affiliate’s policy on immigration and have contributed to the discussion regarding whether and what campaign finance restrictions are consistent with the ACLU’s mission. Both of these are active works in progress which I would like pursue.

I appreciate and respect the great competence and dedication of the Board and staff. They helped me learn the affiliate’s history, priorities, and procedures – as well as to view marriage equality as a moral, not just legal, issue. As a former federal prosecutor and sometime teacher of civil liberties and the New Mexico Constitution, from Las Cruces, I believe my presence on the Board adds diversity, breadth, and balance.

If chosen to continue, I will work to (1) increase the use of New Mexico’s greater constitutional protections; (2) ensure access to information about civil liberties violations (whistle-blower protections, open meetings and records provisions, access to detention centers, etc.); and (3) protect all lawful means of challenging unjust laws (defend the franchise; protect the right to assemble and protest in public places; preserve access to the internet; and increase transparency in campaign financing).

• Joe Forrest Sackett

Married; two children, Retired educator (CNM), Artist and playwright.

I believe in the work of the ACLU and wish to continue to serve on the board of directors for the New Mexico affiliate because I think civil liberties as guaranteed in our Constitution are fundamental. Without such protections and guarantees, political activity and artistic innovation finally

can occur only at the discretion or under the imprimatur of various powers-that-be, which inevitably suppress such activity when it becomes troublesome. If politics and art aren’t troublesome, they become corrupt and pointless, and change does not occur. Therefore, the defense of civil liberties is vital, basic work. The ACLU does that work. As an educator and artist, I think I bring a useful perspective to the board of ACLU-New Mexico.

• Andy Schultz

I have a strong and sincere interest in remaining as a member of the ACLU-NM Board of Directors.

Although I have been associated with the ACLU for almost 20 years as a cooperating attorney, in many ways, I do not see myself as being a “real” civil rights lawyer. “Real” civil rights attorneys are crusaders who are willing to battle insurmountable odds on behalf of those with no other voice. I, on the other hand, began doing the church-state work for the ACLU not out of a burning desire to enforce the free exercise and establishment clauses of the First Amendment, but simply because I was asked to and was glad to do it.

My legal work for the ACLU has been far more subdued. Rather than storm into court to protect the religious rights of my clients, I have spent far more time on the telephone and in private meetings trying to educate, cajole and impress upon local officials and their lawyers the requirements of the First Amendment and how they apply even to pagans, agnostics and other seemingly less popular elements of society. And although litigation is a necessary quiver in the ACLU’s arsenal, I also strongly support the ACLU efforts in recognizing the vitally important role that education and explanation about the law can play in assuring compliance with its demands.

Instructions for Voting

There are eight candidates running for seven open seats. You may vote for up to seven of the eight candidates. To vote, check or mark the box next to the candidate’s name.

For households with two ACLU of New Mexico members, each member may vote—simply have the second member check off the votes in the second column of boxes. For households with one ACLU of New Mexico member, check off votes in one column only.

We must confirm ACLU of New Mexico membership and still keep the votes anonymous. We need your help to do this. Cut out the ballot and insert it in a plain envelope marked “ballot” then place this envelope in a second envelope with your name and return address so that we can check to make sure you are a current ACLU member. Remember to include a second name if you have a household membership.

After we confirm membership, we discard the outer envelope and count the ballots anonymously. Ballots must be post-marked by April 14, 2012. Volunteers will count the ballots and all candidates will be notified of the results prior to posting the results in the next issue of The Torch and on the ACLU of New Mexico website: www.aclu-nm.org.



Board of Directors candidates in alphabetical order. Please vote for up to seven (7) board members:

Ballot for Member #1:

- MARK AYERS, GENE GRANT, PAULA IÑIGO, ELLEN LACAYO, JEFF NORTHRUP, PETER OSSORIO, JOE FORREST SACKETT, ANDY SCHULTZ

Ballot for Member #2:

- MARK AYERS, GENE GRANT, PAULA IÑIGO, ELLEN LACAYO, JEFF NORTHRUP, PETER OSSORIO, JOE FORREST SACKETT, ANDY SCHULTZ

Ballots must be postmarked by April 14, 2012

Send ballots to: ACLU of New Mexico Board Ballot P.O. Box 566 Albuquerque, NM 87103

Questions? Call (505) 266-5915 x1003