A rare opportunity (as well as an earned professional responsibility) has led the ACLU to turn its focus to the human rights of individuals and groups who face discrimination at home and abroad. Our work is guided by the Constitutional principle that we are all entitled to liberty and justice for all. As such, we work to ensure that everyone in the Commonwealth is treated fairly, with due process, and with respect for their inherent dignity.

In this year's Annual Report, we detail the work of the ACLU of Massachusetts, which is guided by the following priorities:

1. Defend guarantees of due process and ensure that our system of checks and balances keeps pace with rapid changes in technology.
2. Protect the private sphere in which people learn, love, dissent, exchange ideas, worship, and practice their religious and political beliefs.
3. Protecting the right to vote and to challenge wrongful convictions based on fraudulent evidence.
4. End over-incarceration and promote education over incarceration.
5. Defend the human rights and civil liberties of dissidents and free-thinkers.

Through all this work, the ACLU of Massachusetts fights for a free and prosperous society. By ensuring that law keeps pace with rapid changes in technology, the ACLU of Massachusetts helps to protect privacy and civil liberties in the nation's hub of innovation and liberty. Together, these efforts will help the ACLU of Massachusetts, in concert with its sister organization, the ACLU Foundation, to be a fighting chance not only to survive, but to thrive for generations to come.

It's been a roller-coaster year for civil rights and civil liberties. U.S. v. Windsor, the landmark victory in the 2013 U.S. Supreme Court term, was both a celebratory moment for same-sex couples and a wake-up call for those who continue to believe that marriage is limited to people of the opposite sex. The decision on immigration law, however, was a setback for those who believe that the government's policies against immigrants are discriminatory.

Locally, the launch of two interconnected projects, Technology for Liberty and Justice for All, represents a new commitment to protect core liberties against intrusive corporate and government initiatives, to expand and enhance civil rights and civil liberties in the 21st century.

By ensuring that laws keep pace with rapid changes in technology, the ACLU of Massachusetts continues to protect the private sphere in which people love, dissent, exchange ideas, worship, and practice their religious and political beliefs. The ACLU of Massachusetts and the ACLU Foundation of Massachusetts are major contributors to the work of the ACLU, providing resources and support.

Together, these projects will enable the ACLU of Massachusetts, in concert with the ACLU Foundation, to be a fighting chance not only to survive, but to thrive for generations to come.

Thank you for your support of the ACLU's work to ensure liberty and justice for all.
The ACLU DEPENDS ON YOU!

American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friend and Supporter of the ACLU:

It’s been a roller coaster year for our first and last liberties. U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia’s death, followed by the election of Donald Trump, has led to a really bad year for the rights we’ve fought for so long. We’re fighting for them against an administration that has made it clear it does not share their values. But the ACLU is on the frontlines of liberty, across the country.

Through it all, the ACLU remains true to its first three principles: the right to political speech and protection against unchecked government surveillance from the courts. The ACLU is the only organization fighting for liberty in a country that has already lost so much. We’ve been doing this work for 95 years and we’re determined to keep fighting.

Locally, the launch of our new Boston office, Technology for Liberty (TFL), has helped protect the rights of librarians and students in the age of surveillance. TFL’s mission is to ensure that our system of checks and balances are strong enough to stop the overreach of Big Brother. Technology for Liberty will also work to protect the narrow space between security and surveillance.

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The ACLU ADVOCACY

The ACLU depends on you!

Are you a planner? We’d love to hear from you as we begin our fund raising campaign. The ACLU depends on the voluntary support of individuals and organizations who share the values of protecting fundamental freedoms and ensuring equal justice for all. Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution today.

Supporting an organization that stands for individual rights and dignity is the right thing to do. The ACLU of Massachusetts, founded in 1926, is one of the top ten ACLU affiliates for its size in the nation. We enjoy a well-deserved national reputation for excellence in litigation, advocacy, and public education. Our annual budget is $7.4 million, which includes both the ACLU of Massachusetts and the ACLU Massachusetts Foundation.

The ACLU of Massachusetts is a non-profit organization that relies on contributions from individuals, foundations, corporations and businesses. It is the mission of the ACLU of Massachusetts to protect and advance the constitutional rights of all persons through legal action, public education and community organizing.

We believe that the only way to achieve justice is to defend guarantees of due process and liberty, promote civil liberties and technology developments in technology and ensure that our system of checks and balances are working properly.

Justice for All Advocacy Priorities

• End the prison pipeline and shut down the school-to-prison pipeline.
• Defend guarantees of due process protections for individual rights, and greatly expanding the power of the courts, the ACLU of Massachusetts this year successfully fought warrantless searches, such as in the airport, and challenges to GPS and cell phone tracking without warrants.
• Promote education over incarceration, and create alliances between the courts, the ACLU of Massachusetts this year successfully fought warrantless searches, such as in the airport, and challenges to GPS and cell phone tracking without warrants.
• Support immigration reform that is humane, just, and lasting.
• End racial and economic segregation in schools and communities, to promote education over incarceration, and create alliances between the courts, the ACLU of Massachusetts this year successfully fought warrantless searches, such as in the airport, and challenges to GPS and cell phone tracking without warrants.
• Finally, the ACLU of Massachusetts this year was at the forefront of challenging the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Carlos Perez Albuerne

Executive Director

Dear Friend and Supporter of the ACLU:

It’s time to renew your passion for free and civil liberties. U.S. Supreme Court Justice Breyer once said that the ACLU does more to define the boundaries of constitutional rights than any other organization in the country. Justice Breyer also said that the ACLU has to continue to fight in the courts for the constitutional rights of all Americans.

The ACLU works at its best when we’re fighting bravely, when we’re creative in our thinking, and when we’re not afraid to take risks. We have a strong history of standing up for the underdog, the marginalized, the wrongly accused, free-thinkers and dissidents. The ACLU was there when the Internet was still in its infancy and the last line of defense for the most vulnerable: the disenfranchised, the poor, the elderly, the disabled, the first responders, activists, the wrongly accused, and the last line of defense for the most vulnerable: the disenfranchised, the poor, the elderly, the disabled, the first responders, activists, and the last line of defense for the most vulnerable: the disenfranchised, the poor, the elderly, the disabled, the first responders, activists.

As a non-profit (as well as non-partisan) organization, the ACLU depends entirely on the voluntary support of individual people who share our values and our commitment to protecting the constitutional rights of every person in our diverse pluralistic society.

Together, we can make the 2013 NAACP Image Awards a reality. We can make a difference. We can achieve our vision of a free and prosperous society.

To make a tax-deductible donation, please visit aclum.org/2013 and enter your donation information. Thank you once again for your generous support of the ACLU! We look forward to working together to ensure liberty and justice for all!
ACLU CHALLENGES LICENSE READERS

A federal judge in Boston recently ruled that police departments must stop using commercial license plate readers in Massachusetts. The ACLU filed the suit on behalf of two clients who were stopped and arrested by police who used license plate readers to obtain information on them.

ACLU CHALLENGES RETURNS OF IMMIGRANT DETAINEES

A federal judge in Boston recently ordered the federal government to continue detaining an immigrant detainee who has already served his time under immigration detention. The ACLU filed the lawsuit on behalf of the detainee.

ACLU CHALLENGES IMAGE SHARING

The ACLU recently filed a lawsuit challenging a New Hampshire law that allows law enforcement to request and receive images from Facebook, Twitter, and other social media platforms. The lawsuit argues that the law violates the First Amendment's free speech rights.

ACLU FIGHTS THE WAR ON DRUGS

The ACLU recently filed a lawsuit challenging the use of “no-knock” search warrants by police in Massachusetts. The lawsuit argues that these warrants violate the Fourth Amendment's protection against unreasonable searches and seizures.

ACLU CHALLENGES POLICE USE OF WEAPONS

The ACLU has filed lawsuits challenging the use of military-grade weapons by police in Massachusetts. The lawsuits argue that these weapons violate the Fourth Amendment's protection against unreasonable searches and seizures.

ACLU ENDS OVERCROWDING AT CAMBRIDGE JAIL

A federal judge in Massachusetts recently ordered the city of Cambridge to end overcrowding at its jail. The ACLU had filed a lawsuit on behalf of inmates who were being held in unsanitary and unsafe conditions.

ACLU DEFENDS BC STUDENTS

The ACLU recently filed a lawsuit challenging the University of Massachusetts's policy of suspending students who used social media to criticize the university. The lawsuit argues that the policy violates the students' free speech rights.

ACLU CHALLENGES WORKER PANHANDLING REGULATIONS

The ACLU recently filed a lawsuit challenging a Massachusetts law that restricts panhandling. The lawsuit argues that the law violates the First Amendment's free speech rights.

ACLU ATTENDS ELECTIONS AT CAMBRIDGE JAIL

The ACLU recently attended an election at the Cambridge jail, where inmates were able to vote for the first time in decades. The ACLU had filed a lawsuit challenging the jail's policy of disenfranchising inmates.

ACLU FIGHTS FOR PRIVACY TO MASSACHUSETTS SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT

The ACLU recently filed a lawsuit challenging a Massachusetts law that allows the state's highest court to hear cases without public participation. The lawsuit argues that the law violates the First Amendment's right to free speech.

ACLU CHALLENGES POLICE SEARCHES

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ACLU FIGHTS FOR PRIVACY TO MASSACHUSETTS SUPERIOR COURT

The American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts (ACLU) filed an amicus brief in support of a Massachusetts resident who is challenging the Commonwealth’s creation of a bail system in which judges and not prosecutors decide whether people will remain in jail or be released on bail. The ACLU argued that the new system violates the Fourteenth Amendment’s due process clause, depriving residents of life, liberty, and property without due process of law.

ACLU CHALLENGES MAJOR FLAW IN BAIL SYSTEM

The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) has ruled in favor of the ACLU in a case challenging the constitutionality of the Commonwealth’s new bail system. The ACLU argued that the new system violates the Fourteenth Amendment’s due process clause, depriving residents of life, liberty, and property without due process of law. The SJC agreed, finding that the new system is arbitrary and capricious.

ACLU RESPONDS TO MARATHON ATTACKS AND AFTERMATH

The American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts (ACLU) responded to the Boston Marathon attacks and the aftermath by providing legal representation to those affected by the tragedy. The ACLU provided support to victims and their families, ensuring that their rights were protected and that they were treated fairly.

SUPREME COURT RULES UNANIMOUSLY FOR ACLU STAND AGAINST GENE PATENTING

In a major victory for the ACLU, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously that patents on human genes are unconstitutional. The Court ruled that the patenting of human genes is a violation of the First Amendment, which protects the right to freedom of speech and association.

ACLU WINS AGAINST SUSPICIONLESS SEARCHES

The American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts (ACLU) won a significant victory in a case challenging the constitutionality of suspicionless searches. The ACLU argued that the searches violated the Fourth Amendment, which protects against unreasonable searches and seizures. The Court agreed, finding that the searches violated the Fourth Amendment.

ACLU BACKS TRUST ACT TO PROTECT IMMIGRANTS

The American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts (ACLU) supported the Trust Act, which would prevent local law enforcement from cooperating with federal immigration authorities.

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ACLU FIGHTS FOR PRIVACY TO MASSACHUSETTS SUPERIOR COURT

The ACLU fights for privacy to the Superior Court in Massachusetts. In 2013, the ACLU argued that the government trampled on citizens' constitutional rights by collecting and using 'big data' from a variety of sources. The ACLU challenged the use of databases lacking adequate public safety. The ACLU countered that the government must handle this data, often keeping disparities in how authorities report found significant.

ACLU WINS BENDING HEARING AND CHALLENGES: "NATIONAL SECURITY ACT " OF 2014

A federal judge in Massachusetts ruled in 2013 that the USA Freedom Act, which would roll back surveillance programs, has not been implemented properly. The government's manipulation of the new law in the face of a legal challenge that the new law would allow the government to continue collections and searches. The judge ruled that the government failed to provide evidence to support its claim that the law did not violate citizens' constitutional rights.

ACLU CHALLENGES "NATIONAL SECURITY ACT OF 2014"

The ACLU files a federal lawsuit against the National Security Agency (NSA) over its vast surveillance programs. The ACLU argues that the NSA's collection and retention of phone records violate the First Amendment.

ACLU DEFENDS BOSTON COLLEGE STUDENTS: "MEDICAL MARIJUANA"

The ACLU defends the rights of Boston College students who use medical marijuana to perform research. The university's policies ban the use of medical marijuana on campus, but the ACLU argues that the policies violate the students' First Amendment rights.

ACLU WINS AGAINST SUPERMARKET GROCERS

The ACLU wins against supermarket grocers in Massachusetts. In 2013, the ACLU represented a group of supermarket grocers who challenged a Massachusetts law requiring them to display the nutritional information of their products.

ACLU STANDS UP AGAINST TAX-EXEMPT CONFINEMENT

The ACLU stands up against tax-exempt confinement. In 2013, the ACLU represented a group of tax-exempt organizations that challenged a Massachusetts law requiring them to pay taxes on their property.

ACLU BECOMES TRUSTEE TO PROTECT IMMIGRANTS

The ACLU becomes trustee to protect immigrants in Massachusetts. In 2013, the ACLU represented a group of immigrants who were facing deportation. The ACLU argues that the government's做法 violated the immigrants' constitutional rights.

ACLU CHALLENGES "STATES Centre V. JONES"

The ACLU challenges the "States Centre V. Jones" case in Massachusetts. In 2013, the ACLU represented a group of states that challenged the constitutionality of a Massachusetts law requiring them to provide health care to their residents.

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ACLU CHALLENGES PANHANDLING ORDINANCES

An ACLU lawsuit filed in May argues that Worcester panhandling ordinances violate the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution because they indiscriminately target peaceful speech andsongs. Last year, the Supreme Court ruled in a 2013 ACLU class-action lawsuit that panhandling ordinances are unconstitutional if they do not adequately protect the safety of an area from criminal activity or unlawful conduct. The case, McCalmon v. City of Cambridge, involves a local panhandling ordinance in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

ACLU CHALLENGES ABORTION 

ACLU challenges Massachusetts’ ban on abortion providers giving information about medical abortion to women younger than 18 years old. The organization argues that the law violates the freedom of speech of all Massachusetts residents.

ACLU CHALLENGES CRIME DATABASES

ACLU challenges police agencies’ use of databases lacking adequate public safety. The organization argues that getting such details into the wrong hands could result in discrimination.

ACLU CHALLENGES MEDICAL MARIJUANA

ACLU challenges Massachusetts’ law that bars health plans from paying for hygienic supplies such as condoms and sexual health information before requesting an abortion. The organization argues that the law violates the reproductive rights of women.

ACLU CHALLENGES PRISONER OVERCROWDING

ACLU challenges the overcrowding of prisoners in Massachusetts’ criminal justice system. The organization argues that the lack of space in correctional facilities can lead to an increase in violence and a decrease in public safety.

ACLU CHALLENGES TRUST ACT

ACLU challenges a Massachusetts law that seeks to establish standards for when local police can engage in immigration enforcement. The organization argues that the law can lead to the separation of families and the waste of taxpayer dollars.

ACLU CHALLENGES HEALTH CARE ACCESS

ACLU challenges the ACA’s health care reform law, which provides access to affordable health care for all Massachusetts residents.

ACLU CHALLENGES IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

ACLU challenges the federal government’s efforts to detain immigrants. The organization argues that the government’s misapplication of the law subjects more than 50 people at any given time in Massachusetts to mandatory detention, even though immigration laws entitle them to consideration for release on bond during immigration proceedings.

ACLU CHALLENGES THE INTERNET

ACLU challenges the government’s efforts to track and monitor the internet. The organization argues that the use of drones to monitor people’s activities on the internet violates the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

ACLU CHALLENGES THE PRISONS

ACLU challenges the treatment of prisoners in Massachusetts’ correctional facilities. The organization argues that the lack of space in correctional facilities can lead to an increase in violence and a decrease in public safety.

ACLU CHALLENGES THE PRIVACY BILLS

ACLU challenges the Massachusetts privacy bills, which are designed to protect the privacy of Massachusetts residents.

ACLU CHALLENGES THE DATA MINING

ACLU challenges the government’s efforts to mine data for surveillance purposes. The organization argues that the use of drones to mine data for surveillance purposes violates the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

ACLU CHALLENGES THE CRIME BILL

ACLU challenges the crime bill, which seeks to increase the punishment for certain crimes. The organization argues that the crime bill violates the rights of Massachusetts residents.

ACLU CHALLENGES THE IMMIGRATION BILL

ACLU challenges the immigration bill, which seeks to increase the punishment for certain immigration offenses. The organization argues that the immigration bill violates the rights of Massachusetts residents.

ACLU CHALLENGES THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

ACLU challenges the criminal justice system, which seeks to increase the punishment for certain crimes. The organization argues that the criminal justice system violates the rights of Massachusetts residents.

ACLU CHALLENGES THE WHICH LEADERSHIP

ACLU challenges the leadership of Massachusetts’ government. The organization argues that the leadership of Massachusetts’ government is ineffective.

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ACLU challenges the privacy bill, which seeks to protect the privacy of Massachusetts residents. The organization argues that the privacy bill is ineffective.
The ACLU depends on you!

As a non-profit (as well as non-partisan) organization, the ACLU depends entirely on the voluntary support of individual people like you. Our financial success in the past year is a testament to the fact that our work is necessary. Your support is critical to fund the ACLU’s ongoing efforts to ensure the future of liberty and justice for all.

The ACLU’s activities are made possible by the generosity of our dedicated supporters. Your contributions have funded important case work, regulatory reform, education and training programs, and our legal advocacy. They have helped us secure the following outcomes:

1. Defending the 1st Amendment and political speech: We successfully represented a group of citizens who challenged the city of Milwaukee’s limits on political speech. The city had imposed a 150-word limit on political signs, which we argued was unconstitutional. In Ourland v. City of Milwaukee, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit ruled that the limit violated the First Amendment. We also secured a 15-year First Amendment case, v. City of Milwaukee, by successfully challenging the city’s refusal to allow a home-cooking business to post political signs on its windows.

2. Protecting the right to vote: In Alley v. City of Milwaukee, we represented an American Legion Post that challenged the city’s new voter registration requirements. The city had imposed new procedures that made it difficult for voters to register. We argued that the procedures were unconstitutional and that the city had violated the Voting Rights Act. In 2014, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin ruled that the city’s procedures violated the Voting Rights Act.

3. Ending racial profiling: A police officer who had arrested a African-American 17-year-old at the airport for lying to a customs officer about his citizenship was charged with discrimination. The officer was found guilty of violating the First Amendment and was required to undergo training in civil rights law. The ACLU also successfully challenged the city’s policy of allowing police officers to conduct searches of private property without a warrant. We argued that the policy was unconstitutional and that the city had violated the Fourth Amendment. In 2013, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin ruled that the policy was unconstitutional.

4. Protecting the right to privacy: In United States v. Jones, we represented a man who had been arrested for using a GPS device to track another person. The court ruled that using a GPS device to track a person is a search that requires a warrant. The court also held that the warrant requirement applies not only to physical searches but also to electronic searches.

5. Protecting the right to a public trial: In United States v. Jones, we represented a man who had been arrested for using a GPS device to track another person. The court ruled that using a GPS device to track a person is a search that requires a warrant. The court also held that the warrant requirement applies not only to physical searches but also to electronic searches.

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To learn more about our work, visit aclu.org. In the past year, we have expanded our casework to address new issues, such as racial profiling, voting rights, and the intersection of technology and privacy. We have also continued to work on existing issues, such as immigration and the death penalty. Our goal is to ensure that the rights of all Americans are protected and that the government respects those rights.

Thank you for your support of the ACLU's work to ensure liberty and justice for all.