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Young Immigrants Win Fight for Licenses

ACLU-NC Advocacy Brings Policy Change

Following months of advocacy by the ACLU of North Carolina and other immigrants' rights organizations, on March 25, North Carolina resumed its policy of granting driver's licenses to young immigrants who were brought into the United States by their undocumented parents and are receiving work permits under a federal program.

Under the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, young immigrants who came to the U.S.

before they turned 16, are not older than 31, and have graduated high school, attended college, or served in the military are granted a two-year reprieve from deportation. Nearly 17,000 people have applied for DACA status in North Carolina.

Even though the federal government has said these young aspiring citizens are "legally present" in the U.S., a small number of states have unfortunately tried to make it harder for many to work, go to

(Continued on page 4)



Student Diana Gonzalez, 17, (left) and ACLU-NC Staff Attorney Raul Pinto delivered more than 23,000 signatures to Gov. Pat McCrory's office Feb. 12 asking the State to grant driver's licenses to young immigrants such as Diana who qualify under the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

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The Drones Are Coming

The City Council of Monroe, a small town in Union County east of Charlotte, made headlines in March when it gave its police department permission to purchase a \$44,000 drone equipped with a rotating infrared camera that could be used to monitor and store data on citizens.

The police department of Gaston County, west of Charlotte, has owned a drone since 2006, but mechanical problems have prevented it from flying.

The Federal Aviation Administration estimates that as many as 30,000 drones could fly over American skies by 2020.

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ACLU-NC Works
with Lawmakers
to Introduce
Bipartisan Bill
to Limit Drone
Use in N.C.



LIBERTY

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Civil Liberties In Crisis

Fellow ACLU members and supporters, we have our work cut out for us, and we really need your help. If you have not yet joined our email Action Alert list, please do so by going to www.acluofnc.org. We send out alerts on high-priority bills that we're tracking in the state legislature, and we make it easy for you to contact your representatives in the North Carolina General Assembly and/or the governor to make your voice heard in defense of civil liberties.

Already this year, we are dealing with proposals to teach the Bible in public schools and offer course credit for Bible study or other private religious instruction conducted outside of the school; to impose onerous new restrictions on abortion providers designed to drive them out of business; to teach middle and high school students that abortion causes preterm birth in future pregnancies, which is not scientifically proven; to scale back measures such as same-day voter registration and early voting that make it possible for many more eligible voters to vote; to impose unnecessary photo ID requirements for voting that could disenfranchise tens or even hundreds of thousands of eligible voters; to restart executions in North Carolina and limit the right to appeal; and a whole slew of anti-immigrant proposals that make Arizona look friendly by comparison! And if you really want to scream, check out House Joint Resolution 494 – filed on April Fool's Day, but sadly, not as a joke – which declares that state and local governments are free to establish an official religion if they so choose, that states are not bound by federal court rulings, and that the federal courts have no authority to interpret the U.S. Constitution anyway. Fun times.

There are more than 50 bills that we are actively working on this session. To learn more, click on the "Issues" tab on our website, and then click on "Current Legislative Session." Please join our Action Alert list, follow us on Twitter (@ACLU_NC) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/ACLUNC), and help us hold the governor and legislature accountable.

And of course – you knew I was going to say this! – please make a tax-deductible contribution to support our legal and educational programs. Send in the form on Page 11 of this newsletter, or go to our secure website at acluofnc.org to make your donation online. Thank you!



Jennifer Rudinger
Jennifer Rudinger
Executive Director

LEGAL NEWS

ACLU, Citizens File Suit to End Unconstitutional Prayers at Rowan County Commissioner Meetings

The ACLU and ACLU of North Carolina Legal Foundation (ACLUNCLF) filed a federal lawsuit March 12 on behalf of three Rowan County citizens, demanding that the Rowan County Board of Commissioners stop its unconstitutional practice of opening government meetings with prayers that are specific to one religion.

The complaint, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina, details how more than 97 percent of board meetings since 2007 have opened with prayers specific to one religion, Christianity.

"I want my local government to be open and welcoming to people of all beliefs," said Nan Lund, a Salisbury resident who is one of three

plaintiffs named in the lawsuit. "But when officials begin a public meeting with prayers that are specific to only one religious viewpoint, I feel unwelcome and excluded."

The commissioners, who deliver the prayers themselves, routinely call on Jesus Christ and refer to other sectarian beliefs during invocations. Opening invocations have declared that "there is only one way to salvation, and that is Jesus Christ," as well as given thanks for the "virgin birth," the "cross at Calvary," and "the resurrection."

"All citizens of Rowan County deserve to be treated equally by their government, regardless of



From left: ACLU-NCLF Legal Director Chris Brook with Rowan County plaintiffs Nan Lund, Bob Voelker, and Liesa Montag-Siegel

their personal religious beliefs," said Chris Brook, ACLU-NCLF Legal Director. "By refusing to obey the law and insisting on opening meetings with prayers that are specific to only one religion, the Rowan County Commissioners have

(Continued on page 4)

As Court Decision Looms, Supporters Rally for Equality



ACLU-NC Executive Director Jennifer Rudinger addresses hundreds of marriage equality supporters who gathered outside the Wake County Courthouse in Raleigh to rally on March 26 as the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in two landmark cases challenging bans on same-sex marriage. Visit acluofnc.org to read her full remarks.

The U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments March 26 and 27 in two landmark cases challenging the constitutionality of same-sex marriage bans, including a challenge to the federal Defense of Marriage Act brought by the ACLU. On March 26, the ACLU-NC joined thousands of North Carolinians across the state who rallied and held candlelight vigils in support of marriage equality. ACLU-NC Executive Director Jennifer Rudinger was one of several speakers to address hundreds of supporters from the steps of the Wake County Courthouse in downtown Raleigh.

"We at the ACLU of North Carolina are proud to stand with you today, as we have stood with you for almost 80 years, determined to bring about the day when all people are treated equally and fairly," Rudinger told the crowd. "We look forward to a day when loving couples can legally enter into committed, stable relationships – care for each other in sickness and in health – and receive equal rights and privileges regardless of whether those couples are gay or straight." ■

Advocacy Timeline

How the ACLUNC helped win back driver's licenses for young immigrants:

⇒ **January 2013:** North Carolina DMV stops issuing driver's licenses to young immigrants in the DACA program pending an opinion from the state attorney general.

⇒ **Jan. 11:** The ACLU-NC and N.C. Justice Center send a letter to Attorney General Roy Cooper explaining that DACA recipients are "legally present" and therefore eligible for licenses.

⇒ **Jan. 17:** N.C. Attorney General's office tells DMV the law "requires that [driver's] licenses be issued" to DACA recipients.

⇒ **Jan. 18:** The ACLU-NC and N.C. Justice Center urge DMV to "take immediate steps to implement the opinion of the Attorney General and continue to issue licenses to DACA recipients."

⇒ **Feb. 12:** Diana Gonzalez, a 17-year-old DACA recipient and student from Burlington, delivers more than 23,000 signatures to Gov. Pat McCrory's office, asking that licenses be granted to young immigrants like her.

⇒ **Feb. 14:** N.C. Transportation Secretary Tony Tata announces that DMV will begin issuing licenses to DACA recipients on March 25 but later says that the licenses will bear a pink stripe with the words "no lawful status" in red letters.

⇒ **Mid-February to March:** The ACLU-NC criticizes the pink license design, saying N.C. shouldn't make it difficult for immigrants to "contribute to our communities by branding them with a second-class driver's license."

⇒ **March 21:** After much criticism, transportation officials unveil a new license design that removes the pink stripe and adds the words "legal presence."

⇒ **March 25:** DMV begins issuing licenses to DACA recipients once again.

Pink Stripe Removed from Licenses for Immigrants Following Protests

(Continued from page 1)

school, and contribute to their communities by questioning their eligibility for state driver's licenses — even though they meet all listed criteria.

In January, the North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles put a hold on issuing new licenses to DACA recipients, pending a legal opinion from the attorney general.

In response, the ACLU-NC and our allies wrote letters to officials, created petitions, and spoke out repeatedly in support of reinstating licenses for DACA recipients, who were legally eligible to work and go to school but suddenly not allowed to drive there or anywhere else.

The ACLU organized a petition signed by more than 23,000 people urging Gov. Pat McCrory to do the right thing and reinstate licenses for DACA recipients. On Feb. 12, Diana Gonzalez, a 17-year-old student and DACA recipient from Burling-

ton who was brought to the U.S. from Mexico when she was 2, delivered the petition to the governor's office, flanked by TV cameras.

Two days later, NC Transportation Secretary Tony Tata announced that the DMV would begin issuing driver's licenses to DACA recipients again, but that the licenses would bear a bright pink stripe and the words "no lawful status" in red. Again, the ACLU-NC and other groups objected, and controversy about the "Scarlet Letter" license design became international news.

Then on March 21, in response to criticism, officials unveiled a new design that removed the pink stripe and added the words "legal presence." The ACLU-NC questions the necessity of the extraneous language and scarlet lettering, and we continue to push for licenses that will not contain any stigmatizing markings. ■

Lawsuit Seeks End to Unconstitutional Prayers at Commissioner Meetings

(Continued from page 3)

created an environment where citizens with different beliefs are made to feel alienated."

A 2011 ruling by the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in another ACLU case, *Joyner, et al. v. Forsyth County Board of Commissioners*, made clear that if local boards decide to open meetings with in-

vocations, the prayers may not indicate a preference for one faith. After the U.S. Supreme Court declined to review that ruling, more than 20 local governments throughout North Carolina changed their opening invocations in order to comply with the law. ■

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

ACLU-NC to Lawmakers: Reject Voter ID

State lawmakers are once again vowing to pass an ill-conceived “voter ID” law that could require voters to show a photo ID – something many eligible voters lack – when they go to vote at the polls. The ACLU has vigorously opposed photo ID requirements because of the added and unnecessary burdens they would place on many eligible voters.

On March 12, the North Carolina General Assembly held a public hearing on the issue, and ACLU-NC Policy Director Sarah Preston was the first speaker selected to testify.

“Voting is a fundamental right at the center of our democratic

To learn more and take action, visit protectourvotenc.com

process,” Preston said. “While most of us think that obtaining a photo ID is fairly easy, the reality is that for some, it means hours away from work and a cost of hundreds of dollars just to obtain the supporting documents.”

The state Board of Elections recently estimated that more than 600,000 eligible voters – nearly 1 in 10 across the state – may lack a state-issued photo ID. From 2000 to 2010, the board reported only two cases of voter fraud by impersonation. ■



ACLU-NC Policy Director Sarah Preston gives testimony explaining the harms of voter ID laws before the N.C. General Assembly on March 12.

Bipartisan Bill Would Limit Drone Use in N.C.

(Continued from page 1)

Drones, also known as unmanned aerial vehicles, provide law enforcement with unprecedented surveillance powers. Compared to police helicopters, drones are cheaper, can stay in the air longer, can fly silently, and do not require pilots with human limitations. As use of this technology spreads among local law enforcement agencies across the country, the ACLU-NC is taking two major steps to ensure that strong safeguards are in place to protect the privacy and due process rights of citizens.

First, on March 6, the ACLU-NC joined 22 other state ACLU affiliates in filing public records

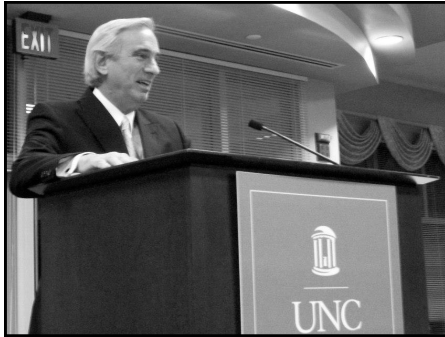
requests asking local law enforcement about their use of drones and other military-style weapons, the frequency with which they are deployed, the source of their funding, and what training, if any, is provided for their use. Sixty-four of the largest law enforcement agencies in North Carolina have been asked those questions and others as part of our ongoing investigation.

Second, the ACLU-NC has worked with a bipartisan group of lawmakers to introduce legislation in the North Carolina General Assembly to place sensible safeguards on the use of drones. H.B. 312, the “Preserving Privacy Act of 2013,” would prohibit individuals and

government agencies, including law enforcement, from using a drone to gather evidence or other data on individuals without first obtaining a warrant that shows probable cause of criminal activity. The bill includes an exception that allows law enforcement to use a drone to conduct searches if the agency possesses “reasonable suspicion” that immediate action is necessary to prevent certain types of imminent harm.

ACLU-NC Policy Director Sarah Preston applauded the bipartisan bill and urged lawmakers “to seize this opportunity to place strong safeguards and regulations on the use of drones before this technology spreads further without oversight in North Carolina.” ■

2013 Frank Porter Graham Awards



Left: Keynote speaker Jimmy Creech, an author and human rights activist, talked about the long road to full equality for gay and lesbian citizens. **Right:** University of North Carolina law professor Deborah Weissman was honored with the Frank Porter Graham Award for longstanding contributions to civil liberties.



Terri Beck and Leslie Zanaglio from Morrisville, plaintiffs in the ACLU's challenge to North Carolina's ban on second parent adoption, were acknowledged by the audience with a round of applause.



ACLU-NC President Holning Lau presents the Sharon Thompson Award to Jen Jones for extraordinary contributions to the advancement of LGBT rights.

ACLU-NC Policy Director Sarah Preston (left) presents the Norman Smith Award to former ACLU-NC Legal Director Katy Parker for extraordinary volunteer service to the ACLU-NC.



ACLU-NC Vice President Dan Blau presents the ACLU-NC Award to Rev. Dr. William Barber II, president of the NC-NAACP.



Rev. Dr. William Barber II addresses the audience at the William and Ida Friday Center in Chapel Hill.

Board of Directors ELECTION

WHO CAN VOTE:

Under the bylaws of the ACLU-NC, only current dues-paying members of the ACLU-NC can vote in Board elections.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTING:

The candidates are listed in alphabetical order. We have 9 candidates running to fill 7 open seats on our Board of Directors. Each ACLU member may vote for up to 7 candidates. See pages 8-10 for candidate statements. A member cannot vote for the same candidate twice. Voting for more than 7 candidates will disqualify your ballot. For **individual memberships**, vote for a maximum of seven candidates. For **joint memberships** (two members with the same mailing address), each member may vote for a maximum of 7 candidates, with one member voting for up to 7 candidates under the column marked "Individual" and the second member voting for a maximum of 7 candidates under the column marked "Joint." After marking

your ballot, clip it and enclose it in an envelope. Sign and print your name (both names for joint memberships) on the outside flap of the envelope, and include your return address so we can verify your membership status.

ADDRESS THE ENVELOPE TO:

ACLU-NC Board Elections
PO Box 28004
Raleigh, NC 27611-8004

VOTING DEADLINE:

In order for your ballot to be counted, we must receive it at the address shown above by May 29, 2013, or you may cast your vote in person at the ACLU-NC's Annual Membership Meeting on Thursday, May 30, 2013, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Charlotte, 234 North Sharon Amity Road, Charlotte, 28211. See back page for details.

ACLU-NC BOARD OF DIRECTORS BALLOT

Please vote by marking one square next to each candidate you support. Each member may vote for up to seven (7) candidates on this ballot. Two members at the same address who share a joint membership should use both squares.

Individual Joint

☐
☐

Jillian Brevorka

☐
☐

Kicab Castañeda-Mendez

☐
☐

Curry First

☐
☐

Chris Hill

☐
☐

Jason Horrell

Individual Joint

☐
☐

Holning Lau

☐
☐

Lydia Zaharias Long

☐
☐

Bob Scott

☐
☐

Thom Nguyen

Please clip and send along with your name(s) and return address to:

ACLU-NC Board Elections
PO Box 28004
Raleigh, NC 27611-8004

2013 ACLU-NC BOARD CANDIDATES



**Jillian
Brevorka**

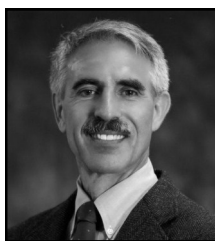
I often say my passion for civil rights and equality began when I was 10 days old and my mother brought me with her to testify for funding for Planned Parenthood before the New York State Legislature. Since then, I have been an impassioned advocate for civil rights and equality. It would be an honor to serve as a member of the ACLU-NC Board of Directors.

I have always been actively involved in the fight for reproductive freedom through the North Carolina chapters of NARAL and Planned Parenthood. As a law student, I was able to expand my involvement with civil rights and equality by acting as the President of Law Students Against the Death Penalty and by interning at the Winston-Salem offices of the Capital De-

fenders Office and Legal Aid of North Carolina. In 2008, I traveled throughout North and South Carolina to advocate for voters' rights during the presidential primaries and general election.

As an attorney, I continue to advocate for voters' rights and reproductive freedom. I also chair the Wills for Heroes Committee of the Young Lawyers Division of the North Carolina Bar Association, a program which drafts estate planning documents for first responders and their significant others. In 2012, I was awarded the Charles Blanchard Young Lawyer of the Year Award.

If elected, I promise to devote my time and passion to continuing the fight for equality and ensuring the protection of all citizens. It would be an honor and a pleasure to serve you. ■



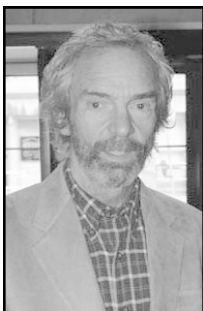
**Kicab
Castañeda-
Mendez**

Three incidents illustrate why the issues that the ACLU addresses are critical to me. When my father moved our family from Guatemala to the U.S. (I started first grade with little English skills), his Duke department head told him he was glad my father was not as dark as his picture suggested. A year later, when living in a Detroit black neighborhood, my father said in a loud voice that he was not giving his seat to the older white woman standing by him because there were empty seats in the back of the bus. In sixth grade, my mother would soothe my bruises as I frequently came home beaten by my Christian schoolmates because I didn't believe in God.

I've supported the ACLU, SPLC, and other

civil rights organizations for more than two decades and will do so after my death through legacy gifts. Now that I am semi-retired, I want to support them more than financially, especially because of the recent escalation of the "war on women."

Before my 30-year business career, I was a junior and high school math teacher. In business, I am a process improvement professional, using my MAs in math and statistics to solve business problems. I have consulted either internally or externally to all levels, from hourly to CEOs, and most departments for companies from 15+ industries including services, nonprofit, government, manufacturing, biotech, and health care. I continue to teach in industry. My third book on quality came out in November 2012. ■



Curry First

My ACLU involvement began in the summer of 1966 when I was a summer law student intern in Manhattan with the NYCLU. From 1970 to 2009, I practiced civil rights law in Milwaukee with a mid-career break for three years as litigation director of a poverty legal service nonprofit. My civil rights practice concentrated in the areas of police misconduct (representing victims of police brutality), military law (representing service conscientious objectors), immigration, and employment discrimination.

In Milwaukee, for many years, I was a member of the board of directors of the Wisconsin ACLU. I am currently a member of the ACLU-NC board and a board member and officer of the

ACLU-NC Western Chapter based in Asheville.

My civil liberties priorities are incarceration and criminal justice, particularly as they impact disproportionately on African-Americans. These issues frequently arise under the 14th Amendment equal protection and due process clauses.

North Carolina has a massive prison population as does this country; the U.S. has 5% of the world's population and 25% of all the world's prisoners. North Carolina has 40,000 inmates, 58% of whom are black. This New Jim Crow has pervasive and profound impact post incarceration involving service on juries, obtaining public benefits, and most damaging, a significant bar to employment. ■

2013 ACLU-NC BOARD CANDIDATES



Chris Hill

I have greatly appreciated the time I have spent on the Board of the ACLU of North Carolina. I have had the opportunity to speak with several people about the excellent work of the hardworking and dedicated staff. I also enjoyed listening to members and people whom we wish to become members discuss their concerns about the state of civil liberties in North Carolina. Although I was not always able to alleviate their fears, I was often able to tell them that we were working on the issues dear to them and there was strength in knowing someone was working to protect our civil liberties.

Often, my work life and my ACLU-NC life

collide. As the Director of the Education and Law Project of the North Carolina Justice Center, I work with Sarah Preston, Policy Director, as board members of a couple of organizations. We have worked with Raul Pinto, Racial Justice Staff Attorney, on a matter involving discrimination against Latino boys. We also have worked with Katy Parker, former Legal Director, as *amici* in the *Leandro* case.

The ACLU-NC is in the fight every day to protect our rights, and I am proud to be combating injustice with the amazing staff. I would be grateful for another opportunity to serve as a board officer of this indispensable organization. ■



Jason
Horrell

I am humbled to be a candidate for the ACLU-NC Board of Directors. I have been involved with the ACLU since my high school and undergraduate days, when I ferociously read any materials ACLU sent me and I dogged my friends and family with countless ACLU petitions. At Campbell Law School, I was a member, president, and board representative for the student chapter of the ACLU, and I clerked for former ACLU-NC Legal Director Katy Parker.

I grew up on a family farm in rural, southeastern North Carolina, where I currently live with my partner, Jeremy, and our dog. I am a new member of the North Carolina Bar, and I currently practice criminal defense and family law in Sampson, Duplin, and Johnston counties

with Diener Law.

The people of North Carolina live in both exciting and challenging times. Although our state is becoming more diverse culturally, socially, and economically, our laws and those who enforce them continue to discriminate against us based on unfair assumptions and prejudices based on our sexual orientation, race, immigration status, reproductive choices, economic status, religion, and other features that make us a dynamic and modern citizenry. Many of my clients – as well as my own family – experience these prejudices on a daily basis. As a board member, I will endeavor to lead ACLU-NC with passion and courage to bring about a more just society for you, myself, and all of our fellow North Carolinians. ■



Holning
Lau

I have had the privilege of serving on the ACLU-NC Board of Directors since 2010. I am currently President of the ACLU-NC/LF and Chair of the Board's Public Outreach Committee. Serving on the Board has deepened my commitment to the ACLU, inspiring me to run for a second term.

I first became involved with the ACLU when I interned at the ACLU of Pennsylvania during college. That internship started me on my path as a rights advocate. I later became President of the University of Chicago Law School's ACLU chapter while I was a student there.

Currently, I work as an Associate Professor of Law at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. My scholarly focus is human rights, with an emphasis on sexual orientation and gender

identity issues. Beyond research and classroom teaching, I work with students on pro bono projects, and I frequently speak at public events about civil liberties.

Several organizations have recognized my efforts to advance civil liberties. In 2012, Southerners on New Ground presented me with a Road Openers Award. In 2011, Equality North Carolina presented me with an Equality Champion Award, and UNC School of Law's Pro Bono Program named me "Professor of the Year."

I hope to continue working for civil liberties as an ACLU-NC Board member. With three years of Board experience under my belt, I believe that I could contribute to the Board even more effectively during a second term. Thank you for considering me for your vote. ■

2013 ACLU-NC BOARD CANDIDATES



**Lydia
Zaharias
Long**

It is a sense of community that I feel in my heart that makes me drawn to social justice. Taking a personal interest in the injustices of our world, and having an internal drive to fight for the oppressed, I began having dreams of making a difference.

I experienced part of this connection to community, which swells from my own background, where I grew up in Liberty, North Carolina. This understanding of social justice has led me to the profession of social work. I am currently a graduate candidate at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. I have been an active member with the National Association of Social Workers-NC and have served on the NASW-NC's legislative committee for my

second year now. I hope this will lead me to a career involved with community organizing, policy practice and advocacy. Although all social justice issues are important to me, the closest to my heart are equality for all people, poverty and health care.

My promise and mission to you is to advocate for justice and defend the civil liberties of all people in North Carolina. I aspire to having people question and rethink the social structure they live in. To question what is right and fight for what is fair. I will work to the best of my ability and do what I can to help the ACLU-NC with its mission for equitability. Thank you for considering me for this honored position. ■



**Thom
Nguyen**

It would be an honor to become a board member of the ACLU of North Carolina and represent this diverse constituency as a new member. My passion for LGBT work started while I was a young advocate for Queer Nation during the AIDS epidemic of the 90's, and I still maintain an advocacy path that keeps me tightly connected to the LGBT community and their issues. Currently, I am a financial advisor and a board member of the LGBT Center of Raleigh. I also serve on the UN Chapter for Women's Rights in North Carolina and am an active member of the diversity and new development commit-

tees for both nonprofit groups.

Locally, I am an active member for Asian Queers and Allies in North Carolina (AQUA NC). I received my bachelor's degree from the University of Glasgow at Glasgow, Scotland, and my masters of law from the University of San Francisco. I believe that my background, education, and my experiences in LBGT, women's and human rights and leadership have prepared me to be an effective member of the Board of Directors and a strong advocate for the ACLU of North Carolina's diverse individual and professional members. ■



Bob Scott

I may be one of only a few in the mountains of Western North Carolina with an ACLU bumper sticker on my pickup truck.

I came to Macon County from my native South Carolina in 1967. My career as a reporter began at the height of the Civil Rights Movement in the south. That was the era which shaped my views on this nation. I was of the generation that began questioning everything and trusting no one over thirty.

During my first forays into academia, I majored in political science until my grade point average made me increasingly eligible for the draft. I joined the South Carolina National Guard where I began receiving a practical education. That led to serving 12 years in the Guard and the Army Reserve.

As a newspaper reporter in Western North Carolina, I covered the seven westernmost counties of the state where I did battle with local governments over the open meetings and public records laws and abuse of power. I then made a drastic career change, becoming a law enforcement officer.

I served as a captain in the Macon County Sheriff's Office. I went back to school on weekends, nights and taking vacation to earn an AAS Degree from Southwestern Community College and a BS Degree in Criminal Justice from Western Carolina University. I am a graduate of the FBI National Academy. Although retired, I continue writing a column for local and regional newspapers and serve as an alderman for the Town of Franklin. ■

CHAPTER UPDATES

Western N.C. Chapter

Annual Member Meeting May 19 in Asheville

WHAT: The ACLU's WNC chapter will hold its annual membership meeting featuring speakers, an awards presentation, and annual board elections.

WHO: **Jim Cavener**, a 50-year activist and state board member, will receive the 2013 Evan Mahaney Champion of Civil Liberties Award. **N.C. Rep. Susan Fisher (D-Buncombe)** and **ACLU-NC Policy Director Sarah Preston** will discuss challenges to civil liberties in the General Assembly. Annual elections will also be held for new chapter board members. Nominees are **Heather Hawn, Currie Blair**, and **Bill Ramsey**.

WHEN: Sunday, May 19, 2013 at 3 p.m.

WHERE: Rooftop garden at Battery Park Apartments, 1 Battle Square, Asheville 28801

Charlotte Chapter

New ACLU Chapter Launches in Charlotte Area

More than 30 people attended the first meeting of the newly formed Charlotte-area ACLU chapter on December 2. At a general meeting on January 6, an interim board was elected, and on February 17, a permanent board and chapter officers were elected. Board members are: E. Thomas Bowers, Lee Knight Caffery, Connie Green-Johnson (ACLU-NC Representative), Dick Hester (President), June Kimmel (Secretary), Steve Lauer (Vice President), Don Rosenthal, Joseph Stewart, Tom Strini, Ann Wood (Treasurer), and Michael Zytkow.

At the date of this writing, more than sixty people have joined. To get involved with the ACLU's Charlotte chapter, email chapter president Dick Hester at richardlhester@earthlink.net.

Will You Help Defend Civil Liberties?

*Support the ACLU-NCLF by Making a
Tax-Deductible Contribution Today!*

o **Yes!** I want to help protect and expand civil liberties in North Carolina. Enclosed is a check for my tax-deductible contribution in the amount of:

o \$50 o \$100 o \$250 o \$500 o Other \$ _____

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“The State of Surveillance” | May 30 | Charlotte

Join us for the ACLU-NC’s 2013 Membership Meeting!



**Sharon Bradford
Franklin of the
Constitution
Project**

*What types of surveillance tools are being used
by law enforcement in Charlotte and cities across the country?
And what safeguards can we put in place to protect the privacy of citizens?*

Join the ACLU-NC and others for a discussion about the state of surveillance and privacy rights, featuring **Sharon Bradford Franklin**, senior counsel for **The Constitution Project** in Washington, D.C., whose work focuses on issues of government secrecy and individual privacy.

7:00 to 8:30 p.m. | Thursday, May 30

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Charlotte
234 North Sharon Amity Road | Charlotte, NC 28211

The event is free and open to the public.