

ACLU OF KENTUCKY ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

ACLU YOU

Your support upholds constitutional rights.

ACLU
KY



RESPECT MY
EXISTENCE



OR EXPECT MY
RESISTANCE

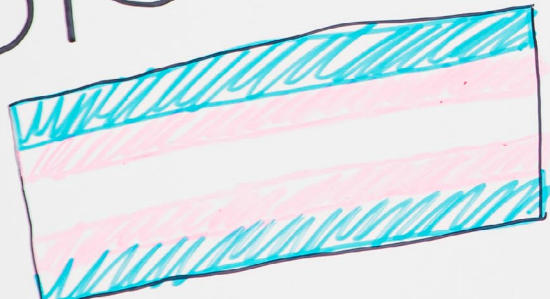


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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & BOARD PRESIDENT



If we can be certain of anything, it is that the most vulnerable among us can rely on the ACLU of Kentucky to defend their rights. In 2023-24, we took the fight for transgender rights and abortion access to court, fought for free speech, and connected directly impacted people with tools and resources to affect change in their communities.

In our 2024 Fiscal Year, we also continued our partnerships in the group of stakeholders committed to ending deaths at the Louisville Metro Department of Corrections. The group worked with justice partners to host a second Amnesty Court, helping 174 people get active bench warrants set aside or resolving their cases.

We also participated in an intensive strategic planning process involving staff, Board members, and external stakeholders in our work. The resulting plan defines goals, outlines key activities, and identifies paths to success.

It remains imperative to our success as a commonwealth to have a strong ACLU in Kentucky. Our staff, Board, volunteers, and partners count on your support to protect civil liberties for ALL Kentuckians.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amber G. Duke".

Amber G. Duke
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Omar Salinas Chacón".

Omar Salinas Chacón
Board President

IMPACT LITIGATION

FISCAL YEAR 2024 LITIGATION HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ *Doe v Thornbury*
- ▶ *Scott v Louisville Metro*
- ▶ *Doe v Cameron*

YOUR SUPPORT PROTECTS TRANSGENDER YOUTH

When our advocacy at the statehouse doesn't prevent harmful legislation from becoming law, we take the fight to the courts. Just weeks after the conclusion of the 2023 General Assembly, our legal team, with two pro bono legal partners, filed *Doe v Thornbury* on behalf of Kentucky families who deserve the right to access the healthcare they need.

ACLU-KY attorneys remain ready for any challenge to Kentuckians' rights, not just those we can anticipate. We were able to swiftly identify and cultivate relationships with our plaintiffs. The trust between our

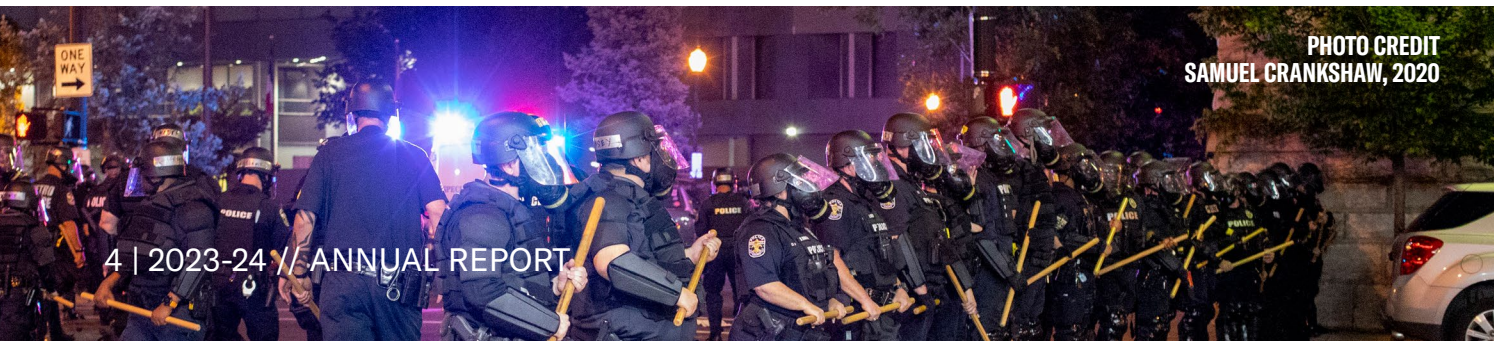
attorneys and these families helps propel the case forward.

No matter what the outcome of the case, we will not stop working to protect Kentucky's most vulnerable and to keep the government from interfering in private medical decisions.

Learn more about *Doe v Thornbury* on our website.

YOUR DONATIONS PROTECT FREE SPEECH

Free speech is a cornerstone of our democracy, and during the 2020 demonstrations protesting Breonna Taylor's murder, the Louisville Metro Police Department responded with weapons of war and mass arrests. Our attorneys represent seven plaintiffs and have spent hundreds of hours conducting depositions, filing briefs, and attending court hearings to prevent other peaceful protesters from being wrongfully arrested. Our suit asks LMPD to stop using weapons of war on the people of Louisville. Learn more about *Scott v. Louisville* on our website.



LITIGATION

Our legal director, senior staff attorney, and staff attorney are dedicated to protecting your civil liberties. This small team serves the entire commonwealth and are often litigating multiple cases at once.

12 OPEN
RECORDS
REQUESTS

7 DEMAND
LETTERS

15 COURT
HEARINGS
OR
DEPOSITIONS

173 LITIGATION
DOCUMENTS
FILED

YOUR PERSISTENCE WILL RESTORE ABORTION ACCESS

Our legal team, along with National ACLU and Planned Parenthood, were able to respond immediately when a brave Kentuckian stepped up to file a lawsuit challenging the Commonwealth's two abortion bans. Within hours of signing Jane Doe as a plaintiff, our attorneys and National ACLU were on file with the courts.

The case was ultimately dismissed when Jane Doe miscarried.

(NOTE: As of this writing, we are litigating a new abortion lawsuit *Poe v. Coleman*.)





IMPACT ADVOCACY

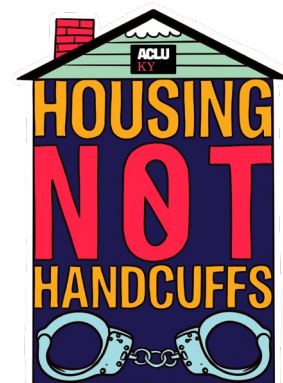
HOUSING, NOT HANDCUFFS

Our advocacy team spent countless hours working with lawmakers and ally organizations to protect and defend the civil rights and liberties of all people in Kentucky during the 2024 legislative session.

This session, lawmakers unveiled and ultimately passed House Bill 5, one of the worst criminal legal “reform” bills in the country. We connected with directly impacted Kentuckians and arranged testimony in committee hearings to persuade lawmakers to listen to reason and scientific data. Our policy strategists fought for, and won, modest but important amendments.

We spent the session educating the public on what the bill would mean for Kentucky communities, working with partner organizations to encourage voters to contact their lawmakers, and mounted a communications campaign with billboards, social media ads, and radio commercials. We were able to hyper-target key districts and urge the appropriate constituencies to contact their legislators.

These advocacy actions are a valuable component of the legislative process, and your contributions allow us to mobilize our volunteers. We bring impacted people to the Capitol, and we provide information and education around complex pieces of legislation for the everyday Kentuckians who must live under the resulting laws.





HB5

FEEDS THE PIPELINE TO A NEW JAIL



ACLU
Kentucky



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COMMUNITY IMPACT

SMART JUSTICE ADVOCATES

Smart Justice Advocates (SJAs) are a diverse group of Kentuckians who have either personally experienced incarceration or have friends or family members who have been impacted by the criminal legal system. SJAs work on policy solutions to reform Kentucky's unjust carceral system and meet monthly to build leadership skills and analyze Kentucky's political landscape.

Regularly scheduled meetings, trainings and events provide SJAs opportunities to advance their skillset, contribute to campaigns, and build community.

BREAKING BARRIERS COUNCIL

Our Breaking Barriers Council includes parents, birth workers, students, and activists who have personally experienced the reproductive challenges facing Kentuckians and their families. The Council meets regularly to discuss policy goals, receive training, and strategize ways to improve maternal health and reproductive freedom in the commonwealth.

Support from our donors allows us to invest in training and resources for the people closest to the problems Kentucky faces. Not only do these volunteers take their voices

to Frankfort to impact policy, but they also use the tools and opportunities we offer to advocate for themselves.



PHOTO CREDIT
KIRA MEADOR, 2024

“The Breaking Barriers Council has opened doors for me beyond the fight for maternal health care in Kentucky. I have connected with others like me, spoken to international news media about living in a Black body in a state where abortion is banned, and led rallies with my fellow Kentuckians. We are building power together.”

**-Morgan W.
Breaking Barriers Council**



PHOTO CREDIT
KIRA MEADOR, 2023

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR WORK

Regardless of which party is in the majority, or what kind of legislation we're facing, our team is dedicated to making Kentucky a more just and equitable place. Your support makes it possible for us to safeguard democracy at the state level, advocate for better and fair policies, protect vulnerable populations from harmful policies or violations of

their civil liberties, and hold our government leaders accountable to the people they serve. This work is personal for most of us, and meaningful for all of us.

Without your generosity and partnership, we could not invest in developing directly impacted Kentuckians with leadership skills and opportunities to advocate for themselves, litigate against the most harmful policies at the local and state level, or provide the public education and information members and donors like you depend on. We are grateful for your support.

PHOTO CREDIT
KIRA MEADOR, 2024



BY THE NUMBERS

17 STAFF
MEMBERS

90 LEGISLATOR
MEETINGS

1,197 INDIVIDUAL
FOUNDATION DONORS

974 BILLS
TRACKED

1,631 UNIQUE FOUNDATION
DONATIONS

609 VOLUNTEERS
ENGAGED

5,350 UNION
MEMBERS

895 PEOPLE
FILLED OUT
ACTION
FORMS

30,115 TEXT
MESSAGES
SENT



SCAN CODE TO DONATE OR
VISIT [ACLU-KY.ORG/DONATE](https://aclu-ky.org/donate)

ACLU OF KENTUCKY STAFF

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DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

CHLOE TREAT
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JAY TODD RICHEY
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RICHELLE HARRIS
ADVOCACY ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.

SELENA COOMER
SJA CO-LEADER

T GONZALES
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

WILLIAM SHARP
SENIOR STAFF ATTORNEY

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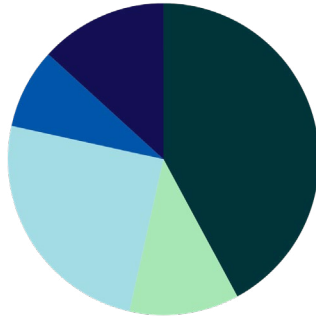
TIM HEINE



PHOTO CREDIT
KIRA MEADOR, 2024

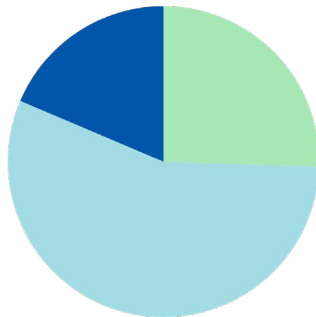


FINANCIALS



- REVENUE FROM NATIONAL ACLU**
\$458,206
- EVENT REVENUE**
\$333,816
- GRANT CONTRIBUTIONS**
\$1,693,499
- INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS**
\$1,001,710
- OTHER REVENUE**
\$533,051

TOTAL REVENUE
\$4,020,282



- PROGRAMS**
\$2,234,967
- FUNDRAISING**
\$51,609
- GENERAL OPERATIONS & ADMIN**
\$1,424,120

TOTAL EXPENSES
\$3,710,696

*Consolidated unaudited statement for ACLU-KY and ACLU-KY Foundation, Fiscal Year 24 (April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2023)

NET INCOME
\$309,586

ACLU

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
FOUNDATION

Kentucky

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