

Annual Report

President's 2007 State of the "Union"

By Jeanne Baker, President

The ACLU of Florida continued to attract the national spotlight again this year on key issues ranging from restoration of civil and voting rights, to election reform, to challenging LGBT discrimination in Okeechobee and mass physical pat-down searches at Tampa's NFL stadium. We are out in front on the major civil liberties issues and making a real difference in the lives of millions of Floridians. None of this would be possible without the dedication of time and financial resources from our volunteers and supporters, and the excellent work of our Executive Director Howard Simon and the great staff he has assembled.

Last year we announced a major expansion of the ACLU of Florida. We have now grown to 35 staff members deployed across the state, including ten staff attorneys working full-time on civil liberties litigation. We have six regional offices in addition to our State office here in Miami – in Tallahassee, Pensacola, Melbourne, Tampa, Orlando and most recently Jacksonville. We are becoming a truly statewide organization and the positive impact is being felt in local communities across the state.

Undergirding our statewide presence are our volunteer-run chapters. With support from the State and regional offices, these chapters – eighteen in place from Key West to Pensacola, Lee County to the Treasure Coast – are stronger than ever. Members are holding public education programs; attending commission meetings; tabling at community events; marching in parades; spreading the ACLU's message through our video series, The Freedom Files; and contributing in very significant ways to their communities. The ACLU of Florida is unique among ACLU affiliates, most of which launch their work from a single centralized location within the affiliate. We here in Florida are following a different path – a path that winds its way across the diverse geography of Florida and inspires grassroots activities everywhere it goes.

Our increasingly sophisticated lobbying efforts are also making a real difference in our state and nation's capitals through in-district meetings. Over the course of the past year, our volunteers met with state and federal legislators regarding gay adoption, election reform and rights restoration, among other ACLU issues. Meanwhile, our legislative office in Tallahassee continues monitoring the bills that raise civil liberties concerns and making recommendations, creating public awareness and stimulating grassroots lobbying to influence decision-makers.

Another area of heightened productivity is in our increasing use of special "projects" to bring resources across disciplines to bear on particular areas of civil liberties need. PATH, our "Providing Access for Teen Health" project, originally established to train lawyers to assist young women in obtaining judicial bypasses to Florida's parental notification law, was so successful in 2006 that it has expanded its work. The newly named Reproductive Freedom Project, while continuing to assist minors obtain judicial bypasses, is now also focusing on comprehensive sex education (versus abstinence-only education) and access to emergency contraception. Our Religious Freedom Project filed a major lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of a county

government-sponsored Ten Commandments monument on the steps of the Dixie County Courthouse. Our LGBT Advocacy Project is protecting the rights of students to form Gay-Straight Alliances in Okeechobee, Tampa, Pensacola and other cities through both litigation and community organizing avenues. Our Voting Rights Project is working around the clock on restoration of civil and voting rights for those with past felony convictions and other aspects of election reform, through litigation, public education and legislative lobbying. And our Racial Justice Project is addressing police/community tensions from Miami Beach to Ft. Myers to Pensacola through this same cross-disciplinary approach.

Many ACLU issues are on the cusp of major breakthroughs in Florida and we need to remain unyielding and dedicated – now more than ever. Our members and supporters are integral to our work. We would not be able to continue breathing life into the Bill of Rights without each and every one of you. I thank you for your support for this remarkable organization.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Baker, President
American Civil Liberties Union of Florida



President Jeanne Baker

"We have six regional offices in addition to our State office here in Miami... We are becoming a truly statewide organization and the positive impact is being felt in local communities across the state."

— JEANNE BAKER, PRESIDENT

Legal Snapshot

Harvey v. City of Miami Beach

The ACLU of Florida's Greater Miami Chapter is challenging Miami Beach's restrictive ordinances controlling panhandling, artistic displays, and performances.

Wyner v. Struhs

This is a First Amendment case involving an anti-war demonstration including the creation of a nude peace symbol. After it was settled, the case took on new life in the U.S. Supreme Court, dealing with attorneys' fees.



Photo by Nicky Hoffman

We were awarded fees for obtaining a preliminary injunction but lost our other claims on summary judgment. The Eleventh Circuit affirmed on the fee award but the Supreme Court reversed in a narrow decision limited to the facts.

Frazier v. Alexandre

Fifty years ago, the U.S. Supreme Court decided that students could not be compelled to recite the pledge of allegiance, but apparently the Palm Beach County School District was not aware of it. After a student complained that he was told he needed parental consent to refrain from reciting the pledge and would have to stand during the pledge, we filed suit challenging both the School Board's policies and a state statute. Our plaintiff was granted summary judgment against the school defendants, declaring the statute unconstitutional. The court then, upon agreement of the parties, entered a final order against the State defendants. The State appealed and oral argument is scheduled for January 18, 2008.

Gay-Straight Alliance of Okeechobee High School, et al., v. School Board

The ACLU sued the Okeechobee School District over the principal's refusal to recognize the Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA). The Board's Motion to Dismiss (raising several important issues, including whether the GSA itself could sue) was denied and our motion for preliminary injunction was granted. We also won a discovery battle, obtaining a protective order limiting the subject matters into which the school's attorneys could inquire (prohibiting discovery of the sexual orientation of any club participant, the names of anonymous participants, and participants' personal lives outside the school). The trial is expected to take place in summer 2008.

First Vagabonds Church of God, et al., v. City of Orlando

This case challenges an Orlando ordinance severely limiting food sharing for homeless persons in downtown area by allowing groups to hand out food just twice per year.

Johnston v. Tampa Sports Authority

The Tampa Sports Authority, a public entity, owns and operates Raymond James Stadium where the Tampa Bay Buccaneers play. The NFL requires stadiums to perform pat-down searches of all persons entering the stadium on game day. The ACLU sued and a trial court enjoined the searches as a violation of Florida's Constitution. The case was moved to federal court, TSA filed an appeal and numerous amici briefs were submitted in favor of the TSA, including one by the United States. Oral argument was held on April 17 in Miami and the panel unanimously reversed on June 26. A petition for rehearing en banc has been filed by the ACLU.

ACLU of Florida, Greater Miami Chapter and Miami-Dade County Student Government Association v. Miami-Dade County School Board

The ACLU challenged the banning of a series of books from the Miami-Dade County Public Schools libraries. The



Photo by Brandon Hensler

initial complaint lodged by a parent was against the book ¡Vamos a Cuba!. Subsequently, the School Board banned the entire series of 20 "A Visit to ..." English-language books and four "Vamos a ..." Spanish-language books. Part of a formulaic series that reports basic information about various countries, the books are aimed at 4-6 year-old children. The Board banned the entire series on a 6-3 vote, with one of the six "voting for the American Civil Liberties Union to file a lawsuit on us." We accepted the invitation. A preliminary injunction hearing was held July 21 with an 89-page opinion granting the preliminary injunction. The School District filed an appeal and oral argument was held on June 6 in the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals. We are awaiting a decision.

Lippman v. City of Miami, et al.

Arising out of an incident at Miami's 2003 Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) protests, suit was filed on behalf of freelance journalist David Lippman. He was under FBI surveillance as he traveled from North Carolina to Miami for being a "known protestor w/history." While in Miami, his vehicle was broken into, searched and damaged by officers from several law enforcement agencies – without probable cause. FBI agents recruited local officers to vandalize the vehicle and haul it away with his possessions. Lippman is one of seven ACLU cases stemming from the FTAA protests.

ACLU of Florida v. Dixie County

The Dixie County Commissioners unanimously voted to place a six-ton granite carving of the Ten Commandments on the Dixie County Courthouse steps. An "eleventh commandment" – Love God and Obey His Commandments – is inscribed on the bottom.



Photo by Glenn Katon

Ten Years and Counting: Howard Simon's Florida Footprint

Early in 2007, attorneys from the ACLU of Florida discovered that staff members of the newly-elected governor, Charlie Crist, were happy to speak with them about a number of topics, including how best to restore voting and other civil rights to the state's roughly one million citizens with past felony convictions who have completed all non-monetary terms of their sentences.

The ACLU's welcome in Tallahassee has not always been this cordial. When Executive Director Howard Simon was asked about the affiliate's interaction with members of Governor Jeb Bush's administration, he said: "Unfortunately, the contact we usually had with them was in court."

In fact, during Governor Bush's eight years in office, the ACLU of Florida sued the state no fewer than a dozen times.

Since his arrival in Miami ten years ago, Howard Simon's leadership of the ACLU of Florida has impacted the lives of all the state's residents following the outcome of several high profile controversies including: Terri Schiavo, Elián Gonzalez, school vouchers, defending the rights of Cuban protestors at the Latin Grammy Awards, defending the right for the Los Van Van concert to go on in Miami, election meltdowns, voter disenfranchisement and the "Vamos a Cuba" book banning case, just to name a few.

"It is hard to think of a civil liberties issue that is not a subject of controversy in Florida," observes Simon. "From voting problems to restrictions on access to abortion; from the end-of-life care issues exhibited in the Terri Schiavo case to library book censorship; from public policies motivated by hostility toward gays and lesbians to schemes to fund church-run schools with taxpayer money and efforts to enlist government endorsement for one religious point of view—we have had to respond to it all."

One of the affiliate's biggest fights with the Jeb Bush administration was over the scheme to "improve" public education by funding vouchers for church-run schools. The program was ultimately struck down by the Florida

Supreme Court in 2006. Halting the implementation of vouchers in a state of such political consequence as Florida was a huge victory for everyone who is concerned about undermining the

regional offices in Orlando, Pensacola, Tampa, Melbourne and Jacksonville.

Simon, who has worked with the ACLU for more than three decades (he served as Executive Director of the

in every region of our state." In February, for example, the new legal staff of the Central Florida Regional office sued rural Dixie County to remove yet another government sponsored Ten Commandments monument from courthouse steps.

The affiliate's priorities—voting rights, police misconduct, gay rights and racial justice, in addition to the "bread and butter" issues of religious freedom, free speech and expression, to name a few—haven't changed, but the staff's ability to address them has. Last year the affiliate established a Racial Justice Project, which has devoted most of its time and resources to continuing the hard work of ending Florida's lifetime ban on civil and voting rights for convicted felons who have completed their sentence. And in early 2007, the ACLU of Florida lobbied hard to ensure passage of a new state law banning the use of flawed electronic voting machines.

When asked about future battles he's set his sights on, Simon remarks, "I hope that we can work together to put an end to the death penalty in Florida. There have been such dramatic changes in this area that I am confident that, within my lifetime, state executions will be recognized as an uncivilized response to the worst crimes."

And for now, at least, the staff is welcomed in the state capitol building. "We have a new governor, so there's a chance of breakthroughs," he says. "We're energized and determined to work hard."

Next time you see Howard Simon, ask him: How about ten more years so you can finish what you've started?



Howard Simon with Sharon Lutz at Howard's Ten-Year Anniversary Gathering.

neighborhood public schools.

"Florida is certainly no longer just a small southern state, but a lot of its politics remain southern backwater," adds Simon. And as the November 2000 presidential election proved, what happens in Florida is of critical importance nationwide.

However, not all of our challenges have been successful. We continue working toward overturning a Florida law that prohibits gays and lesbians from adopting children. We suffered a big loss in 2004 when the Court of Appeals rejected the ACLU's lawsuit on behalf of four gay men seeking to provide permanent adoptive homes for kids in Florida's foster care system. Nevertheless, asserts Simon—win, lose, or draw—tussles like these are worth it. "We have a strong civil liberties presence in Florida now," he says.

The national ACLU is aware of Florida's political and demographic significance, and selected Florida to be part of the first phase of its Strategic Affiliate Initiative (SAI), with the goal to increase the programmatic and institutional capacity of the affiliate over the next ten years. This growth plan has already had a positive and transforming effect on the ACLU of Florida, which in the late 1990s was comprised of seven staff (in the Miami headquarters and Tallahassee legislative office) and approximately 10,000 members. We have grown to almost 30,000 members and a staff that is approaching 40 – situated not only in Miami and Tallahassee, but new

Michigan Affiliate from 1974 to 1997) and has served as the Executive Director of the ACLU of Florida for the last ten years, says the SAI is helping the affiliate build capacity to address myriad civil liberties crises in Florida, urgencies that show no sign of waning in the years to come.

"We are thrilled to be chosen to participate in the SAI initiative," says Simon. "Now we have the resources to become a truly statewide organization and respond to civil liberties challenges

Thank you for the friendship and confidence you have shown in us.
For all of these things we are deeply grateful.
Our best wishes for a safe and free New Year!

Your friends
at the ACLU of Florida

Getting to Know...

ALEXANDRA BASSIL

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

KAREN CLEGG, COLLIER COUNTY CHAPTER PRESIDENT

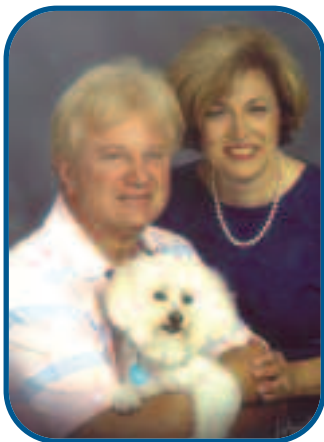
You make a living by what you get but you make a life by what you give. --Winston Churchill

Karen Clegg comes from a family that expected all its members to be active in their small mid-western community of White City, Kansas. Karen taught school, was an assistant attorney general, a corporate counsel and then an executive running business units with Allied Signal Corporation and Honeywell before retirement. When she and her husband retired to southwest Florida she heard the ACLU of Florida was trying to start a chapter in Collier County, and she called to join. She enjoys belonging and being active in the organization for the intellectual exchange of ideas and vigorous discussion of all sides before forming a position.

"The hardest part of joining the ACLU for me, let alone assuming a leadership role, was accepting the premise that some of our clients are diametrically opposed to my personal values," said Karen Clegg, ACLU Collier County chapter president. As a former attorney, she accepts the fact that the ACLU's "client" is the U.S. Constitution, particularly the Bill of Rights, and not the individuals. "If those we oppose cannot exercise their constitutional rights, when will we lose ours?" she asks.

Since the Collier Chapter was formed, Clegg has grown the membership and reached out to organizations with aligning interests. Her goal is to have the chapter and its members affect public opinion and change and provide a different perspective to local law enforcement and policy makers.

Karen and Stephen Clegg chose to refine their giving philosophy and focus on making a difference in a few areas, including education. "We fund organizations that believe in tolerance, separation of church and state and make an impact on people's lives such as those unfairly incarcerated or denied free speech. The ACLU does that," says Clegg.



NORRIS CRENSHAW, JR. AND FRANK GREER, JR.

Life partners Norris Crenshaw and Frank Greer support the ACLU of Florida because the ACLU fights for the truth when government corruption and hate rear their ugly heads.

Ten years ago, after moving to Clearwater from the Washington D.C. area, they happened to be discussing their passion for equal rights and disdain for bigotry with some local friends, who suggested they join the ACLU. They became members and joined the DeSilver Society because they want the work of the ACLU to be their legacy.

Crenshaw retired from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development after a 38-year career in the U.S. Army. Greer recently retired from the U.S. Postal Service. Both are committed to the defense of civil liberties.

Each has a strong interest in issues of equal rights, domestic partnerships and freedom to control one's own life. "When the ACLU is fighting for the rights of future generations we want to be a part of that fight to keep our Bill of Rights alive. We're committed to fairness for everyone," said Crenshaw.

They were encouraged and inspired by the leadership of Irene Miller, a former president of the ACLU of Florida's Pinellas chapter. And to this day they are quick to encourage friends they've met to join the ACLU.

"We even carry membership applications with us at all times," said Crenshaw.



ETHELENE C. JONES, M.D.

Dr. Ethelene "Lennie" Jones believes that, by herself, there's little she can do to make a difference. But as an ACLU member and ACLU state board member, she belongs to one of the most powerful and effective defenders of civil liberties in the nation.

"I feel personal pride every time our organization wins one for the little guy!" said Jones.

Her family legacy looms large in her native Detroit, Michigan, where during the 1990's she was one of a handful of obstetrics-gynecology physicians engaged with the ACLU in lawsuits opposing the state's ever-increasing restrictions on access to abortion. Dr. Jones is the heir to the charismatic and inspirational leadership style forged by her father, former Congressman and Judge, George Crockett, Jr.

"We worked in concert with the Michigan ACLU lawyers and with Howard Simon, then Executive Director of the ACLU of Michigan, who was later recruited to lead the ACLU of Florida in 1997," said Jones.

Since retiring to West Palm Beach she has served as Affirmative Action Officer on the ACLU of Florida's Executive Committee and is an active member of the state board of directors.

"After I retired and moved to West Palm Beach, Howard paid me a visit. He encouraged me to volunteer and graciously accepted my first donation to the ACLU of Florida," added Jones.

"I know that my financial support of the ACLU is helping to build a bigger 'David' to stand up to the growing Goliath-like assaults on constitutionally guaranteed rights in Florida; assaults on a woman's right to decide, arson at abortion clinics, election fiascoes, inequalities in the treatment of students based on sexual orientation, state interference in the privacy of end-of-life decisions (Schiavo), tax payer funding of church schools, government spying and eavesdropping on citizens," said Jones.

The ACLU is fortunate to have someone with Lennie's passion and dedication to the defense of civil liberties among its ranks. Her leadership is a beacon to all who surround her.



Free Speech Protected at St. Pete PRIDE Event

By Zeina N. Salam
ACLU Staff Attorney, Tampa

In early June, the City of St. Petersburg seemed intent on limiting the free speech rights of both organizers and opponents of the annual St. Pete PRIDE Day event.

When the City decided that, as a condition of granting the permit for the event, PRIDE event organizers would be required to create a "free speech zone" within the street festival for anti-gay opponents to counter St. Pete PRIDE's message of tolerance and equality, the ACLU had to get involved.

ACLU attorneys called the City's attention to a U. S. Supreme Court ruling that allowed organizers of a St. Patrick's Day parade to ban gay groups from marching in the parade based on the First Amendment associational rights of parade organizers to control the message of their event. Just two days after the ACLU notified City officials of its concerns, the City revised the permitting ordinance.

"Forcing event organizers to allow contrary messages within the event area violates the First Amendment," wrote Becky Steele, Director of the ACLU of Florida's West Central Office. "This ordinance essentially gives the City the power to violate people's rights on an event-by-event basis. It's especially unlawful to tell people where they can or cannot speak based on the viewpoint of the speaker or the content of the speech. The streets and sidewalks of the entire city should be a free speech zone for everyone."

Four days before the St. Pete PRIDE event, the permit was revised. As a result of the ACLU of Florida's communication with the City attorney and other officials, hand held signs (previously restricted)

were now allowed outside the permitted area at any time regardless of whether or not they were in the parade or on the sidewalk. However, as soon as the parade ended hand-held signs "extending past the torso" were no longer allowed within the permitted area, although T-shirt messages were deemed okay.

In addition, while St. Pete PRIDE designated a "free speech zone" adjacent to, but outside, the permitted area for anyone who wished to protest close to the event and be seen and heard, protesters were not mandated to stay within that zone. Protestors with an anti-gay message were allowed to protest anywhere outside the permitted area - a victory for the protestors' freedom of speech as well.

St. Pete PRIDE event organizers had control over the message they wished to convey (a message of tolerance and equality) in their parade and within the permitted street festival area, and whether to create space for a contrary message -- but it was St. Pete PRIDE's decision to make, not the City's. The City had first attempted to require that only speech opposed to gay rights be relegated to a "free speech zone." And until the ACLU of Florida got involved, St. Pete PRIDE had no choice but to designate a zone within its event for the opposition.

This was classic ACLU: Defending the rights of two groups, with opposing views, so that both would be able to exercise their constitutional rights.

The ACLU of Florida is now looking at challenging the ordinance and encouraging City Council to pass a protester rights ordinance protecting everyone's free speech. Stay tuned.

ACLU Investigates Assault on Latino Police Officers

By J. Miranda

In 1996, a handful of law enforcement officers formed the National Latino Officers Association (NLOA) in response to incidents in the New York City Police Department affecting minority officers.

Since its inception, the NLOA continues to be the principal fraternal and advocacy organization for active and retired Latino law enforcement officers, private sector employees and civilians. The organization promotes understanding of Latino culture in both public and private law enforcement agencies. It also works to ensure equal representation in hiring and promotional practices, safe work environments, adherence of Equal Employment Opportunity (EEOC) rules, and a work environment free of discrimination.

Earlier this year, two NLOA leaders were assaulted by at least five people – mostly other law enforcement officers – at an event co-sponsored by the NLOA and the Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce in Orlando. In the early morning hours, following the event, NLOA Executive Chairman Anthony Miranda and member Eddie Melendez were attacked by off-duty officers Edwin Garcia, Jr., Edwin Garcia, Sr., a woman believed to be the officer's sister and three other men. The assault began when Garcia



Eddie Melendez, NLOA; Ybeth Bruzual, Channel 13 Anchor; Jose Miranda, NLOA; and Anthony Miranda, NLOA Chairman

Sr. struck Melendez in the head with a bottle. Melendez was taken by ambulance to the Kissimmee medical center for

treatment of head wounds and a concussion. Miranda, the host of the event, was also attacked. He placed several emergency calls to 9-1-1 while trying to defend himself. A retired NYPD Sergeant, Miranda

identified the assailants to the responding Orange County Sheriffs. Ignoring Miranda, the Orange County Sheriffs permitted the assailants to leave the scene of the assault.

Instead, five Orange County Sheriff's officers arrested Miranda for trespass while in his vehicle leaving the parking lot.

The Garcias' attack apparently stemmed from prior NLOA complaints against the abuse of police power by Garcia family members, who are local law enforcement officers in the Orlando area.

NLOA has filed formal complaints with the Orange County Sheriff's Department and is working with senior attorney Glenn M. Katon, Director of the ACLU of Florida's Central Regional Office, and attorney Thomas Luka to address the assaults and possible involvement of the Orange County Sheriff's Department.

The ACLU of Florida and National Latino Officers Association also called on the U.S. Department of Justice to conduct a thorough and non-partial investigation to ensure that justice is served.

Sepa sus derechos antes de ser arrestado o interrogado por la policía o INS

Por Brandon Hensler
Director de Comunicaciones

Nuestra sociedad está basada en leyes que existen tanto para protegernos como para darnos la oportunidad de defendernos en el sistema judicial. Sin embargo, muchas personas se envuelven en problemas con oficiales de la policía e inmigración por no saber que tienen derechos, y cuales son las limitaciones de tales derechos.

¿Qué debe hacer si se encuentra en una situación con la policía?

Lo primero y más importante es mantenerse con calma y seguir las instrucciones del oficial. No haga un

escándalo y no le diga al oficial que va a someter una queja si se siente abusado.

Si le paran en su vehículo, tiene que mostrar su licencia de conducir y su prueba de registración del carro con el estado – y si le dan una multa, tiene que firmarla o le pueden arrestar. Anote los datos del incidente lo más pronto posible para no olvidar los detalles.

Si le detienen o le arrestan, no tiene que responder a ninguna pregunta. Tiene el derecho de mantener silencio hasta que pueda hablar con un abogado. Tiene el derecho de saber la razón por la cual le están arrestando – puede preguntarle al oficial.

No tiene que acceder a que le

hagan un registro de su cuerpo, carro o casa. Dejele saber al oficial que Ud. no está de acuerdo con el registro si es su deseo. Si Ud. cree que sus derechos han sido violados, en vez de impedir u obstruir al oficial, luego puede hacer una queja del incidente. Cualquier cosa que Ud. dice o que ellos encuentran durante el registro puede afectar sus derechos en la corte.

Si no tiene los recursos para contratar los servicios de un abogado, Ud. tiene el derecho de ser representado por uno nombrado por la corte sin obligación de pagar los servicios. No tiene que hablar con la policía hasta que un abogado esté presente. Además, tiene

el derecho de llamar gratis a un pariente, abogado u otra persona conocida.

Las leyes sobre registros en la casa son semejantes a las de ser detenido en la calle. No tiene que dejar que la policía entre a su casa sin una orden judicial, salvo a situaciones especiales (por ejemplo si alguien está gritando "socorro" dentro de la casa).

Si Ud. tiene más preguntas o sospecha de que sus derechos han sido violados, póngase en contacto con la ACLU por teléfono al (850) 429-9128 o en nuestro sitio del Internet: www.aclufi.org.

Photo Montage from 2007 Annual Dinner



Miami-Dade Commissioner Sally Heyman with 2007 Poynter Dinner Award recipient.



State of Florida CFO Alex Sink with ACLU Board Member Darlene Williams



ACLU of Florida youth award recipient Yasmin Gonzalez with Miami-Dade Commissioner Katy Sorenson.



2007 Nelson Poynter Award recipient Carl Hiasen.

Chapter Happenings

The ACLU of Florida is able to protect civil liberties in local communities around the state in large part due to our 18 volunteer-run chapters. Following is a snapshot of some upcoming activities and events. If you are interested in getting more involved with the ACLU in your area, please visit www.acluf.org.

GREATER BAY

The Greater Bay Area Chapter Nominating Committee is looking for enthusiastic candidates for the Board of Directors. If you or someone you know living in Bay, Gulf, Holmes or Washington County is interested in serving on the Chapter's Board of Directors, please contact Mark Burch at markburchphma@comcast.net.

The Chapter launches season two of the ACLU's *Freedom Files* series on February 11, 2008 at 7:00PM: Sonny's Real Pit Bar-B-Q, 2400 Saint Andrews Blvd, (located on Hwy 390 a half block off of 23rd St) Panama City, FL 32405. Free and open to the public.

BROWARD

"Dueling Columnists" Stephen Goldstein and Kingsley Guy will be the keynote speakers at the Broward Chapter's Annual Meeting. Goldstein is an author, TV talk show host and columnist who frequently tackles civil liberties issues. Guy served 23 years as editorial page editor of the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*. The event will be held on January 26 at the Jim Ward Community Center, 301 NW 46th Ave., Plantation, 33317. Doors will open at noon and the program will begin at 1PM. The meeting is free and open to the public – refreshments will be served. RSVP at brad@ee.net.



"Dueling Columnists" Stephen Goldstein and Kingsley Guy will keynote the Broward Chapter's Annual Meeting

Save the Date: Friday, February 29, 2008: Celebrate the Broward Chapter's 25 year anniversary! More information TBA, check for updates at <http://www.acluf.org/broward/>.

CENTRAL

Mark your calendars for the Chapter's Annual Meeting: March 9, 2008. Elections for the Chapter Board will be held from 2 to 5PM. We plan to screen an episode of *The Freedom Files* and have a guest speaker. Venue TBA, watch for more details as the date approaches!

Members are invited to attend chapter Board meetings, the third Tuesday of each month at Denny's in Casselberry, located near highways 17-92 and 436, from 7:00 to 9:00PM. Everyone is welcome!

COLLIER

The Collier County Chapter gained full chapter status in May and held elections for a new board of directors. Much gratitude is due the Interim Board that established the ground work for an active chapter through programs that ranged from immigration to abuse of executive powers to separation of church and state; holding Freedom File viewings in local homes; participating in local events; testifying before the legislative delegation on ACLU priorities; and dealing with separation of church and state issues at the local school level.

In addition to an active Legal Panel, the Chapter has members working on the Legislative and the Public Education and Information Committees. If you are interested in volunteering in these areas, membership or finance, please contact the Collier County Chapter at (239) 774-9111 or P.O. Box 10318, Naples FL, 34101.

GREATER JACKSONVILLE

Screening of *Ghosts of Abu Ghraib*: Saturday, January 19, 2008 at the San Marco Theatre (1996 San Marco Blvd., Jacksonville), noon to 3PM, free and open to the public. Q & A will follow with Randall Marshall, ACLU-FL Legal Director, and you can take away information about what activities you can do to help the ACLU fight the U.S. Government's policies on the use of torture and abuse.

Ghosts of Abu Ghraib is a powerful documentary film by acclaimed filmmaker Rory Kennedy. The familiar and disturbing pictures of torture at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison raise many troubling questions that have civil liberties implications. More information at: <http://www.acluf.org/jacksonville/index.cfm>



Florida Keys Chapter Holiday Parade: Bill McCarthy and Rosanne Potter, President of the Florida Keys chapter.

FLORIDA KEYS

Upcoming *Freedom Files* screenings: January 24, The Supreme Court; February 21, Dissent; March 13, Racial Profiling; April 17, Religious Freedom; May 15, Voting Rights. All screenings are held at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (801 Georgia St. at Petronia) at 7:30PM. Stay around for conversations on the topics with local leaders!

The Chapter is also sponsoring a "meet and greet event" for the Bahama Village community, at the home of board member Connie Gilbert (226 Julia Street, Key West) on Saturday January 19, from 4:00 - 6:00PM.

LEE

Save the Date: Saturday, Jan. 19, 2008, the Lee County Chapter will hold a birthday party celebrating the founding of the American Civil Liberties Union. Location and time TBA. Contact Chapter President John Szymonik for more information: (239) 540-3863.

PALM BEACH

Meetings of the Palm Beach County Chapter's Board of Directors are held at 6:30PM on the fourth Wednesday of every month at the Community Foundation, 700 S. Dixie Hwy, West Palm Beach. ACLU members and interested individuals are invited to attend.

Save the Date: The Palm Beach County Chapter will hold its Harriette Glasner Freedom Award Luncheon and annual elections meeting at 11:30AM on Sunday, February 24, 2008. Watch for details in the January chapter newsletter and on the chapter website: www.acluf.org/palm_beach

PANHANDLE

The Panhandle Chapter's annual meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2008. If you live in Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa or Walton County and are interested in serving on the Panhandle Chapter's Board of Directors, please contact Dale Boswell at [daleeb@bellsouth.net](mailto:daleb@bellsouth.net).

The Panhandle Chapter Institutionalizes Rights Restoration: Working with Workforce Escarosa's Food Stamp Employment and Training Program (FSET) chapter volunteers have successfully institutionalized rights restoration into the food stamp process. Panhandle chapter ACLU volunteers are present at the orientation meeting that recipients are required to attend as they enter the food stamp program. Chapter volunteers, armed with clipboards and rights restoration packets, assist people with a former felony conviction complete the rights restoration process.



Panhandle Event, Exonerated Panel Members (from left to right) Greg Marcille, State Attorney Office; Seth Miller, Executive Director of the Innocence Project; Susan Watson, ACLU of Florida; Alan Jerome Cotzler; and Bob Solarski, WEAR-TV News Anchor.



Jeff Hearne and son Aidan Balzli at the well-attended (300+) Florida Senate Hearing on Gay Adoption held in Miami.

PINELLAS

The Chapter's Annual Bill of Rights Banquet was held on December 6: longtime ACLU volunteer attorney Marcia Cohen received the Gardner Beckett Jr. Civil Liberties Award and Kathy Fountain received the Irene Miller Vigilance in Journalism Award.

SARASOTA

The Sarasota Chapter's Annual Meeting and election of officers will be held on March 15 from 2-4PM at the Selby Library.

GREATER TAMPA

This summer the chapter made a donation to a group of Lakeland high school students who staged a theatrical production of *The Laramie Project*, a play about a young student who was murdered in Wyoming because he was gay. The school refused to allow it on campus because of the language; however, the students were able to perform the play at a local theater. The episode was a great introduction for the students about what the ACLU is all about. Hopefully many of students will become ACLU members!

Save the Date: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 – Greater Tampa Chapter Annual Meeting.

TREASURE COAST

Save the Dates: Sunday January 20, 2008 from 3 to 5PM, Annual Meeting & Elections. Nominations accepted by phone (772) 465-5658 or e-mail tawyner@aceweb.com.

Saturday, February 9, 2008 from 1 to 3PM at the Morgade Library of IRCC Stuart Campus. Panel Discussion on "The Balance of Power between the Three Branches of Our Government"

Saturday, March 8, 2008 6 to 10PM. Slow Food Fund-raiser dinner with "Songs of Protest, Revolution & Audacity" at the UU Fellowship Hall in Vero Beach: \$30.

VOLUSIA FLAGLER

The Chapter had a very successful "Constitution Day Picnic in the Park" with approximately 50 people in attendance. The highlight of the afternoon was the "Not-So-Free-Speech" event. People were invited to donate a dollar to the ACLU and in exchange they could take the microphone and speak to the crowd about anything they had on their minds.

The Chapter is gearing up to be a major agent for change in the community, and has created an aggressive agenda for 2008.

Passionate volunteers who want to be agents for change in Volusia and Flagler Counties, specifically to work on one or more of these projects: Defeat the "Protection of Marriage Amendment"; Replace "abstinence-only" sex education in our schools with a comprehensive program; Provide Rights Restoration workshops to restore voting rights for ex-felons; Correct the Prison Health Services debacle; Bring an issues-oriented major theatre production to our area; Provide high school classes with Civil Liberties videos and student handbooks; and Develop an "Election Protection" taskforce.



Dr. Walter Bradley, Jeanne Baker, Esq., and Anthony Romero, Esq. at the book signing event to promote Anthony's new book, *In "Defense of Our America"*.

If you are interested in volunteering, please call the Volusia/Flagler Chapter of the ACLU of Florida at (877) 865-2258 or email volusiaflaglerchapter@acluf.org

ACLU DeSilver Society

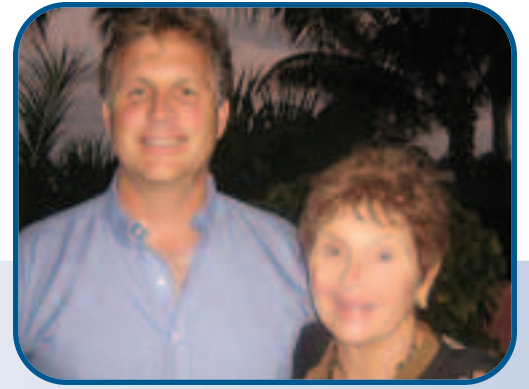
The DeSilver Society is named after Albert DeSilver (1888-1924), one of the founders of the American Civil Liberties Union and the first ACLU member who made certain that his support for civil liberties and the work of the ACLU would live on after his death.

The ACLU established the DeSilver Society to recognize those thousands of supporters who, in the same spirit of Albert DeSilver, extended their commitment to the defense of civil liberties beyond their lifetimes through bequests, life income plans or other giving options.

The struggle to defend individual rights never ends, because no generation can secure liberty for all time. Each generation must do its part to keep the promise of the Bill of Rights alive.

The ACLU of Florida gratefully acknowledges the devoted support of the following DeSilver Society members, as well as those who wish to remain anonymous, who have provided the ACLU with the resources needed to protect civil liberties for future generations:

Anonymous	Marian Donnelly	Chet Kaufman	Thomas Menaker	Robert Stevenson
Dave Anderson	Alan Ehrlich	Lisa Kidd	Bobbie Nord	Stanley L. Swart
Mary Jane Bauer	Shoshanna Ehrlich	Stewart Kohn	Elaina Ozrovitz	Ouida Tartt
Jack Bennett	Clyde Ellis	Estelle Kohn	John Pauly	John Thraikill
Phyllis Bennett	Frances H. Fowler	Gerald Kurland	Sharon Pauly	Carl Trough
Toby Berk	Lorie Fridell	Susan G. Lee	Michael Pheneger	Annsheila Turkel
Lynn Berk	Irving Golden	Donna Levin	Jean Pugh	Leonard Turkel
Kelly Bernard	Bobbi Graff	Elsie Leviton	Hugh W. Ripley	Thaddeus Vernik
Lorna Rissier Bernard	Samir Gupte	Denis Loring	Larry S. Roberts	E. Landon Walston
Dr. LeClair Bissell	Joseph Haislip	Sharon Lutz	Maria E. Roberts	Kenneth Weeks
Sydelle Schnall Blatt	Susan Haislip	Patricia Mall	Alfred Shaw	Darlene Williams
Lee Blatt	Ida B. Herst	Robert Mall	Adele Sheiner	Robert Williams
Edward Boddy	Honorable Rand Hoch	Randall Marshall	Robert Sherrill	Jeanne Baker
Betty Boddy	John Hoover	Margaret Marshall	Jean Sherrill	Walter Bradley
Jo Ann Boydston	Sandra Hoover	William McGrath	Howard Simon	Norris Crenshaw
Clive Cuthbertson	Ken Hurley	Siobhan Mclaughlin	Faith Spalding	Frank Greer
John Donnelly	Ethelene Jones	Carole Mehlman	Larry Spalding	



John Pauly and mother, Sharon Pauly, ACLU DeSilver Society members. Photo by Mark Haney

If you were not listed this year and would like to be recognized in the future, please contact Scarlett Aldebot at (786) 363-2725 or saldebot@aclufl.org.

For more information about wills, charitable gift annuities or other gift planning opportunities, contact Scarlett Aldebot at (786) 363-2725 or saldebot@aclufl.org. Supporters who have already included the ACLU in their wills or estate plans are encouraged to notify the ACLU's Planned Giving Office. We want to welcome you as a member of the DeSilver Society.

Foundations

It is with much gratitude that the ACLU of Florida recognizes the following generous foundations that make so much of our important work possible. We also want to thank those foundations who wish to remain anonymous.



ANONYMOUS

ACLU NATIONAL FELON ENFRANCHISEMENT PROJECT

ACLU NATIONAL LGBT PROJECT

ACLU NATIONAL RACIAL JUSTICE PROJECT

ACLU NATIONAL REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM PROJECT

DADE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

FLORIDA BAR FOUNDATION

FRIEDMAN KLARREICH FOUNDATION

JOSEPH H. AND FLORENCE A. ROBLEE FOUNDATION

ROSENBERG FOUNDATION

SCOTT OPLER FOUNDATION

THE JOHN C. GRAVES CHARITABLE FUND OF THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF BROWARD

TIDES FOUNDATION

Financial Report

Substantial financial resources are essential for the ACLU of Florida to effectively defend and advance civil liberties. What is remarkable about the ACLU is the way that financial support is raised – by the energetic and dedicated work of committed board members, staff and volunteers. They are the engine that drives all that the ACLU is able to accomplish. The ACLU receives no government funding. Our existence depends entirely upon private donations, foundation grants, court-awarded legal fees and membership dues.

ACLU Foundation of Florida Operating Income and Expenses*

Fiscal year ending March 31, 2007

The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions to it are deductible for income tax purposes.

REVENUE AND SUPPORT:

Contributions and grants	\$ 817,900
Bequests	\$ 84,281
Attorney fee and cost reimbursement:	\$ 38,490
Event loss/revenue, net	\$ 62,052
Investment gains	\$ 197,223
Strategic investment plan	\$ 609,931
National revenue sharing	\$ 155,123
Other income	\$ 11,189
Net assets released from restrictions	\$ 174,494

Total revenue and support: \$ 2,150,683

EXPENSES:

Program Expenses	\$ 1,275,899
Supporting expenses:	-
Management and general	\$ 268,048
Fund raising	\$ 207,944
Total expenses:	\$ 1,751,891
Change in net assets	\$ 398,792

Net assets, beginning of year \$ 2,784,165

Net assets, end of year \$ 3,182,957

ACLU of Florida Operating Income and Expenses*

Fiscal year ending March 31, 2007

The ACLU is supported primarily by membership dues.

REVENUE AND SUPPORT:

Membership:	\$ 409,441
Grant income	\$ 74,000
Bequests	\$ 195,563
Investment income	\$ 55,937
National revenue sharing	\$ 177,987
Other income	\$ 3,477

Total revenue and support: \$ 916,405

EXPENSES:

Program Expenses:	\$ 466,545
Supporting expenses:	-
Management and General:	\$ 70,006
Fund raising	\$ 43,454
Total Expenses:	\$ 580,005
Change in Net Assets	\$ 336,400
Net Assets at the beginning of the year	\$ 634,889

Net Assets at the end of year \$ 971,289

**Audited financial statements prepared by Kwame Tweneboah, CPA, for the year ending March 31, 2007 are available by writing: ACLU of Florida, 4500 Biscayne Blvd., Suite 340, Miami, FL 33137.*

Thanks to Our Volunteers and Interns!

A special thanks to the following volunteers and interns who have helped build our program and deliver our message through their dedicated work in the ACLU's Jacksonville, Melbourne, Miami, Orlando, Tallahassee, Tampa and Pensacola offices:

Abrianna Daniels	Kathryn Collura
Adrien Daniels	Kevin Aplin
Angela Achen	Melissa Weaver Selkow
Courtney R. Lewis	Michael Barfield
Dale Boswell	Mychel Estevez
Danielle Telleria	Natalia Jackson
Devorah Ben-Moshe	Nick Lewis
Ed Boddy	Nicole Quinn
Elizabeth Kostas	Rachael Wood
Elizabeth Townsend Burns	Rebecca Boettcher
Glenn Lang	Samantha Satish
Greg Watson	Sara Cohan
Gregory Gardner	Scott Mahoney
James Cohen	Shaneve Tripp
Jerry Levins	Sybil Watson
Joyce McQuilkin	Tom McCullough

With Thanks to the Following Attorneys for Donating Their Services in 2006-2007:

Jeanne Baker	Louis M. Jepeway, Jr.
Jared Beck	Bruce M. Levine
Richard Benham	Howard Marks
Randy Berg	Mike Masinter
Beth S. Brinkmann	Brian R. Matsui
Paul F. Brinkman	David Nevel
Robert Brown	JoNel Newman
John De Leon	Bert Oram
Jacqueline Dowd	Rob Rivas
Amy Drushal	Sonya Rudenstein
Gary Edinger	Zeina Salam
Linda Ehrlich	Gregory Samms
Marisa Fortunati	Matt Schultz
Seth M. Galanter	Ray Taseff
John Goldsmith	Richard N. Watts
James K. Green	Benjamin Waxman
Bruce Hermelee	Jill Williamson
Richard K. Houlihan	