



2015-16 ACTION REPORT & ADVOCACY AGENDA



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Carol Rose, Executive Director

Fighting and Winning for Liberty and Justice, Advancing the Next Generation of Leaders

This is shaping up as a stellar year for civil rights and civil liberties at the ACLU of Massachusetts. Our *Technology for Liberty and Justice for All* initiative has enabled us to launch a series of advocacy campaigns designed to expand individual rights and freedoms for everyone.

Highlighted in this year's Action Report, these advocacy campaigns include free speech, privacy, open government, reproductive freedom, voting rights and smart justice.

It's an ambitious agenda, but we are confident that, with support of our ACLU membership in Massachusetts, we can meet the challenge.

How will we do this?

First, we will strengthen the political muscle of the ACLU by mobilizing *you*, our members and supporters, to take action in the political arena. If you haven't already done so, please sign up for our e-action alerts at aclum.org/email and raise your voice in the halls of power.

Second, we will continue to engage both new and long-time ACLU members through new and traditional means of communication, in schools, on college campuses and in neighborhoods throughout Massachusetts.

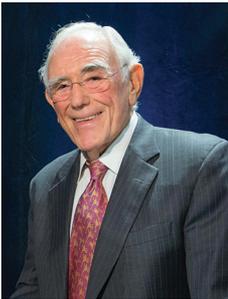
Third, we will continue to work with new and diverse communities of supporters, opening field offices around the state and strengthening our alliances with grassroots organizations.

Finally, we will continue to modernize our outreach platforms. Be sure to check out our newly revamped website, aclum.org—and follow us on Twitter ([@ACLUMass](https://twitter.com/ACLUMass)), Facebook ([aclum.org/facebook](https://www.facebook.com/aclum.org/facebook)) and Instagram ([acluma](https://www.instagram.com/acluma)).

The ACLU is on the move. Working together, we are stronger and more productive than any of us can be separately or alone. Thank you for being part of the ACLU of Massachusetts.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Rose".

Carol Rose, Executive Director, ACLU of Massachusetts



Ron Ansin, Foundation President



Kevin Prussia, Union President



Lynne Soutter, Union Vice President

Can you believe what the City of Lowell said?



Halie Jay Pope | Legal Fellow & Cartoonist | ACLU of Massachusetts | © 2015



Matthew Segal, Legal Director

FREE SPEECH FOR ALL

Municipalities in Massachusetts have begun cracking down on begging—but an October 2015 ruling on an ACLU of Massachusetts case, *McLaughlin v. City of Lowell*, marked the beginning of the end for these crackdowns.

In a powerful and unequivocal decision, U.S. District Judge Douglas Woodlock struck down Lowell's ordinance, which the city had tried to justify by calling panhandling an "alternative culture," because it was impermissible content-based censorship. "This content-based censorship is especially problematic when directed against the poor," says our legal director, Matthew Segal. "They have the fewest options for expressing their views. Lowell's scorn can't change the fact that poor people exist, that many of them have dire needs, and that they have the same free speech rights as everyone else."

The ACLU is here to defend those rights for all.

GOAL: ENSURE SPEECH EQUALITY FOR RICH AND POOR ALIKE

“Privacy doesn’t mean secrecy—it means control. The ACLU works to ensure we can use new technology while maintaining control over our lives.”

— Kade Crockford, Director,
Technology for Liberty project



PRIVACY

Our laws haven’t kept pace with technology—so the ACLU of Massachusetts drives an ambitious agenda to protect privacy in the digital age.

This year, our work helped win key rulings from the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. *Commonwealth v. Estabrook* tightened a warrant requirement we won last year for authorities to obtain cell phone location data. *Commonwealth v. Walters* applied existing First Amendment standards for offline speech to online speech. And in *Commonwealth v. Dorelas*, we are fighting for the recognition that a warrant to search for one kind of information on a cell phone should not permit authorities to search everything the phone contains.

We must also engage the next generation in this fight for digital privacy. Educators across Massachusetts are successfully integrating new technology, but after the ACLU examined 35 school districts across the state, we found that many of their policies and procedures put students at risk of serious privacy violations. We have launched a campaign for better student privacy policies across the Commonwealth.

**GOAL:
UPDATE
MASSACHUSETTS
PRIVACY LAWS**



OPEN GOVERNMENT

Massachusetts' public records law is broken. Journalists, concerned citizens and others with a need—and right—to know how our government is working too often can't get that information.

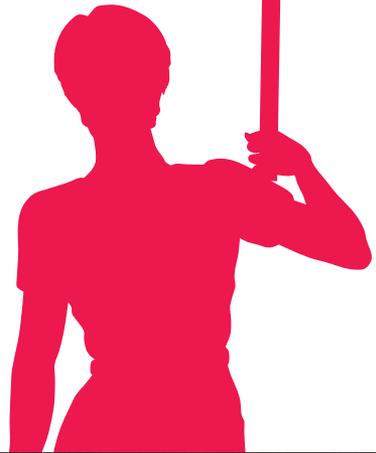
So the ACLU of Massachusetts fights for open government on Beacon Hill, where we're leading the charge to fix our broken public records law. We also fight in court—and win.

In June, the Northeastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council settled an ACLU lawsuit and released 900 pages of previously withheld SWAT team reports, policies and financial statements. They reveal the growing militarization of police, and how this serves the failed drug war.

In August, we filed a public records lawsuit against Boston police for data about officers' street encounters with civilians since 2010. These records can answer important questions about race and policing, and the BPD has no legal basis for withholding them.

The ACLU won't stop until we bring this kind of secrecy in Massachusetts to an end.

**GOAL:
PASS PUBLIC
RECORDS
REFORM!**



The ACLU fights for open government on all fronts. Staff attorney Jessie Rossman (left) helped lead work that prompted the release of 900 pages of documents on SWAT team use, and our legislative counsel Gavi Wolfe (right) argued for public records reform at a packed State House hearing in July.

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

Formidable opponents of reproductive freedom work ceaselessly to limit or undo the rights won in victories like *Roe v. Wade*—but the ACLU works to outmaneuver them.

If *Roe* should ever fall, the victory in our landmark case *Moe v. Secretary of Administration and Finance* ensures a woman's right to choose under the Massachusetts state constitution. And going on the offensive, the ACLU of Massachusetts has joined a nationwide campaign to repeal the 1976 Hyde Amendment, which excludes abortion from the comprehensive health care services provided to low-income people through federal Medicaid.

GOAL: REPEAL THE HYDE AMENDMENT



Photo by Marilyn Humphries



VOTING RIGHTS

The ACLU of Massachusetts goes to bat for the fundamental right to vote. We stand up against anti-democratic attacks, fight to expand ballot access—and win.

Last year, Governor Patrick signed into law a set of important measures that the ACLU of Massachusetts fought for, including early voting, online voter registration, pre-registration for 16-year-olds, and post-election audits to ensure every vote is properly counted. But we must do more.

The ACLU of Massachusetts is fighting for legislation that would allow eligible voters to register to vote and cast their ballot on Election Day.

GOAL: BRING DOWN BARRIERS TO VOTING



SMART JUSTICE

**GOAL:
END RACIAL DISPARITIES
IN POLICING!**

The ACLU of Massachusetts Justice for All Project works to tackle the problems in our justice system that disproportionately target and affect people of color, including the war on drugs, police misconduct and school discipline policies that funnel children into the juvenile and criminal justice system.

We're working to demand police accountability, end over-incarceration, and ensure a fair justice system for everyone.

To better understand the problems of racial profiling and disparities in law enforcement, we back state legislation to require police to collect, analyze and publish data on traffic and pedestrian stops. We've also sued Boston police for withholding such data since 2010.

Last year, we began advocating for police to use body-worn cameras. And when Boston's police commissioner announced plans this fall for a body-camera pilot, the ACLU unveiled a model policy, developed with other community leaders, to help the program succeed.





STRATEGY: REACH NEW COMMUNITIES



Our society needs the voice and creativity of every community—not the silence fostered by fear of discrimination, of being singled out, of unfair treatment. We must challenge systems of oppression that sow these fears.

In the realm of racial justice, this motivates our work to reveal the extent of racially discriminatory policing, and for measures to combat it, such as documenting every police-civilian encounter.

We also directly represent clients in court. For instance, staff attorney Carl Williams (at podium above) represented husband and wife Boston schoolteachers Edward Christiaan Summerhill and Addis Niambe Summerhill (above, left and right). They successfully fought charges against them of disorderly conduct and trespassing, following their participation in a Boston rally for racial justice.

For immigrant communities, the ACLU champions the Massachusetts TRUST Act, which would draw a clear line between the roles of federal immigration enforcement and local public safety officials.

STRATEGY: ENGAGE NEW GENERATIONS

To succeed, the ACLU knows that we must educate new generations about their rights and engage them in the critical work of protecting them.

Our work takes the form of “copwatch” trainings, in which ACLU lawyers explain the right that people have to record police performing their duties in public.

This year, we helped 11-year-old Margaleet “Leetka” Katzenblickstein of Westford, Mass. (upper left photo). When she planned a Black Lives Matter demonstration for police accountability, the police department asked town selectmen to require her to pay up to \$400 for a permit and police detail. After persuasion by the ACLU and others, Westford let the young activist exercise her freedom of speech at no charge.

And we have engaged a new generation of volunteers. This year, more than 80 ACLU volunteers have worked in our Boston office and canvassed in key legislative districts.



STRATEGY: MODERNIZE TECHNOLOGY AND OUTREACH PLATFORMS



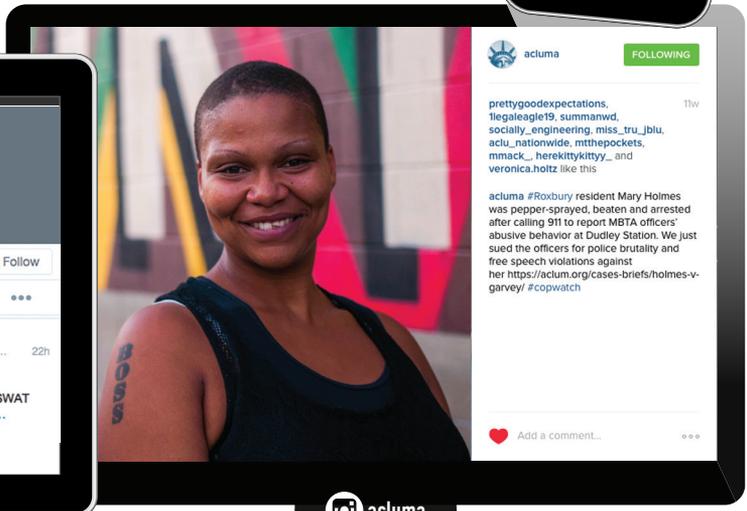
“We mail this report once a year to ACLU of Massachusetts members and supporters, plus another newsletter in the spring. If you don’t already follow us online at aclum.org, via email alerts, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, this page shows some of what you’re missing.”

– Raquel Ronzone,
Communications Specialist

 aclum.org/facebook



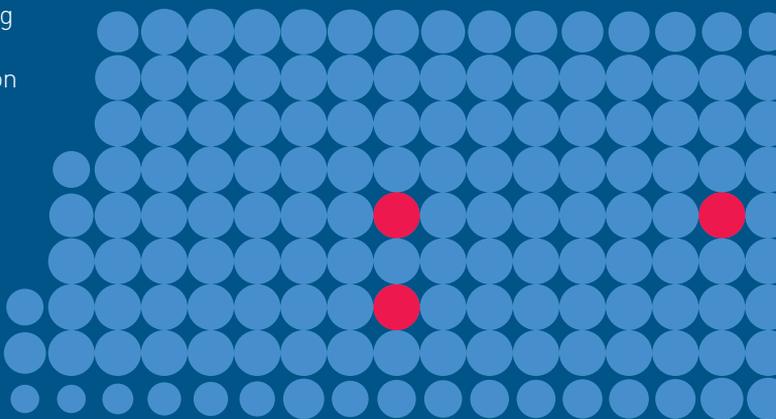
 @ACLU_Mass



STRATEGY: MOBILIZE

The world is changing, and the ACLU is changing with it, expanding mobilizing members, allies and activists to ensure that the voices

Laura Rótolo is a lawyer and advocate, focusing on immigrant rights, freedom of information and outreach to the Latino community.



Bill Newman heads our Western Massachusetts legal office, in **Northampton**, and is the author and voice of the Civil Liberties Minute podcast. aclum.org/podcasts



Based in **Worcester**, Chris Robarge serves as our field coordinator for Central Massachusetts, focusing on police accountability and voting rights.

Based in **Springfield**, organizer Vira Douangmany Cage focuses on school justice and criminal justice reform.



MASSACHUSETTS

our reach and strengthening our political muscle by
of the people are heard—and heeded—in the halls of power.

Whitney Taylor, our political director, brings more than 20 years of experience in legislative, electoral and field campaigns, and helps lead efforts in local and statewide advocacy.



Rahsaan Hall joined our staff in August to direct our Racial Justice Program and will oversee our new office in **Dorchester**.

Our field director Matt Allen this year has worked with more than 80 volunteers, both in our **Boston** office and canvassing in key legislative districts.



YOUR SUPPORT makes all of the ACLU's work possible!

The strength of the ACLU comes from the thousands of people in Massachusetts, and hundreds of thousands across the nation, who believe passionately in the values of liberty, justice and equality.

Your support—no matter the amount or frequency of your giving—is what gives the ACLU both the financial foundation and political muscle we need to successfully fight to protect our rights.

Please consider making a gift to support the ACLU's work today, to strengthen our work fighting for free speech, open government, privacy rights, smart justice, racial equality, immigrants' rights, LGBT equality, reproductive freedom, voting rights and so much more—liberty, and justice, for all!

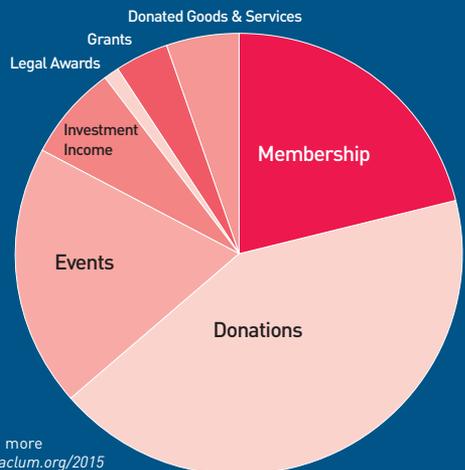


FISCAL YEAR 2015 SUPPORT

The ACLU of Massachusetts and ACLU Foundation of Massachusetts are separately incorporated non-profit organizations, each engaged in litigation, education, communication and organizing activities—and for the ACLU of Massachusetts, legislative advocacy as well—to protect the civil liberties of all people in Massachusetts. For the purpose of more simply presenting our finances, the annual revenue of both entities is combined together for the basic summary below; more detailed information about revenue and expenses, including audited financials, is available at aclum.org/2015.

FY2015 ANNUAL REVENUE*

Membership	\$480,785
Donations	\$952,774
Events	\$437,750
Investment Income	\$165,509
Legal awards	\$33,317
Grants	\$80,250
Donated Goods & Services	\$123,652
Other	\$10,174
<hr/>	
Total	\$2,284,211



* Not including one-time bequest revenue received in FY2015. For a more comprehensive look at our audited financials for FY2015, visit www.aclum.org/2015



IN MEMORIAM The ACLU of Massachusetts is deeply grateful to all those who have included the ACLU in their estate plans, including the following fondly remembered friends and supporters whose bequests have been received in 2014-15:

Denise Bacon · Helen Berman · Sean Carmody
Robert C. Cobb, Jr. · David M. Fine · Ellen Ruth Greenberg
Henry E. Haley · Jean Hardisty · Barbara R. Hoffman
Curtis Huntington · Marjorie Kaufman · Peter Lane Lindenmuth
Charlotte Loeb · Donald G. McKinley · Constance Perin
Collie Recchiuti · Paula L. Spier · Lyle L. Warner · Alice Williams

For more information about leaving a legacy of liberty by including the ACLU in your will, visit www.aclu.org/legacy or call toll-free 877-867-1025.



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