

**WE THE  
PEOPLE  
DARE  
TO CREATE  
A MORE  
PERFECT  
UNION**

**ACLU**

Texas

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Since Donald Trump took office, we have witnessed a new wave of attacks on America's promise of freedom, equality, and inclusion. Yet for nearly 100 years, day in and day out, the ACLU has stood up to injustice and intolerance—and we're not backing down now.

This year we fought in the courts and the streets to defend immigrants' rights, implement smart justice reforms, ensure LGBTQ equality, promote access to abortion, secure freedom of speech, and protect the right to vote.

With your support, your ACLU of Texas tripled in staff size in two years—and continues to grow. Take a look below at a small slice of what they, and you, have accomplished. There is no substitute for people power—and with your help we will keep building and growing stronger.

It's a true pleasure to stand beside you in this work.



Terri T. Burke, Executive Director

## OUR WORK IN ACTION

As threats emerge, our unique depth and breadth—with litigators, policy experts, political strategists, field personnel, and communicators—allow us to fight essential and resource-intensive battles on multiple fronts.

### FIGHTING FOR IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS

We interviewed migrant parents detained in south Texas to gather declarations in support of the ACLU's lawsuit against the Trump administration's "zero-tolerance" policy of **separating families**—the ACLU secured a major victory when the administration halted the policy in June.

Filed litigation challenging a decision by Attorney General Jeff Sessions to unlawfully increase the burden for **asylum seekers**, namely victims of domestic and gang violence, and to demonstrate that they have a credible fear of returning home.

We won a due process lawsuit for international asylum seekers in detention, and we continue to visit **immigration detention centers** all over Texas to investigate conditions and monitor treatment of detainees.

To expose the human and environmental damage wrought by Trump's proposed **border wall** expansion, we published *Death, Damage, and Failure: Past, Present, and Future Impacts of Walls on the U.S.-Mexico Border*, a 71-page analysis conducted with the Sierra Club and other groups.

Recruited and trained volunteers to monitor federal and immigration court proceedings and document turnbacks of asylum seekers—many fleeing unspeakable violence—by **border agents** at international ports of entry in El Paso and the Rio Grande Valley.

Delivered 200,000+ petitions to Dallas-based Greyhound Lines Inc., urging the company to change its policies that have for years permitted immigration agents to conduct **unconstitutional raids** on buses all across the country.

### ENDING MASS INCARCERATION

Sued and continue litigation in **four lawsuits** against Dallas County, Galveston County, and the cities of Santa Fe and Hitchcock to end the practice of jailing people simply because they are unable to afford to pay bail or a fine, which fuels mass incarceration and destroys lives. Already, we've achieved positive results in all four cases.

Conducted a nonpartisan **voter education campaign** in Dallas County to build greater awareness about the district attorney's role as one of the most powerful decision makers in our criminal justice system, and to hold elected officials accountable for Smart Justice reforms (DallasDa.org).

Our efforts in Dallas helped push the winning DA candidate to make "**ending mass incarceration**" a primary plank of his campaign. Through candidate questionnaires, candidate forums, door-to-door canvassing, and more, we asked every candidate to commit to implement just and fair practices that could reduce the number of people in jail.

With Texas Southern University in Houston, we developed and launched the Smart Justice Speakers Bureau, the **first program of its kind** in the country designed to teach students who have experience with incarceration how to advocate for criminal justice reform.

1,500+ activists rally in Brownsville to protest the Trump administration's family detention policies



## ADVANCING LGBTQ EQUALITY

In collaboration with three other statewide organizations, launched **TxTransKids.org**, an online hub to ensure K-12 transgender students and their families have the resources they need to protect their rights in school.

We created the **Gender Advocacy Academy** to connect transgender, non-binary, genderqueer Texans, and allies with tools and resources for effective advocacy at the state capitol. Trainings have taken place in Austin, Dallas, El Paso, Houston, and San Antonio.

In multiple schools throughout the state, we advocated for and represented families to protect and defend **LGBTQ students' rights** in classrooms, locker rooms and bathrooms, and extracurricular activities.

Filed a **civil rights complaint** on behalf of a transgender woman flying from Philadelphia to Dallas-Fort Worth who was patted down by an opposite-sex TSA agent, in violation of TSA's policies.

## DEFENDING REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

We attracted nearly 200 young professionals from all over the state to our third **Reproductive Freedom in Action** conference (RFIA), now a signature statewide convening for students in fields that affect women's health—medicine, law, public health, social work, nursing, and more.

Now with 500+ attendees of one or more RFIA conferences—where participants obtain skills to become **abortion rights advocates**—we are building a next-gen professional network of advocates for reproductive freedom all over the state.

Targeted 22 state congressional districts where **reproductive rights** are most at risk with a mailer encouraging recipients to contact their legislators and voice support for a woman's access to basic reproductive healthcare (SupportHerTx.com).

Added an attorney to our Texas legal team whose docket will include a significant focus on **litigation and legal advocacy** on abortion rights and reproductive freedom.

The Trump administration made it their mission to stop 17-year-old refugee Jane Doe from obtaining an abortion even after she secured a Texas judge's permission. With the help of a Texas philanthropist and ACLU staff from around the country, **Jane prevailed**. We have since leveraged her case to win protections for hundreds of young women in custody so they don't face Jane's struggle to exercise their reproductive rights.

## PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO VOTE

Issued advisory letters to 36 counties in Texas that may be in violation of the **Voting Rights Act**, urging compliance with a law requiring all voting and election material be provided in English and Spanish.

With civil rights groups across the state, we launched a program to ensure election protections through a poll-watching initiative and a Texas-wide **voting rights hotline** staffed by pro bono and public interest attorneys.

Filed a brief in support of a Fort Worth woman **accused of illegal voting** and sentenced to five years in prison simply due to an eligibility misunderstanding when she filled out a provisional ballot.

Successfully **restored the right** to vote for a client in Galveston County whose registration was cancelled for reasons unknown.

## OUR WORK BY THE NUMBERS

- **150+ legal actions** challenging incursions into civil liberties
- **200+ speaking engagements** and Know Your Rights presentations across Texas
- **775+ volunteers** trained to observe, deter, and document police misconduct at public protests
- **7,500+ total volunteers** ready to take action statewide
- **56,000+ members** in Texas—1.75 million nationwide
- **250,000 online activists** and followers—4 million nationwide
- **6 new litigators** in Texas, totaling 11
- **50+ staff** members in five offices across Texas
- **1 Border Rights Center** based in El Paso, opened April 2018





ACLU of Texas staff and supporters at the 2018 Martin Luther King, Jr. parade in downtown Houston

## PEOPLE POWER

We are leveraging the **power of protest**, attracting thousands of ACLU activists to rallies and marches all over the state—calling for an end to police violence and mass incarceration, for fair and humane treatment of immigrants, for LGBTQ equality, and for abortion rights.

The ACLU's success has inspired and **strengthened the resistance**, attracting significant attention in the press and providing crucial leadership and leverage to the many movements whose ideals and achievements are now under attack.

Our expanded base guarantees greater reach and impact for calls-to-action in the Lone Star State and for elevating important messages and moments: one video of an immigrant **mother's painful reunification** with her son in Houston received more than 13+ million views online, bringing the real trauma of family separation to millions of desktops and mobile phones.

In order to put power back in the hands of besieged communities, we created a cutting-edge mobile phone application, MigraCam, which enables users to stream law-enforcement interactions and notify family and friends in real time, in addition to providing **Know Your Rights** information.

We helped residents living in the Rio Grande Valley's *Colonia Puerto del Cielo* convince local officials to install street lights in their community, marking the tenth *colonia* we've **brightened through advocacy**. *Colonias* are unincorporated, low-income housing areas that typically lack basic municipal services. We work in these *colonias* to support their mostly undocumented residents with ACLU tools and resources that help them advocate for the changes they want to see—and exercise their rights—all in the name of **participatory democracy**.

## 2018 FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Thank you for standing with us.  
Your support is critical to our  
defense of democracy.

