

LIBERTY

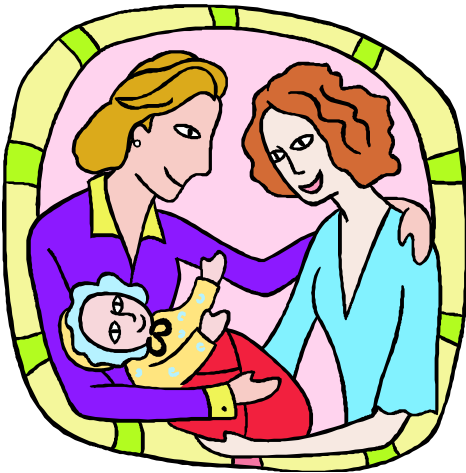


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VOLUME 43, ISSUE 2

North Carolina Supreme Court to Hear Important Custody Case Regarding Adoption in North Carolina by Same-Sex Partners: ACLU-NCLF and Allies Rally Behind Adoptive Mother to Fight for Unmarried Families' Rights to Enter into Binding Adoption Agreements.



The American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina Legal Foundation (ACLU-NCLF) is assisting the attorneys representing North Carolina State Senator Julia Boseman (D-New Hanover) and also filing a friend-

of-the-court brief on her behalf in an important custody case pending before the North Carolina Supreme Court that could have ramifications affecting the legal status of more than 250 families statewide, all or almost all of which involve same-sex parents.

In 2002, Senator Boseman and her then-partner Melissa Jarrell planned the conception and raising of a child together. Jarrell gave birth to little Jacob, and shortly thereafter, both partners entered voluntarily, knowingly and intentionally into an adoption agreement whereby Jarrell (the biological mother) and Boseman (the adoptive mother) would both have equal custodial and parental rights with regard to raising Jacob. When the

couple later split up, Boseman petitioned the court for joint custody.

However, Jarrell responded by

(Continued on page 14)

Special Election Issue! Vote for Candidates for ACLU-NC and ACLU-NC Legal Foundation Boards of Directors. Ballots and Candidate Statements Inside this Edition.

Abortion Debate Heats Up Across North Carolina

In recent months, several local governments have taken up the issue of abortion coverage in health insurance benefits for local government employees. The issue first came to the ACLU-NC's attention in Apex when the town council voted on January 19th to stop providing abortion coverage as part of the health insurance package provided to town employees. Apex Mayor Keith

Weatherly argued incorrectly that providing complete reproductive health care for employees was prohibited by North Carolina case law. The ACLU-NC immediately responded by releasing a legal analysis of North Carolina law showing that local governments are well within their rights to offer whatever health insurance benefits the local government deems

appropriate. However, the dominoes began to fall. After Apex, Wake County Manager David Cooke removed Wake County's health insurance coverage for elective abortions on February 10th. Then the League of Municipalities, which provides health insurance for close to 200 towns and cities in North Carolina,

(Continued on page 14)

A Message From the Executive Director ...

Dear Fellow Civil Libertarians:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and our hard-working, top-notch staff, I would like to thank you very much for your support of the ACLU of North Carolina and its Legal Foundation. Like so many nonprofit organizations, we have seen a sharp drop in our revenues over the past two years, as our members and supporters have had to tighten their belts during the current economic recession. We recognize that when we ask you to dig deep and give what you can in order to help us continue to fight for the Bill of Rights, many of you really do have to *dig deep* — and we are more grateful to you than words can say!



Thanks to your commitment, we're still here, stronger than ever, holding our elected officials' feet to the fire. When President Obama or members of his Administration waffle on promises to close Guantanamo and to try people accused of crimes against our country in our criminal justice system, it's the ACLU that pushes back and challenges them to restore due process and the rule of law, core values that define our character as a nation.

When state and law enforcement officials see nothing wrong with the fact that 70% of the young people registered in the GangNET database are African-American, the ACLU of North Carolina fights back and speaks out against the racial bias in this deeply flawed program.

When county and town officials are cowed by one anti-choice legislator who provides misinformation about state law, rescinding vital abortion coverage for their employees and succumbing to his baseless threats, it's the ACLU of North Carolina that quickly produces a thorough legal analysis, proving that his arguments are specious, and rallies our members through our action alert system to speak up for women's rights.

When the Wake County School Board disregards state laws designed to preserve transparency in government, stifles dissent, and thwarts the public process in their attempt to reverse a nationally-renowned diversity policy in favor of resegregated "neighborhood schools," the ACLU of North Carolina is there to condemn these practices and to insist that no official or government body is above the law.

On any given day in the Tarheel State, we are fighting for free speech, religious liberty, privacy rights, students' rights, racial justice, due process, criminal justice reform, a government that is open and transparent, and equal rights for all people regardless of religion, gender, race, national origin, creed, age, disability or sexual orientation. But none of this would be possible without your help!

So I must ask you once again, please dig deep and give what you can so that the ACLU of North Carolina can continue to hold our elected officials accountable and defend the Bill of Rights here on the ground. You can donate online using our secure website at www.acluofnorthcarolina.org/?q=donate, or clip the form on Page 17 of this newsletter and mail it with your payment to our post office box in Raleigh. We promise to use your money carefully. Thank you very much for your help in this fight.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Rudinger

Jennifer Rudinger
Executive Director

The ACLU-NC Legal Foundation wishes to thank all who made our 41st Annual Frank Porter Graham Awards Ceremony a huge success!

More than 260 supporters of the ACLU-NC's Legal Foundation came together for our 41st Annual Frank Porter Graham Awards Ceremony on Saturday, February 13, 2010, at the Friday Center in Chapel Hill. ACLU-NC members and supporters enjoyed good food and great conversation and celebrated the achievements of honorees Jimmy Creech, Juvencio Rocha Peralta, Jeremy Collins and Charmaine Fuller Cooper.

Gene Nichol, Professor of Law and Director of the Center on Poverty, Work and Opportunity at the University of North Carolina, gave a fiery keynote address titled "The Challenge of American Constitutionalism." Due to popular demand, we have posted Nichol's speech online at www.acluofnc.org/files/Gene_Nichol_FPG_speech.pdf.

The ACLU-NCLF wishes to thank Replacements, Ltd. for their extraordinary generosity in supporting this event as Title Sponsors for the seventh year in a row. We would also like to thank Ken Broun for once again delighting our audience with live jazz during the reception (with fellow jazz musicians Bill Eagen and Mike Chrzanowski), and a big thanks to all of our volunteers for their tireless efforts which helped make this event such a success!



ACLU-NC President Carlos Mahoney (left) presents the Frank Porter Graham Award to Jimmy Creech for a lifetime of championing civil liberties causes.



Activist and advocate for the Latino and immigrant communities, Juvencio Rocha Peralta (left) receives the ACLU-NC Award from Board member Esteban Echeverria.



Charmaine Fuller Cooper and Jeremy Collins (left) accept the Paul Green Award from ACLU-NC Board member and Chapel Hill Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt (right) for their heroic efforts which led to the passage of the North Carolina Racial Justice Act.

(Below) Keynote speaker Gene Nichol brought the crowd to its feet with his impassioned reminder that we must hold America — and ourselves — accountable for the unfulfilled promises of the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights and that we must keep up the fight to make those promises a reality.



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Special thanks to our devoted friends at Replacements, Ltd. for once again sponsoring the Frank Porter Graham Awards!



2010 ACLU-NC/LF Board Elections

It is time to act on nominations for (two!) Boards of Directors. Elected Directors run two corporate entities: the ACLU of North Carolina (ACLU-NC) and the ACLU of North Carolina Legal Foundation (ACLU-NCLF). The ACLU-NC is engaged in legislative work and membership recruitment and therefore is a separate organization, while the ACLU-NCLF is our charitable 501(c)(3) entity that runs our legal program and most of our educational activities.

Our Board members serve three-year terms and may be elected for no more than two consecutive terms. Four incumbents who are eligible for nomination this year have said that they would like to remain on the Board: **Tariq Butt, Esteban Echeverria, Carlos Mahoney** and

Dianna Wynn.

In addition, six new voices are seeking to be added to the Board: **Curry First, Risa Foster, Irene Godinez, Holning Lau, Matthew Robinson** and **Diane Rodriguez**. All ten nominees are recommended by our Nominating Committee, and this slate has been approved for your consideration by the current ACLU-NC Board of Directors.

Please read the candidates' statements inside this election pamphlet and mail in your ballot today.

Ballots must be received by (not postmarked by) Thursday, May 20th at 12:00 p.m.

The ballot is located on Pages 9-10 of this newsletter. Please remove the ballot, vote for the candidate(s)

of your choice, and return it to the ACLU-NC office so that the ballot is received no later than 12:00 p.m. on May 20, 2010. **Please both print and sign your name on the back of your envelope (on or near the flap of the envelope).**

To maintain voter confidentiality, please do not place any identifying marks on the ballot itself, and please fold the ballot as indicated in the instructions on Page 10.

Board elections will take place at the ACLU-NC's Annual Membership Meeting on Thursday, May 20th from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Green Street United Methodist Church, 639 South Green Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27101.

Members who have not voted by mail may vote in person at this meeting. For more information, call the ACLU-NC at (919) 834-3466.

MEET THE BOARD CANDIDATES:



Tariq Butt, Raleigh:

I have had the honor and privilege of serving on the ACLU-NC board for the last three years, and I am requesting your vote to serve a second term. I currently hold the position of the Secretary of the ACLU-NC Board, and I am also a member of the Finance Committee. In recent years, the political environment of the country has taken many turns, but the

ACLU-NC has continued steadfastly on its mission to identify and rectify abuses of civil liberties, to educate, and to influence state laws. Successes have been numerous, and credit for that goes to our top-notch staff. For my part, it has been a great learning experience and a very humbling one also to sit on the Board with some of the finest intellectuals. I have been proud to be associated with this organization whose values I wholeheartedly support but which also produces practical results, improving the lives of countless people.

It constantly troubles me that so few people that I come across in my daily life know about the excellent work that the ACLU is doing. I have played a little part in the effort to inform by participating in tabling events and setting up Meetup

events. If I am re-elected, I shall continue to serve the ACLU-NC in any capacity, but in any case I will continue with the outreach activities to inform and educate people about the ACLU.



Esteban Echeverria, Charlotte:

Three years ago, I asked for your support in allowing me to serve on the ACLU-NC Board because I

wanted to interject my personal experience and commitment to the civil rights movement in North Carolina. Today I ask for your renewed support because three years wasn't long enough!

My first year with the Board involved a lot of listening, the occasional outrage, and a new perspective on the importance of the work of the ACLU of North Carolina. I have personally witnessed the importance and necessity of being a part of this organization, standing with North Carolinians to defend against encroachments on our civil rights.

A good example of the ACLU's efforts has been in monitoring North Carolina's implementation of the 287(g) program throughout the state. Immigrants are a vulnerable community that require our attention and efforts. The United States is a nation of immigrants and places great value on the contribution of its immigrants who helped to build and sustain our democracy. The Bill of Rights is guaranteed to all who reside in the United States, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or national origin.

If successful in receiving your support, I would continue to interject my unique perspective and personal experiences growing up in North Carolina as a Latino, an immigrant, a lawyer, and staunch supporter of our civil rights. I ask for your continued support and your vote today.

Thank you very much for your consideration.



Curry First, Asheville:

My ACLU involvement began in 1966 when as a Vanderbilt law student I had a law student internship with the NYCLU. After graduation, I practiced for 40 years in Milwaukee concentrating in private practice in civil rights litigation (frequently police misconduct), employment discrimination, and immigration. For several years, I represented in federal court Milwaukee African-American police officers in a promotion retaliation discrimination class action. For three years, I took a break from private practice and worked as litigation director for a non-profit poverty legal service organization. In Milwaukee, I was active with the Wisconsin ACLU state chapter as a Board member, legal and strategic committee member and cooperating attorney.

I made a permanent move to Asheville in June 2009 (grandchildren in NC and retired, which I term "freedom riding") and have been active with the Western NC chapter of the ACLU and recently joined the state ACLU-NCLF's legal committee. I am an active volunteer with Asheville's poverty legal service organization, Pisgah Legal Services. I immediately found a home and community in Asheville and North Carolina.

My civil liberties priorities are advocating for constitutional rights for minorities and women and fighting pervasive poverty issues. If elected, I will commit to the ACLU

of North Carolina – its excellent staff, Board and membership. I will participate in the essential task of fundraising and the fun task of membership development. Finally, my Board voting will emphasize diversity, and I hope others will similarly view the ballot.



Risa Foster, Durham:

Thank you for the opportunity to present my qualifications for a position on the Board of Directors of the ACLU of North Carolina. I consider it a privilege to be on the Board, and I would work diligently for the ACLU. My partner Sue and I have enjoyed attending the Frank Porter Graham Awards Ceremony these past several years.

I successfully completed Duke's Continuing Studies Certificate Program in Nonprofit Management. I graduated from California State University, San Bernardino, (many) years ago with a major in Psychology.

I do not have any affiliation to the courts or legislation (yet!); I have lots of experience in grassroots activism. I work daily in Durham's community, volunteering and interacting. Over the past 10 years, I have actively helped with at-risk youth, affordable housing, neighborhood issues, LGBT events, and the humane treatment of animals. I volunteer for park and creek clean-ups, attend community crime prevention meetings, along with city and county government

meetings. I do not hesitate to call House and Senate representatives when they need to hear from me. I even support and attend peaceful protests and marches.

I have helped with everything from fundraising, creating brochures, letter writing, phone banking and community organizing. I have lots of experience establishing mailing lists, members and volunteers. My attendance will be good and I will complete all responsibilities expected of me. I am known to bring good ideas to the table and sometimes an “A-ha” moment occurs. I support a good sense of humor and enjoy working and learning from others.



Irene Godinez, Raleigh:

It is an honor to be considered for the Board of Directors of the ACLU of North Carolina! I was born and raised in North Carolina and am the daughter of immigrants. Growing up I rarely noticed any different treatment of my family or myself by my NC community. The only time that I noticed that I was different was at dinnertime, speaking Spanish with my parents and eating traditional Mexican stews. The reality in which I was reared is vastly different from the reality of millions of other children of immigrants across the nation. These children are witnesses to the abuses of their parents’ civil rights and liberties, with due process going by the wayside.

Since graduating from NCSU, I have served underrepresented and oppressed communities. I have worked at the NC Office of the Governor, El Pueblo, Inc., and am currently the NC District Director for the Reform Immigration FOR America campaign. I believe in the equal and humane treatment of every person in these United States and abroad. Much has changed in the last 10 years. Civil rights and liberties of the most vulnerable communities are violated to the point that it’s become routine in some pockets of NC. I have worked alongside the staff of the ACLU-NC on some of the projects focused on immigrants’ rights and am ready to become more committed to the overall work of the ACLU-NC. I will contribute my community advocate experience and excitement for protecting the rights of every person in our state.



Holning Lau, Raleigh:

Serving on the ACLU-NC Board of Directors would be an honor, allowing me to continue my long-time support of the ACLU’s mission. I first became involved with the ACLU when I interned at the ACLU of Pennsylvania during my undergraduate education. That internship inspired me greatly, helping to shape my future as a rights advocate. Several years later, I became president of the University of Chicago Law School’s ACLU chapter. Today, as an Associate Professor of Law at UNC-Chapel

Hill, I continue to work with the ACLU by supervising a pro bono collaboration between students and the ACLU’s LGBT Project.

My commitment to civil liberties is reflected in much of my current work. My scholarship, which focuses on domestic and international legal protection of equality rights, has appeared in journals such as the Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review, Harvard Journal of Law & Gender, California Law Review, and Northwestern Law Review. In 2007, the Williams Institute on Sexual Orientation Law and Public Policy presented me with a Dukeminier Award for my writing on sexual orientation rights. In addition to supervising UNC students’ pro bono work with the ACLU, I currently supervise a pro bono project with the International Commission of Jurists’ Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Project. I also serve on two boards of advisors in Hong Kong, both of which address matters of public law including the protection of civil liberties.

I hope to bring this experience, my enthusiasm and my respect for the ACLU to the ACLU-NC Board of Directors. Thank you for your consideration.

Carlos Mahoney, Durham:



I am a law partner with the firm Glenn, Mills, Fisher & Mahoney, P.A. in Durham, North Carolina. My law practice is focused on civil

litigation in various fields including civil rights. I have represented clients in civil and criminal cases with constitutional claims involving issues of search and seizure, excessive use of force, the right to trial by jury, right to legal counsel, privilege against self-incrimination, cruel and unusual punishment, unlawful taking of property, eleventh amendment immunity, procedural and substantive due process, and equal protection. I have a strong commitment to civil rights and am a firm proponent of our jury system and the judicial process.

I have served on the Board of Directors for the ACLU of North Carolina and the ACLU of North Carolina's Legal Foundation since the Fall of 2005. I presently serve as the President of both the ACLU-NC and Legal Foundation Boards. I am a member of the Executive Committee, Finance Committee, Legal Committee, and Personnel Committee. I also serve as a cooperating attorney.

I want to continue serving on both Boards because of my commitment to the ACLU, my experience in litigating civil rights issues and my knowledge of constitutional law. I am dedicated to preserving and advancing civil liberties for all North Carolinians. I would be honored to be elected for another term on the Board of Directors for the ACLU-NC and Legal Foundation.



Matthew Robinson, Boone:

My name is Matthew Robinson and I am Professor in the Department of Government and Justice Studies at Appalachian State University in Boone. I received my Ph.D. in Criminology & Criminal Justice from the Florida State University in 1997.

I teach and do research in many areas related to civil liberties and the US Constitution. These include capital punishment, the drug war, social justice theory, and injustices of the criminal justice system. My overriding goal in my work is to help bring about more just outcomes for my town, state, region, and nation. My approach is to make sure my teaching, research, and service are aimed at real world change.

I am a frequent contributor of letters to the editor and op-eds in newspapers (for example: http://www.newsobserver.com/opinion/columnists_blogs/story/45933.html?storylink=mirelated). I am also an activist. For example, I wrote and campaigned for resolutions condemning certain provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act. An eight-part series I wrote for the Watauga Democrat informed citizens about the law. I then took my argument to multiple bodies at the university, town, county, and congressional district level. Many of these entities passed my resolutions, including the Town of Boone Council (see the resolution here: <http://bordc.org/detail.php?id=292>).

Serving on the Board is an

exciting way for me to continue to fight for what is right. I pledge to work as hard as I can to assist the ACLU of North Carolina in achieving its goals. I will also positively represent the western part of the state as well as the town of Boone.



Diane Rodriguez, Greenville:

Thank you for considering my nomination for the Board of Directors of the ACLU of North Carolina. I graduated from the InterAmerica University of Puerto Rico with a Bachelors Degree in Language Arts and completed my doctoral degree in Language, Learning, and Literacy from Fordham University. Then, I continued my post-doctoral studies at the University of Virginia in the area of special education. I am currently an associate professor at East Carolina University in the College of Education, Department of Curriculum and Instruction. I have received numerous grants from the U. S. Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services and the Office of English Language Acquisition. Some of my publications appear in: *Childhood Education*, *Rural Special Education Quarterly*, *Journal of International Special Needs Education*, and *Exceptional Children Journal of Research in Childhood Education*. I have been an invited speaker at national and

international conferences on special education and bilingual education.

I have been often referred to as “a ferocious advocate for appropriate education for English language learners,” a title that seems to be earned through years of defending the rights of Latino children and youth. My research interests are links in the areas of teaching culturally and linguistically diverse students with and without disabilities, and multicultural education. I am active with the Association of Mexicans in North Carolina (AMEXCAN) organization.

As a potential member of the ACLU-NC Board of Directors, I will be able to deliver to the ACLU my educational and activist experience I have gained through my work in the communities.



Dianna Wynn, Raleigh:

As Vice-President of the ACLU-NC, I hope I have made a meaningful contribution to the Board, and, if elected, I would be honored to continue to do so. My commitment to the ACLU-NC began as a volunteer in the office several years ago assisting with case mail. I then served as Secretary for both the ACLU-NC Board and the Wake County ACLU Chapter Board. In order to learn more about the issues, I attended the last national ACLU membership conference in Washington, DC. My involvement with the ACLU-NC has taught me

much regarding the civil liberties challenges in North Carolina and has allowed me to witness the impressive work done by our state office.

As a communication professor, I encourage students to understand their own and others’ First Amendment rights. However, in my previous work as a trial consultant, I learned the reality of how government can lose sight of its most important obligations to the people. At the same time, I have faith in our nation so long as

concerned Americans and organizations like the ACLU fight for the preservation of civil liberties.

Occasionally, a friend or colleague will ask me why I feel so strongly about the work of the ACLU. This question always strikes me as odd, as if one’s ACLU membership must be defended. Unfortunately, the fight to preserve rights is a battle that must be waged each day. I look forward to being a part of the ACLU-NC’s continued defense of our liberties in North Carolina.

**Mark your calendar now and plan to attend the
ACLU-NC’s Annual Membership Meeting!**

Thursday, May 20, 2010

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

**Location: Green Street United Methodist Church
639 South Green Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27101**

Honoring Constance L. Blackmon and Janet Joyner, the courageous plaintiffs in our legal challenge against the Forsyth County Commissioners’ practice of opening government meetings with sectarian prayers.



Our legal team exits the courthouse after oral arguments in October 2009. Pictured left to right: Emily-Mary Brown, ACLU-NCLF paralegal; Forsyth County residents Constance Blackmon and Janet Joyner, Plaintiffs; and Katy Parker, ACLU-NCLF Legal Director.

Featuring a panel discussion about religious freedom and the importance of government neutrality in religious matters, its roots in our nation’s history, and how this issue plays out today.

ACLU members whose dues are current as of 12/31/09 may cast their votes for ACLU-NC and ACLU-NCLF Boards of Directors; Election results will be announced at the end of the meeting.

Light snacks provided; no charge to attend. Bring a friend! To RSVP, contact Ian Mance at aclunc@nc.rr.com or 919-834-3466.



Election Ballot for the American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina



IMPORTANT VOTING INSTRUCTIONS: For **Individual Memberships:** Vote for a maximum of seven (7) candidates under the column marked 'Individual.' An individual member may not vote for the same candidate twice. For **Joint Memberships** (two members with the same mailing address voting on the same ballot): Vote for a maximum of 14 candidates, one member voting for up to seven candidates under the column marked 'Individual' and the second member voting for a maximum of seven candidates under the column marked 'Joint.' If you have a joint membership with the ACLU, you will have two names on the mailing label of this Election-edition newsletter. To vote, simply place an 'X' in the box before the name you select.

Individual	Joint	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tariq Butt
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Esteban Echeverria
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Curry First
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Risa Foster
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Irene Godinez
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Holning Lau
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Carlos Mahoney
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Matthew Robinson
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Diane Rodriguez
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dianna Wynn

Each member may vote for up to seven (7) candidates. Voting for more than seven (7) candidates, or voting for a candidate twice in the case of an Individual member, will result in the disqualification of the ballot.

IMPORTANT: To maintain vote confidentiality, please see the reverse of this ballot for folding instructions.

REMEMBER: Your ballot must be received in our office by (not postmarked by) 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 20, 2010, or you may cast your vote in person at the Annual Membership Meeting on the evening of Thursday, May 20, 2010, in Winston-Salem.



SEAL HERE
WITH STAPLE OR TAPE

ACLU-NC ELECTION
BALLOT

C

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS FOR BALLOT FOLDING AND MAILING!!!

1. Before starting, read through these instructions.
2. Please note the four capital letter A's in the corners on front side of the ballot and the capital letter B's and C's located on this (the reverse) side of the ballot.
3. After reading these instructions, turn the ballot back over, so the ballot is face up.
4. Fold the ballot in half, from the bottom up, matching (touching) the A's in the four corners.
5. Fold the remaining half in thirds, first matching the B's and then matching the C's.
6. If you folded the ballot correctly, you should be looking at the words "ACLU-NC Election Ballot" on top.
7. Seal the ballot, as indicated, with some tape or a staple.
8. Mail the ballot to:
ACLU-NC Board Elections
P.O. Box 28004
Raleigh, NC 27611-8004
9. **BOTH SIGN AND PRINT your name on the back of your envelope on or near the flap (two names for a joint membership) and be sure to include your return address on the envelope (legibly) in order for us to verify your membership status. We must be able to verify that you are/ were an ACLU-NC member in good standing as of December 31, 2009, before counting your vote.**
10. Put a stamp on your envelope and mail to the ACLU-NC as soon as possible. It must be received in our office by Thursday, May 20, 2010 at 12:00 noon.

You may also vote in person at the Annual Membership Meeting, which will be held on Thursday, May 20, 2010 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Green Street United Methodist Church, 639 South Green Street in Winston-Salem.

C →

B

← B

In Memoriam ... Remembering Dan Pollitt

The ACLU of North Carolina mourns the profound loss of Dan Pollitt, charter member of the ACLU of North Carolina (formerly known as the North Carolina Civil Liberties Union), serving as President from 1969 — 1973 and receiving the Frank Porter Graham Award in 1976. Pollitt was one of the most extraordinary figures in the history of both the ACLU and the state of North Carolina. He died peacefully in his sleep on the morning of Friday, March 5, 2010, at the age of 88.

Pollitt was born in 1921 in Washington, D.C. Both of his parents were lawyers with the New Deal Administration of Franklin Roosevelt. He received an undergraduate education at Wesleyan University in Connecticut, graduating with an A.B. degree in 1943. He joined the US Marine Corps and saw active combat in the Pacific theatre, landing in Japan in 1945. After World War II ended, he entered Cornell Law School, receiving an

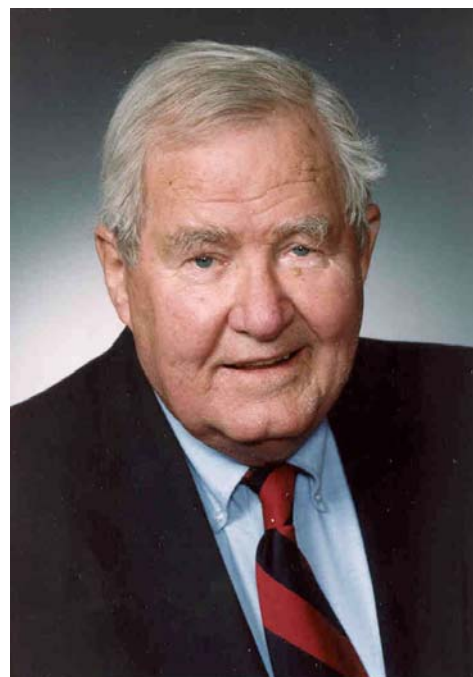
Judge Henry Edgerton of the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

He then began a long professional association with the firm created by Joseph Rauh and John Silard, where he worked on a wide variety of labor, civil rights and other cases through 1955. He began his academic teaching at the University of Arkansas, but when he refused, on principle, to sign a loyalty oath and was threatened with dismissal, former Dean Maurice Van Hecke, Dean Henry Brandis and President Frank Porter Graham urged him to come teach in Chapel Hill. He joined the UNC Law faculty in 1957 and spent the rest of his professional life (almost 50 years!) at Carolina Law.

John Charles “Jack” Boger, Dean of the University of North Carolina School of Law writes of Pollitt: “In a voice always soft spoken, with a manner invariably genial, Dan represented the finest progressive social and political values. He was a generous and caring teacher who

opened his home and life to his students, and a scholar whose writings conveyed both the legal principles and the deeper animating spirit of constitutional law, labor law, and civil rights. Dan had an unparalleled record of social activism, a deep devotion to the University and personal friend-

ship with many leading American public figures of his age.” Boger further describes Pollitt as “a strong,



beneficent mind and voice, prompting all to aspire to principles of fairness and inclusion.”

In the field of civil rights, Pollitt’s activities were constant and courageous. He helped to desegregate restaurants and stores in Chapel Hill in the 1960’s, and he and his first wife of 55 years, Jean Ann Rutledge, also ate with Dr. Martin Luther King and Coretta Scott King to desegregate Rich’s department store in Atlanta. He went with Dean Smith to recruit Charlie Scott as UNC’s first African-American basketball star. Literally scores of community activists remember when Dan Pollitt was there for them, filing briefs, making oral arguments, and writing trenchant pieces in *The Independent* or other public venues.

He is survived by his loving and devoted second wife, State Senator Ellie Kinnaid; three children who will forever cherish his memory: Daniel, Phoebe, and Susan; and several step children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews. A memorial service will be held on Sunday, April 18, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. at the William and Ida Friday Center in Chapel Hill, open to the public.



Pollitt’s death came within two months of that of his long-time faculty colleague and friend, Gene Gressman, pictured above (left) with Pollitt. The UNC School of Law founded a first-year oral advocacy program named in tribute to both men.

LL.B. degree with honors in 1949. After a year of private practice in a private D.C. firm, Pollitt clerked for

Elon Police Department Settles Lawsuit, Awarding ACLU-NCLF Client \$50,000 in Damages and Revising Taser Safety and Use of Force Policies.

In January, we successfully settled a federal lawsuit filed on behalf of John W. Paylor, a resident of Elon and 55-year-old grandfather who was shot twice with a Taser by Elon police officers on June 18, 2006. The officers had surrounded the home of Mr. Paylor in order to serve him with a

measures designed to prevent any excessive and unnecessary use of Tasers. Specifically, Elon police officers will undergo improved annual training on a new Taser policy and on Elon's more general use-of-force policy. Further, Elon's new Taser policy must be consistent with policies in place in other North

Carolina localities that include protections the ACLU-NC believes are important to safeguard against excessive use of Tasers. For example, these policies prevent the use of Tasers against individuals, such as Paylor, who are not actively resisting officers. These policies also prohibit the use of Tasers against individuals, such as Paylor, who could potentially receive a secondary injury resulting from falling from an elevated location, and they limit the number of times an individual can be tased. Additionally, the Elon Police Department paid \$50,000 to Mr. Paylor for his physical, emotional and constitutional injuries.

After the lawsuit was filed, other Elon residents came forward and described instances in which they, too, had been tased unnecessarily by the Elon Police Department. As a result of the settlement in this case, an additional thirteen (13) North Carolina law enforcement agencies have changed their Taser policies to include more restrictions on the use of Tasers by officers.

The ACLU-NCLF is a founding member of the North Carolina Taser Safety Project, a coalition of nonprofit organizations advocating for the proper use of Tasers by law enforcement and for better training for officers on the weapons' potential risks. These risks are especially pronounced when used on certain vulnerable populations, such as children, the elderly, the disabled, obviously pregnant women, and people in certain situations that place them at greater risk of harm, such as people standing atop a flight of stairs – as Mr. Paylor was here – who are at risk of injury from falling if shot with a Taser. The Taser Safety Project produced a report in 2008 which can be found online at <http://acluofnc.org/files/NotThereYet.pdf>

Mr. Paylor was represented by Mark J. Prak, Charles E. Coble and Charles F. Marshall of Brooks, Pierce, McLendon, Humphrey & Leonard, L.L.P. in Raleigh, and C. Scott Holmes of Brock, Payne & Meece, P.A. in Durham, as

Cooperating Attorneys for the ACLU-NCLF, as well as by Katy Parker, ACLU-NCLF Legal Director.



John Paylor (third from left), with ACLU-NCLF Cooperating Attorneys Charles Marshall, Charles Coble, and Mark Prak of the Raleigh law firm Brooks, Pierce, McLendon, Humphrey & Leonard, L.L.P.

misdeemeanor arrest warrant for using profanity on a public highway and for reckless driving. A videotape of the incident shows that Paylor was unarmed, in his underwear, and presented no threat to the officers. Nevertheless, an Elon police officer shot Paylor with a Taser, causing him to fall from his porch. Then, while Paylor was lying on the ground, unable to move from the shock of being tased and from the fall down his steps, the officer tased him a second time. Mr. Paylor has sustained permanent physical scarring from the incident. In March 2009, the ACLU-NCLF filed a lawsuit on behalf of Paylor against the Elon Police Department and individual Elon police officers involved for excessive use of force.

Under the terms of the settlement agreement, the Elon Police Department will implement

measures designed to prevent any excessive and unnecessary use of Tasers. Specifically, Elon police officers will undergo improved annual training on a new Taser policy and on Elon's more general use-of-force policy. Further, Elon's new Taser policy must be consistent with policies in place in other North Carolina localities that include protections the ACLU-NC believes are important to safeguard against excessive use of Tasers. For example, these policies prevent the use of Tasers against individuals, such as Paylor, who are not actively resisting officers. These policies also prohibit the use of Tasers against individuals, such as Paylor, who could potentially receive a secondary injury resulting from falling from an elevated location, and they limit the number of times an individual can be tased. Additionally, the Elon Police Department paid \$50,000 to Mr. Paylor for his physical, emotional and constitutional injuries.

Elated with the outcome, Mr. Paylor stated, "What these officers did to me was wrong, and my hope is that this settlement will prevent others from having to suffer what I suffered at the hands of Elon police."



ACLU-NC Racial Justice Project's "Wall of Shame" (Dis)honoree: The New Majority on the Wake County School Board!

This quarter's "Wall of Shame" recognition goes to the new 5-4 majority on the Wake County School Board for its efforts to dismantle a nationally-acclaimed diversity policy and its continued violations of North Carolina's Open Meetings and Public Records Laws. The Wake County School Board has had a socio-economic diversity plan in place for years to avoid having schools with high concentrations of low-income students. However, a new majority on the school board

voted in March to do away with the diversity policy, which is nationally recognized, in favor of "neighborhood schools," which many scholars and civil rights advocates believe will lead to the resegregation of Wake County schools.

The school board has also evidenced a continuing disdain for open meetings and open government by: (1) attempting to avoid public records laws by corresponding with one another on personal email; (2) blocking the public from school board meetings;

(3) calling parents and other citizens "animals" for voicing disagreement with the board's new direction; (4) selecting supporters, and not dissenters, to speak at board meetings; and (5) making decisions as a board without a board majority present and before the new board members were even sworn into office! The ACLU-NCLF is working with a broad coalition of civil rights groups to challenge these new dangerous steps taken by the board.

Join our Action Alert E-mail List... Be a part of the solution!

Join the ACLU-NC's Action Alert list and receive e-mail alerts on pending legislation, complete with bill summaries, talking points and contact information for communicating with key legislators. We need you! You will also receive our e-newsletter and announcements of upcoming events.

Our strength truly lies in our numbers, so please fill out this form and return it to us at ACLU-NC, P. O. Box 28004, Raleigh, NC 27611 or e-mail the information to Ian Mance, Program Associate, at aclunc@nc.rr.com.

YES! I want to help! Please sign me up for the Action Alert List.

Name: _____

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The ACLU-NCLF seeks a qualified attorney to run our Racial Justice Project out of our Raleigh office.

The Racial Justice Attorney will work on issues of racial justice, involving criminal justice, racial profiling, and immigrants' rights, employing strategies involving community outreach, public education, litigation and general legal advocacy.

Proficiency in Spanish strongly preferred.

For complete list of job duties, qualifications, and application instructions, go to www.acluofnorthcarolina.org/?q=job-opportunity-staff-attorney-racial-justice-project

Applications are being reviewed on a rolling basis,
and the position will remain open until filled. AA/EOE

Adoption Case (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

petitioning the court for sole custody and argued that the adoption agreement itself was invalid because North Carolina law does not specifically authorize adoptions by same-sex partners. Jarrell even initially tried to certify a class action lawsuit, seeking to invalidate not only her own adoption agreement but *all* such adoptions by a second parent in North Carolina. When the ACLU-NCLF and our allies assisted five horrified families who sought to intervene in the lawsuit to defend their own families' rights to continue to exist, Jarrell dropped her class action motion.

Both the trial court and the

Court of Appeals ruled in favor of Boseman, finding that: Jacob had known her as his mother his whole life; by Jarrell's own admissions, Boseman had been a loving mother to Jacob; Jarrell had entered into the adoption agreement voluntarily, knowingly and intentionally at the time it was finalized; there is a strong public policy in North Carolina that favors the finality of adoptions; and it was therefore clearly in little Jacob's best interest to continue to have a legally recognized familial relationship with both of his mothers.

The ACLU-NCLF, national ACLU Foundation, and Lambda Legal Defense Fund lent our legal expertise in support of Senator Boseman at the Court of Appeals level. In its unanimous opinion

upholding the original adoption order, the Court of Appeals noted that "[w]hile [North Carolina adoption law] does not specifically address same-sex adoptions, these statutes do make clear that a wide range of adoptions are contemplated and permitted, so long as they protect the minor's 'needs, interests, and rights.'"



Abortion Debate (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

also removed the coverage, reportedly affecting close to 9,000 employees. Most recently, Pitt County voted on March 15th to remove coverage for elective abortions for county employees.

The ACLU-NC discovered that the issue was only really brought to the attention of many local governments after North Carolina Representative Paul "Skip" Stam (R-Wake 37) sent a misleading letter to several county managers and attorneys advising them that a 1981 North Carolina Supreme Court case, *Stam v. State of North Carolina*, prohibited covering abortion in public employee health benefits. The ACLU-NC produced a legal analysis demonstrating conclusively that in actuality, *Stam v. State* had nothing to do with local government's ability to offer

health benefits or what coverage could be included, but instead focused on whether Wake County had direct authority from the State Legislature to levy taxes to pay for abortions for indigent women. It is hard to say what inspired Representative Stam to use this 29-year-old case in which he was the plaintiff to raise this argument now when Wake County has been offering complete reproductive health care to employees for over a decade, but the debate at the federal level over the Stupak Amendment to health insurance reform may have been the impetus.

The ACLU-NC's legal analysis was sent to all 100 counties along with a coalition letter signed by the ACLU-NC and nine other organizations supporting the retention of full health coverage for county employees. As a result, several local governments that had been considering the issue decided

not to vote on it. The ACLU-NC has also appeared before the Wake County Commissioners and the Apex Town Council, arguing for reinstatement of the health benefits. We achieved success on March 15th when the Wake County Board of Commissioners voted 4-3 to reinstate coverage for elective abortions in the health insurance benefits provided to Wake County employees. Commissioners Brown, Ward, Norwalk, and Webb are to be commended for voting in favor of restoring complete reproductive health care.

The ACLU-NC is committed to continuing to monitor, investigate, and advocate for complete reproductive health care because, as Wake County Commissioner Ward stated during the March 15th meeting, this is a decision best left to a woman and her doctor, and no government body should interfere.

Chapter Updates

Duke University ACLU

The Duke University ACLU has had an exciting opening to 2010. On February 22nd, the Duke ACLU brought in Krysten Sinema, a Democratic member of the Arizona House of Representatives and 2010 State Senate candidate. Sinema spoke to students on campus and had dinner with the ACLU chapter. Sinema is openly bisexual and helped lead Arizona Together, a statewide campaign that defeated Proposition 107, which would have banned the recognition of same-sex marriage and civil unions in Arizona. Representative Sinema teamed up with the ACLU in opposition to the Minutemen Project and published her first book in 2009.

We have also been active in campus policy, helping to establish the foundations of what the chapter hopes will become a Students' Bill of Rights. Duke Student Government, with ACLU support and advice, has also taken the first steps towards ending Duke's continued ban on cohabitation with members of the opposite sex, including in campus apartments. The ending of Duke's cohabitation restrictions would be an important victory for student choice. A North Carolina state judge has already ruled the state's anti-cohabitation law unconstitutional in 2006 in a legal challenge brought by the ACLU-NC Legal Foundation.

Duke ACLU members are looking forward to their partnership with NARAL's Healthy Youth Act Action Teams, the publication of a joint Duke ACLU and NAACP report on racism in the classroom, ACLU-sponsored film screenings, and many more exciting events.

Western NC ACLU Chapter

The Western NC Chapter of ACLU-NC joined with UNC-Asheville chapter of ACLU and the student Amnesty International chapter in sponsoring the February 25th appearance of former ACLU-NC President (and current WNC chapter member) Frank Goldsmith. Addressing a standing-room-only audience, Goldsmith discussed the legal aspects of torture and his representation of prisoners at Guantanamo.

On March 1st, we co-sponsored an evening of anti-death penalty visual and performing arts, called "Execute Art, Not People," to honor Amnesty International's Death Penalty Awareness Week. The keynote speaker was restorative justice advocate Melanie Snyder, author of "Grace Goes to Prison."

We have joined the state ACLU and other human rights groups in

cosponsoring the Duke Center for Human Rights' statewide conference "Weaving a Web of Accountability: Taking on Extraordinary Rendition at the State and Regional Level," on April 8-10.

The Asheville City Council, and the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners and many other municipal bodies throughout Western North Carolina regularly open their public meetings with sectarian prayer. Our chapter has been monitoring these, especially in the wake of the Forsyth County ruling that such practices are unconstitutional. When the Commissioners began to reevaluate their practice, three of our Board members were present for public comment and testified. The County Board of Commissioners has decided to refrain from inviting local clergy to do the opening prayer, instead rotating the task to members of the Board.

Attention, ACLU Members in Western NC:

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the
Western NC ACLU Chapter's Annual Meeting!

Sunday, May 23, 2010

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Asheville Friends Meeting House
227 Edgewood Road

(Between Merrimon Avenue and UNCA, parking off-street in large lot with access through narrow cut in stone wall on the north side of Edgewood, near top of hill — about 3 blocks west of Merrimon.)

Board and officer elections will be held;
nominations accepted from the floor.

The Evan Mahaney Champion of Civil Liberties Award will be presented to **Robert (Bob) Smith**, long-time executive director of the Asheville-Buncombe County Community Relations Council for his consistent and continuing support of civil liberties and human rights throughout Western NC.

Wake County ACLU Chapter

The Wake County Chapter of the ACLU hosted its annual W.W. Finlator Award Dinner in November 2009, during which it honored State Senator Ellie Kinnaird for her continued support for civil liberties in North Carolina. Following Sen. Kinnaird's acceptance of the award that evening, Ian Palmquist, Executive Director of Equality NC, gave the keynote address. His message focused on the recent passage of the Anti-Bullying Act in NC and how it impacts LGBT youth. The event was an inspiring evening for those in attendance.



Senator Ellie Kinnaird delivered her acceptance speech at the W.W. Finlator Awards Dinner.



Lifetime Board Member of the Wake ACLU Chapter Slater Newman led attendees at the Finlator Dinner in a support song for the ACLU.

The Wake County Chapter also recently celebrated its 41st birthday at its Annual Meeting in March. Sarah Preston, Policy Director for the ACLU-NC, addressed the chapter members with a briefing on the progress the ACLU-NC made in 2009, and the battles it continues to fight in 2010. She also issued a call to action on the abortion coverage debate that came to Wake County, which was followed quickly by a victory when the County Commissioners voted to reinstate insurance coverage for the procedure.



Policy Director Sarah Preston delivered an update on ACLU-NC activities at the Wake Chapter Annual Meeting.

The Wake Chapter has also just released its updated website: www.wakeaclu.org. Thanks to the hard work of one of the newest board members, Josh McIntyre, the website is up to date and fully functioning. In addition to McIntyre, the Wake Chapter also welcomes Bill Rowe, Alan Sharett, and Maria Magher as newly elected members of the board. We bid farewell to Jutta Street and Loretta Mershon, who have served the chapter for many years. Their enthusiasm and support for civil liberties will certainly be missed!

The ACLU-NC wishes to thank Bruce Elmore, Mark Kleinschmidt, and Mike Crum for their six years of leadership and dedication on our Board. Due to our term limits policy, they are ineligible for reelection this spring, but the lasting impact of their efforts will be felt for many years to come.

Hurrah for the Bill of Rights and the
Universal Declaration of Human Rights!

by Slater E. Newman, Chair,
ACLU-NC Committee on International Human Rights

In 2009, to mark the 61st birthday of the Universal
Declaration of Human Rights (December 10) and the
216th birthday of the Bill of Rights (December 15):

1. Proclamations were issued by Governor
Perdue; by the Mayors of Asheville, Burlington,
Carrboro, Cary, Chapel Hill, Durham, Forest City,
Greensboro, Greenville, Hendersonville, Hickory,
Louisburg, Marion, Newton, Pittsboro, Raleigh,
Rocky Mount, Selma and Zebulon; by Commissioners
of Durham, Henderson and Orange Counties; and by
the Chancellor of North Carolina State University and
by the President of Catawba Valley Community
College.

2. There were public readings of one or both
documents and/or of a proclamation in Carrboro,
Chapel Hill, Durham, Greensboro, Hillsborough, and
Raleigh, and Hendersonville held a forum on
diversity.

3. Also in Raleigh, there was a photo exhibit,
a forum on embedding human rights in communities,
an international human rights award dinner, a joint
celebration of the birthdays of both documents (co-
sponsored by the ACLU of North Carolina), and their
display in ten (10) Wake County libraries.

Many thanks to those who helped. Onward
and upward!

Cordially,
Slater E. Newman, Chair
ACLU-NC Committee on International Human Rights

Note: A table and accompanying narrative on the
status of treaties in the United Nations Human Rights
Treaty System have been updated as of February 1st.
Both are accessible via the ACLU-NC website -
www.acluofnorthcarolina.org. Then click "Human
Rights" for the narrative. The table is accessible
within the narrative by clicking either "the attached
table" or "International_Treaties.pdf". The table and
narrative will be updated quarterly. Please e-mail
questions, comments, or suggestions to
slaterpat@mindspring.com.

**PLEASE SUPPORT THE
ACLU OF NORTH CAROLINA
LEGAL FOUNDATION BY MAKING
A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE
CONTRIBUTION TODAY!**

Friends, we need your help! We see many challenges
to American's fundamental freedoms looming in the
courts, in Congress, in the halls of the North Carolina
General Assembly, and in city councils, school
boards, and boards of county commissioners across
the state. As you evaluate your budget and think
about your charitable contributions for 2010, please
put the ACLU-NCLF at the top of your list. The
demand for our services has never been greater. Our
legal program now processes anywhere from 200-250
requests for assistance per month!

Yes! I want to help keep the Flame of Liberty
burning brightly in North Carolina. Enclosed is a
check for my tax-deductible contribution in the
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Perryn Reyelts at 919-834-3466 or
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semiannual giving options to fit your budget.

You can also make a contribution through the
ACLU-NCLF's secure website at: [https://
www.acluofnorthcarolina.org/?q=donate](https://www.acluofnorthcarolina.org/?q=donate)



JOIN TODAY!

Your dues include memberships for the national ACLU, ACLU of North Carolina, and your local chapter if one exists in your region. You will also receive *Liberty*, the quarterly ACLU-NC newsletter, along with the national newsletter and other mailings. If you have email, your name will be added to our listserv upon your request. You will be able to vote in our statewide Board elections and will be invited to ACLU events like the Frank Porter Graham Awards Ceremony and the annual membership meeting. Simply fill out the form below and return it in a stamped envelope.

GUARDIANS OF FREEDOM

The ACLU is our nation's guardian of liberty, working daily in courts, legislatures and communities to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties that the Constitution and laws of the United States guarantee to everyone in this country. Our job is to conserve America's original civic values and defend the rights of every man, woman and child; rich or poor; straight or gay; black or white or brown; urban or rural; American-born or foreign-born; able-bodied or living with a disability — *every person* in this country. We're there for you! Since our founding in 1920, we've been working hard to make sure no one's rights are taken away.

LEGAL PROGRAM

Our legal program has been the most successful avenue for protecting and enhancing the constitutional rights and civil liberties of North Carolinians. Of the thousands of requests for assistance received each year, we litigate and provide amicus curiae assistance (friend-of-the-court briefs) in approx. 15-20 cases. We respond to every request we receive, and in non-civil liberties matters, try to make appropriate referrals. Our current docket includes cases on Freedom of Speech/Religious Liberty, Privacy Rights/Right to Travel, Disability Rights, Equal Protection, Right to Trial, Search and Seizure, Voting Rights, and the Right to a Sound, Basic Education.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

We provide a constant reminder to our legislators that our civil liberties should not be compromised by legislative jockeying and political posturing. The ACLU-NC's full-time lobbyist is a permanent presence at the North Carolina General Assembly and influences public policy debates and legislation that involve civil liberties issues. We invite you to visit our website to receive legislative "Action Alerts."

PUBLIC EDUCATION OUTREACH PROGRAM

Through our website, literature, speaking engagements, public forums, visits to schools and universities, press interviews and television and radio appearances, we educate North Carolinians about their rights. Only when each person is informed of his/her rights can we achieve the ideals set forth in the Constitution.

Enclosed is my check for:

- \$5 Limited Income Membership
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- \$30 Joint Membership
- \$35 Contributing Membership*
- \$50 Joint Contributing Membership
- \$75 Supporting Membership
- \$125 Sustaining Membership
- \$1,000 Lifetime Membership
- \$ Other

**Please give this amount or more if you can*

Make check payable to the ACLU. Please note that membership dues are not tax-deductible because the ACLU engages in lobbying and direct advocacy.

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
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Would you like information regarding chapter activities in your area, if available?
 YES NO

Please return this form to:
 ACLU-NC
 P.O. Box 28004
 Raleigh, NC 27611
 Phone: (919) 834-3466



***Introducing the two Boards of Directors of the ACLU of North Carolina
and the ACLU of North Carolina Legal Foundation:***

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Unless otherwise noted, Board members listed above serve on both Boards. A (U) next to a member's name connotes membership on the Union Board only, and an (LF) connotes membership on the Legal Foundation Board only.

LIBERTY

The Quarterly Newsletter of the ACLU of North Carolina

4 issues per year:

January, March, July, and October

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INTERNS (Spring Semester 2010):

Curtis Griner, Duke University School of Law

Tom Kim, UNC School of Law

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Working for a more progressive North Carolina.

The ACLU-NC Legal Foundation is proud to be a member of North Carolina Community Shares, and we thank all of our members and supporters who contribute to us through regular payroll deductions.

Payroll deduction offered by employers allows employees to make tax-deductible contributions of \$5, \$10, \$15 or more each pay period to the organizations and community initiatives they want to support. It's easy, efficient and voluntary!

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Save the Date!

Mark your calendar now and
plan to attend the ACLU-NC's Annual Membership Meeting!

Thursday, May 20, 2010

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Location: Green Street United Methodist Church
639 South Green Street, Winston-Salem

Honoring Constance L. Blackmon and Janet Joyner, the
courageous plaintiffs in our legal challenge against the Forsyth
County Commissioners' practice of opening government
meetings with sectarian prayers.

Featuring a panel discussion about religious freedom and the
importance of government neutrality in religious matters, its
roots in our nation's history, and how this issue plays out today,
both in North Carolina and across the nation.



Constance Blackmon, Janet Joyner

Election results for ACLU-NC and ACLU-NCLF Boards of Directors will be
announced. Light snacks will be provided; no charge to attend. Bring a friend!

To RSVP, contact Ian Mance, the ACLU-NC's Program Associate, at
aclunc@nc.rr.com or call 919-834-3466.