



the TORCH

The Newsletter of the American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico

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A Huge Victory for ABQ Women & Families



Respect ABQ Women campaign manager Jennifer Ford announces the defeat of the proposed Albuquerque abortion ban at the campaign watch party on November 19th.

On November 19th, the people of Albuquerque went to the polls and soundly rejected an attempt by out-of-state, out-of-touch groups to interfere in private medical decisions about abortion, defeating the ballot measure that would have banned abortion after 20 weeks by a commanding ten point margin. The message we sent at the ballot box was clear: private decisions about abortion belong between a woman and her doctor. Government and politicians have no place in these decisions.

But four months earlier, when the ACLU of New Mexico joined with Albuquerque women, families, and organizations to form the Respect ABQ Women campaign to defeat this ballot measure, the outcome was anything but certain. Over the past few years, anti-abortion activists, with en-

thusiastic participation from conservative elected officials, have run roughshod over reproductive freedoms throughout the country, steadily chipping away at a woman's right to make private decisions about abortion with her doctor. Many feared that Albuquerque would be yet another domino to fall.

However, the ACLU of New Mexico and the Respect ABQ Women campaign knew that Albuquerque voters, once they understood the very real harm the abortion ban would inflict upon New Mexico women and families, would reject this government interference in their private medical decisions. To make sure that every likely voter was armed with the facts on this misleading ballot measure, the cam-

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Revitalize, Not Militarize Border Communities

With all the talk about immigration reform that goes on behind closed doors in Washington DC, it's rare to hear from the people who actually live on the US-Mexico border, and who will be profoundly affected by what Congress does or doesn't do regarding immigration.

On November 20, border residents from San Diego to Brownsville converged on the nation's capital to tell their stories through a display on the National Mall of handcrafted panels that make up a Border Quilt. Sixty-two panels designed by community members in southern New Mexico and west Texas joined more than 100 other panels from all along the border in Washington, D.C. to form the quilt. The action, organized by the Southern Border Communities Coalition, including the ACLU of New Mexico Regional Center for Border Rights (RCBR), was a powerful demonstration of the ways in which the lives of border residents are profoundly affected by the border policies determined by Congress.



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OF NEW MEXICO FOUNDATION
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ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87103
T/505-266-5915
WWW.ACLU-NM.ORG



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ACLU OF NEW MEXICO STAFF

Peter G. Simonson
Executive Director

Kathryn Turnipseed
Deputy Director

POLICY AND ADVOCACY

Steven Robert Allen
Director of Public Policy

Amanda Johnson
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A Huge Victory for ABQ Women

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paigned implemented a strategic and targeted plan to educate voters and get them to the polls to vote against the ban. The ACLU of New Mexico and national ACLU invested thousands of dollars and hundreds of hours of staff time towards the effort.

The investment paid off. The Respect ABQ Women campaign galvanized the community, motivating hundreds of volunteers to make phone calls and canvass neighborhoods, having personal conversations with voters about why decisions about abortion belong between a woman and her doctor. The campaign saturated the local airwaves, placing stories in the local news and running paid ads featuring powerful testimony from women and doctors who shared the real life, often heartbreaking circumstances that surround the decision to seek an abortion later in pregnancy.



Albuquerque women marching to the city clerk's office in Downtown Albuquerque to vote early against the ballot measure.

Person by person, things began to turn around. Once voters understood that the abortion ban provided no exceptions for survivors of rape or incest, no exceptions in cases of severe fetal anomalies, and only a narrow and vaguely-worded exception to preserve the life of the mother—the tide shifted against the abortion ban. Voters turned out in droves, outstripping turnout in the previous municipal election, and voted overwhelmingly against government interference in private decisions about abortion.

The implications of this victory reach far beyond Albuquerque's city limits. Running out of conservative states to target with their radical agenda, anti-abortion extremists like the Kansas-based organization Operation Rescue used Al-



Former Lieutenant Governor Diane Denish kicks off the Respect ABQ Women get out the vote canvass.

buquerque as a test case for a new anti-abortion strategy that targets abortion access in politically moderate states at the municipal level. By soundly defeating this attempt, Albuquerque voters sent a powerful message, not just to those who would interfere in our private decisions here in New Mexico, but to the entire country. We put the nation on notice that local communities will not stand for out-of-touch groups intruding into decisions that belong only between a woman and her doctor. We also demonstrated to other communities undergoing similar struggles that when we talk openly and honestly about why a woman might need an abortion later in her pregnancy, people understand why the government doesn't belong in these decisions.

Today we celebrate together this incredible achievement, but we know the struggle for reproductive freedom here in New Mexico is far from over. Our opposition, though defeated and disheartened, is not packing up to leave. Soon they will regroup and search for new avenues and opportunities to restrict access to abortion, contraception, and other reproductive health services. But the ACLU of New Mexico and the broad coalition of community organizations involved in the Respect ABQ Women campaign are ready to turn them back in the legislature, at the ballot box, and, if necessary, in the courts. Our opposition failed in banning abortion in Albuquerque, but they succeeded in revitalizing and strengthening the reproductive freedom movement in New Mexico. A heartfelt thanks to the many ACLU of New Mexico supporters who rose to the challenge at this critical moment and dedicated their time and resources to this movement. Without you, this historic victory would not have been possible.

ACLU Board of Directors Notice of Elections, 2014

If you desire to run for one of the seven open positions on the ACLU-NM Board of Directors, please send to the ACLU-NM Governance Committee:

A 250 word statement of interest to the ACLU-NM Board Governance Committee to be considered as a Board nominee; or a petition signed by 1% of the ACLU-NM membership (currently 6,100 members total), supporting your nomination, along with a 250 word statement of interest. NOTE: Statements of interest must include a statement of willingness to serve, if elected.

The ACLU-NM office must receive statements of interest/signed petitions by January 31, 2014. Nominees' names will be placed on the election ballot and their statements

will be published in the next issue of the ACLU-NM's quarterly newsletter, The Torch.

Please mail petitions and statements to:

Governance Committee
c/o ACLU of New Mexico,
PO Box 566, Albuquerque, NM 87103

Statements may also be faxed to: (505) 266-5916

Ballots and statements of interest will be mailed to members at least two weeks prior to the election. The election will be held on March 31, 2014.

Executive Director's Notes

2013: A Year of Profound, Lasting Change



PETER SIMONSON
Executive Director

What's the best measure of an organization's impact? Number of clients served? Quality of services delivered?

By the end of 2013, the ACLU of New Mexico will have set the stage to change more lives in New Mexico than during any previous year in its history. When I say 'change,' I don't mean improvements that fade at the end of a day or month. I mean profound, lasting change. The kind of change that comes with the creating new personal freedoms and defending existing ones.

Because of the ACLU and its allies, women and their families in New Mexico can rest assured that the government will not interfere in the very private decision to terminate a pregnancy. As we discuss in this issue, a campaign called Respect ABQ Women beat back a city ballot measure that would have banned abortions in Albuquerque after 20 weeks, even in the case of rape or incest. The law would have affected women throughout New Mexico because the

only abortion providers in our state currently practice in Albuquerque. While extremist groups hack away at reproductive freedom in places like Texas and Arizona, women in our state can continue to make the best decisions about their pregnancies for themselves and their families.

Because of the ACLU and its allies, we hope that very soon thousands of same-sex couples, both current and future, will enjoy the freedom to marry in our state. For two years, the ACLU has been working to raise awareness in New Mexico that no member of anyone's family—gay or straight—should be denied their basic freedoms because of who they are and who they love. In March, 2013 we filed litigation to guarantee those freedoms, and five months later a judge agreed that same-sex couples have a constitutionally protected right to marry. Now we await a decision from our state Supreme Court that would extend that ruling to every county in the state.

And just a few weeks ago, ACLU attorneys argued in trial that the New Mexico law criminalizing "assisted suicide" does not apply to physicians who write prescriptions to mentally competent, terminally ill adults for medications that can speed a peaceful, dignified dying process. If we are successful in this suit, all New Mexicans, both healthy and sick, will have the comfort of knowing that they will have more control at the end of their lives.

Living, loving, dying. This year the ACLU's work touched the most elemental aspects of the human experience. And our impact will resound through an unknowable number of lives.

Inside the Box



In early 2012, former prisoner Stephen Slevin won a \$22 million jury verdict after being confined in a tiny cell at the Doña Ana County Detention Center for almost two years without a trial. Slevin was placed in solitary confinement with an existing mental condition that was made significantly worse during his isolation. He developed bedsores and fungus. His toenails grew so long they curled under his toes. Denied dental care, he was even forced to extract one of his own teeth. Slevin's horrific story struck a chord in New Mexico and around the world, raising new concern about the use and abuse of solitary confinement in our prisons and jails.

Partly in response to Slevin's case, the ACLU of New Mexico, in collaboration with the New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty, launched a research project to shed light on

this issue. Our findings have been compiled into a report titled "Inside the Box: The Real Costs of Solitary Confinement in New Mexico's Prisons and Jails."

In October 2013, we presented this report before the interim legislative Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee. Our research revealed that solitary confinement is indeed overused in New Mexico. It is also likely underreported because detention facilities in New Mexico, especially at the county level, do not collect data on its use in an accessible and uniform manner. Finally, isolation is too often used as a way to address prisoners' mental illnesses, frequently making the illness worse, as was the case with Slevin.

Thankfully, the New Mexico Corrections Department has invited the Vera Institute for Justice to assess the department's use of solitary confinement and to recommend changes designed to restrict the number of prisoners placed in long-term isolation. But much work remains to be done. Our report recommends the following reforms in New Mexico:

1. increase transparency and oversight of the use of solitary confinement;
2. limit the length of solitary confinement to no more than 30 days;
3. mandate that all prisoners are provided with mental, physical and social stimulation;
4. ban the use of solitary confinement on the mentally ill;
5. ban the use of solitary confinement on children.

Using the report as a springboard, the ACLU of New Mexico, in collaboration with its allies, will make the reform and limitation of solitary confinement a top strategic priority for its advocacy work during the upcoming and subsequent legislative sessions.

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Development Associate



Christine Vigil serves as the Development Associate for ACLU-NM, assisting in the affiliates fundraising efforts. Prior to joining the ACLU-NM Christine served as the Director of Development for the National Hispanic Cultural Center and as the Director of Grant Development for an international performing arts organization. She attended the University of New Mexico where she obtained a Bachelor of Fine Arts and is working to complete a Master of Fine Arts. An avid supporter of the arts, Vigil is the Contributing Dance Editor for a locally based arts publication and lecturer in the Department of Theatre and Dance at UNM.

ACLU-NM Case Overturns Guild Cinema Conviction in “Pornotopia” Case



PHOTO COURTESY OF ABQ JOURNAL

On September 12, the New Mexico Supreme Court ruled that by hosting “Pornotopia,” a two-day erotic film festival, Guild Cinema did not violate city zoning laws regarding so-called ‘adult amusement establishments.’ The Supreme Court’s ruling overturns the rulings of two lower courts. Although the ACLU of New Mexico also brought First Amendment Free Speech claims, the court chose to rule narrowly on the zoning issue and did not reach the constitutional questions raised by the ACLU of New Mexico’s suit.

“We are tremendously pleased that the Supreme Court overturned the lower courts’ ruling against the Guild Cinema today,” said ACLU-NM Executive Director Peter Simonson. “Common sense dictates that hosting one erotic film festival does not make the Guild Cinema an ‘adult amusement establishment,’ any more than a club that plays jazz music one night out of the year is a ‘jazz club.’”

The ACLU of New Mexico originally filed the suit on behalf of the Guild Cinema in 2008 after two zoning enforcement inspectors from the city cited the theater for “operating as an adult amusement establishment” in an area not zoned for adult entertainment. The Guild was convicted of this zoning violation in Albuquerque Metropolitan Court, and the conviction was upheld in State District Court.

The Supreme Court overturned the lower courts’ rulings concluding:

Because the Guild engaged in only occasional showings of adult films, the Guild is not an adult amusement establishment as defined in the Albuquerque Code of Ordinances, and the zoning rules governing adult amusement establishments are inapplicable to it. We therefore reverse the Court of Appeals and vacate the Guild’s conviction.

“This is a significant victory for free speech in Albuquerque,” said ACLU-NM Legal Director Laura Schauer Ives. “In essence, the court has said that the city cannot limit speech, even speech it doesn’t like, without actual justification.”

ACLU-NM Sues on Behalf of a Woman Subjected to Horrific Body Cavity Searches by Government Agents at the Border

In December 2012, 54 year-old New Mexico woman A.S.M. (initials used to protect the privacy of plaintiff) crossed into the United States from Juarez, Mexico via the El Paso bridge on her way back from visiting a friend. As she passed through the border checkpoint, a drug-sniffing dog alleg-

edly alerted on A.S.M., who was carrying no contraband. At the bark of a dog, her nightmare began.

Over the course of the next six-hours, government agents subjected A.S.M. to a series of highly invasive, warrantless searches, any one of which would have been humiliating and demeaning. First, government agents stripped searched A.S.M. and made a visual and manual inspection of her genitals and anus. Finding nothing, agents next subjected her to an observed bowel movement. When that procedure yielded no evidence of drugs, agents X-rayed A.S.M. Having found nothing, agents next shackled A.S.M. to an examining table and inserted a speculum into her vagina, performed a rectal exam on her, and conducted a bimanual cavity search of her vagina. Still not satisfied, Defendants subjected A.S.M. to a CT scan, bombarding her body with radiation, and again found no evidence of drugs.

Shortly after these searches concluded, the Medical Center and Texas Tech University Health Sciences center invoiced A.S.M. over \$5,000 for the cost of the searches forced on her.

A.S.M. was and is profoundly traumatized by this horrific experience, and continues to suffer significant mental and emotional anguish from what she considers to be “medical rape.”

“This is truly one of the most horrific cases the ACLU of New Mexico has ever encountered,” said ACLU-NM Legal Director Laura Schauer Ives. “That our government subjected an innocent 54-year-old woman to such extreme and illegal searches and treated her with such inhumanity should outrage all Americans. We must ensure that government agents never put another person through a nightmare like this ever again.”



PHOTO BY JOSH DENMARK

“These are the wages of the ‘War on Drugs’ and out-of-control border militarization,” added ACLU-NM Executive Director Peter Simonson. “We cannot let our border region become a ‘Constitution-Lite’ zone where these sorts of human and civil rights abuses occur with impunity. This sort of brutality cannot continue.”

In December 2013, the ACLU of New Mexico filed a lawsuit against the government agents and medical personnel, alleging that they violated the Fourth Amendment prohibitions against unreasonable searches and seizures and false arrest and imprisonment. The legal complaint further alleges that defendants deprived A.S.M. of Due Process under the Law guaranteed under the Fifth Amendment. The suit asks the court to declare the defendants actions in violation of the U.S. Constitution and provide compensatory and punitive damages to the plaintiff.

ACLU-NM Argues Freedom to Marry Case in New Mexico Supreme Court



Griego v. Oliver plaintiffs & attorneys in front of the New Mexico Supreme Court building.

Just six months after the ACLU of New Mexico and its legal partners filed *Griego v. Oliver*, the groundbreaking freedom to marry case in New Mexico, the state's highest court heard our arguments that committed, loving same-sex couples should have the right to marry in New Mexico. The hearing garnered tremendous attention from both local, state, and national media and spurred a groundswell of support and excitement here in New Mexico.

Hundreds of citizens and journalists showed up to attend the historic hearing in person, with thousands more tuning in to the live feeds of the proceedings broadcast online.

As of this writing, we are still waiting to hear whether this lawsuit will make New Mexico the 17th state in the country to allow same-sex couples to marry.

ACLU-NM Files Lawsuit Against Jail Guard for Macing Inmate's Genitals



In 2011, Albuquerque resident Marlene Tapia was brought to the Metropolitan Detention Center for an alleged probation violation. On her arrival at the detention center, two corrections officers took her to the shower area to conduct a strip search. Tapia was then ordered to bend over at the waist while fully nude, whereupon the corrections officers observed a plastic baggie protruding from her genitals, which they presumed to contain contraband.

One of the corrections officers then repeatedly sprayed a chemical agent designed to burn, irritate, and incapacitate directly on Tapia's bare genitals. The chemical agents caused her to suffer severe pain that lasted for several weeks. At the time she was sprayed, Tapia was not resisting the officers in any way.

In our justice system, we do not administer cruel and unusual punishment to people who break the rules. The actions of this corrections officer were without justification and wholly sadistic in nature, serving only to inflict excruciating pain and humiliation on Tapia.

To ensure that this sort of inhumane treatment is never again repeated in any corrections facility in New Mexico, the ACLU of New Mexico filed a legal complaint against the corrections officer for battery and use of excessive force. The lawsuit asks the court for both compensatory and punitive damages.

ACLU-NM and Compassion & Choices Take Landmark Physician Aid In Dying Lawsuit to Trial



Morris v. New Mexico plaintiffs, expert witnesses, & attorneys after oral arguments in the Bernalillo County Court.

In 2012, the ACLU of New Mexico and the national organization Compassion & Choices filed a lawsuit—the first of its kind—in New Mexico state court seeking to establish that New Mexico's prohibition against "assisting suicide" does not apply to mentally competent, terminally ill patients who seek physician aid in dying when their dying process becomes unbearable. Dr. Katherine Morris and Dr. Aroop Mangalik, both Albuquerque oncologists, and Santa Fe resident Aja Riggs, who was diagnosed with advanced uterine cancer in 2011, serve as plaintiffs in the case.

Physician aid in dying for terminally ill, mentally competent patients is explicitly legal in Oregon, Montana, Vermont, Washington, and Hawaii.

This December, ACLU-NM attorneys argued before the court that physician aid in dying is no kind of suicide and should therefore be permitted under the law in New Mexico. Dr. Morris, who has prescribed life ending medication to terminally ill patients when she practiced Oregon, testified about why her patients sought her help in ending their suffering and achieving a peaceful death. Two physicians from Oregon and Montana with experience in aid in dying, testified as expert witnesses, sharing their experiences and explaining why aid in dying is consistent with best medical practices. An Oregon psychology expert also clarified that aid in dying and suicide are distinctly different phenomena and should never be conflated.

Aja Riggs, too, testified to explain why she would want the option of aid in dying:

"If this disease is going to end my life, I don't know if I want to go to the very end with it. When I say the very end, I picture being in pain or mostly unconscious in a bed, with my loved ones around me in distress. I have a good life and I want to keep living. But if the cancer is going to kill me, I want the peace of mind of knowing that I have some choice at the very end. If my dying process becomes unbearable I want my doctor to be able to prescribe medication I could take to avoid further suffering and have a peaceful death."

The judge in the case is considering the evidence and will deliver her ruling by mid-January 2014, possibly making New Mexico the sixth state with physician aid in dying.



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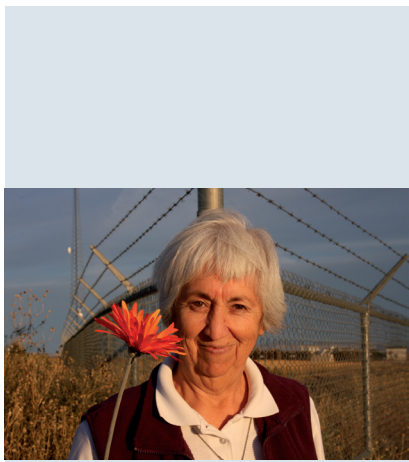


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RCBR Launches 'Flower Power' Campaign

RCBR staff is excited to announce its participation in the newly launched Flower Power project that is part of the border-wide Revitalize Not Militarize campaign. This project involves photos of individuals holding an orange Gerbera daisy in front of something that represents militarization, like the border wall, or the need for revitalization.

For example, Sister Maria Teresa Tellez (pictured above), from the Religious of Assumption, holds an orange daisy in front of the Otero County Processing Center, an immigration detention center in Chaparral, New Mexico. This campaign will be rolled out via social media channels, including on RCBR's new Facebook page, and on the revitalizenotmilitarize.org web site. We invite you to participate. If interested or for more information, send an email to Caroline Iosso at ciosso@aclu-nm.org.

Revitalize, Not Militarize

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Under the banner of "Revitalize not Militarize", border communities are calling on Congress to invest in the real needs and priorities of border communities—better schools, jobs and health care—rather than spending billions of dollars on military-style border enforcement. The quilt was visited by members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus including: Congressman Rubén Hinojosa of Texas, Congressman Juan Vargas of California, Congresswoman Linda Sanchez of California, Congressman Raul Grijalva of Arizona, and Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan of the Northern Mariana Islands.



Modelled after the AIDS quilt, the Border Quilt includes individually crafted panels that tell distinct, poignant stories of struggle, loss and determination. Here's a sample:

- Griselda's handwritten panel tells the story of her family's harrowing escape to the U.S. from Honduras. The trip included a journey on the infamously dangerous train called *la Bestia*, or the Beast. They fled their country because their lives were threatened by members of organized criminal groups in Honduras. When they arrived at one of the border bridges in El Paso, Texas, the U.S. agent who interviewed them verbally and physically abused her young son. Despite the intimidation, the family was able to cross into the U.S. They are now living at a migrant shelter in El Paso, awaiting a decision on their asylum request.
- Emma, from Anthony, New Mexico, has two young granddaughters, both under the age of 10, who have already witnessed the trauma of family separation so common in border communities. The parents of two of their best friends were recently deported to Mexico, and forced to leave their children behind. Every day, Emma's granddaughters see their young playmate's suffering, and they can't understand why our government keeps taking parents away from their children. Their quilt panel includes their handwritten testimony and a picture of their friends drawn in marker.
- Josefina also lives in Anthony, New Mexico, about a thirty minute drive from the border. Like many border residents, she frequently travels to and from Ciudad Juarez in Mexico on business and to visit family, often waiting hours in long lines at the U.S. border crossing. Josefina is well aware that cross-border business is the lifeline of the border economy, and doesn't understand why many of the lanes on the bridges are not staffed. She wants to know why her representatives are discussing spending billions of dollars on equipment like drones and surveillance cameras rather than investing money to make border crossings more efficient. Her quilt panel depicts one of the bridges between El Paso,

TX and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, with multiple lanes for traffic, all of which are inexplicably closed except for one.

The quilt project is just one piece of the critical work that the Regional Center for Border Rights has done throughout the past year to demand better policies for the border while congress discusses immigration reform. RCBR staff traveled to Washington D.C. six times in 2013 to conduct seventy hill visits reaching thirty-three congressional offices to push for just immigration reform that considers the quality of life of border residents. These visits resulted in the introduction of seven amendments, four of which were accepted and included in the final Senate bill addressing issues of excessive use of force, training improvements, and dangerous deportation practices, among others. The RCBR has also played a lead role in bringing Customs and Border Protection to the table with NGOs to improve policy and training.

On the House side, RCBR staff helped draft portions of two separate bills, one of which aims to prevent family separation during apprehension at the border, limit dangerous deportations, and establish custody standards, and the other which aims to promote family unity by providing the Department of Homeland Security and judges with greater discretion to consider family separation as hardship.

These efforts along with the panels of the Border Quilt cry out to members of Congress to respect the 15 million people who live along the southern border, to hear their voices, to help their vibrant economies thrive, and to resist the militarization of their communities. The quilt is a part of the ongoing effort to work for just and fair immigration reform which has gained momentum over the past year. As we approach the end of the year without a resolution to the immigration reform debate in sight, border residents will continue to demand more for their communities than drones and fences.



ABOVE: Delegates from the Southern Border Communities Coalition from California, Arizona, and New Mexico and allies from Washington DC.



ABOVE: Congressman Ruben Hinojosa speaking with Valentin Tachiquin: a father whose daughter, Valeria Monique Tachiquin, a U.S. citizen and mother of five was shot and killed in a residential neighborhood of San Diego by a plain-clothed border agent serving a warrant in the area on someone else.

Images from the 2013 Bill of Rights Celebration



1. ACLU-NM Executive Director Peter Simonson addresses a packed house in the Sheraton Uptown Ballroom.

2. Broom Dust Caravan plays for Bill of Rights Celebration attendees during the cocktail hour.

3. Molly Schmidt Nowara (2nd from left) receives the Cooperating Attorney of the Year award for her work defending local abortion provider Dr. Shelly Sella (1st on right) from spurious medical board complaints filed by anti-abortion activists. Award presented by ACLU-NM Legal Director Laura Schauer Ives (1st on left) and Staff Attorney Alexandra Freedman Smith (2nd from right).



4. Cooperating attorneys from *Griego v. Oliver* receive the Guardian of Liberty award for their work on behalf of marriage equality in New Mexico.



5. 2013 Guardian of Liberty awardees with ACLU-NM Executive Director Peter Simonson: (from left to right) Lynn Perls, Maureen Sanders, Peter Simonson, Kate Girard, Lynn Mostoller, & Peter Kierst.

6. Board member Tova Indritz recognizes the service of Theo Crevenna, ACLU-NM's longest serving board member who passed away in June.



7. Award winning journalist Peter Maass delivers the keynote speech on America's expansive surveillance state.



CONTACT THE ACLU
OF NEW MEXICO

American Civil Liberties
Union of New Mexico
PO BOX 566
Albuquerque, NM 87103
info@aclu-nm.org
Tel: (505) 266-5915
Fax: (505) 266-5916

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

From the Desk of Ernest Rodriguez-Naaz

“For to be free is not merely to cast off one’s chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.”

- Nelson Mandela

When we woke to the news that Nelson Mandela had died I couldn’t help but feel a great sorrow as I drove to the office. Mandela was more than a man; he was a symbol of freedom who meant so much to people across the world, inspiring us to be our best selves. Mandela embodied the universal human ideals of freedom and equality that are the foundation of our Constitution. As I reflect on Mandela’s legacy, I think he would have been proud of the work we’ve done this year defending those ideals here in New Mexico.

Just from this issue of our newsletter you can see the tremendous impact that the ACLU of New Mexico has on the landscape of freedom here in our state. In these pages you’ve read about our campaign to stop border militarization, our supreme court case that has set the stage for making New Mexico the 17th state to allow marriage equality, the huge victories we helped score against anti-abortion forces in our state, the multiple police brutality lawsuits we filed, our suit to expand end-of-life choices for terminally ill people, our victory over film censorship in the state supreme court—and that’s all just in the last couple months!

I have been inspired by your financial support and without it none of this important work would have been possible. Your generosity really made a difference and we know it.

The world lost one of its great freedom fighters in Mandela, but his spirit and his example live on in the people who continue to stand up for what is right and fair everywhere—including here in New Mexico. As I look toward a new year and new challenges, I urge you to make a bold investment in the future of liberty and freedom. Your continued support will personally impact thousands of individuals and families here in New Mexico and across the country. Please use the enclosed envelope to make a tax deductible, year-end gift, and or you can also donate securely through our web site at www.aclu-nm.org. By doing so, you can be confident that we will be ready to rush to the defense of freedom.



With much appreciation and gratitude.

Yours in service,

Ernest Rodriguez-Naaz
Director of Philanthropy

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.

Through December 31, 2013, if you name the ACLU of New Mexico in your estate plans 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 Ernest Rodriguez-Naaz at (505) 266-5915 x1001 or email at erodriguez-naaz@aclu-nm.org.

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
LEGACY
CHALLENGE

