



ACLU

Nevada

2019 IMPACT REPORT

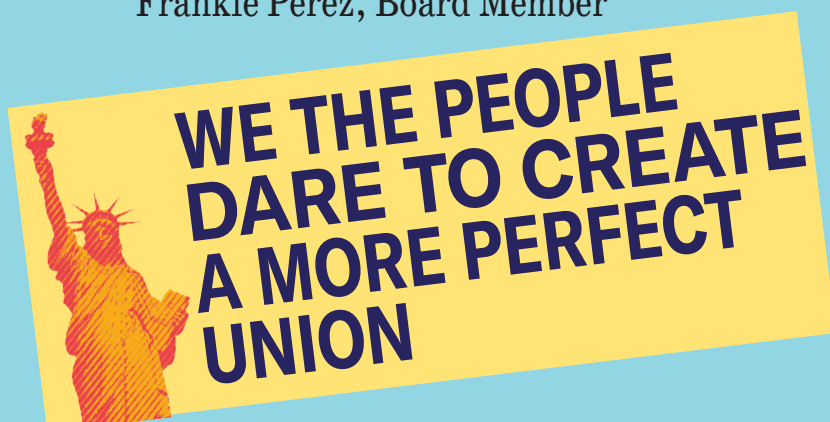
MEET THE ACLU OF NEVADA

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2019 IMPACT REPORT

Director's Message

History was made in 2019, with new laws being enacted that start correcting the past criminal injustices imposed on minority communities and the formerly incarcerated. We restored the right to vote for formerly incarcerated individuals with AB 431, and incarcerated individuals will now be counted in the decennial Census as residents in their home districts. AB 236 made our criminal justice system more reform-focused than punitive and will impose new requirements on the courts to provide alternatives to incarceration.

With the passage of our study bill regarding juveniles being housed in adult facilities, we are continuing our work to move juveniles out of adult prison facilities in Nevada. Adult institutions are unequipped to meet the educational, medical, and physical needs of minors. Neglecting to provide meaningful programming at a critical stage of development fails to properly prepare an individual for life after incarceration.

Working with the Right to Know Nevada coalition, we successfully updated and expanded the state's public records law. State agencies must now work with constituents to find the records they seek, and if they do not, they will be held accountable. We will likely seek to further improve this law for the public in the next legislative session.

In 2017 and 2019, the ACLU of Nevada supported passage of Assembly Joint Resolution 2, the initiative to amend the Nevada Constitution's definition of marriage. The new definition affirming marriage equality will be on the ballot in November, and you, the voters, will have the final say in cleaning up our Constitution to reflect these rights.

The work of perfecting our union never ceases. In Nevada, we showed the rest of the country what communities, legislators, coalition partners, and the ACLU can achieve together. Recognizing the rights and liberties we are all entitled to, and then working to ensure everyone enjoys them equally, is our mission.

I hope you enjoy reading about the impact we made together in 2019 and are prepared to Vote Like Your Rights Depend on It in 2020!

In liberty,



Tod Story
Executive Director

2019 IMPACT REPORT

Policy Department

2019 was a busy year for the ACLU of Nevada policy team, which began with the 120-day legislative session. The first-in-the-nation women-majority legislature passed meaningful advances in criminal justice reform, reproductive freedom, LGBTQ equality, and voting rights.

The ACLUNV set out to accomplish four major goals this session: comprehensive criminal justice reform, a study on youth confinement in adult jails and prison facilities, same-day voter registration, and public records reform. We achieved each of those goals and more.

2019 WINS

Assembly Bill 236, the Justice Reinvestment Initiative, is a comprehensive package of criminal justice reform legislation. The bill addresses the growing crisis in the state's corrections system by reducing recidivism, protecting public safety, and averting an estimated \$543 million in state spending over the next 10 years.

Assembly Bill 449 directs the interim Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice to conduct a study examining the cost of ending the practice of sending children tried as adults to adult correctional institutions. Adult institutions fail to meet the basic educational, physical, and mental healthcare needs of children leading to potential rights violations and high recidivism rates. This bill is a necessary first step toward the humane treatment of incarcerated youth.

Assembly Bill 345 establishes same-day voter registration, eliminates the need for an excuse to cast an absentee ballot, extends hours for early voting, permits counties to establish

voting centers to increase efficiency and voter participation, and more.

Assembly Bill 431 automatically restores the right to vote to formerly incarcerated persons and individuals on parole or probation thereby expanding the right to vote to 70,000 Nevadans.

Senate Bill 287 provides overdue updates to our state's public records law, requiring cooperation from government agencies and creating civil penalties for noncompliance. ACLUNV was a leading member of the Right to Know Nevada coalition, which included the Guinn Center, news outlets, the Nevada Press Association, the Society for Professional Journalists, the League of Women Voters, Nevada Policy Research Institute, and individuals across the state who backed the measure.

2019 LOSSES

While so much was achieved, some troubling legislation that puts our liberties at risk, such as budget increases for school police and an expansion of privacy-eroding fusion centers, passed without much opposition from lawmakers. Moreover, under the leadership of Nevada Democrats, the legislature missed several opportunities to pass bold legislation to fully address our state's issues regarding capital punishment, immigration, cash bail, comprehensive sex education, and more despite taking control of both houses of the Legislature and the governor's office during the 2018 midterms.

Senate Bill 242 expands rights to police officers in civil cases, making any statements made in an internal affairs investigation exempt from discovery.

Senate Bill 388 exempts certain digital information from public records laws.

Assembly Bill 45 expands privacy-eroding fusion centers that collect private data on Nevada residents. Under the guise of “national security,” law enforcement may use the information for purposes not related to counterterrorism efforts — and shield their tactics from public oversight.

INTERIM APPOINTMENTS AND WORKING GROUPS

The ACLU of Nevada’s work continues beyond the legislative session. Our Policy Director, Holly Welborn, is appointed to the Advisory Commission on the Administration of Justice, and our Executive Director, Tod Story, serves on the Nevada Sentencing Commission and Open Meeting Law Task Force. We also monitor local government activities and respond to community concerns that arise with government agencies, commissions, boards, school districts and elected officials.

SOLITARY CAMPAIGN

The ACLU of Nevada is a proud partner with the national Unlock the Box Campaign, which seeks to end the use of solitary confinement for all people. Our state’s campaign earned national attention when we released a report, *Unlocking Solitary Confinement: Ending Extreme Isolation in Nevada State Prisons*, that led to the passage of Nevada’s first adult solitary confinement reform legislation in 2017 (Senate Bill 402). In 2019, we continued to work with local jails to improve their isolation practices, monitored the implementation of SB402, and launched a solitary survivor

campaign to share the stories of the lasting, harmful impact of prolonged isolation. We will continue to pressure the state to end this practice in Nevada’s prisons.

“We must employ alternatives to solitary confinement that are humane, protect the dignity of the incarcerated, and are reflective of our collective values of compassion, justice, and fairness.”

- Johnny Perez, National Religious Campaign Against Torture and Solitary Survivor

HOMELESS ORDINANCES

The ACLUNV and homeless advocates fought tirelessly to defeat a Las Vegas City Council ordinance making it a crime to sit or sleep on the street. Rather than addressing the root causes of poverty and investing in housing-first alternatives, the city chose to criminalize homelessness, a practice proven to be ineffective in several states. We continue to explore our options to minimize the impact of this inhumane law and to fight for the rights of the poor.



Advocates gather in front of Las Vegas City Hall to demonstrate opposition to city ordinances that will criminalize homelessness.

2019 IMPACT REPORT

Legal Department

The ACLU of Nevada welcomed new team members to the organization's legal department in 2019: Sherrie Royster started as Legal Director in August, Ariel Ashtmaker as a Legal Fellow in September, and Nikki Levy as Staff Attorney in December.

The new legal department jumped right into several cases and advocacy projects. Cases that were awaiting the award of attorney fees were closed, and the ACLUNV will receive additional fees in early 2020.

DISRUPTING THE DEPORTATION PIPELINE

The ACLUNV in October was successful in persuading the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department to suspend its partnership with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) through the controversial 287(g) programs.

The federal government's deportation agenda remains a threat to many Nevada families, but LVMPD's suspension of the 287(g) program means that Las Vegas police officers will no longer be acting as ICE agents at the Clark County Detention Center and will no longer be honoring ICE requests to hold individuals in jail beyond their scheduled release.

Following the LVMPD's announcement, the City of Las Vegas announced it would also stop detaining people in its jail for ICE.

PUBLIC DEFENSE

The ACLU of Nevada's public defense case against the State of Nevada was granted class certification in June 2019. The class now consists of all persons who are now or who will be facing formal charges in a rural county for which the penalty includes the possibility of imprisonment and who are entitled to the

appointment of counsel under the Constitution.

Despite the Legislature's efforts around AB81, we are moving forward with our litigation. Nevada has been talking about this issue for years, but the state has failed to fix it.

UPDATING INTAKE PROCESSES

New Legal Director Sherrie Royster made it a top priority to revamp the ACLUNV's intake system, which is the process for receiving complaints about civil rights issues from the public.

The legal department worked hard to come up with an intake process that would allow the ACLUNV to address the volume of intakes more efficiently. ACLUNV Paralegal and Legal Advocacy Coordinator Tamika Shauntee worked to make most of the intake electronic, and that hard work has paid off.

The department has worked hard to put a process in place that will ensure that response time is 30 days or less. As of this report, our intake is current, and we do not have any backlog.

The ACLUNV web page was updated to include a new format for complaints to be filed. In addition to making the page more informative, the ACLUNV also added Spanish and Mandarin language complaint forms. The legal team is excited to expand outreach to our Chinese-speaking communities so that they feel included in what the ACLUNV does and know that we are available to help.

REPORTS RECEIVED BY THE ACLU OF NEVADA

Each year the ACLU of Nevada receives hundreds of inquiries and reports related to civil rights issues through our intake system. In 2019, ACLUNV received 778 submissions. Due to limited resources, ACLUNV cannot take on every case, but we rely on these submissions to identify common issues and opportunities for high impact litigation, advocacy, and outreach.



159

COMPLAINTS ABOUT PRISONERS' RIGHTS



18

REPORTS RELATED TO PAROLE AND PROBATION



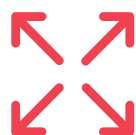
40

COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT



31

INQUIRIES RELATED TO LEGAL RIGHTS



91

MISC. INQUIRIES AND COMPLAINTS



173

GENERAL INQUIRIES AND REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE



53

REPORTS ABOUT CRIMINAL TRIALS



41

COMPLAINTS ABOUT ATTORNEYS



16

REPORTS ABOUT PUBLIC EDUCATION



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CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLAINTS RELATED TO EMPLOYMENT



22

COMPLAINTS ABOUT EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION

JOIN THE ACLU OF NEVADA IN THE FIGHT TO PROTECT AND EXPAND CIVIL RIGHTS!

JOIN OUR UNION

Become a card-carrying member! Annual membership fees support our policy and lobbying efforts. Visit aclunv.org/join

DONATE TO THE FOUNDATION

Gifts to the ACLU of Nevada Foundation are tax deductible and support our litigation and legal advocacy work. Visit aclunv.org/donate

VOLUNTEER

Advocate to protect and expand civil rights and individual liberties across the state, from city hall to the statehouse. Visit aclunv.org/volunteer

2019 IMPACT REPORT

The ACLU of Nevada was privileged to honor five outstanding community members at its Celebration of Civil Liberties fundraisers in Las Vegas and Reno:

- Nevada Supreme Court justices Michael Cherry and Michael Douglas were honored with the ACLUNV's Liberty in Government Award for decades of commitment to preserving and protecting Nevadans' civil liberties.
- Brooke Maylath of TAG Nevada was honored with the Emilie Wanderer Award for civil libertarian of the year in recognition of her tireless advocacy for Nevada's transgender communities.
- News 3 Las Vegas' John Treanor was honored with our Freedom of the Press award for his investigations into how the state fails juveniles in the justice system.
- Leslie Turner, Mass Liberation organizer for the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada, received a Community Advocate Award for her ongoing fight against mass incarceration.

The ACLU of Nevada Celebration of Civil Liberties is where members, supporters, colleagues, and volunteers can come together to recognize the important victories the ACLUNV has accomplished for the Silver State. Funds generated from the celebration support our litigation and outreach efforts.

 **58,122**
SUPPORTERS IN 2019

Special Events

Thank you to all of the ACLU of Nevada's sponsors and the many supporters who donated in-kind items and services for our raffles and silent auctions.

- Sondra Cosgrove
 - Sara Mason
 - Liz Foyt
 - Vegeneration
 - North Italia
 - DJ Kerns
- Las Vegas Raiders
 - Vesta Coffee
- Congresswoman Dina Titus
 - Las Vegas Lights FC
 - Mary Felker
- Sylvia Allen, South Point Hotel & Casino
 - Treasure Island
 - Penn & Teller
 - Total Wine
- Wendy Kraft & Laura Sussman
 - Caesars Entertainment
 - NV Energy
 - Dickinson Wright
- Robert Chester & Jennifer Trask-Chester
 - Boyd Law School
- Stephanie Rosol & Dina Dalessio
 - Lisa Rasmussen
 - Battle Born Progress
 - Klai Juba
 - Kathy England
- Councilman Devon Reese
 - John Drakulich

Join us at the Celebration of Civil Liberties in Las Vegas in June and Reno in November!



2019 FINANCES

REVENUE

Grants and Contributions	\$ 560,230.00
National ACLU Support	\$ 663,109.00
Program Service Revenue	\$ 3,800.00
Donated Legal Fees	\$ 1,569,789.00
Event Revenue, Net	\$ 25,738.00
Interest, Dividends, and Realized Gains	\$ 50,008.00
Total	\$ 2,872,674.00

EXPENSES

Program Services	\$ 2,200,439.00
Donated Legal Services	\$ 1,569,789.00
Fundraising	\$ 133,951.00
Management and Overhead	\$ 208,758.00
Total	\$ 2,702,937.00

2019 IMPACT REPORT

Outreach & Communications



**33K ACTIVE USERS
ON ACLUNV.COM**



**7K ACTIVE EMAIL
SUBSCRIBERS**



**FEATURED IN OVER
150 NEWS STORIES**



**OVER 10K FOLLOWERS
ON SOCIAL MEDIA**



**DISTRIBUTED OVER 3K
KNOW YOUR RIGHTS CARDS**

LAS VEGAS PEOPLE POWER

The Las Vegas People Power group dedicated itself to voting rights issues — especially Same-Day Registration — shortly after its formation in 2017. As the Nevada Legislature prepared to move forward with voting rights legislation, People Power activists worked tirelessly to prove that Southern Nevadans wanted voting to be more accessible.

Las Vegas People Power collected more than 1,200 signatures to show support for Same-Day Registration, and group leader Stephanie Alvendia presented them to the Legislature. She was even in attendance when the bill was signed into law by Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak!



Policy Director Holly Welborn interviews with the Nevada Independent podcast in Carson City.



First Lady Kathy Sisolak and Gov. Steve Sisolak pose with Rex Reed and volunteer Stephanie Alvendia





RIGHTS FOR ALL

Throughout 2019, the ACLU of Nevada was pleased to contribute to the Rights For All program. Rights for All is a new campaign by the American Civil Liberties Union to get candidates on the record on civil liberties and civil rights.

ACLU organizers and dozens of volunteers engaged presidential primary candidates and voters to raise the volume on key issues like criminal justice reform, immigration, voting rights and reproductive freedom.

Visit www.rightsforall.us for more information.

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