



ACLU Annual Meeting

Join the ACLU of Montana Saturday, March 5, as we delve into the civil issues of the day, shine a light on those seeking to uphold our Constitution, and celebrate a man who made protecting civil liberties his mission for more than 25 years.

The day begins with the **ACLU of Montana's annual meeting** where new Executive Director Caitlin Borgmann and Legal Director Jim Taylor will discuss the ACLU's current litigation, public policy and public education efforts.

Connect with like-minded civil liberties allies and participate in the always-popular roundtables where you and other attendees will take on Montana's and the nation's most pressing civil liberties issues, discussing current developments and emerging solutions.

At 2:30 p.m. we shine a light on those seeking to make important civil liberties decisions for Montanans when we invite the candidates to share their views on the Constitution and judicial responsibility in a **Montana Supreme Court Candidate Forum** moderated by Paul Kirgis, Dean of the Alexander Blewett III School of Law at the University of Montana.

Candidates Professor Kristen Juras, Chief Justice Mike McGrath, District Judge Dirk Sandefur and Justice James Shea are participating.

This forum is a unique opportunity to hear directly from the candidates for Montana's highest judicial offices about the challenges facing the Court in the administration of justice and the role of the Montana Constitution in guiding the decisions of the Court.

In the evening we move on to **honoring Scott Crichton with the 2016 Jeannette Rankin Civil Liberties Award.**

The award acknowledges individuals and organizations who demonstrate the strength of character and commitment to principles exemplified by Jeannette Rankin – ACLU's first vice president in the 1920's – and embodied in ACLU's mission and vision.

Crichton served Montanans and carried the torch of civil liberties for 27 years as the Executive Director of the ACLU of Montana. During his tenure, the ACLU championed issues ranging from protecting the First Amendment and privacy to advancing LGBT and women's rights to seeking abolition of the death penalty and advocating for criminal justice reform and prisoners' rights.

Under Crichton's leadership, the ACLU of Montana won cases confirming the right of same-sex couples to marry in Montana, declaring the state's lethal injection statute un-

constitutional, and upholding voting rights for American Indians. Crichton was instrumental in the effort to create Montana's statewide public defender system. He has been a constant ally to women, immigrants, LGBT people, prisoners and any person whose rights are threatened.

Crichton embodies the spirit of the award's namesake, Jeannette Rankin, and we are honored to present him with this award.

We look forward to seeing you on March 5 at one or all of these exciting events.



*Scott Crichton, 2016
Jeannette Rankin
Civil Liberties Award
Recipient*

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

<i>Executive Director Column</i> 2	<i>Board President Column</i>7
<i>Voting Rights</i> 3	<i>Slate of Board Candidates</i> 8
<i>Exonerations on the Rise</i> 4	<i>Instructions & Ballot</i> 10
<i>Solitary Confinement</i>5	<i>Legacy Challenge</i> 11
<i>Member Quotes</i> 6	<i>Goodbye...Hello</i> 11
<i>Candidate Forum</i> 6	<i>Save the Dates</i> 12

CELEBRATE LIBERTY March 5, 2016

BY DAY

ACLU of Montana Annual Meeting

11 a.m.-2:15 p.m. - \$25

Montana Supreme Court Candidate Forum

2:30 p.m.-4 p.m. – Free

Both at 3rd floor of University Center
University of Montana, Missoula

BY NIGHT

Rankin Award honoring Scott Crichton

6-8 p.m. - \$25

Missoula Winery

5646 W. Harrier, Missoula

*Discounts available for those attending
both ticketed events, students
and those "living lightly."*

**More information and ticketing at:
www.aclumontana.org/events
or by calling 406-203-3376.**

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three times a year.

Caitlin Borgmann, Publisher

Being Political Means Being Powerful

Having just returned from the ACLU Nationwide Staff Conference in Orlando, Florida, I am energized and looking forward to our annual meeting in March, and to National Executive Director Anthony Romero's visit in April. One of the things we talked a lot about at the conference was the ACLU's shift toward becoming more "political." While that shift has generated excitement, it has also led to some confusion: What does it mean for the ACLU to be political? Can we do so without risking becoming partisan? As National Political Director Karin Johanson put it at the conference, "Being more political means being more powerful." It means using the tools of political engagement, in addition to the time-honored ACLU tool of litigation, to defend and promote civil liberties. It means being active not only in courtrooms but in the legislature, at city councils, and on ballot measures. It means amplifying our work by communicating effectively with the public. And when we use all of these tools in a coordinated fashion to advance carefully chosen strategic priorities, we can be especially powerful.

The ACLU-MT staff have been hard at work assessing all of the ACLU-MT's work in preparation for the board of directors' adoption of a new strategic plan in June of this year. The staff and board are looking to maximize the ACLU-MT's influence by directing our resources toward the areas where we can make the most difference, using integrated strategies that combine advocacy, public communications, and litigation. No matter what we do, though, the ACLU will always maintain its commitment to being nonpartisan. Indeed, being nonpartisan is critical to being powerful, because we need to maintain the credibility to criticize or collaborate with people regardless of their political affiliation.

One way to be politically powerful, while maintaining our nonpartisan stance, is to educate and engage our members



*Caitlin Borgmann
Executive Director*

on civil liberties issues. An informed and active membership puts muscle behind the ACLU-MT's work. When we advocate on an issue, government officials and legislators know that our members stand behind us. (Are you a member? You'll see some of the reasons our members joined in this newsletter.) Our annual meeting in Missoula offers members and the general public an opportunity to participate in roundtable discussions, moderated by ACLU staff and other experts, on civil liberties topics. To register, go to www.aclumontana.org/events.

Another way the ACLU-MT can be politically powerful is to empower voters by advancing political discourse and offering education about the candidates running for office. I'm excited about our Montana Supreme Court Candidate Forum, which will take place on March 5 immediately after the annual meeting. This event will allow the public to hear from each of the candidates currently running for the Court.

Finally, if you are interested in learning about the ways in which the ACLU is flexing its political muscle across the United States, come hear National Executive Director Anthony Romero when he speaks in Missoula and Bozeman in April. For more information on Anthony's visit, please visit www.aclumontana.org/events.

I hope to see many of you at one or more of these exciting spring events!

Voting Rights

2016 is an election year, and with the new year come both opportunities and challenges to the voting rights of Montana citizens. Indians in Montana have been routinely denied rights since Montana first became a territory. Although many tribes have lived in Montana for thousands of years, they were denied United States citizenship until the passage of the federal Indian Citizenship Act in 1924, less than a century ago. Even then Indians were not welcomed as citizens, but instead were subject to a determined campaign by the State of Montana and its political subdivisions to marginalize Indians as voters.

Today the voting opportunities for Montana's Indian citizens are improving. In the recent case of *Wandering Medicine v. McCulloch*, three counties (Blaine, Big Horn, and Rosebud), along with the Montana Secretary of State, were sued in federal court for failing to provide satellite voting offices on the Crow Reservation, the Fort Belknap Reservation, and the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. Voters on these three reservations had to travel greater distances than non-Indians to vote, and to access voter registration and early absentee voting services. The *Wandering Medicine* suit, in which the ACLU of Montana filed a friend of the court brief, was

settled in 2014 and several limited satellite voting offices were created on the three reservations.

In 2015, the Office of the Secretary of State issued a new directive, going above what was required by the *Wandering Medicine* settlement, creating a process allowing for satellite voting offices on all seven of the Indian Reservations in Montana. A satellite office is more than just another polling place. Although it acts as a polling place, it also provides voter registration, and absentee balloting, for up to 30 days before any primary or general election.

Under Secretary McCulloch's 2015 directive, all Montana counties in which a reservation is located were mandated to conduct an analysis under the Voting Rights Act to determine whether a satellite office would be appropriate. The counties were then required to contact the affected tribal government to inform them of their analysis, and to find out

if the tribal government wanted a satellite voting office. By January 31, 2016, the tribal governments had to choose whether to have a satellite office, where the proposed office would be located on the reservation, and the hours and dates of operation for the office.

As part of our Racial Justice Project, the ACLU of Montana, working with Western Native Voice (a grassroots voting rights organization focused on Indian voters) assisted the Fort Peck Tribes and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes in making requests for satellite offices. The Fort Peck Tribes requested satellite voting offices in Poplar (in Roosevelt County), and in Frazer (in Valley County). The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes requested a satellite voting office in Elmo (in Lake County). Many other tribal governments have also requested satellite offices. According to the Montana Secretary of State's office, five new satellite offices in Indian Country are already in the works, and six more are under consideration. The ACLU of Montana is glad to contribute to this new process, and to help support the right to vote for all Montanans.



Jim Taylor
Legal Director



Exonerations on the Rise

Making a Murderer: Have you seen it? If not, you really should check it out – just to see what EVERYONE is talking about. The Netflix series has garnered huge media attention and spurred public outrage. The documentary conveys the story of Steve Avery, a man who went to prison for sexual assault and attempted murder, crimes he didn't commit. Eighteen years later, Avery was exonerated. But



his freedom was short lived as in 2007 he arrested again for the murder of a young magazine photographer. There are a lot of questions raised in the documentary as to Steven Avery's guilt, and certainly questions of innocence surround young Brendan Dassey (Avery's co-defendant). Making a Murderer has captured public attention in a way few criminal cases ever do. Whether or not you believe Avery (or Dassey) is innocent, we can all agree that there is at least some questionable evidence and shaky witness testimony in the case.

However, Avery and Dassey are hardly the first people to be convicted with questions of innocence still swirling. At the very least they are still alive to fight for their exoneration and freedom.



In 1991, Cameron Todd Willingham's three daughters tragically died in a house fire. Authorities soon alleged that Willingham had intentionally set the fire, either to rid himself of children that were hampering his lifestyle, or to cover up abuse to the children. Despite authorities on the scene at the time saying they had to stop him from running back into the burning building, Willingham was tried, convicted, and sentenced to death for murder. Willingham spent the next 12 years professing his innocence and appealing his conviction. In 2004, Dr. Gerald Hurst, a chemist and a fire investigator, determined that the Willingham fire was almost certainly accidental. Hurst stated that "there is not a single item of physical evidence in this case which supports a finding of arson." At the last minute before his execution date, Willingham's lawyers sent the results of this investigation to the clemency board, hoping for a stay of execution. Their hope was in vain. On February 17th, 2004, Cameron Todd Willingham was executed by the State of Texas.

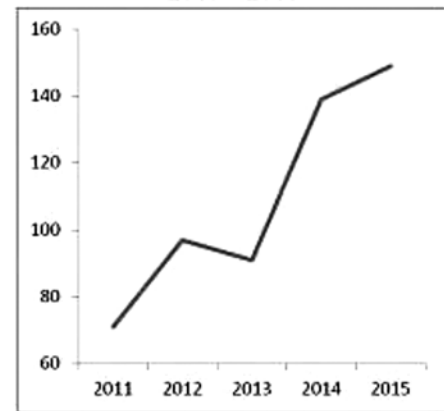


The conviction of Troy Davis was surrounded by so much controversy that when he was executed in 2011 by the state of Georgia, leaders

around the world were outraged. In 1989, Davis convicted of killing off-duty police officer Mark MacPhail during a fight in a Burger King parking lot. One witness, Sylvester Cole, pointed to Troy Davis as the shooter and as a result, Davis was arrested, convicted of murder, and sentenced to death. But after Davis' conviction, seven of the nine trial witnesses in the case either recanted or changed their testimony, and others came forward to say that, in fact, Cole himself was the shooter. Some even said their original statements had been pressured out of them by police. No physical evidence ever tied Davis to the crime. Despite a petition of clemency signed by over half a million people — and after four stays of execution — Davis was executed on September 21, 2011. His last words were heartbreaking. "I am innocent. The incident that happened that night was not my fault," he said. "All that I can ask is that each of you look deeper into this case, so that you really will finally see the truth."

Were Cameron Todd Willingham and Troy Davis innocent and executed? We aren't 100% certain of their innocence but we are also not even close to certain of their guilt. We are unquestionably not "beyond a reasonable doubt". Unfortunately, any chance of finding the truth and righting the wrong is gone. That should be enough to make anyone question our "justice" system and the death penalty. Because these cases? They aren't anomalies. Exonerations are happening every week.

Figure 1: Number of Exonerations per Year 2010 – 2015



On February 3rd, The National Registry of Exonerations at the University of Michigan released its annual report showing a record number of exonerations in 2015. 149 people (that the registry has documented) were exonerated of their crimes, over half had been convicted of murder. The report showed that those exonerated in 2015 served an average of more than 14 years in prison.

Twenty-seven of the exonerations were from convictions connected to false confessions; 44 of the homicide exonerations involved discoveries of misconduct by officials; 65 of the exonerations were of people who actually pleaded guilty to their crimes, even knowing they were innocent. And in a whopping 75 exonerations it turned out no crime actually even occurred. In the most egregious example, three men were convicted of setting a fire in Brooklyn that killed a mother and her five children. It turned out the witness who testified that she saw them leaving the building at the time of the blaze later admitted lying and the evidence did not prove that the fire was actually intentionally set.

False confessions, shoddy law enforcement work, lying witnesses...there are so many ways justice can go wrong. And for every exoneration that we find, there is likely another we don't. These exonerations, while at record highs,

may be just the tip of the iceberg.

With all these exonerations, how can our state and our country continue to cling to the death penalty? We know the justice system makes mistakes and innocent people are convicted; this should be a most compelling reason to do away with a sentence that is so final and irreversible. The death penalty cannot be undone. That is why we at the ACLU and the Montana Abolition Coalition work so hard to end capital punishment in our state. So if you are as outraged as I am about these miscarriages of justice, or inspired by "Making a Murderer" to take action – join us. Help us end Montana's death penalty.

Because you can release a man from prison, but you cannot release him from the grave.



*Jennifer Kirby
Dir., Abolition Coalition*

Solitary Confinement: The Momentum for Reform

The movement to limit the use of solitary confinement in our prisons gained new momentum in January when President Obama took executive action to limit the use of solitary throughout the federal prison system.

After recognizing the terrible consequences that follow when an inmate is placed in solitary, last year the President ordered the Justice Department to review the overuse of the practice. The Justice Department released its recommendations on January 25th and the President adopted them.

The changes to the federal system will be significant and include the following. The Federal Bureau of Prisons will:

- End the practice of placing juveniles in solitary;
- Expand the ability of the Bureau to divert inmates who have serious mental illness from solitary to secure mental health treatment programs;
- Expand the capacity of the Bureau to place "protective custody" inmates in less restrictive housing;
- Discourage placement of inmates in solitary during the last 180 days of incarceration.

Each of these changes is important. The extreme isolation from any meaningful human contact imposes a unique and profound stress upon juveniles whose brains and social skills are still developing. Similarly, those inmates who have serious mental illnesses often have no effective coping mechanisms and their psychoses deepen

in solitary. Those inmates who are placed in solitary for their own protection and safety suffer unnecessarily when they themselves have committed no disciplinary infraction. And the inmates who are about to leave a prison must be given a chance to readapt to a normal life that requires routine and relaxed interaction with other humans.

The day after the President's announcement, the ACLU of Indiana disclosed a settlement with the state of Indiana that, if approved, will "transform the way seriously mentally ill prisoners" are treated. With limited exceptions, the agreement prohibits the placement into solitary of the seriously mentally ill.

These developments coincide with a growing number of settlements throughout the United States that strictly limit the use of solitary. California, Arizona, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Connecticut have all reached agreements.

In Montana, we hope to join the movement with a successful conclusion of our own lawsuit that challenges the treatment of seriously mentally ill inmates in Montana State Prison.

The facts are clear and the momentum for change is growing. We can no longer accept the inhumane treatment of prison inmates through the use of solitary confinement. It is bad for the prisoners, bad for the prison guards and a stain upon the conscience of a decent society.



*Jon Ellingson
Staff Attorney*

Are YOU a card-carrying member of the ACLU?

Is your friend who talks about social justice issues all the time a member?

Membership dues are not tax-deductible, but they are used to help fund our lobbying and legislative advocacy work both here in Montana and in Congress.

We encourage you to use the enclosed envelope to join or re-join the ACLU and feel the pride of belonging to an organization that has fought for equality, liberty, democracy, and freedom for nearly 100 years.

If you are already a member, we encourage you to bring this newsletter (and membership envelope) to a friend who you know values the work we do, but hasn't yet joined as a member.



Member Quotes

ANGELA KALAR, MISSOULA

I want my kids to grow up knowing that they are free to be themselves, that they are in control of their bodies and actions, and that no matter what anyone else says they have to follow their hearts. I also instill in them the importance of accepting others and of standing up for what they know is right. I am happy to be a new member of the ACLU because now I can show them that I am acting on all of those things I have been teaching them. I am standing up for what I know is right by supporting an organization that empowers people to be themselves, gives power back to the people, and fights for the acceptance of all people despite race, religion or who they love.



Angela with her kids Avery, 6, and Bailey, 9.



Sandy enjoying the outdoors on cross-country skis.

SANDY DOCKSTADER, BILLINGS

I joined ACLU because it mirrors my belief that every citizen of our country who is unable to be heard needs an advocate to stand in their stead. We must always remember our precious Constitution applies protection to each and every one of our citizens no matter what their station in life.

Paul Kirgis, Dean of the Alexander Blewett III School of Law at the University of Montana, will serve as moderator for this informative forum advancing political discourse and educating the public about the candidates for Montana's highest judicial offices. The candidates will address questions focusing on the challenges facing the Court in the administration of justice and the role of our Constitutional Declaration of Rights in guiding the decisions of the Court.



MONTANA SUPREME COURT CANDIDATE FORUM

Saturday, March 5, 2016, 2:30 - 4 pm
University Center – 3rd Floor,
University of MT campus, Missoula

This event is FREE and open to the public

Alexander Blewett III
SCHOOL OF LAW
UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

President's Column

As I begin the second year of my term as president of the ACLU-MT board, I look forward to our annual meeting in Missoula on Saturday, March 5th. A highlight is connecting with you, our members and supporters. In addition to round table discussions, we are excited to host a Montana Supreme Court candidate forum on Saturday. Don't miss this year's Rankin Award reception on Saturday evening at the Missoula Winery. We'll be honoring one of our own, retired ACLU-MT Executive Director, Scott Crichton. It promises to be a memorable evening.

The annual meeting is also an opportunity to introduce members of the ACLU-MT board, volunteers who bring special talents, skills, experience, viewpoints and a passion for civil liberties to the table. The board provides for the financial stability of the ACLU-MT, including supporting fundraising efforts, and provides long-range and strategic oversight of the ACLU-MT's public policy, legal and public education work. Annual elections allow the organization to meet its commitment to diversity and equity and to elect candidates that possess the types of balanced skill sets that are needed to effectively run the organization. The overarching theme of the board election is a commitment to a diversity of representation, including:

- geographic diversity
- racial/ethnic diversity
- sexual orientation
- gender
- age
- persons with disabilities

Board members who are running for another term are Mary Hernandez, Paul Silverman and Dennis Taylor. Mary is our National Board Representative, Paul, our board secretary and member of the Governance & Nominations Committee and Dennis, member of the Finance & Audit Committee and last year's chair of the executive director search team.

Since our last annual meeting in March of 2015, two new board members were appointed to fill vacant positions. Larry Dillon is from Billings and was appointed to the board in May 2015. He currently works in IT (Information Technology), providing support for rural healthcare providers. Larry is a member of the Electronic Freedom Frontier and is most interested in digital privacy issues, prison/jail reform, sentencing reform, public defender issues and voting rights.

Also from Billings is Vickie Christie, who was appointed to the board in November 2015. Recently retired, Vickie served as Associate Academic Vice President at Rocky Mountain College, chair of the Communications Studies Department at the college, and as a union leader. She also has taught organizational communication, speech and debate, and related topics. Although she cares about all issues related to civil liberties, she is particularly passionate about freedom of speech as well as income inequality

and how this affects access to and the ability to exercise civil rights and civil liberties.

Included in the newsletter are personal statements from the six candidates who are running for election, including three new candidates: Patty LaPlant, Browning; James Steele, Polson; and Kyle Waterman, Kalispell.

Patty LaPlant served as a Wellness Specialist for the Missoula Indian Center before recently returning to Browning. She brings forty-five years of social services experience in Indian Country, including advocacy and direct service provision to Native American families in areas of child welfare, housing and disability service support. She currently serves on the ACLU-MT's Racial Justice Project Advisory Committee. Her experience as a team leader and problem solver and ability to work across complex tribal, state, federal and institutional environments will serve the ACLU-MT board well.

James Steele has over twenty-five years of experience serving on many boards and commissions, including his past service as Chair of the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation. His work has included the fight for minority rights, Native American sovereignty, gay rights and marriage equality, and the gender pay gap. James has followed ACLU-MT's litigation over voter rights, particularly the positive outcome for the CSKT of the Flathead Nation, in which the Ronan school board districts were modified to ensure the representation of Indian voters on the Ronan school district board.

Kyle Waterman grew up knowing about the ACLU through his father Ron Waterman, a Helena lawyer who has worked pro bono with the ACLU for many years. Kyle is very supportive of the work of the ACLU and since returning to Montana in late 2014 to work for the Intermountain Children's Home, has been interested in being involved. He is especially aware of the work the ACLU has done on the death penalty, criminal justice, voting rights, and LGBT issues. Through his current and previous work he is familiar with the workings of boards and board governance. His jobs have involved considerable fund-raising, and he is enthusiastic about the challenges of fund-raising and networking.

As we look forward to welcoming new members to the board, following the membership voting on the slate of candidates, we also honor those members who transitioned off the board over the past year, who gave so much of their time, talents, and experience. Their contributions to the critical work of the Montana affiliate were many. Thanks to Walter Fleming, Laura Moran, Bill Strizich, Dona Stebbins and Tom Welsch for your service and for your continued support for and involvement with the ACLU.



Judy Hart
Board President

Slate of Board Candidates

MARY HERNANDEZ

I am seeking re-election to the board of directors in order to support our Affiliate's work and its transition with our new executive director, Caitlin Borgmann. My appreciation for the work of ACLU Montana has only deepened during my first term on the board of directors. I believe and support our Affiliate's work to protect the civil liberties for every Montanan, and to provide social justice for all.

I believe that my work and life experiences have served me well in my role as a board member for our Montana Affiliate, and as the Affiliate representative to the national ACLU board of directors. I gladly accepted the Development Chair position when I first joined the Affiliate board, and participated on the Search Committee for hiring our new executive director. Halfway into my first term, I was appointed to serve as the Affiliate Representative to the National ACLU board. I remain active on our Affiliate's Development and Executive Committees. On the National board, I have been appointed to the Executive Officers Succession Planning Committee, and have most recently been nominated to serve on the Bylaws Committee (vote to be taken at next national board meeting).

The seeds of my life's work began early. As a youngster growing up in the tumultuous 1960s, it was commonplace to see the hardship and damage caused by both overt and subtle discrimination for people living in my Texas and Louisiana communities. Speaking any language other than English was strictly forbidden and carried punishments for children in schools; people of color were limited in their spaces to live, work and play; voting rights were openly violated; and education was limited or not provided to disabled individuals.

Upon moving to Billings in 1980 it wasn't long before I began advocating for individuals' rights to fair housing, medical access and services for persons living with HIV/AIDS, and girls' and women's access to reproductive healthcare. Later I worked for fairness in hiring persons with chronic illnesses, led the efforts for insurance coverage of persons affected by diabetes, and advocated for the fundamental rights of minors. Throughout the years, I have respected the work of the ACLU and its investment to seeing justice prevail, especially when cases



have taken decades for cases to be resolved. Democracy takes diligent work.

Our Affiliate has a long history of engaging in challenging work, and the challenges keep coming. I ask for members to vote for me today so that I may continue my current assignments and support the work of our ACLU. Thank you.

PATTY LaPLANT

Patty served as a Wellness Specialist for the Missoula Indian Center before recently returning to Browning. She brings 45 years of social services experience in Indian Country, including advocacy and direct service provision to Native American families in areas of child welfare, housing, and disability service support. She currently serves on the ACLU-MT's Racial Justice Project Advisory Committee. Her experience as a team leader and problem solver and ability to work across complex tribal, state, federal, and institutional environments will serve the ACLU-MT board well.



PAUL SILVERMAN

I have been a member of the ACLU for 13 years and have served on the Board for three. Currently I serve as board secretary and as a member of the Executive, Governance and Nominations Committees. Previously I was a member of the Education Committee, making presentations to civic groups. Board membership has been one of my most fulfilling experiences. It has been a privilege to contribute to the valuable work of the Montana ACLU and support our wonderful staff. One of my strengths as a Board member is a strong sense of curiosity and inquiry. The Board has responded by setting aside time before and during meetings to read about and discuss substantive topics that help form ACLU positions. Like others, I



have gained at least as much as I have put into the organization, acquiring a new appreciation of the work necessary and of the complexity of issues and solutions. As an educator and clinical psychologist I am keenly attuned to citizen rights and welfare. I am committed to the ACLU-MT both because of my belief in giving back to community, but also because my children and grandchildren live here and their well-being is important to me. I soon will be retiring from the University of Montana and plan to devote even more time to this work. It would be an honor to continue to represent you.

JAMES STEELE, JR.

My name is James Steele, Jr and I was born in Missoula and raised on the Flathead Reservation. I currently am the Director of Student Success at Salish Kootenai College. My working life has been dedicated to helping people in both public and non-profit organizations. I have had the honor of serving for 8 years on the tribal council and for four years as Chairman of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. In that capacity, it was my job to help fight for and maintain the sovereign rights of our tribal citizens. The ACLU has been instrumental in protecting the voting rights of all citizens particularly of our native people. Also, I have supported the rights of our LGBT community members to marry and enjoy that right without discrimination. My commitment is to bring a native perspective to the all the work the ACLU Montana does. I appreciate this opportunity to serve on the board of a great organization.



DENNIS M. TAYLOR

It has been my honor and privilege to serve two terms on the ACLU of Montana board of directors. During that time, I served as treasurer and a member of the executive committee. As a long time public servant, Vietnam combat veteran and former VISTA volunteer, I have been a



tireless advocate for individual rights, personal freedoms and social justice my entire life. I am proud of my 40 years of public service primarily in Montana state and local government. I enjoy working with our members, staff and allies to protect free speech, assembly and due process in Montana. I am especially proud of our recent work for criminal justice reform, death penalty abolition, public defense, jails and prison reform, racial justice, immigrant rights, protection of privacy, LGBT rights, reproductive freedom and voting rights. Currently, I am the chair of the Montana Human Rights Commission and a member of the Montana Advisory Committee of the US Commission on Civil Rights. Please give me your support for a third (and final) term on the ACLU of Montana board of directors. Thank you.

KYLE WATERMAN

I am a fundraiser, community organizer and native Montanan who has recently returned home after living in the Seattle area and Chicago. I have always been drawn to advocacy and social service work. I was a board member of the Citizens Against Domestic Abuse in Washington and now work for Intermountain in Kalispell. I'm a graduate from The Evergreen State College and look forward to bringing my 15 years of nonprofit management experience to the board. I have always respected the way the Montana ACLU has provided a voice for those who are marginalized in our communities and who find that their Constitutional rights have been infringed. Some of the most important work that I see the ACLU currently working toward is reform in our criminal justice system and protection of our privacy rights in the digital age.



Who Can Vote: ACLU Board of Directors

The bylaws of the ACLU of Montana call for a Board of Directors that is elected by our general membership. It is your non-tax-deductible membership dues payable to the ACLU, not donations to the ACLU of Montana Foundation, that make you eligible to vote. Only current ACLU members may vote.

Your mailing address for this newsletter indicates on the top line if you are a current member of the ACLU and eligible to vote. One of three options indicating your voting status will appear on your mailing label:

- “Vote”: You are eligible to vote using one column of the ballot.
- “Joint Vote”: You share a joint membership with another member in your household. Each member may use one row on the ballot.
- Only your address: You may either be a donor to the ACLU of Montana Foundation, and not a member of the ACLU, or your ACLU membership may not be current. If you have recently renewed your membership, please return your ballot with a note indicating your recent renewal so we can verify that your membership is current. If you would like to become a member or renew your membership so you are eligible to vote, you may submit a check for your membership with your ballot. Individual memberships are \$20 a year; joint memberships are \$35.

Instructions:

Voting Instructions: Six candidates are running for six seats on our Board. You may vote for up to six candidates. You cannot cast more than one vote for any candidate even if you vote for fewer than six candidates.

If you share a joint membership with another member—indicated by “Joint Vote” on your mailing label—you may each vote for up to six candidates by using both of the rows provided on the ballot.

Mailing Instructions:

After marking your ballot:

1. Clip the ballot below as well as your mailing label on the back page for verification of voter eligibility.
2. Using your own envelope return your ballot to:

ACLU of Montana
PO Box 1317
Helena, MT 59624

Only your current ACLU membership is required for your ballot to be counted; no additional donation is required.

3. Stamp and mail.

Confidentiality

If you would like to ensure the confidentiality of your ballot, remove your mailing label and fold your ballot. Put your ballot and mailing label into an envelope and mail to the ACLU of Montana at the address indicated above. We will separate your mailing label before we count your ballot.

Deadline:

In order for your ballot to be counted, your ballot must be mailed by March 4th.

BALLOT: One vote per member

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Mary Hernandez | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Paul Silverman | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Dennis M. Taylor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Patty LaPlant | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> James Steele, Jr. | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Kyle Waterman |

With a Single Sentence, You Can Defend Freedom Now and Forever

Right now, by adding the ACLU to your will, you can leave a legacy of liberty for generations to come and defend our freedom today. Through the Legacy Challenge, **simply including a gift in your future plans can qualify the ACLU to receive a 20% cash matching donation today** from our generous challenge donor.

For simple bequest language to include in your will and for information on other gifts that qualify for the Legacy Challenge, visit www.aclu.org/legacy or call toll-free **877-867-1025**.

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
LEGACY
CHALLENGE

Goodbye . . . Hello

Thank You, Niki Zupanic

In December, Niki Zupanic moved on after seven years as the ACLU of Montana's Public Policy Director to become the Executive Director of the Montana Justice Foundation. While we are thrilled for Niki and this exciting new step in her career, MJF's gain is obviously our loss. We are immensely grateful to Niki for her seven years of outstanding service to our organization. As you may know, Niki has been our voice at the table in the legislature, in coalitions, and with government officials, earning the respect of people across the ideological spectrum. Please join us in wishing Niki the best of luck in her new job.

We will be hiring a new public policy director this spring and are fully committed to continuing all of our important legislative and policy work in Montana.



Welcome, Michelle Cares

We are pleased to welcome Michelle Cares to our staff as administrative assistant. Michelle is the new statewide Office Coordinator based in Missoula. She has a background in nonprofit administration and previously worked with such organizations as Montana Legal Services Association and the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation. She is a dedicated community volunteer, a member of a book club, an avid birder and team sports enthusiast. In November, Michelle was elected to Missoula City Council. She is happy to join Team ACLU.





P.O. Box 1317
Helena, Montana 59624
www.aclumontana.org

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Keep Up with the Issues

Sign up for ACLU e-lets
at www.aclumontana.org

Like to write? Want to help?

*We are looking for a volunteer
to help with grant writing.
Email KileenM@aclumontana.org*

Winter 2016

Save the Dates

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2016 – MISSOULA

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2016 – BOZEMAN

Anthony Romero in Montana

We are delighted to announce that Anthony Romero, ACLU’s National Executive Director, will visit Montana on April 13-14, 2016. He will be delivering the UM Presidential Lecture at UM’s Dennison Theatre on April 13th from 8-9:30 pm. He will also be speaking in Bozeman on April 14th. These events are free and open to the public. Go to www.aclumontana.org/events for details on these events. *Anthony D. Romero is the executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union,*

the nation’s premier defender of liberty and individual freedom. An attorney with a history of public-interest activism, Romero has presided over the most successful membership growth in the ACLU’s history and a large increase in national and affiliate staff. This extraordinary growth has allowed the ACLU to expand its nationwide litigation, lobbying, and public education efforts, including new initiatives focused on human rights, racial justice, religious freedom, technology and privacy, reproduc-

tive freedom, criminal law reform, and LGBT rights.

