



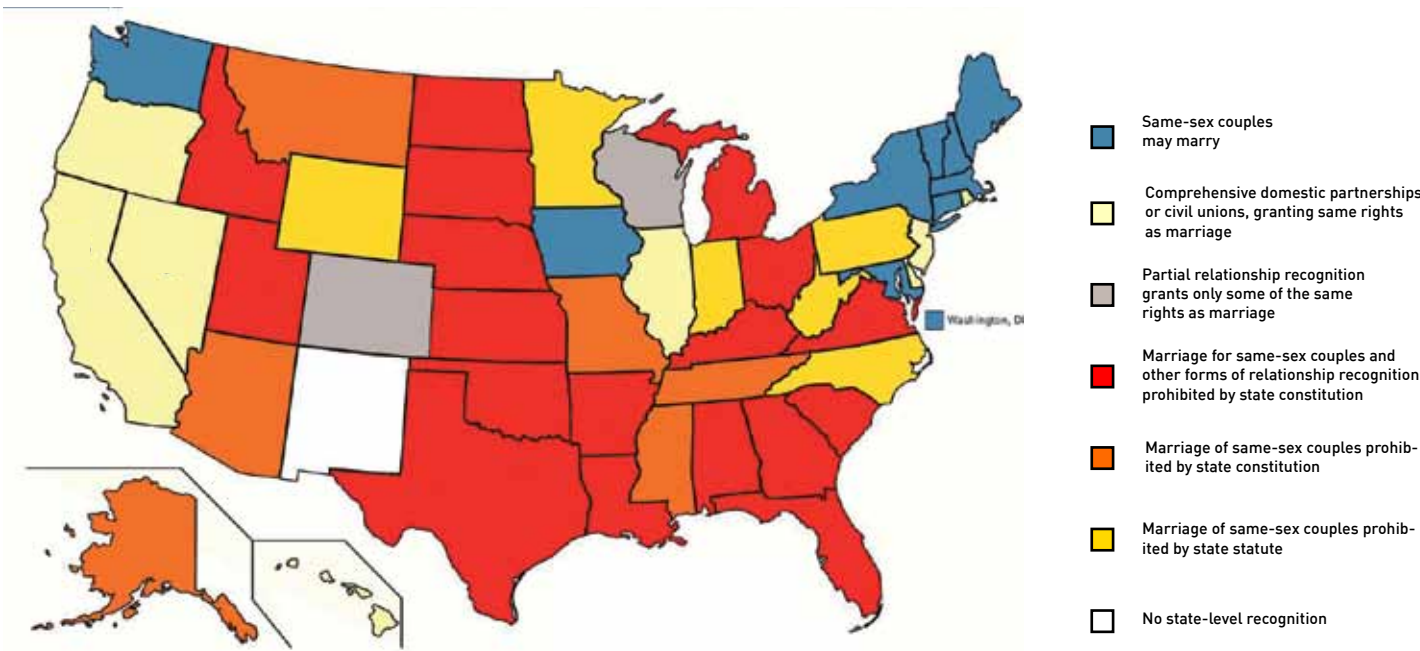
the TORCH

The Newsletter of the American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico

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Tipping Point New Mexico



2012 was a banner year for the LGBT movement. In fact, historians will likely look back on last year as one of the major tipping points in the struggle for LGBT equality—and it’s not hard to see why. For the first time, a sitting U.S. President endorsed the freedom to marry for same-sex couples, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear a challenge to California’s same-sex marriage ban and the ACLU’s challenge to the so-called federal “Defense of Marriage Act,” and—for the first time ever—voters rejected a state ballot measure to ban marriage for same-sex couples in Minnesota, and simultaneously voted for the freedom to marry in the states of Washington, Maryland and Maine.

Even the most optimistic among us were stunned and elated.

But after all the well-earned celebrations, we are left with the question: what is the next step? Where do we see opportunities to expand on these important victories, capitalize on the excitement and momentum and push forward in the struggle to ensure that all loving and committed couples can participate in marriage?

We think that New Mexico is the next step.

New Mexico stands in a truly unique position along the fault lines of the marriage movement. Every other state in the country—every other state!—has either passed a state law or constitutional amendment prohibiting the freedom to marry, has provided access to civil unions for same-sex couples, or has already fully included LGBT couples in civil marriage. As you can see from the color-coded map on this page, New Mexico is an island of neutral white in a sea of color.

Though it initially seems remarkable that New Mexico is the last remaining “neutral” state, it fits neatly within the

contours of our cultural identity. We are one of the few states in the country that does not neatly fit into the “red state”/“blue state” narrative, a place where both progressives and conservatives are moderate, especially when compared to the increasing polarization seen elsewhere. We are not dominated by one culture or one ethnicity or one religion. We celebrate our diversity and work hard together to uphold our shared values of fairness, respect, family and tradition.

It’s precisely because of these core values that New Mexicans are evolving, slowly but surely moving towards acceptance of marriage for same-sex couples. It’s as simple as the Golden Rule: New Mexicans want to treat their LGBT friends and family members with the same dignity and respect that they themselves want to be treated with. Most straight New Mexicans would never want someone telling them they couldn’t marry, and, when they think about it, they conclude we shouldn’t tell LGBT people they can’t marry either.

All New Mexico needs is a push to put us over the tipping point to where a majority of the people in the state support the freedom to marry, and we’ve already begun that push.

Two years ago, the ACLU of New Mexico, the national ACLU, Equality New Mexico (EQNM) and the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) began an ambitious public education campaign called All Families Matter (AFM) to help move New Mexicans towards greater support for marriage fairness. Over the past six months, the ACLU of New Mexico has ramped up operations, adding three new staff members dedicated solely to building a grassroots movement throughout the state.

The All Families Matter campaign work is divided into three arms:

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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 Manager at: mmccoy@aclu-nm.org

Printed in the United States.

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Tipping Point

Continued from page 1

Grassroots Organizing: Part of the goal of the AFM campaign is to build a grassroots base of support for same-sex marriage in New Mexico. We learned from our recent victories in Maine, Washington and Maryland that personal conversations are the most effective way to energize the movement. In just the past six months, AFM campaign staff have spoken at dozens of churches, synagogues, student groups and organizations, enlisting over 1,000 people as supporters. Because of this work, when anti-gay bills came up for debate during this legislative session, we were able to pack the committee rooms with people opposing these discriminatory laws. In part because of this strong response, legislators killed all anti-gay bills before the committee in record time.

Coalition Building: The All Families Matter coalition, now in its third year, is made up of more than 30 prominent non-profits, faith communities, civic organizations and local businesses that represent a diverse cross-section of New Mexico society. These groups work for greater acceptance of LGBT families by using their positions as opinion leaders and community pillars to reach out to their constituencies and lend breadth and diversity of support for marriage.

Public Education: An important part of winning the freedom to marry in New Mexico will be educating the public about why marriage matters to gay and lesbian couples. Personal stories show that same-sex couples marry for similar reasons straight people do and help move those people who are still hesitant about the idea. The public ed-

ucation portion of the All Families Matter campaign focuses on helping loving, committed same-sex couples share their stories through New Mexico news outlets and online media. We have already placed several couples' stories in major newspapers and TV networks throughout the state, reaching thousands of people with our important message.

We here at the All Families Matter campaign want to invite you to join with us in this critical work. This is your chance to be part of a historical movement, an opportunity to make New Mexico a more fair and just place. We all know someone who is affected by this issue. Many of us have gay friends, sons, daughters, aunts and uncles. Some of us ourselves cannot marry the person we love.

There are a hundred different ways you can help. You can sign on as an All Families Matter supporter or help organize an All Families Matter presentation at your local place of worship, club or civic group. You could write a letter to your local paper explaining why you support the freedom to marry. Maybe you are in a long-term, committed same-sex relationship and could share your story with your community. Or perhaps you have a gay son or daughter and could talk about your hopes and dreams for his or her life. It could even be something as simple as having a casual conversation with your friend, family member or co-worker about why you believe all New Mexican couples should be able to marry if they so choose.

The ACLU of New Mexico, as well as every other member of the All Families Matter campaign, is fully committed and invested in winning the freedom to marry in New Mexico. And with your support we're going to win it sooner rather than later.

All Families Matter | *Love, Commitment, Marriage.*



Amanda Johnson
Field Organizer

Daniel Williams
Communications Organizer

Havens Levitt
Coalition Organizer

We need your help to win
the freedom to marry in
New Mexico.

Sign the pledge. Join the more than 1,000 New Mexicans who have pledged to support marriage equality. We'll keep you up to date on the campaign's progress and let you know what you can do to help. To sign the pledge, or to arrange for an All Families Matter speaker to visit your place of worship, civic group, business or club, contact Amanda Johnson at ajohnson@aclu-nm.org.

Share your story. Are you in a committed same-sex relationship? Do you have a family member who you want to be able to get married some day? Your story can help people understand why marriage matters to all families. Contact Daniel Williams at dwilliams@aclu-nm.org to learn how your story can help win the freedom to marry.

Join the coalition. We're building a movement as diverse as New Mexico is, and your group or organization can be an integral part of the All Families Matter campaign. Contact Havens Levitt at hlevitt@aclu-nm.org to learn how your group can play a part achieving marriage for all couples in New Mexico.

Love Without Borders

Ryan and Salvador's Story

Throughout 2013 as part of the All Families Matter campaign, each issue of The Torch will feature a story about real New Mexicans whose lives are impacted by the exclusion of same-sex couples from marriage.



After a chance meeting at a bar, Salvador Adame and Ryan Steinmetz quickly realized how much they have in common. “We started talking about our families and what we wanted to do with our lives. We talked about all these deep things, and I guess it just stuck,” explained Ryan. “I was really struck by the fact that in the middle of this crazy bar with loud music, we were talking about something so personal. I hadn’t met someone who appreciated family so much.”

Ryan coordinates a Lutheran volunteer organization called Border Servant Corps and Salvador is a Mexican physician who, until recently, practiced general medicine at a hospital in Juarez. They’ve been partners for six years and, true to their first conversation, family has played a key role in their lives throughout their relationship. The couple, who are close to their extended family, talk about adopting a child one day. Salvador says that his parents in Mexico taught him a lot about what it means to be a family. “Family always loves and supports you. Family takes care of each other.”

As a same-sex binational couple of mixed immigration status, Ryan and Salvador have faced their share of challenges. Although Salvador has a visa that permits him to cross

the border legally, allowing him to spend time with Ryan, it isn’t always easy. “It’s hard to spend time with each other while moving back and forth between these two countries, two cultures, two languages,” said Ryan.

Because their relationship isn’t legally recognized, Ryan isn’t able to sponsor Salvador through the immigration process so that he can obtain authorization to work or seek citizenship. Even in the face of these challenges, though, Ryan and Salvador remain committed to one another and to their relationship.

“We’ve faced some pretty serious obstacles,” reflected Ryan, “and if we hadn’t been in it for the long haul, it would have been pretty difficult for our relationship to survive.”

Ryan and Salvador’s relationship has been very similar to other families across the state. Like other families, Ryan and Sal rely on good communication to keep their relationship strong: “The most important thing has been communication. Whenever we’ve been going through really hard times, we always try to see what’s going on with each other, talk to each other, and try to find a way to solve any problem we are confronting at the time,” said Sal.

“You have to communicate,” Ryan agreed. “There’s a lot of compromise. There are some fights and there are a lot of joys as well. Like any other couple, we get frustrated with each other, whether it’s about money or washing dishes, or anything like that. But, we also really take the time to connect with each other and keep time set aside for the both of us.”

Although New Mexico law doesn’t allow Ryan and Salvador to get married, they look forward to the day when they can.

“Marriage means publicly realizing the commitment that we made to each other six years ago,” said Ryan.

Regional Center for Border Rights Dispatch

Fighting for Comprehensive Immigration Reform

There has been a sudden and fundamental shift in the landscape regarding comprehensive immigration reform. Just a year ago, who could have imagined that reforming our broken immigration system would be a policy priority shared not only by the current administration, but by leaders in both major political parties. While this new enthusiasm for comprehensive immigration reform may be born more from political and demographic calculus than an earnest desire to make our system more fair and humane, it isn’t any less welcome. It is time to stop tearing families apart and provide aspiring Americans a path to citizenship.

However, we must be vigilant throughout this process to ensure that new proposals for reform are consistent with American values. Since the November presidential elections revived the issue of immigration reform, the ACLU-NM Regional Center for Border Rights has been working with the ACLU Washington Legislative Office to organize a response to federal reform proposals.

Staff helped write several strategic documents to address

congressional and White House draft proposals, including ACLU’s framework, “Protecting Civil Liberties in Federal Immigration Reform Legislation,” which can be found on ACLU’s web site, and warns against proposals that:

- Create an “underclass” of people living without the Constitution’s full protections.
- Establish a national ID system (such as mandatory E-verify) or include measures that harm fundamental privacy rights.
- Creates more agreements that require local police to enforce federal immigration laws.

Instead, ACLU’s framework states that reform should create a welcoming road map to citizenship for aspiring Americans living in and contributing to the United States; end state and local intrusions into immigration policy and enforcement; ban racial profiling at all levels of government; and include the ability of committed and loving couples in same-sex relationships to sponsor their spouse or permanent-partner in the same way opposite-sex couples have long been able to under current immigration law.

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NEW ACLU-NM STAFF



DANIEL WILLIAMS
*Communications
Coordinator*

Daniel Williams recently joined the staff of the ACLU of New Mexico as the Communications Organizer for the All Families Matter campaign. A native New Mexican, Daniel recently returned to the state after attending Hendrix College in Conway, AR, where he double majored in Politics and Religious Studies. His organizing and advocacy experience includes work on reproductive justice, LGBT rights, worker justice, and a number of electoral campaigns. He is active in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and is discerning a call to ordained ministry.



Isabel Slator
Media Intern

Isabel Slator works as a media intern for the ACLU of New Mexico, and is also a sophomore at the University of New Mexico. Her major, Political Science, reflects her interest in law and government. She hopes to one day attend law school. Her other interests include yoga, running, and cooking. Isabel is from Taos, New Mexico.

*Continued on opposite
side bar*

Executive Director’s Notes

Supreme Court Showdowns in 2013



PETER SIMONSON
Executive Director

One of the most impressive facts you’ll ever hear about the ACLU is this: only the U.S. Department of Justice appears before the U.S. Supreme Court more frequently than ACLU attorneys. This year’s Supreme Court term will reflect that trend more than any in recent memory. The ACLU is counsel or co-counsel on six cases before the Court and has filed amicus briefs in several more.

Our lede story already introduced you to one of our most noteworthy cases: *Windsor v. United States*, a challenge to the federal Defense of Marriage Act. Along with the *Perry* case, challenging California’s Prop 8, *Windsor* will likely have a defining impact on the rights of same-sex couples for generations to come.

In *Association for Molecular Pathology v. Myriad Genetics*, the ACLU is helping decide the question “Who owns your genes?”—corporations or you? One corporation has patented two human genes known as BRCA1 and BRCA2, in which mutations correlate with an increased risk of breast and ovarian cancer. On behalf of a large coalition of research scientists, patients, and patient advocacy groups, the ACLU is arguing that human genes cannot be patented and monetized because they are classic products of nature.

In *Shelby County v. Holder*, the ACLU is defending Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, which requires certain jurisdictions that have a history of discriminatory voting practices to get advance approval from the federal government before changing their election laws. The ACLU intervened in the case on behalf of the Alabama State Conference of the NAACP and several African-American residents of Shelby County, Alabama whose voting rights are directly impacted by the county’s challenge. As we’ve seen from the myriad of mandatory voter ID bills in the states over the past few years, voting laws that target people of color and other minority groups are still far too common. Section 5 of the

Voting Rights Act helps eliminate such discriminatory and harmful practices, and is still very much relevant and necessary to protect the fundamental right to vote.

Along with other civil rights groups, the ACLU is challenging an Arizona law that, in violation of the federal National Voter Registration Act, requires election officials to reject registration applications unless prospective voters also produce proof of citizenship. Of course, like mandatory voter ID laws, this law is just an effort to make it harder for eligible citizens to vote—especially in communities of color. The Supreme Court granted cert. on the case, *Arizona v. Inter Tribal Council of Arizona*, after the entire panel of Ninth Circuit judges invalidated the law.

In *Missouri v. McNeely*, the ACLU is challenging Missouri’s claim that it must be allowed to subject people suspected of DWI to warrantless drug tests to effectively enforce the state’s DWI laws. Missouri’s argument for a categorical exception to the Fourth Amendment warrant requirement was rejected by the Missouri Supreme Court and contradicts the experience of 26 other states that prohibit warrantless blood draws in routine DWI cases.

Finally, in *Clapper v. Amnesty International*, the ACLU challenged the constitutionality of the FISA Amendments Act of 2008, a law that gives the National Security Agency almost unchecked power to monitor Americans’ international phone calls and emails. The ACLU filed on behalf of a group of lawyers, journalists and human rights organizations who reasonably fear that their international communications will be monitored by the government and have taken steps to avoid that risk – such as traveling overseas to interview witnesses and sources rather than communicating by email or telephone. A federal appeals court in New York ruled that these facts were sufficient to allow plaintiffs to challenge the law, rejecting the government’s Catch-22 argument that it need not identify whose communications are monitored, but only someone who knows that he or she has been monitored can challenge the law.

This is a big year for us in the Supreme Court, even by ACLU standards. I hope you’ll keep an eye out for these cases as the Court issues its rulings. Each of them will have a significant impact on civil liberties and could one day affect your life.

ACLU-NM Southwestern Chapter Announces 2013 Songwriter Contest

The SW Chapter of the ACLU of New Mexico is sponsoring a singer/songwriter competition in connection with its Annual Meeting, to be held on October 25, 2013. This year’s contest theme will be any aspect of our rights of privacy.

All entries must arrive no later than September 14, 2013. Finalists will be notified no later than September 28, 2013. Finalists need to be present at The Annual Meeting of the ACLU of New Mexico, Southwestern Chapter, in Silver City, NM, on Friday October 25, 2013.

- This competition is open to all musicians in the “Border Regions” of West Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona, who write and perform in any musical genre. The prize will

be a 4 hour recording session, provided at a state-of-the-art, digital recording studio and production house. All submissions must be original compositions of the Artist/Performer (maximum of 2 entries per Artist/Performer).

- No entry fee.
- Entrants will submit a CD recording of their entry (need not be professional quality, but lyrics and melody must be discernible), along with a written copy of the lyrics.

Entry must be made on an official entry form (contact William Hudson, at williamhudson43@msn.com).

From the Desk of Julie Weinstein



Dear Friend of Liberty,

This is a pivotal time for civil liberties here in New Mexico. In the aftermath of the 2012 elections, we face tremendous opportunities to advance liberty, equality, and justice for all New Mexicans, and everyone in this country, but at the same time, we face deep and serious challenges to our fundamental freedoms.

Thanks to the support of our members and donors, we were proud to say that after over two years of fighting, we won full separation pay for LGBT service members who were discharged under “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.” The decision represents a long-delayed justice to 181 honorably discharges veterans involved in the class action lawsuit.

We were all angry when Susan Koestner was denied access to her birth control medication by a Walgreens’ pharmacists in June of last year, and we pushed back on her behalf—and on behalf of potentially millions of women across the nation who may need to fill a similar prescription. Thanks to the outcry of thousands of ACLU members and the work of our legal team, in January 2013, Walgreens corporate office officially announced that they would uphold a national policy that would guarantee women equal access to birth control regardless of individual employees’ religious beliefs.

Last March, the ACLU of New Mexico filed a case with the organization Compassion and Choices to clarify New Mexico’s law against “assisted suicide.” The lawsuit makes the claim that when mentally competent, terminally ill patients ask their physician for aid in dying it is no kind of suicide. If successful, doctors in New Mexico will be able to prescribe medication that will help terminally ill patients achieve a peaceful death if they decide that their suffering has become unbearable. Sincere thanks goes to our members and donors stepped forward with support—your generous financial contributions, notes of encouragement, and letters to the newspapers helped bring this issue the attention it deserves.

Well-funded and well-organized forces have been systematically and relentlessly pushing forward an extreme agenda in New Mexico and across the country that attack our

basic rights and scapegoats the most vulnerable members of our society—immigrants; people of color; women; the poor; and LGBT people. In the coming year, we’ll use everything in our toolbox – litigation, legislation, advocacy, and public education—to build on our progress, to undo any setbacks we experience, and to stop new attacks on our fundamental freedoms.

Our Las Cruces-based Regional Center for Border Rights staff, along with our legal team and national ACLU experts are working together to fight horrifying federal abuses against immigrants, including immigration facilities where detainees have been sexually abused and denied adequate medical care, food, and access to immigration counsel. We demand humane immigration practices and policies.

We have been urging the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to investigate the policies and practices of the Albuquerque Police Department (APD) in the wake of 23 officer-involved shootings since 2010, 18 of which were fatal. At the end of November 2012, the DOJ officially announced their launch a federal investigation of the APD over excessive use of force and other civil rights violations. Our team will continue to monitor this situation closely and push for justice.

Our fiscal year comes to a close on March 31st, and we’re moving full-steam into our affiliate’s 51st year. We rely on you—our members and donors—to continue investing in this fight for fairness and equality. Please make a fiscal year-end contribution before March 31st. Use the enclosed envelope for your convenience, or donate securely online at www.aclu-nm.org/donate.

With your support, we will fulfill our longstanding commitment to make the promises of the Constitution real for everyone in this country. Thank you!



Julie Weinstein
Director of Philanthropy

Immigration Reform

Continued from page 3

“The ACLU is particularly concerned about more border enforcement in these proposals,” explains Vicki B. Gaubeca, ACLU-NM RCBR director. “Immigration reform should not be contingent upon border security. Lawmakers and experts agree there are more ‘boots on the ground’ than ever before and prior border security benchmarks set by Congress have been overwhelmingly met. There is no need to continue moving the goal posts.”

Demanding an airtight 2,000-mile border first, creates an unnecessary stumbling block to much-needed reform. Using more U.S. taxpayer’s money to enhance border enforcement is particularly concerning when the net migration rate from Mexico is now zero and apprehensions by Border Patrol have declined to levels that are the lowest since the 1970s.

With this framework in hand, the RCBR has been writing statements for congressional hearings on border security, federal prosecution programs that criminalize migration, and on immigration reform. During the last week of February, the RCBR also participated in a delegation to Washington, D.C., to meet with congressional members to ask for

more accountability and oversight of immigration enforcement officials at the U.S.-Mexico border.

“The massive increase over the last decade of Border Patrol agents at the U.S.-Mexico border has come with very few corresponding oversight mechanisms and has consequently led to a increase in civil and human rights violations, traumatic family separations, and racial profiling and harassment of Latinos and other people of color – many of them U.S. citizens and some who have lived in the region for generations,” states Brian Erickson, policy advocate at the ACLU-NM RCBR. “We hope our requests for more accountability will be reflected in immigration proposals.”

The Senate “Gang of 8,” a bipartisan group of senators who are leading the legislative push for comprehensive immigration reform, is expected to introduce a bill in March or April, followed by a four-week mark-up session. It is unclear when the House will introduce a bill. The White House is also working on a separate draft bill, which was “leaked” mid-February. If immigration reform were to happen this year, it is expected to be on the President’s desk by August. For the sake of the millions of immigrant families living in fear of being torn apart, the ACLU and the RCBR will work tirelessly to help make that happen.

NEW STAFF

Continued



Havens Levitt
Coalition Coordinator

Havens Levitt is the coordinator of the All Families Matter Coalition. She recently retired after 29 years as a high school math teacher. A native New Mexican, she has been working on LGBT rights issues in New Mexico for over 30 years. She advocated for LGBT students and staff throughout her teaching career, helping to gain domestic partner benefits for Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) employees and retirees and participating in the creation and success of the APS Safe Zone program. She has served on the boards of EQNM and several of its predecessor organizations, as well as the board of WIMIN, which produced WIMINFEST for 25 years. Among Havens’ passions are Broadway musicals, traveling, jacks, and New Mexico. She lives joyfully in the present moment (as much as possible) with Rebecca, her partner of 17 years.



With a Single Sentence, You Can Defend Freedom Now and Forever

Right now, by adding the ACLU of New Mexico to your will, you can leave a legacy of liberty for generations to come and defend our freedom today.

Name the ACLU of New Mexico in your estate plans and the LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust will make a cash matching contribution of up to \$10,000 to the ACLU today, while matching funds are available.

For simple bequest language to include in your will and for information on other gifts that qualify for the Legacy Challenge, visit www.aclu.org/legacy or call ACLU of New Mexico Director of Philanthropy Julie Weinstein at (505) 266-5915 x1001 or email at jweinstein@aclu-nm.org.

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ACLU CONTACT:
Julie Weinstein
PHONE:
(505) 255 -5915 x1001
EMAIL:
jweinstein@aclu-nm.org

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

2013 Board of Directors Election

The Governance Committee of the Board nominates candidates for election to 3 year terms on the Board of Directors of the ACLU of New Mexico. The Board has 21 members. Each year 7 positions are up for election to 3 year terms. This year we are pleased to endorse 7 current board members who have expressed interest in continuing service. All 7 are experienced, active members of the Board and are conscientious in their attendance and participation. The group represents a broad spectrum of backgrounds and hale from various areas of the state.

If you have an interest in serving on the Board we would be very pleased to hear from you, we take our ACLU-NM Board service seriously and do our best to find others that can help us move the organization forward.

There are 8 candidates competing for 7 open positions on the board. Any ACLU-NM member may vote using the ballot located at the bottom of page 8 of this newsletter.

John Briscoe
Endorsed by Governance Committee

In 2006 my wife was killed in an automobile crash. My life was changed in many ways, not the least of which was to clarify decisions about what is important to me and act accordingly. I decided that active service to the ACLU was the single most important thing I could do in this life.

Using the founding principles of our nation, the ACLU works to defend the basic human rights of all individuals. We are fortunate to live in country that was founded upon such principals and service to the primary organization defending those rights is an honor and a privilege.

I have enjoyed six years of Board service and look forward to continuing participation. The ACLU NM has become an important entity in our state with the guidance of many dedicated individuals. I want to do whatever I can to make sure that continues and feel that Board service is an im-

portant way to see that the principals of respect for all individual's basic rights remain at the forefront of public discussion.

Board service has helped me clarify my world view; six years ago I considered marriage equality as one issue among many that the ACLU NM should work for. I now think that this is the principal civil rights issue of our day. As a nation, we are becoming more accepting and there are very real opportunities here in New Mexico. I am pleased that the ACLU NM is a leading advocate on this important issue.

Michelle Brown-Yazzie, Esq.
Endorsed by Governance Committee

I would be honored to continue to serve on the Board of Directors of ACLU New Mexico. When I began serving on the Board I was eager to bring my knowledge and experience to the table to join the fight to protect civil liberties for all. I am amazed at how much I have learned during

my term on the Board about how often rights of people can be trampled by others who are most focused on their own self-interests. I also have a new understanding of how important it is that all people need to be aware of the issues of our time and to be involved to ensure that our civil liberties are protected.

During my time on the Board, I have become a judge for the courts for the Pueblos of Santa Ana and Zia. I am an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation and a descendent of the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes and the Oglala Lakota Nation, and was raised in both reservation and urban settings. Throughout my life, I have witnessed and have been directly impacted by institutionalized inequities and apathies, such as in the areas of education, health care, housing and more. As the daughter and granddaughter of advocates for Native American rights, I have a passion to serve my community towards achieving a better quality of life and equality for all.

I believe that victories are achievable, but that it takes involvement and work to achieve those victories. I look forward to the opportunity to continue to serve and partner with the members of ACLU and its staff in furtherance of the goal of protecting civil rights and liberties for all New Mexicans.

Kevin Hoover
Endorsed by Governance Committee

I have had the honor of serving on the board of the New Mexico ACLU since 2004. In that time I've come to see and truly appreciate the amazing work that this organization does.

I serve on this board to make sure that every voice is heard and that this organization has every resource necessary to protect the civil liberties in this state. It's not just for my causes (LGBT & women's rights) that I serve, but for all human rights causes. We fight for the rights of people to exist and thrive, regardless of their background or their past. I couldn't be prouder of the work this organization does.

I have made this organization a priority in my life and will continue to do so for as long as I am allowed. I would be honored to serve another term on the NM ACLU board.

Stanley M. Hordes, Ph.D.
Endorsed by Governance Committee

I am proud to serve on the Board of the ACLU-New Mexico, and to support the magnificent work performed by the staff and legal team to protect the civil rights and liberties of New Mexicans, and I would like very much to continue in this role in the future.

I have been passionate about the need to protect civil liberties for decades. My first encounter with the issue came early in life, when the principal of my elementary school threatened me with a beating unless I participated in the singing of Christmas carols. At the time I knew nothing about the separation clause of the First Amendment, but I sensed that something wasn't quite right.

But it was the study of history that forged my belief that the protection of constitutional rights to freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, freedom of the press, separation of church and state, and right of habeas corpus, are essential to the maintenance of a civilized society. History has shown how easy it is to succumb to fear during times of crisis by suppressing these basic principles, resulting in the loss of the freedoms envisioned by the visionary founders of our nation. It was the suppression of civil liberties by a frightened society in World War I and its aftermath that led to the establishment of the national ACLU in 1920. Today we are witnessing a similar collective fear of terrorist acts by "doers of evil," accompanied by other assaults on our constitutional rights.

Patricia Jones
Endorsed by Governance Committee

I seek re-election to the NM-ACLU Board of Directors Because "Freedom Can't Protect Itself."

It is 2013 and some people just don't understand.

My being committed and working toward protecting our basic civil rights and freedom of speech is important to me.

It is 2013 and some people just don't understand.

Tough times call for strong leaders who we as voters and tax payers must make more accountable.

It is 2013 and some people just don't understand.

I will continue being a community activist and working with others who understand "The Patriot Act" violates all of our protected freedom and rights.

It is 2013 and some people just don't understand.

The past administration did everything possible to erase, erode and kicked to the curb (in the name of progress) hundreds of years of hard work by masking the Patriot Act as of means of protecting our nation from terrorists.

It is 2013 and some people just don't understand.

Thanks to all of you who support the ACLU and work diligently to ensure a better nation and world for all of us.

Please vote for me and I will continue to be a community activist and work had for the organization.

It is 2013 and I will help people who just don't understand.

Rebecca Kitson
Endorsed by Governance Committee

I welcome the opportunity to continue to serve on the Board of Directors for the ACLU of New Mexico. As a local attorney who works extensively with the immigrant community of New Mexico, I know the civil liberties challenges that face often-voiceless segments of our state. Further, I recognize the unique challenges facing our border state and hope to continue to serve and support the essential work of our Regional Center for Border Rights. Their work with border communities as well as their monitoring of the Otero County Processing Center, a civil immigration detention facility in Chaparral, is of profound importance to our state.

As a graduate of UNM School of Law and now as an adjunct professor, I will work to promote the participation of law students in the important work of the ACLU. I recognize the fundamental importance of working with fellow board members to raise funds and assist in assuring the financial wellbeing of our affiliate. Overall, the New Mexico affiliate of the ACLU is the only organization of its kind in our state, and is thus essential to assuring freedom for all individuals who call the state home. I am excited to continue to work with the truly outstanding staff and the dedicated fellow board members of the ACLU of New Mexico.

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Join the ACLU of New Mexico

Online Community

Receive email alerts and take action on key civil liberties issues when it matters most.

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www.aclu-nm.org
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We're on facebook!



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...and Twitter!



www.twitter.com/aclunm



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Southern Office & Regional Center for Border Rights
Las Cruces, NM
Tel: (575) 527-0664
Fax: (575) 527-0111

Visit us on the web:
www.aclu-nm.org

Candidate Statements

Continued from page 7

Jeff Northrup

- 66, healthy, semi-retired
- Joined ACLU 1960s
- Bachelors degree, 1969, Illinois Institute of Technology
- Raced Harness horses in Chicago for two decades (groom, trainer, driver, owner)
- Founded UPS-type packing/shipping store in Taos (1994). In 2005-6, only store in USA, out of 12,000, that finished in top 100 shippers with UPS/Fedex
- Fifth attempt at NM-ACLU board
- Seen as “radical outsider” by our incestuous NM-ACLU board
- Board members are basically anointed
- Election results predetermined (except when I run, through NM-ACLU members’ petition)
- Former Taos News columnist
- Four year director (executive board) Taos Animal Shelter
- “Commissioner” Taos Hardball Baseball League
- Taos MENS non-profit youth mentor
- 20% of the vote in Taos mayoral election, 2010
- I picket 70-80 days yearly, 12-20 six-square foot signs, 3-4 hours, along Taos Highway 68, supporting children/gay/animal rights, open/honest local government, fair gas prices, independent courts/media (mayor owns four Taos radio stations)
- Constantly harassed by Taos cops, receiving dozens of unwarranted, illegal tickets/summons
- Virtually no support from NM-ACLU, though they know picketing 100% lawful

Our board are leather-chaired, advanced-degreed, dress-fancy-for-work civil libertarians. One rumpled boots-on-the-ground activist brings a fresh (unwelcomed!) perspective. The NM-ACLU usually fights for outsiders, not against. If you have family/friends in Taos, ask them about me. I’ll have your vote, for sure.

My best shot for election: VOTE FOR ME...DON’T VOTE FOR ANYONE EXCEPT ME. I need more votes, my opponents need fewer, for me to be elected.

I’d be humbled to serve on the NM-ACLU board.

John Salamack
Endorsed by Governance Committee

The ACLU-NM has become extremely important to me personally through the years I have served on the Board. I respectfully request that the membership of ACLU-NM allow me to continue to serve on the Board for another term.

The accomplishments of the ACLU-NM through those years have been numerous. I am proud that I have been a participant and a witness to these accomplishments. The next three years will be increasingly important for our affiliate in New Mexico and for the ACLU nationally. In the current political climate, it is essential that civil liberties and constitutional rights be preserved, defended and enhanced. The Board and staff of the ACLU-NM are in the vanguard in New Mexico to ensure that these liberties and rights are not eroded, diminished or lost. I am committed to participating in this work.

I thank the membership of the ACLU-NM for allowing me to serve on the Board in the past up to the present. It is my hope that the ACLU-NM membership will allow me continued Board membership into the future.

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 postmarked by April 1, 2013.** 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:

- ☐ JOHN BRISCOE
- ☐ MICHELLE BROWN-YAZZIE
- ☐ KEVIN HOOVER
- ☐ STANLEY M. HORDES
- ☐ PATRICIA JONES
- ☐ REBECCA KITSON
- ☐ JEFF NORTHRUP
- ☐ JOHN SALAMACK

Ballot for Member #2:

- ☐ JOHN BRISCOE
- ☐ MICHELLE BROWN-YAZZIE
- ☐ KEVIN HOOVER
- ☐ STANLEY M. HORDES
- ☐ PATRICIA JONES
- ☐ REBECCA KITSON
- ☐ JEFF NORTHRUP
- ☐ JOHN SALAMACK