

NOVEMBER 16 - 20, 2020



ACLU

CENTENNIAL

CELEBRATION



ACLU Centennial
CELEBRATION
100

VIRTUAL CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION PITTSBURGH

ACLU Supporters Susan Moore and Dr. Tom Rosenthal with
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ACLU PA Greater Pittsburgh Chapter

WELCOME

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our virtual celebration of the ACLU's 100th Anniversary! We are looking forward to celebrating this milestone with you. We truly wish we could be celebrating this accomplishment together in person but, as the times require, we have shifted to a virtual celebration and are excited about the many opportunities we have to come together this week.

Since 1920, the ACLU's mission has been the affirmation of the rights and liberties granted to all of us through the Constitution and Bill of Rights. From early days defending individuals' constitutional rights until today, the ACLU has expanded its scope and its vision - and now, at 100 years old, we are still in high gear. As ACLU co-founder Roger Baldwin famously remarked, "no fight for civil liberties ever stays won." While our 100th anniversary is an achievement to be celebrated, it is also a continued call for invigorated action from all of us.

We are so proud to be joined this week by several special guests whose commitment to civil rights and civil liberties is expressed through their creativity and innovation. We have a virtual book talk with *Fight of the Century* editors Michael Chabon and Ayelet Waldman, a YLOT virtual happy hour with cookie artist Jasmine M. Cho, and a virtual gala with special guests, award-winning cartoonist Rob Rogers, author Damon Young, and a performance by artist Vanessa German. This is a week you don't want to miss!

Finally, I want to express a huge thanks of appreciation to our sponsors and partners for celebrating this milestone with us and helping us to achieve some semblance of connection and togetherness during these virtual times, and to the members of the Centennial Honorary Host Committee who worked so hard to make this week a reality.

Here's to the next hundred years,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R Shuford".

Reggie Shuford
Executive Director
American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania



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The Honorary Host Committee is composed of long-time Pittsburgh
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On behalf of the Honorary Host Committee, thank you for joining us in
celebrating this milestone.

THANK YOU

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VIRTUAL CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION PROGRAM

Monday, November 16

6:00 p.m.

Virtual Book Talk on Fight of the Century with editors Michael Chabon and Ayelet Waldman moderated by ACLU-PA Director of Communications Andy Hoover

Tuesday, November 17

6:00 p.m.

YLOT Virtual Happy Hour with cookie activist Jasmine M. Cho

Wednesday, November 18

5:30 p.m.

Virtual Corporate Sponsor Happy Hour with ACLU-PA Executive Director Reggie Shuford and ACLU-PA Legal Director Vic Walczak

Wednesday, November 18

6:00 p.m.

Virtual Individual Sponsor Happy Hour with ACLU-PA Executive Director Reggie Shuford, ACLU-PA State Board President Peter Goldberger, and Past ACLU-PA Pittsburgh Chapter Board President Brenda Lee Green

Thursday, November 19

6:00 p.m.

Virtual Centennial Gala with special guests award-winning editorial cartoonist Rob Rogers, author Damon Young, and performance by Vanessa German

Thursday, November 19

5:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Wigle Whiskey ACLU-PA Drive-Thru Night

Order a Drive Thru Dinner from Wigle Whiskey Distillery and Raise Money for the ACLU!
Join us on Thursday, October 19 for a drive thru Dinner at Wigle Whiskey Distillery, benefitting the American Civil Liberties Union
Simply order from the Wigle site [here](#). You can choose from a variety of delicious food and bottle options.

Saturday, November 21

5:00 pm - 9:00 p.m.

Threadbare Cider House & Meadery ACLU-PA Drive-Thru Night

Order Pizza & Cider from Threadbare Cider House and Raise Money for the ACLU! Join us on Saturday, November 21 for a drive thru Dinner at Threadbare Cider House, benefitting the American Civil Liberties Union.
Simply order a Pizza & Cider Bundle from Threadbare’s site [here](#). You can choose from a variety of pizza and cider options.

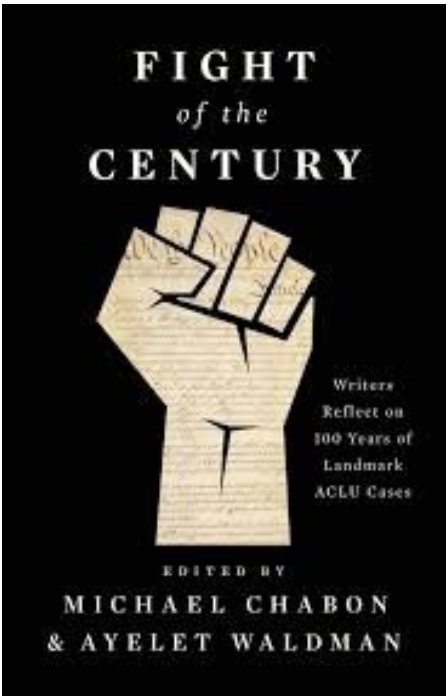


Wigle Whiskey Limited-edition Centennial Anniversary Partnership Bottles

Wigle Whiskey is partnering with ACLU-PA to offer limited edition Centennial Anniversary Partnership Bottles. Featured bottles include their [Rye Old Fashioned Bottled Cocktail](#), [Manhattan Bottled Cocktail](#), [Suffragette Rye](#), and [6 Year Single Barrel American Whiskey](#). Make sure to grab your limited edition bottle today! Bottles are available for [pick-up](#) or can be [shipped to you directly](#) (PA and DC only). Proceeds of each bottle purchased will support the ACLU-PA.

Michael Chabon is the bestselling and Pulitzer Prize-winning author of many books, including *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay*, *The Yiddish Policemen’s Union*, *Gentlemen of the Road*, *Telegraph Avenue*, *Moonglow*, *Pops*, and the picture book *The Astonishing Secret of Awesome Man*. He is the editor, with Ayelet Waldman, of *Kingdom of Olives and Ash: Writers Confront the Occupation* and *Fight of the Century*. He lives in Berkeley, California, with his wife, the novelist Ayelet Waldman, and their children.

Ayelet Waldman is the author of *A Really Good Day: How Microdosing Made a Mega Difference in My Mood, My Marriage, and My Life*, the novels *Love and Treasure*, *Red Hook Road*, *Love and Other Impossible Pursuits*, and *Daughter’s Keeper*, as well as of the essay collection *Bad Mother: A Chronicle of Maternal Crimes, Minor Calamities, and Occasional Moments of Grace* and the Mommy-Track Mystery series. She is the editor of *Inside This Place, Not of It: Narratives from Women’s Prisons*, *Fight of the Century: Writers Reflect on 100 Years of Landmark ACLU Cases* and of the forthcoming *Kingdom of Olives and Ash: Writers Confront the Occupation*. She was a Federal public defender and an adjunct professor at the UC Berkeley law school where she developed and taught a course on the legal implications of the War on Drugs. She lives in Berkeley, California, with her husband, Michael Chabon, and their four children.



Fight of the Century: *Writers Reflect on 100 Years of Landmark ACLU Cases* takes you inside the trials, stories, and the most prominent ACLU cases that have shaped modern life over the last hundred years. This anthology of essays is a tribute to all the battles fought and won in the name of liberty. In this unique collaboration between the American Civil Liberties Union and prize-winning authors Michael Chabon and Ayelet Waldman, *Fight of the Century* features original essays by the most influential writers at work today -- including Jennifer Egan, Neil Gaiman, Marion James, Viet Thah Nguyen, Salman Rushdie, Jesmyn Ward -- and their unique literary takes on historic decisions like *Brown v. Board of Education*, the Scopes trial, *Roe V. Wade*, and more. These powerful stories and essays remind us that the issues the ACLU has engaged with over the past one hundred years remain as vital as ever today.

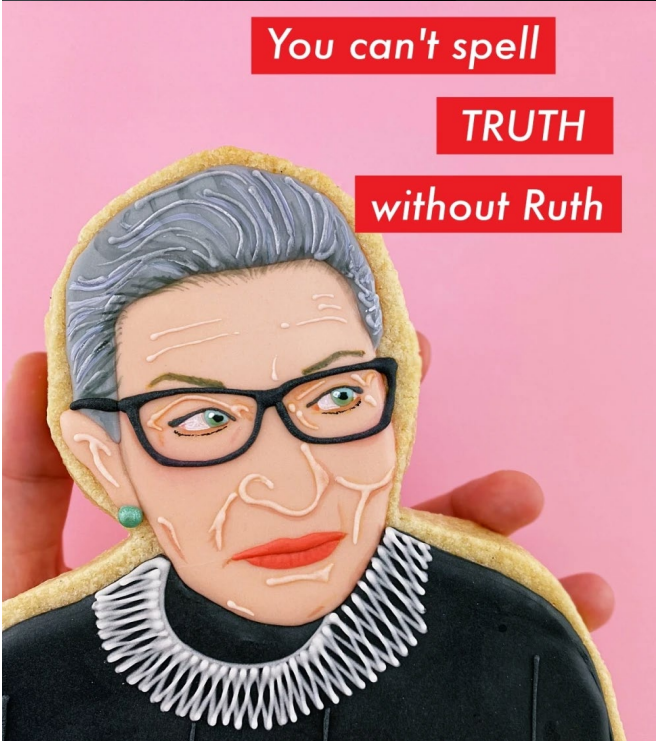
For our virtual book talk, we have partnered with White Whale Bookstore where you can purchase a signed copy of *Fight of the Century*.

To purchase a book, please visit:
whitewhalebookstore.com/readytoship/fight-of-the-century



WHITE WHALE
BOOKSTORE

JASMINE CHO



Jasmine M. Cho is a Pittsburgh-based artist, author, and cookie activist most known for using portrait cookies to elevate representation for Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders. She is also a Food Network Champion (“Christmas Cookie Challenge” Season 3, Episode 8) and the Founder of Yummyholic.

Her cookie activism has been featured internationally on various media outlets that include NPR, HuffPost, CBS This Morning, and The Korea Daily. In 2019, Jasmine gave a TEDx talk on her work that immediately went viral and has since reached over 47K views. Jasmine has received numerous accolades including CREATOR of the Year by the Pittsburgh Technology Council, the Small Business Community Champion Award by Citizens Bank, and was also awarded a Mayor’s Proclamation declaring Jan. 28th, 2020 as “Jasmine Cho Day” by the City of Pittsburgh. Expanding to traditional fine art while pursuing art therapy studies, Jasmine wrote, illustrated, and published her first children’s book, *Role Models Who Look Like Me: Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Who Made History*.

While managing the stressors of owning a small business, Jasmine became more aware of the therapeutic impacts of baking. Believing that mental health services should be as diverse as the communities they serve, she is now exploring the frontiers of research-based bake therapy with hopes to make the kitchen a more accessible and empowering space for creativity and healing for all people.

Along with her cookie demonstration during the YLOT virtual happy hour on Tuesday night, Jasmine has designed [limited edition RBG cookie art postcards](#) that are for sale. Proceeds will benefit the ACLU-PA Foundation.

ROB ROGERS

Rob Rogers is an award-winning freelance editorial cartoonist living in Pittsburgh. His cartoons have been vexing and entertaining readers since 1984 when he joined the Pittsburgh Press as an intern. In 1993, he was hired by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. Syndicated by Andrews McMeel Syndicate, (formerly Universal Press), Rogers’ work has also appeared in The New York Times, The Washington Post, USA Today, Newsweek and The Week, among many others.

Rogers has also been the curator of several national cartoon exhibitions, including Too Hot to Handle: Creating Controversy through Political Cartoons (2003) and Drawn To The Summit: A G-20 Exhibition Of Political Cartoons (2009), both at The Andy Warhol Museum, and Bush Leaguers: Cartoonists Take on the White House (2007) at the American University Museum. In 2015, Rogers curated Slinging Satire: Editorial Cartooning and the First Amendment at the ToonSeum. Rogers is an active member (and past president) of the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists.

Rogers’ work received the 2000 and 2013 [Thomas Nast Award](#) from the Overseas Press Club, the 1995 and 2019 [National Headliner Award](#) from the Press Club of Atlantic City, the 2015 [Berryman Award](#) from the National Press Foundation, the 2019 [Sigma Delta Chi Award](#) and many [Golden Quills](#) from the Press Club of Western Pennsylvania. Rogers was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in both 1999 and 2019.

In 2009, Rogers celebrated 25 years as a Pittsburgh editorial cartoonist with the release of his book, *No Cartoon Left Behind: The Best of Rob Rogers*, published by Carnegie Mellon University Press. In 2015, he released a local cartoon collection called, *Mayoral Ink: Cartooning Pittsburgh’s Mayors*. In 2019, Rogers released [Enemy of the People: A Cartoonist’s Journey](#), published by [IDW](#).

Rogers served as board president of the ToonSeum, a cartoon museum in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, from 2007 until 2017.

In 2018, after 25 years on staff at the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, [Rogers was fired for drawing cartoons critical of President Trump](#). Rogers was awarded an Emerson Fellowship from the [Emerson Collective](#) in 2019.



DAMON YOUNG

Damon Young is a writer, critic, humorist, satirist, and professional Black person. He’s a co-founder and editor in chief of [VerySmartBrothas](#)—coined “the blackest thing that ever happened to the internet” by The Washington Post and recently acquired by Univision and Gizmodo Media Group to be a vertical of The Root—and a columnist for GQ. His work has been featured in The New York Times, The Washington Post, LitHub, Time Magazine, Slate, LongReads, Salon, The Guardian, New York Magazine, EBONY, Jezebel, and the Pittsburgh Post Gazette.

Damon’s writing—which vacillates from anthropological satire and absurdist racial insights to razor sharp cultural critique and unflinching indictments of privilege and bias—has often generated praise from his peers. Ava DuVernay called his voice “clear and critical.” Michael Eric Dyson said he’s “one of the most important young voices in humor writing today.” And Kiese Laymon called his work “the best of American twenty-first century writing.”

Damon’s debut memoir—[What Doesn’t Kill You Makes You Blacker: A Memoir In Essays \(Ecco/HarperCollins\)](#)—is a 2019 Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers selection, and is a tragicomic exploration of the angsts, anxieties, and absurdities of existing while black in America. NPR called it an “outstanding collection of nonfiction” and The Washington Post “hilarious” and “unflinching.”

A native Pittsburgher who attended Canisius College on a basketball scholarship, Damon is also a former member of ACLU Pennsylvania’s State Board. He currently resides in Pittsburgh’s Northside, with his wife, two children, and his faithful bottles of Nexium and Lisinopril.



VANESSA GERMAN



Vanessa German is an American actor, sculptor, painter, writer, activist, performer, and poet. Her work is held in numerous permanent collections including the Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation and the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art. Her art has been featured in a wide range of galleries, museums and traveling exhibits, including the 2012 “African American Art 1950–present” touring exhibit from the Smithsonian Institution. She was a 2015 recipient of the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Biennial Grant and the winner of the 2018 Don Tyson Prize, a biannual \$200,000 award from the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art.

Vanessa also leads the ARHouse and Love Front Porch, a community art institution, in Homewood, where she lives and creates her art. She started the ARHouse when she needed to create her art on her porch due to a low basement ceiling. When Vanessa began making large sculptures, she was heartbroken when pieces had to be taken apart to be removed from the basement. After moving to the porch, ARHouse was born. Neighborhood children began gathering on her porch to watch her at work. This expanded into a dedicated community art space, which moved twice before moving into its permanent location, a house purchased with donations and proceeds from her art sales, dedicated in December 2015. In 2012, Love Front Porch received a \$4,000 grant from the Sankofa Fund of Southwest Pennsylvania, which highlights empowering grass-roots African-American community projects.

Vanessa also runs the Tuesday Night Monologue Project at ARHouse, a weekly event where guest artists and members of the community can write and share works with each other.

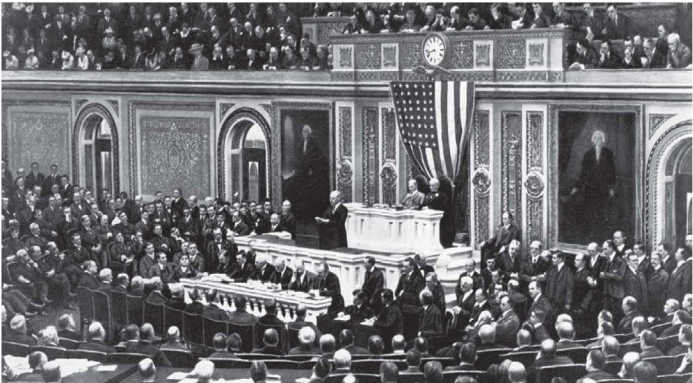
Vanessa uses her art to address hate in the world while also expressing hope for the future. She was born in Wisconsin and lived in Los Angeles and Ohio before settling in Pittsburgh two decades ago.

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS

THE ACLU WAS BORN OUT OF WORLD WAR I AND THE REPRESSION THAT RESULTED WHEN THE U.S. JOINED THE FIGHT.

By Sam Walker
June 28, 2019

On the night of April 2, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson made the trip from 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue to the U.S. Capitol for a special session of Congress that he convened. In one of the most consequential speeches in U.S. history, President Wilson asked Congress for a declaration of war that would take the country into the Great War’s killing fields in Europe. During his address that night, President Wilson called Americans to arms with the memorable pledge that “the world must be made safe for democracy.”



President Woodrow Wilson declaring war on Germany (1917)

Most Americans today are familiar with the phrase, or misinterpretations of it, such as “a war to end all wars.” Few people, however, are familiar with what Wilson said next: “If there should be disloyalty, it will be dealt with a firm hand of stern repression.” In New York City, two experienced Progressive-Era activists, Crystal Eastman and Roger Baldwin, were in the office of the American Union Against Militarism (AUAM), struggling to forge a plan for how to defend the rights of Americans against the coming threats to their rights.

That night would be a watershed in American history. In response, Eastman and Baldwin would found the modern movement for civil liberties with their creation of the Civil Liberties Bureau as a committee of the AUAM. For the first time, the term “civil liberties” entered American parlance as the bureau’s efforts put civil liberties on the nation’s public policy agenda. And in less than three years, Eastman and Baldwin’s small committee within the anti-war organization would evolve into the American Civil Liberties Union.

A FORCEFUL PAIR

Eastman and Baldwin already feared threats to Americans’ rights as war fever swept the country. In the months leading up to the entry



into the war, Congress had debated (but not passed) a law authorizing censorship of the press. A draft of men for military service was certain, the first since the Civil War. The details of a draft were still unknown, and, most important for the civil libertarians, it was not clear what protections would be available for young men seeking conscientious objector status.

Following Wilson’s speech and Congress’ declaration of war, Eastman and Baldwin worked in a crisis atmosphere, filled with uncertainty and fear, but also a good measure of confidence. They knew something new and terrifying was happening to the country they loved. The pre-war congressional debates over possible federal censorship of ideas were truly frightening. They undoubtedly knew about the 1798 Sedition Act crisis under President John Adams from their history classes, but they sensed (quite accurately, it turned out) that something far more serious was likely to happen.

Some people joined the small AUAM-CLB orbit because they were angry at what was already happening. In June, Albert DeSilver, a wealthy attorney who quit his law firm to work with the CLB, declared “my law-abiding neck gets very warm under its ‘law-abiding collar these days at the extraordinary violations of fundamental laws which are being put over.”

And while the AUAM “office” consisted of just the two of them, and with no time for much planning, Eastman and Baldwin still felt up to the challenge.

And with good reason.

They were both accomplished and respected Progressive-Era reformers. Eastman had been involved in several reform efforts, graduated from New York University Law School, and published a pioneering study of “Work Accidents and the Law” in 1910. Most important, she had led the AUAM since late 1915, desperately working to keep the U.S. out of the horrific war in Europe.



Arnold Genthe, Portrait of Eastman, ca. 1910-1915. Reproduced courtesy of Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University.

As entry into the war seemed increasingly likely, she and other AUAM leaders made a last-ditch plea to President Wilson not to enter the war. Although unsuccessful, debating the president in person was, nonetheless, a heady experience that gave her confidence in the new struggle ahead.

Baldwin, from an elite Massachusetts family and a Harvard graduate, had been a social worker and progressive reformer in St. Louis since 1906. With the boundless energy he would later bring to his 30 years as director of the ACLU, he had championed electoral reforms (the initiative and the referendum), civil service reform, and racial justice (a rare position among progressives in those years). Most notably, he helped to create a juvenile court in St. Louis and burnished his growing national reputation as the co-author of “Juvenile Courts and Probation” in 1916, the first book on the subject of this new institution.



Takuma Kajiura, Photograph of Roger N. Baldwin, 1911, Roger Nash Baldwin Papers. Reproduced courtesy of the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections,

The enormous and senseless casualties in the European war shattered his deeply ingrained optimism about social progress, and he grew increasingly alarmed as American entry into the conflict grew more likely. A week before President Wilson’s address, he abruptly dropped all of his St. Louis activities and went to New York City to join Eastman at the AUAM.

THE ATTACK ON DISSENT

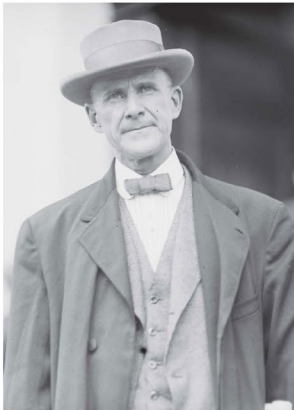
Events quickly confirmed and even exceeded Eastman and Baldwin’s worst fears.

Fired up with patriotism, mobs of Americans across the country began attacking anti-war meetings and demonstrations. Fights among pro- and anti-war groups broke out in front of Congress even as the president made his case for war. Congress passed the Selective Service Act on May 18, providing conscientious objector status only to members of well-recognized religious groups whose tenets required pacifism, which meant members of the three “historic peace churches” — the Quakers, Mennonites, and the Brethren. Young men of conscience who were members of mainstream faiths — Methodists, Catholics, Presbyterians, Jews — would be forced to fight and kill in violation of their beliefs.

A month later, Congress passed the Espionage Act, which in very elastic language made it a crime to obstruct the military effort, including the draft. In July, the Post Office began declaring a broad swath of anti-war publications “unmailable” and barring them from the mails. Banned materials included the Socialist Party’s newspaper,

foreign language papers (especially German and Russian), and even pamphlets issued by the new Civil Liberties Bureau.

At the heart of the repression of dissent was the fact that the Justice Department and the Post Office interpreted “obstruct” very broadly to include almost any language that appeared to oppose the war, the draft, or both. In fact, Eugene V. Debs was convicted and sentenced to 10 years in prison for a speech in which he did not even mention the current war or the Wilson administration. He simply gave a generic socialist critique of capitalism for fostering wars.



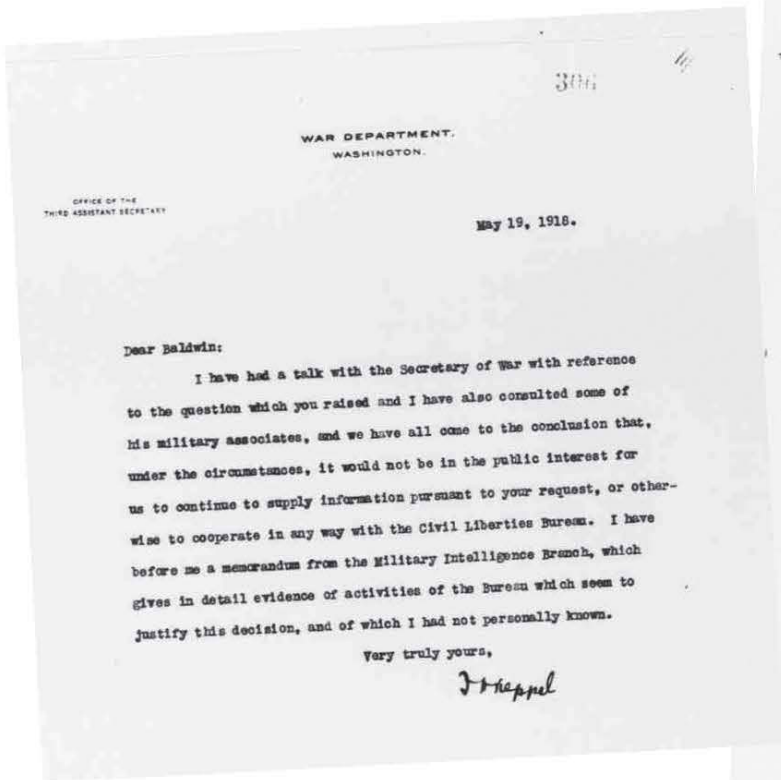
Eugene V. Debs

The Civil Liberties Bureau quickly began issuing a series of pieces on its mission of defending free speech and providing information about the draft. One of the first explained its “War Program,” followed by “Concerning Conscription,” “Maintain Your Rights,” and “Constitutional Rights in War Time.” By November, as vigilante attacks on war opponents, socialists, and suspected draft evaders were occurring nationwide, the bureau issued a report on “Mob Violence and the Law.” Regarding the draft, the bureau argued that the draft had been a failure in the Civil War, that volunteers made better soldiers than draftees, and that the law was unconstitutional (the Supreme Court contemptuously rejected this argument in a suit filed by others in early 1918).

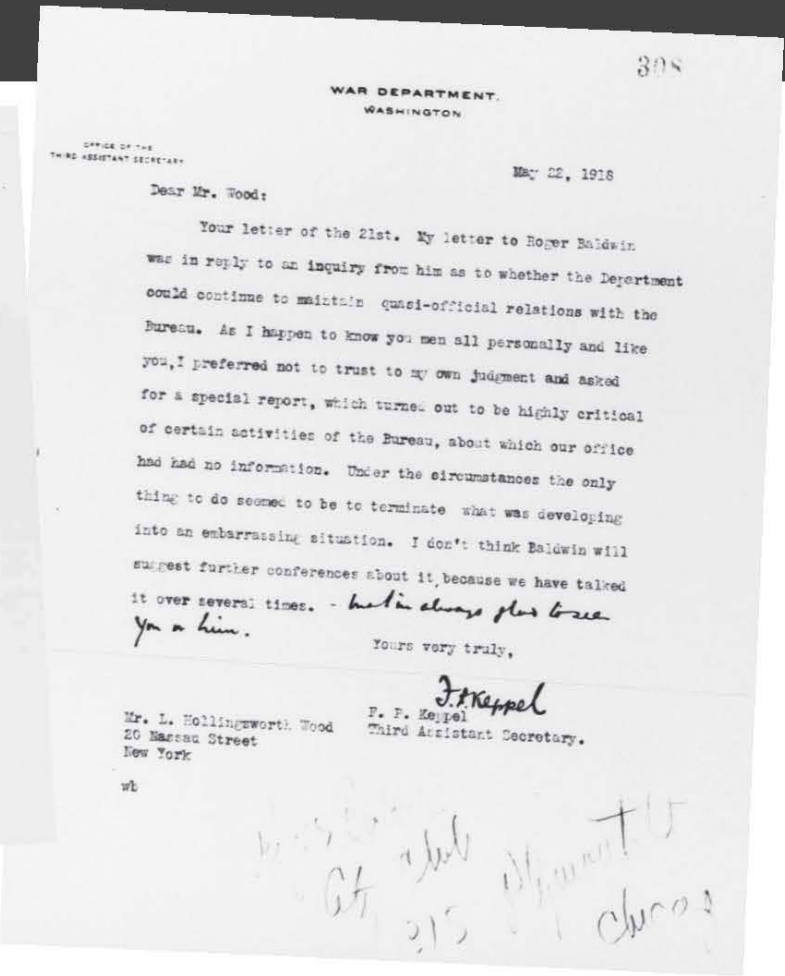
Roger Baldwin, meanwhile, soon established correspondence with the War Department over the issues related to conscientious objectors. Civic leaders had been frequent dinner guests of his parents, and dealing with influential people came naturally for him (and he had used this talent well in his St. Louis activities). His contact was Frederick C. Keppel, who had taken leave as dean at Columbia University to become Third Assistant Secretary of War. Keppel also had a strong progressive reform record and had been active in the leading international peace organization before the war.

Baldwin and Keppel maintained a productive dialogue over the treatment of conscientious objectors — for about 10 months. In early 1918, authorities in the War Department and the Justice Department concluded that the Civil Liberties Bureau’s criticisms of the administration interfered with the war effort and the draft in particular. Keppel wrote Baldwin that corresponding with him had become an “embarrassment” and severed their relationship. Military intelligence began spying on those involved with the Civil Liberties Bureau, and far worse would soon come.

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS



Letters Between Kepple and Baldwin



THE CIVIL LIBERTARIANS VS. PROGRESSIVE-ERA REFORMERS

In the first months of the war effort, Eastman and Baldwin were not only alarmed by the government’s actions but were truly shocked and dismayed by the actions of their fellow prewar progressive reformers.

“IF THERE SHOULD BE DISLOYALTY, IT WILL BE DEALT WITH A STERN HAND OF REPRESSION.”

— President Wilson

Virtually all of the leading reformers enthusiastically endorsed the war effort as a grand calling and many volunteered in one of the many service organizations that quickly sprang up. President Wilson’s vision of a world made safe for democracy was intoxicating to these social activists. George Creel, a crusading progressive-minded journalist, became director of the government’s propaganda agency, the Committee

on Public Information. Carrie Chapman Catt, a leader of the National American Suffrage Association, put aside her pacifist principles and joined a national service organization. John Dewey, already America’s most noted philosopher, wrote an article arguing that the war effort created great opportunities for social reform.

By May 1917, Eastman and Baldwin found that they were members of a small and very isolated group of Americans who were willing to challenge the administration over issues of free speech and press as well as freedom of conscience for young men opposed to participating in war. But an even greater shock awaited them in June.

A DEFINING MOMENT

Lillian Wald, the highly respected reformer and co-chair of the AUAM, informed Baldwin in June that, “We cannot plan continuance of our program which entails friendly government relations, and at the same time drift into a party of opposition to the government.”

Baldwin was stunned.

Wald, a committed pacifist who had opposed the U.S. entering the war, was now telling him the AUAM could not tolerate the Civil Liberties Bureau’s criticism of the government. He and Eastman would have to cease their criticisms of the violations of free speech and press, along

with their defense of conscientious objectors. It was nothing less than a betrayal of fundamental principles.

After some back and forth, the two sides reached a settlement. On July 1, the Civil Liberties Bureau would leave the AUAM and become an independent organization: the National Civil Liberties Bureau.

The New York Times greeted the NCLB with an ominous July 4 editorial entitled, “Jails Are Waiting for Them.”

The split with the AUAM and the creation of the NCLB marked the real birth of the civil liberties movement in America.

Eastman and Baldwin took a stand on a principle that became the guiding star of the ACLU:

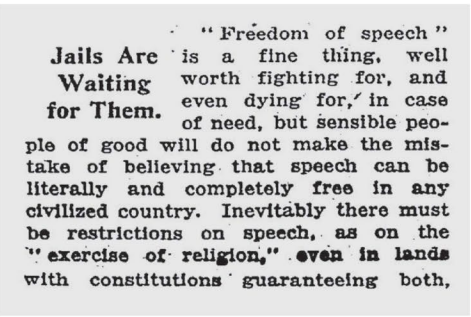
The principled defense of civil liberties without compromise based on political considerations.

Over the next 100 years, the principle guided the ACLU through a continuing series of difficult policy decisions: defending the right of the Ku Klux Klan to march in Boston in 1923, despite criticisms from liberals and civil rights advocates; the defense of free speech for domestic Nazi groups in 1935, despite opposition from some ACLU board members and liberals around the country; opposing the evacuation and internment of the Japanese-Americans in World War II, in the face of near total public support for the government’s action. And the list continues to grow today.

THE NCLB CARRIES ON — AND BECOMES AN OUTLAW

The NCLB carried on the fight for civil liberties through the rest of 1917 and into 1918. Eastman largely withdrew because of health problems, leaving Baldwin as the driving force. The group denounced mob attacks on war opponents; criticized the prosecution of anti-war leaders under the Espionage Act like Debs; and published a report on the virtual destruction of the radical labor union, the Industrial Workers of the World (“The Truth About the IWW”), by a combination of vigilante attacks and federal prosecution.

To publicize the wave of attacks on dissenters, the NCLB organized a mass meeting in New York City in early 1918 featuring Herbert Bigelow, a Cincinnati socialist and progressive activist who had been kidnapped, stripped, and beaten by a vigilante group. The anti-dissent hysteria was so fevered that a person’s actual views did not matter: Bigelow had actually quit the Socialist Party because he supported



New York Times Excerpt (July 4th, 1917)

the war. The size of the meeting and the publicity it generated was the last straw for the Wilson administration, however, and its instruments of repression began targeting the NCLB.

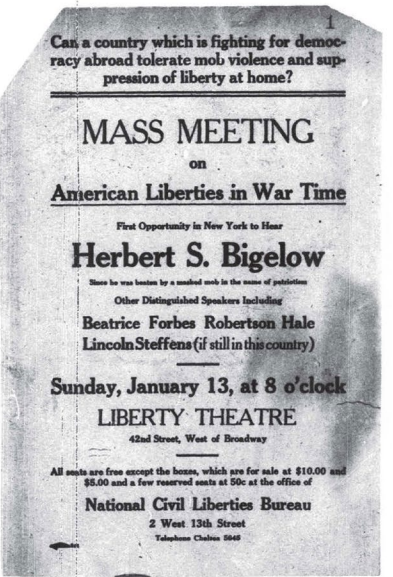
The Military Intelligence Section office in New York City began spying on Baldwin and the NCLB, even burglarizing the office and stealing some of the group’s records. Baldwin was then summoned for an interrogation in March. Failing to grasp the hostility of his questioner, Baldwin foolishly proposed a compromise, in which he offered to cease any activities the government opposed, and, in a shocking move, offered to let the government see its lists of its members and financial contributors. This shameful action exposed people on those lists to possible prosecution under the Espionage Act.

The government finally struck in late August, raiding the NCLB office and carting off all of the organization’s records as part of a set of raids on anti-war groups around the country.

Baldwin was completely unhinged, moving around the office telling federal agents they could “lock him up, shoot him, hang him, or anything else,” according to an agent’s report. Prosecution of NCLB leaders now seemed certain. For reasons that are not clear, however, no one was prosecuted and the war in Europe ended two months later.

‘THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE STATE’

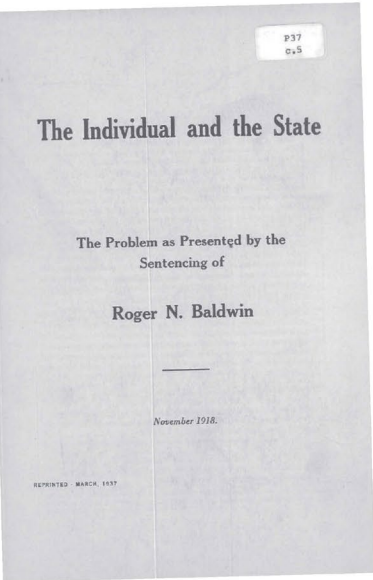
Baldwin, meanwhile, had a new and very personal problem. Needing more troops, the government raised the draft age to 35, covering the 34-year-old civil libertarian. When he received his draft notice, Baldwin thought deeply about his situation and finally decided that, as a principled conscientious objector, he would not cooperate in any way with the draft. (Other young men who chose this course of action were known as “absolutists.”) Consequently, he bypassed his draft board and presented himself directly to the prosecutor. He was duly convicted on October 30, 1918, and sentenced to a year in jail.



Correspondence-Organizational Matters, Conferences, Mass Meetings, American Civil Liberties Union Records Subgroup 1, The Roger Baldwin Years, MC001.01, Publi

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS

Baldwin’s day in court became a singular and highly publicized event. With the court room filled with his friends and colleagues, he delivered to the judge a speech explaining his motives and declaring his “uncompromising opposition to the principle of conscription of life by the State for any purpose whatever, in time of war or peace.”



The conservative Judge Julius Mayer was struck by this man of principle, and he felt compelled to say so. “You do stand out [from other defendants] in that you have retained your self-respect,” Mayer told Baldwin from the bench. “You are entirely right. There can be no compromise” of basic principles. But the judge said he could not compromise either, and so Mayer sentenced this remarkable defendant to a year in jail. Baldwin’s friends quickly published Baldwin’s statement, titled “The Individual and the State,”

along with Judge Mayer’s response. The statement circulated widely and became a classic in pacifist circles.

Prisoner #254 in the Essex County, New Jersey, jail (where short-term federal prisoners were held) turned his sentence into what he called his “vacation on the government.” He used his time to read

and think about his personal future and the future of the country, particularly about the problem of individual rights in a modern urban-industrial society.

THE CREATION OF THE ACLU

Baldwin was released from jail in mid-July 1919. He probably already had a plan for his future, but first he wanted to take care of some personal business. Feeling he needed some personal experience as an industrial worker, he embarked on a trip that took him to Pittsburgh and St. Louis, working for a brief period in a steel mill. With that taken care of, he returned to New York and set about creating a permanent organization to defend civil liberties. In addition to most of the core group from the NCLB, he enlisted a broader range of people from labor and radical or left political circles.

Those who joined the proposed new group had no illusions about the challenge they faced. All the agencies of the “machinery of justice,” as they called it, were controlled by powerful business interests. The general public had been cowed into silence by vigilante violence and government prosecutions. Not a single court decision anywhere afforded protection for freedom of speech, press, or assembly. A series of race riots in 1919 in Washington, D.C.; Chicago; and Omaha, Nebraska (among other cities) indicated that racism was thoroughly entrenched, even outside of the segregated South. In the South, moreover, lynching of African Americans averaged slightly more than 60 a year. The prospects for civil liberties, in short, could not have been bleaker.

And so, in this seemingly hopeless situation, on Jan. 19, 1920, the executive committee of the new American Civil Liberties Union held its first official meeting. The fight for civil liberties was on.

A SMALL SAMPLE OF RIGHTS AFFIRMED OR PROTECTED THROUGH ACLU LITIGATION

BECAUSE OF THE ACLU, YOU HAVE RIGHT TO:

learn about evolution in public school

(*Tennessee v. Scopes*, 1925; *Epperson v. Arkansas*, 1968)

a jury that doesn’t exclude people who look like you

(*Patterson v. Alabama*, 1935)

peacefully rally in support of unpopular organizations

(*DeJong V Oregon*, 1937)

distribute literature without a permit

(*Lovell v. Griffin*, 1938)

buy a home in any neighborhood, regardless of your race

(*Shelley v. Kraemer*, 1948)

move to a different state to find work

(*Edwards v. California*, 1941)

a free lawyer to defend you from criminal charges if you cannot afford to hire a lawyer

(*Gideon v. Wainwright*, 1963)

have a lawyer with you during police interrogation

(*Escobedo v. Illinois*, 1964)

be a conscientious objector even if you don’t believe in a supreme being

(*U.S. v Seeger*, 1964)

be informed of your rights before interrogation by police

(*Miranda v. Arizona*, 1966)

marry the person of your choice regardless of race

(*Loving v. Virginia*, 1967)

make a political statement in school so long as you are not disrupting class

(*Tinker v. Des Moines Area School District*, 1969)

notice and hearing before a state can terminate your public benefits

(*Goldberg v. Kelly*, 1970)

drop an f-bomb

(*Cohen v. California*, 1971)

hang out on a public sidewalk

(*Papachristou v. City of Jacksonville*, 1972)

burn the American flag in protest

(*Street v. New York*, 1969; *Texas v. Johnson*, 1989)

refuse medical treatment

(*Cruzan v. Director of the Missouri Dept. of Health*, 1990)

apply for public benefits when you move to a new state

(*Saenz v. Roe*, 1999)

marry the person you love regardless of gender

(*U.S. v. Windsor*, 2013; *Obergefell v. Hodges*, 2015)

“IF NOT US, WHO? IF NOT NOW, WHEN?”

— John Lewis

“YOU MUST NEVER BE FEARFUL ABOUT WHAT YOU ARE DOING WHEN IT IS RIGHT.”

— Rosa Parks

“CIVIL LIBERTIES VICTORIES NEVER STAY WON, BUT MUST BE FOUGHT FOR OVER AND OVER AGAIN.”

— Roger Baldwin

“YOU CAN ONLY PROTECT YOUR LIBERTIES IN THIS WORLD BY PROTECTING THE OTHER MAN’S FREEDOM.”

— Clarence Darrow

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE PITTSBURGH CHAPTER

Originally written by Nat Melamed in 2005 and updated by the Centennial Honorary Host Committee



1920 Pittsburgh Chapter

The history of the ACLU is the story of America in the twentieth century. Born out of the fight to defend free speech during World War I, the ACLU has been at the center of progress and controversy ever since. Our part in defending the Bill of Rights and constitutional freedoms during some of the most infamous events in American history—the Scopes “monkey trial,” the internment of Japanese Americans, the Cold War witch hunts, systemic Jim Crow discrimination and many others—has made us one of the most important and, at times unpopular, organizations in American history.

What initially was organized by Crystal Eastman and Roger Baldwin as the Civil Liberties Bureau and labeled by the New York Times as a “little group of malcontents,” “an unimportant and minute minority—noisy out of all proportion to their numbers” became the American Civil Liberties Union. Less than three years later an equally small, but committed group of “troublemakers” established the volunteer-led Pittsburgh ACLU.

Between 1935 and 1939, affiliates were established in San Francisco, Cleveland, St. Louis and Philadelphia. Pittsburgh became a chapter of the Philadelphia affiliate, but maintained autonomy as Philadelphia concentrated its efforts in eastern Pennsylvania.

Working out of her basement, Marion Damick was both executive secretary and intake person (the first volunteer staff person). Eventually, she served as the Chapter’s executive director. Other

executive directors included Ellen Doyle, Barb Feige, Mary Alice Gorman, James Lieber, Gilbert Venable (the Chapter’s first paid ED), Witold (Vic) Walczak, and Barbara Wolvovitz.

Throughout the Chapter’s first few decades, volunteer attorneys handled an assortment of cases often underreported and overlooked by local media. That changed as the 1960s came to a close, when Marjorie Matson, a lawyer and former chapter board president, argued that the policy of local newspapers labeling job ads as “help wanted male” and “help wanted female” deprived women of equal employment opportunities. The chapter board of directors was torn between the newspapers’ First Amendment rights and the Equal Protection rights of women. This discussion of First Amendment freedom in contrast with other civil liberties issues would play out repeatedly and continues today as the local and national organization struggles with the question of defending the First Amendment rights of individuals and groups advocating the prescribing of rights to marginalized groups.

Ultimately, the decision was made to take the case and by the time Marjorie Matson won a 1973 favorable decision before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, the case, Pittsburgh Press Co. v. Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations et al., had attracted national attention. In her honor, the chapter created the Marjorie Matson Civil Libertarian Award.

With the success of the “want ad” case, the ACLU National Board

of Directors recognized the need for a true statewide affiliate and the ACLU of Pennsylvania was born with Pittsburgh attorney Thomas Kerr as its first board president.

It was then that Pittsburgh Chapter volunteers initiated development efforts to subsidize the funds received from the state affiliate. Eventually, the development committee’s very successful yearly donor solicitation campaign became a model for the state. For more than two decades the Pittsburgh Chapter raised more money than any other Pennsylvania chapter. The Pittsburgh Chapter’s successes are largely credited to the strong volunteer pipeline, with their tireless and effective, continued commitment to civil rights and civil liberties throughout the years.

Pittsburgh Chapter Board Presidents included Edward J. Abes, Stephanie G. Brinberg, Bruce Boni, Marshall Dayan, Ellen Doyle, Brenda Lee Green, Tom Hollander, Thomas Kerr, Lou Kushner, Marjorie Matson, David Segel, Marketa Sims, EJ Strassburger, Robert Whitehill, and Bernard Yadoff.

Another hugely successful committee that became a model for other chapters was the Pittsburgh Legal Committee. Comprising local attorneys, the committee met regularly to review requests for assistance and when necessary locate volunteer attorneys to litigate the cases with civil liberties implications. When staff attorneys were eventually hired, the committee continued meeting monthly to assist staff as well as volunteer attorneys in case section and

legal strategy. The committee was chaired by several prominent attorneys including a 25-year tenure by Michael Louik.

While the first several decades of the chapter’s existence focused primarily on legal activities, the growth of the development program was followed by equally successful additions of a legislative agenda, community based education programming, grassroots organizing, marketing campaigns, and an expanding membership base. A volunteer speaker’s bureau was established to respond to the growing number of requests for presentations on the Bill of Rights and related topics. As the chapter continued to address unconstitutional limitations on the First Amendment and concerns about police misconduct, a Legal Observer program was established and continues in which trained volunteers monitor constitutionally protected protests.

In 1989, County of Allegheny v. ACLU, Greater Pittsburgh Chapter, was heard by the U.S. Supreme Court when several volunteer attorneys led by Roz Litman successfully argued that Allegheny County’s placement of a holiday religious display on public property violated the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment.

In 1991, Vic Walczak was hired as the Chapter’s Associate Director. Vic later became Executive Director when Marion Damick retired in 1992 and subsequently moved into his present position, ACLU-PA Legal Director, in 2004.



Witold “Vic” Walczak

Marion Damick and National
ACLU Executive Director Ira Glasser, 9/23/1992

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE PITTSBURGH CHAPTER

Walczak’s urging made the decision to focus legal efforts on cases with systemic implications that would impact a larger group of affected people.

The Pittsburgh chapter would continue to handle a wide variety of “pop up” cases some of which were handled with a letter to a school district or borough avoiding legal action, but the chapter would look for institutional reform cases that had a far-reaching impact on historically marginalized groups.

The first of these cases was Doyle v. Allegheny County when the Pittsburgh Chapter took legal action on behalf of county residents denied adequate counsel because of an underfunded, understaffed, and overworked county Public Defender’s office. The case had far-reaching implications for the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Amendment rights of thousands of individuals unable to afford legal representation.

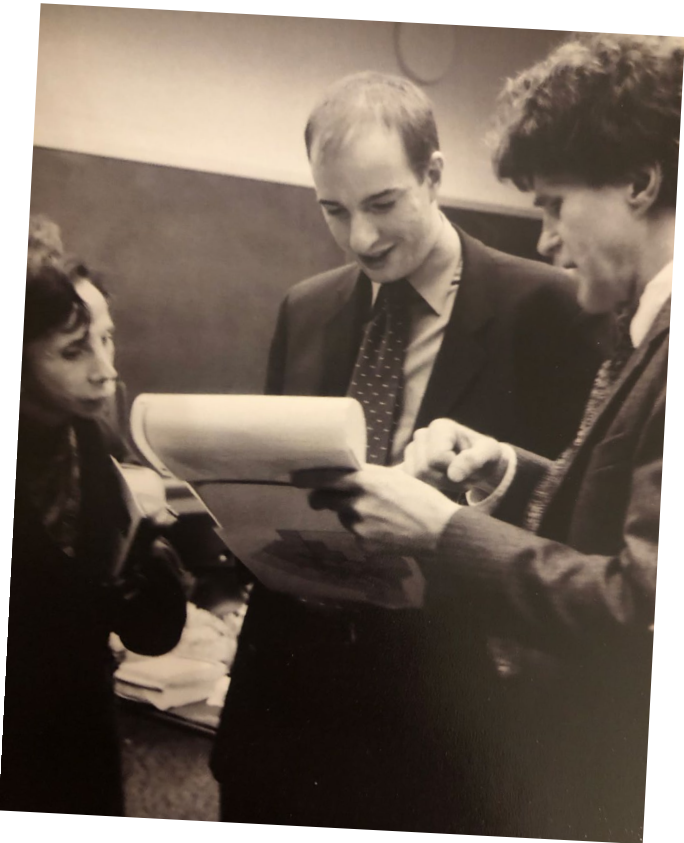
Next came the groundbreaking police misconduct case Williams v. City of Pittsburgh, which after the legal team secured a U.S. Department of Justice consent decree became, U.S. v. City of Pittsburgh. While widespread inequality in criminal justice and challenges to fair policing continue, there is little doubt that Williams had a significant impact on changes in the Pittsburgh Police Department procedures and practices.

One of the longest fought cases was Henson v. University of Pittsburgh, filed in the mid-1990s on behalf of LGBT university employees who received a benefit package worth significantly less than their straight colleagues. The Pittsburgh chapter’s position was that by not providing health care coverage for domestic partners as they did for spouses, the university was in violation of the Human Relations Act. The case was finally resolved in 2004, when the university agreed to change its policy.

In preparation for the G20 Summit being held at the David Lawrence Convention Center in September 2009, a team of volunteer attorneys was organized to represent protesters wrongly arrested and/or denied their First Amendment rights. One of these cases, Piper v. City of Pittsburgh, et al., involved a visiting university professor who, while in the vicinity of a protest, suffered permanent hearing loss, after a long range acoustic device was used to break up a crowd of protesters. This case brought significant attention to the growing trend of the militarization of police departments.

In 2000, Randal G. Forrester, a member of both the Pittsburgh chapter and the affiliate boards of directors, was asked to provide a blueprint for the reorganization of the Pennsylvania affiliate. His Strategic Planning Committee, with the help of a consultant from Lehigh University, undertook a time consuming and occasionally contentious series of meetings with ACLU volunteers across the state to elicit their input about what needed to be done to create a more dynamic and effective statewide organization. Under Randal’s leadership, this painstaking process produced a comprehensive restructuring plan that was adopted by the Affiliate Board of Directors in 2002 and laid the groundwork for the affiliate’s 10 prolific chapters.

Public attitudes toward civil liberties and civil rights tend to be very much a matter of perceived self-interest. Bluntly put, when people see their own rights in jeopardy, they become civil libertarians. Unfortunately, this self-interest calculus leads to “the many” often overlooking the marginalizing of “the others.” As we celebrate the ACLU Centennial, our membership, staff and volunteer involvement continues to grow providing a formidable force for protecting and expanding the rights of all Pennsylvanians. The best and possibly the most challenging years are yet to come.



Anthony Romero and Roz Litman

FORMER PGH CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

Former PGH Chapter Presidents

- Edward J. Abes
- Stephanie G. Birnberg
- Bruce Boni
- Marshall Dayan
- Ellen Doyle
- Brenda Lee Green
- Tom Hollander
- Thomas Kerr
- Lou Kushner
- Marjorie Matson
- David Segel
- Marketa Sims
- EJ Strassburger
- Robert Whitehill
- Bernard Yadoff

Former PGH Executive Directors

- Ellen Doyle
- Marion S. Damick
- Barb Feige
- Mary Alice Gorman
- James B. Lieber
- Gil Venable
- Vic Walczak
- Barbara Wolvovitz

REMEMBERING ROSLYN LITMAN

On February 22, 1989, Roslyn Litman, a longtime ACLU leader and volunteer attorney represented the ACLU before the United States Supreme Court in a lawsuit brought to remove religious displays from the Allegheny County Courthouse and Pittsburgh’s City-County Building.

Ms. Litman and the ACLU won County of Allegheny v. ACLU, a landmark Establishment Clause case that continues to be studied in law schools across the country. Longtime ACLU volunteer attorneys Jon Pushinsky and Jim Lieber were members of the ACLU’s three-lawyer team.

The case was decided on July 3, 1989, and a remarkable audio and written transcript of the oral argument can be found at: www.oyez.org/cases/1988/87-2050.

Litman’s brilliant and spirited presentation is well worth hearing as are the questions posed by various Justices and her response.

Because the case involved a nativity scene, it is often referred to informally as “the crèche case.”

Jon Pushinsky provides a first-person account of the strategy and legal work involved with that case: Roslyn (Roz) Litman’s involvement

with the ACLU spanned some 50 years. She served as a leader on the boards of the Greater Pittsburgh Chapter of the ACLU and the ACLU of Pennsylvania; she also served for 30 years as Pennsylvania representative to the National ACLU board, and as one of the national organization’s general counsels.

As ACLU Executive Director Anthony Romero said at her passing: “She had a very deep understanding of prejudice and discrimination as a Jewish American woman growing up in Brooklyn, and like many Jews of her generation she lived with prejudice and discrimination as a young woman and as an adult.” That understanding forged her commitment to civil liberties and her willingness to take on difficult cases that others would not.

In her later years, she was especially active fighting for LGBT rights on a state and national level. Over her lifetime, she was the recipient of many awards, including the Tom Kerr Lifetime Achievement Award from the Pittsburgh Chapter of the ACLU of Pennsylvania.

As ACLU-PA Executive Director Reggie Shuford said of Roz: “I don’t think you could imagine a more impassioned, energized, or effective advocate for the rights of religious and racial minorities, for workers, for LGBT rights, or the individual liberty and dignity of all people.”



Roz Litman

LANDMARK CASE:

County of Allegheny v. ACLU, Greater Pittsburgh Chapter By Jon Pushinsky

It was late fall 1986 and Allegheny County was installing its annual Courthouse Christmas display. The display consisted of a large nativity scene owned by the Holy Name Society. An angel was above the manger holding a sign bearing the Latin words for “Glory to God in the highest.” The display was placed, as it had been for a number of years, on the large landing of the Courthouse’s grand stairwell - a stairwell that went up from the ground floor to upper levels housing numerous County governmental offices and courtrooms. Signs directing visitors to various government offices were placed on either side of the nativity scene.

Next door, at the City-County Building, the City of Pittsburgh was erecting its annual Christmas display at the building’s front portico: a forty foot high Christmas tree and an 18 foot high Chanukah menorah.

I was serving as a local ACLU board member and approached the Pittsburgh Chapter board about challenging the County’s nativity scene display and the City’s use of a Chanukah menorah in its Christmas display as violations of the First Amendment’s establishment clause. The board approved the lawsuit and a three-lawyer team, Roz Litman, Jim Lieber and I, went to work. The first step was to write letters to the City and County requesting removal of the primary religious symbols of the Christian and Jewish winter holidays from the buildings representing the seats of local government. The City and County rejected the request and the City modified its display by adding a sign regarding the festive lights.

Once the City and County refused to remove religious symbols from their holiday displays, the lawyers began preparing their lawsuit. Anticipating a backlash of religious insensitivity, we considered it important to bring suit on behalf of a cross-section of the religious community. Pittsburgh ACLU cooperating attorney Ellen Doyle, a Roman Catholic, agreed to be the first named individual plaintiff and testified in the case. Other plaintiffs included members of the Greek Orthodox, Unitarian, Jewish and Muslim faiths. To further protect the plaintiffs from hate mail and other inappropriate responses, the ACLU joined the suit as a party and was listed as the first plaintiff.

An injunction hearing was conducted before the Hon. Barron McCune of the Western District of Pennsylvania in December 1986. Judge McCune found governmental use of primary religious holiday symbols in the buildings housing core government functions to be constitutional. In Judge McCune’s view the displays had a secular purpose; they did not have the effect of advancing religion; and they

did not result in the excessive entanglement of government and religion.

Our team of lawyers appealed to the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. The appellate court reversed Judge McCune, finding both displays to be violative of the First Amendment’s establishment clause. The City and County then appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, which agreed to hear the case.

The three-lawyer team traveled to Washington in late February 1989 for the Supreme Court argument. Roz Litman was the team member who argued the case. The decision was issued on July 3, 1989, the last day of the term. Electronic communications were not as advanced as today and we stood by fax machines as the opinions were received page by page. The Court was very fractured. The various opinions were approximately one hundred pages. By a 5-4 majority, the nativity scene display was held to be unconstitutional. Justice Blackmun, switching his position with respect to the menorah, helped form a 6-3 majority upholding the City’s use of a Chanukah menorah as part of its Christmas display.

Working on County of Allegheny v. ACLU, Greater Pittsburgh Chapter and with our three-lawyer team remains a highlight of our professional careers. The Court’s decision continues to be oft cited. Whether it will be revisited by the current Court remains to be seen.



ACLU-PA Pittsburgh

ACLU OF PENNSYLVANIA

DECADES OF DARING TO CREATE A MORE PERFECT UNION

1990s

Austin v. Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (1997)
Humane Prison Conditions — The ACLU-PA filed a class-action lawsuit challenging conditions at eleven state prisons as cruel and unusual punishment. The litigation produced dramatic improvements in environmental conditions, medical services, and inmate safety.

1980s

American Civil Liberties Union v. City of Pittsburgh (1984)
Freedom of Press — The ACLU-PA won an injunction blocking Pittsburgh's mayor from enforcing his threat to have police confiscate Hustler magazines from newsstands unless the vendors agreed to stop selling the magazines.
Western Pennsylvania Socialist Workers Party v. Connecticut Gen'l Life Insurance (1986)
Shopping Mall Protests — The Pennsylvania Supreme Court rejected ACLU-PA's challenge under the state constitution to create a right to protest in privately owned shopping malls, a right some other state supreme courts have allowed.
Spring Garden United Neighbors v. City of Philadelphia (1986)
Police Racial Profiling — A lawsuit against the City of Philadelphia ended a practice of suspicionless stops, searches and detentions of African-Americans in certain city neighborhoods.

Pledge of Resistance v. We the People 2000 (1987)
Presidential Protest — A federal judge found that the National Park Service could not prevent the group Pledge of Resistance from protesting at an event on Independence Mall celebrating the 200th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution, which included a speech by then-Vice President Bush.
County of Allegheny v. ACLU, Greater Pittsburgh Chapter (1989)
Religious Displays on Government Property — The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Allegheny County's display of a nativity scene on the courthouse steps was unconstitutional government-sponsored religion.

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Planned Parenthood v. Casey (1992)
Reproductive Freedom — The ACLU and other groups challenged Pennsylvania's Abortion Control Act, which imposed myriad restrictions on a person's right to have an abortion. The Supreme Court refused to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, and the three centrists on the court fashioned a new test, which declared laws that impose an "undue burden" on person's right to choose an abortion to be unconstitutional. The test remains in effect, but appears vulnerable in the current court.
(1995) — Provided a high-profile voice in opposition to Governor Ridge's special session on crime, a precursor to what 20 years later would become the Campaign for Smart Justice

2000s

(2002) — Lobbied for and won the right of people who are incarcerated to have greater access to DNA evidence that could prove their innocence.
Sager v. City of Pittsburgh (2003)
Homeless Sweeps — The ACLU-PA settled a class-action lawsuit with the city of Pittsburgh that required the city to stop destroying homeless people's property and to provide advance notice of property sweeps.
(2005 - 2006) — Organized the effort to block the state legislature's first attempt to pass voter ID which resulted in a gubernatorial veto.

SEIU v. Mt. Lebanon (2006)
Right to Door-to-door Canvassing — The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit found that municipalities could not require "charitable solicitors," non-profit political and religious canvassers who were not selling anything, to register with the police or obtain a permit before going door to door.
Lozano v. Hazleton (2006-2014)
Immigrants' Rights — In 2006, the city of Hazleton passed the nation's first municipal anti-immigrant law that would punish landlords and employers for renting to or hiring anyone the city classifies as an "illegal alien." In 2014 the U.S. Supreme Court denied Hazleton's request to hear the case, leaving in place lower court rulings that the ordinance was unconstitutional.
(2010) — Won passage of Pennsylvania's first law banning the shackling of pregnant women who are incarcerated.

This was the first of a series of related challenges, all brought in Pennsylvania to Congress's attempts to regulate speech on the Internet.

In re W.C.K. (1999)
Parents' Rights — ACLU-PA fought for two years before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled that a Beaver County judge violated a young mother's rights when he terminated her rights in her months' old child without due process, paving the way for his former law clerk to adopt the boy. The case was featured on CBS News' 48 Hours program.

2010s

Applewhite v. Corbett (2014)
Voter ID — Pennsylvania's voter ID law was blocked just one month before the 2012 presidential election, and eventually declared unconstitutional. The law threatened to disenfranchise hundreds of thousands of voters, many of whom were seniors, low-income, or racial or ethnic minorities.
Whitewood v. Wolf (2014)
Freedom to Marry — In a momentous ruling for the LGBTQ&T community, Pennsylvania's Defense of Marriage Act was struck down, resulting in marriage equality a year before it became the law nationwide.
Foster v. City of Pittsburgh (2012-15)
Police Hiring Discrimination — ACLU-PA settled a class action lawsuit requiring changes in the City of Pittsburgh's civil service hiring practices to address persistent and severe under hiring of African-American police officers.

Doe v. Boyertown (2018)
Transgender Students Rights — A federal appeals court ruled that cis-gendered students could not force the school district to stop allowing transgender students to use bathrooms reflecting their gender identity. The ACLU-PA intervened in the lawsuit on behalf of transgender students to support the school district's policy.
Kuren v. Luzerne Co. (2012-19)
Indigent Defense Reform — The ACLU-PA sued to block budget cuts to an already decimated public defender office in Luzerne County that was reeling from allegations related to the so-called "Kids for Cash" scandal. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court issued a precedent setting decision authorizing under state law such institutional-reform lawsuits over deficient indigent defense.
Philadelphia Community Bail Fund v. Arraignment Court Magistrates (2019-present)
Reforming Unconstitutional Bail Practices — A novel lawsuit filed directly in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court challenges the procedures and practices of Philadelphia bail magistrates in setting unaffordable cash bail.
(2019) — Advocated for and won the most significant reform of Pennsylvania's election law since the 1930s

1960s

School District of Abington v. Schempp (1963)
School Prayer — In one of the earliest and most important U.S. Supreme Court decisions on religious liberty in public schools, the U.S. Supreme Court held that Pennsylvania's statute requiring Bible readings at the start of the school day violated the First Amendment's prohibition on government sponsorship of religion.

1970s

Lemon v. Kurtzman (1971)
Funding for Religious Schools — The Supreme Court ruled that a Pennsylvania law providing some funding to non-public schools, including parochial schools, violated the First Amendment's restriction on governmental support for religion. The three-part test established by the court has been a staple of Establishment Clause analysis ever since.
Pittsburgh Press v. Pittsburgh Human Relations Commission (1973)
Women's Rights — The U.S. Supreme Court held that Pittsburgh's human relations ordinance, which prohibited newspapers from carrying gender-specific advertisements for job opportunities, did not violate a newspaper publisher's First Amendment rights. The ACLU of Pennsylvania convinced the national ACLU to file an amicus brief supporting the city's anti-discrimination law over the newspaper's free-press rights.

