

**ACLU**

Pennsylvania

2017 Annual Report

# STRENGTH IN NUMBERS



**We're growing!**



In addition to our new staff, we are in the process of filling several more positions during FY 2017-18.

During 2016-17, ACLU of Pennsylvania membership more than tripled, from 15,000 members to 52,000.

**Jan. 27, 2017**

**Nov. 9, 2016**



Record numbers of supporters attended ACLU of PA events across the comonwealth.



**WHAT A YEAR** If there has ever been a time to stand with those on the front lines of protecting civil liberties, this is it - and Pennsylvanians have come forth in droves to offer their support to the ACLU of Pennsylvania. We are deeply grateful.

When President Trump said he wanted to ban the entry of Muslims into the United States, he meant it, and, within one week of his presidency, he issued a ban on visitors from seven Muslim-majority countries.

When President Trump said during the campaign that he planned to deport as many people without immigration status as he could, he meant it. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers are now detaining any undocumented person they encounter, leaving families broken and children isolated and afraid.

When Trump said that he would be a friend to the LGBTQ community, he lied - and announced a ban on transgender people serving in the military.

And when Anthony Romero, head of the ACLU, said, "See you in court," he meant it.

Within hours of the Muslim ban, ACLU-PA lawyers and our allies were on the ground negotiating with the U.S. Attorney to free travelers who arrived at Philadelphia International Airport as the ban went into effect. We are leaving no stone unturned to stop ICE's unconstitutional and immoral practices. We are prepared to fight and litigate to protect the rights of the LGBTQ community and to ensure that transgender individuals can serve in the military.

In 2017, membership in the ACLU-PA tripled, from approximately 15,000 households a year ago to more than 50,000 households today. Because of you, we have the capacity to thwart the administration's worst instincts while continuing to defend and bolster civil liberties at the state and local levels.

This strength gives us the opportunity to pursue smart justice and unwind the era of mass incarceration, to push back against the never-ending attempts to debase reproductive justice, to advocate for further protections for LGBTQ Pennsylvanians, and to defend two of the building blocks of our democracy: the right to vote and the right to free speech.

The ACLU of Pennsylvania is not merely an organization with a couple dozen staff members. We are all of you; we are more than 50,000 strong. Together, we will ensure that civil liberties are robust for today's generations and the generations to come.

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Reginald T. Shuford  
*Executive Director*  
ACLU of Pennsylvania





My youngest son Finn was six weeks old when President Trump signed the first version of the “Muslim ban,” an executive order suspending travel from seven majority-Muslim countries and stopping the resettlement of refugees fleeing unspeakable horror and violence. Though I was on maternity leave, Finn and I had spent that day working with our immigrants’ rights allies to educate the public about the anti-immigrant executive orders Trump had signed the day before, promising that the ACLU-PA would stand with immigrants and use every tool in our arsenal to fight back.

We made good on that promise the next day. Saturday morning, we heard that travelers who were in transit when the Muslim ban was signed were being sent back or detained at the Philadelphia airport. We got to work gathering information and spreading the word about what was happening, and working up lawsuits with a fabulous team of cooperating attorneys. We put out a call to our members and friends to come to the airport to protest and demand the release of everyone being detained.



On January 31, 2017, a team of lawyers including the ACLU of Pennsylvania filed a complaint on behalf of the Asalis, four adults and two children who were detained at Philadelphia International Airport pursuant to the executive order, alleging that the executive order embodied religious and ethnic discrimination and violated several constitutional and federal statutory guarantees. Less than three hours after they had landed, the Asalis were forced to board a plane back to Qatar and eventually returned to Syria. On February 5, 2017, the Asalis were granted approval to return to the United States after intervention and negotiations by Congressman Charlie Dent (R-PA).

Molly Tack-Hooper  
Staff Attorney, ACLU of Pennsylvania



More information at [aclupa.org/asali](https://aclupa.org/asali)



For more on our case protecting the rights of refugee students in Lancaster, visit: [www.aclupa.org/issa](http://www.aclupa.org/issa)

Twenty-five-plus years of lawyering for the ACLU of Pennsylvania has afforded me the honor and privilege of representing countless wonderful, inspiring clients. But our recent teenage refugee clients, who were excluded illegally from Lancaster's main high school, resonated especially strongly with me. I came to this country as a young immigrant and experienced life in America as an "other," a "foreigner." Even with two well-educated parents and a middle-class standard of living, life was hard.

I thought my head would explode when I first heard about how the Lancaster schools were discriminating against refugee students – young people from Somalia, Sudan, Congo, and Burma who had survived atrocities and hardships unimaginable to most Americans. These kids understood that education was their path to a decent life, yet the school district was denying them their best, and maybe only, hope of salvaging a productive future. Being able to help these beautiful souls, and accompany them on their first day at the high school, was truly one of the most rewarding moments of my career.

Witold 'Vic' Walczak  
Legal Director, ACLU of Pennsylvania



This spring, the ACLU of Pennsylvania ran its first membership engagement electoral program leading up to the primary election for the Philadelphia district attorney – a nonpartisan voter education canvass focused on educating our members about the incredibly powerful role the district attorney plays in the criminal justice system. We hired 50 canvassers, almost all of them people who had formerly been incarcerated, to knock on the doors of the nearly 12,000 ACLU members registered to vote in Philadelphia and to share their experience with the broken criminal justice system.

We honestly did not know what to expect – we’ve never done anything like this in our history. We were amazed at the overwhelmingly positive response from our members and staff. I’ll never forget being at a member’s home with one of our canvassers for a speaking engagement and looking over to see this man who was just released a couple of months prior huddled with one of the most renowned cognitive therapists in the nation! They stayed like that for a good half hour, discussing techniques my canvasser had learned while working in a similar field on the inside. This was the first of many such connections I was fortunate enough to witness over the course of the Vote Smart Justice campaign.

For more on the ACLU-PA Campaign for Smart Justice,  
visit [www.aclupa.org/smartjustice](http://www.aclupa.org/smartjustice)

Nick Pressley  
Field Manager, ACLU of Pennsylvania



The image shows the back of a person wearing a blue t-shirt. The t-shirt features a white logo on the left consisting of a stylized sun rising over vertical bars, representing a prison. To the right of the logo, the text "ACLU" is at the top, followed by "CAMPAIGN FOR" in smaller letters, and "SMART JUSTICE" in large, bold letters. Below this, the hashtag "#VoteSmartJustice" is printed, with a small "SPONSOR" logo underneath it. The background is a blurred indoor setting with other people and tables.

#VoteSmartJustice



I came to the ACLU of Pennsylvania this January as the transgender education and advocacy coordinator, hoping to spread awareness and build relationships throughout the great state of Pennsylvania with transgender communities. I first worked with our regional chapter boards to build cultural competency and sensitivity so that they would understand transgender communities and the need for this project here in Pennsylvania.

Next on my agenda was hosting transgender community discussions throughout the state to learn about the challenges and barriers transgender Pennsylvanians face so that we can advocate for policies and legislation that directly affect us. This is very important work – building relationships and awareness and educating the public – because there is so much unknown regarding transgender individuals. We are working to help pass legislation that would give us definitive statewide protections from discrimination based on gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation. Pennsylvania's nondiscrimination law has yet to codify sexual orientation and gender identity or expression as protected characteristics.

To read about some of the ACLU-PA's litigation in support of transgender students, visit [www.aclupa.org/booyertown](http://www.aclupa.org/booyertown).



Naiymah Sanchez  
Community Organizer, ACLU of Pennsylvania



Public schools, K-12, have been my work space. I focus in an area that impacts a lot of young people –most especially students of color and students with disabilities and their families – protecting the civil rights of vulnerable young people. School is where young people achieve the opportunity to advance in life; but it can also be where young people's hopes and dreams get derailed. Working collaboratively to keep kids in school and out of the justice system has been the main focus of my work. We've worked to influence state policies that would prevent young children from being pushed out of school, pushed for the reform of state education law, and we have influenced school district policies around the state, especially with efforts to minimize the role of police in schools.

I'm particularly proud of our work this year producing two seminal sources of information that make unique contributions to this arena. Our website titled "End Zero Tolerance" is rich with data, practical tools, analysis, and reports on successful campaigns and reform efforts in the area of school discipline and policing and is particularly useful to educators and advocates. Know Your Rights: A Handbook on the Rights of Pennsylvania Public Schools is our comprehensive handbook detailing students' rights, offering guidance to students, administrators, reporters, educators, and parents.



For more on our work combating the school-to-prison pipeline, visit [www.endzerotolerance.org](http://www.endzerotolerance.org)

Harold Jordan  
Senior Policy Advocate, ACLU of Pennsylvania



"As women, the children and grandchildren of immigrants, and as Americans, we felt the need to support the organization that fights for justice and equality for all people."

- organizers of **United We Dance** event in April 2017



Many words come to mind when asked to sum up what it means to work for the ACLU under a Trump presidency. We could talk about sleep deprivation and the long hours, but what stands out most to me are the words "love" and "community." The support and energy that we have seen from communities across the state have been endless: people have worked tirelessly to organize events on our behalf, in an effort to raise funds and raise awareness.

Through these community-sponsored fundraisers, we have laughed, danced, ran in the rain, and strutted down runways. People have taught yoga, hosted doula training sessions, and sponsored rock concerts. They've sold their artwork, teamed up with other organizations that need our support, and held events at their homes. This has been a demonstration of the strength of community, and we are so grateful for all of you!

Interested in hosting an event in support of the ACLU?  
Email [info@aclupa.org](mailto:info@aclupa.org) with your event idea.

Jenna McElroy  
Major Gifts Officer, ACLU of Pennsylvania



## American Civil Liberties Foundation of Pennsylvania

**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
AND CHANGE IN NET ASSETS**Fiscal Year April 1, 2016 through  
March 31, 2017

<b>Support and Revenue</b>	
Grants, contributions and fundraising	\$ 3,473,383
Contributed services	2,314,985
Attorney's fees	746,956
Interest, investment, and other income	108,078
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Total support and revenue	\$ 6,643,402

**Expenses**

Program Services	\$ 3,774,411
Management and general	415,395
Fundraising	479,432
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Total expenses	\$ 4,669,238

Change in net assets	1,974,164
Net assets, beginning of year	2,999,344
Net assets, end of year	4,973,508

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
As of March 31, 2017****Current Assets**

Cash and equivalents	\$ 1,316,507
Accounts receivable	28,104
Prepaid expenses	73,961
Due from national ACLU	1,980,632
Due from affiliate Union	34,624
Investments	1,022,253
Legacy Trusts	758,742
Security deposit	3,849

**Property and equipment**

Building and improvements	228,941
Office equipment	14,960
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Less: accumulated depreciation	(137,497)
	106,404

<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$5,325,076</b>
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**Liabilities**

Accounts payable	\$ 7,844
Accrued expenses	117,059
Accrued pension	115,825
Accrued vacation	110,840
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<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 351,568</b>
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**Net assets****Unrestricted**

General, Board	
restricted funds	\$2,778,286
Litigation funds	699,373
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	\$3,477,659

Temporarily restricted	942,935
Permanently restricted	552,914

<b>Total Net assets</b>	<b>4,973,508</b>
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<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>\$ 5,325,076</b>
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## American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania

**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
AND CHANGE IN NET ASSETS**Fiscal Year April 1, 2016 through  
March 31, 2017**Support and Revenue**

Memberships	\$ 961,252
Grants, contributions and fundraising	495,940
Interest and investment income (loss)	899
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Total support and revenue	\$ 1,458,091

**Expenses**

Program Services	\$ 293,937
Management and general	130,952
Fundraising	42,250
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Total expenses	\$ 467,139

Change in net assets	990,952
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Net assets, beginning of year	260,721
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Net assets, end of year	\$ 1,251,673
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**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
As of March 31, 2017****Current Assets**

Cash and equivalents	\$ 949,999
Prepaid expenses	1,138
Deposit on Software Purchase	10,394
Due from national ACLU	376,578
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<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$1,338,109</b>
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**Liabilities**

Due to affiliate Foundation	\$ 34,624
Accrued pension	21,146
Accrued expenses	14,772
Accrued vacation	14,213
Accounts payable	1,681
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<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 86,436</b>
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**Net assets**

Unrestricted	\$966,673
Temporarily restricted	285,000
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<b>Total Net assets</b>	<b>1,251,673</b>
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<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,338,109</b>
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## ACLU of Pennsylvania Staff

Reggie Shuford, *Executive Director*

Ben Bowens, *Communications Associate*

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Barb Feige, *Deputy Director*

Golnaz Fakhimi, *Immigrants' Rights Staff Attorney*

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Trisha Graham, *Business and Operations Manager*

Andy Hoover, *Communications Director*

Harold Jordan, *Senior Policy Advocate*

Jenna McElroy, *Major Gifts Officer*

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Jamie Pauls, *Membership Engagement Manager*

Nicholas Pressley, *Field Manager*

Elizabeth Randol, *Legislative Director*

Mary Catherine Roper, *Deputy Legal Director*

Sara J. Ross, *Staff Attorney*

Naiymah Sanchez, *Transgender Advocacy Coordinator*

Matt Stroud, *Criminal Justice Researcher/Writer*

Molly Taek-Hooper, *Staff Attorney*

Witold Waleczak, *Legal Director*

Jaclynn Walker, *Administrative Assistant*

Tiffany M. Walsh, *Annual Fund Manager*

Julie Zaebst, *Project Manager, Duvall Reproductive Freedom Project*

*Grants Coordinator*

Peggy L. Curchack

*Independence Foundation Fellow*

Andrew Christy



The American Civil Liberties Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) charity. The official registration and financial information of the American Civil Liberties Foundation of Pennsylvania may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

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