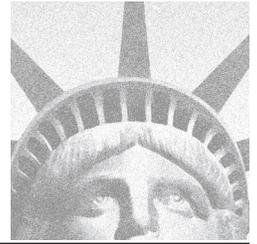


Updating You on the Rights & Liberties that You Defend DEFENDER'S DEBRIEF



Your ACLU Nebraska Newsletter www.aclunebraska.org | 402.476.8091 November 2011

What if Police Don't Know the Law?

- Nebraska is one of a handful of states that do not require continuing education for law enforcement and corrections officers.
- Make sure today's targets of intolerance are not targets of police discrimination as well. Focus for next legislative session is to pass state legislation mandating continuing education for law enforcement in Nebraska.
- Take action at www.aclunebraska.org to join our online community of activists!

TAKE ACTION!

**Tell Local Law Enforcement:
Keep Our Police Practices
Up-to-date & Provide
Continuing Education!
www.aclunebraska.org**

Pregnancy, protests and picture-taking: what do all these things have in common? They are the focus of civil rights complaints ACLU Nebraska received this year depicting poor police actions and a lack of knowledge of current law. All could have been prevented or limited with effective police training. You can help keep our communities truly safe by supporting continuing education for law enforcement in Nebraska. Watch for updates during the upcoming Legislative Session.

Don't Say "Cheese"

Imagine yourself touring Omaha's downtown, stopping on the public sidewalk to capture the beauty of one of its tall buildings with a photo. Suddenly a police officer confronts you, telling you to stop or face criminal charges.

This year ACLU Nebraska received a number of complaints about incidents like this one – incidents where police should have known that free speech rights cover photography.

An amateur photographer took some photos of the First National Bank building in Omaha while standing on a public sidewalk. The building's

security told him to stop and called the police. The same thing occurred when the police were called to stop a train enthusiast who took pictures of Union Pacific trains.

There is no law that restricts someone from taking pictures in public places, even if they are taking pictures of private buildings or transportation. Nor can the police harass someone because they are protesting on public property for a controversial cause.

ACLU has warned the Omaha Police department and train corporations to change their policies or face a future lawsuit.

The need has never been greater for freedom-loving people to support the ACLU. By making a gift today, you can make sure that ACLU Nebraska has the resources needed to continue to fight for all of our freedoms. Join or renew today. www.aclunebraska.org



Stay Out of Sight Or Else

Earlier this summer, a Scottsbluff man was harassed by police during a protest advocating the legalization of marijuana even though it was a permitted protest occurring on public property. The policed warned the protesters to stay “out of sight” or they would face criminal charges.

“Every year, we receive many complaints dealing with police harassment where no law has actually been broken,” said

Amy Miller, ACLU Nebraska Legal Director. “We believe that continuing education for police officers can help to address this knowledge deficit in the law enforcement community.”

Nothing Says Flight Risk like a Pregnant Prisoner

Imagine giving birth with your swollen legs in handcuffs and without any pain medication. Of seven correctional facilities in Nebraska contacted by ACLU

Nebraska, five did not know it was illegal to shackle a birthing mother. ACLU Nebraska has previously worked on other issues related to the health of women in correctional facilities. In other states, ACLU has brought complaints against facilities that failed to properly care for pregnant women. In Nebraska, we want to make sure a complaint like this never has to be made.

Your Voice Will Make a Difference: Police Need Continuing Education

Just like lawyers, teachers and doctors, law enforcement in Nebraska needs continuing education. “Officers need training that deals with how to effectively serve and protect in a climate of changing laws and best practices,” said Sam Walker, former ACLU board member and a nationally recognized criminal justice expert. “New laws are often mentioned in a departmental memo and that is the extent of continuing education for many officers.”

Today, Nebraska police officers practice shooting fire arms and taking down assailants. They should also be required to keep up with

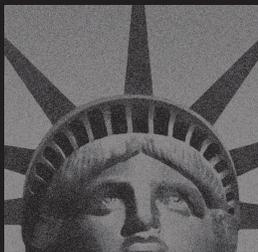
Officers need training that deals with how to effectively serve and protect in a climate of changing laws and best practices.
Sam Walker, nationally recognized criminal justice expert

the law and best police practices. Mandatory continuing education will ensure the police keep our communities safer, use tax dollars more effectively and better protect the civil liberties of all Nebraska residents.

Bring Accountability to Omaha Law Enforcement

It is crucial that law enforcement in Omaha build a culture of trust with their local communities. Join our calls to the Omaha City Council and Mayor Jim Suttle to appoint an independent police auditor. To receive more information, join our online community of activists at www.aclunebraska.org.

**Retire from your job.
Not from civil liberties.**



The IRA Charitable Rollover has been extended through 2011. The IRA Charitable Rollover allows individuals age 70½ and older to make direct transfers totaling up to \$100,000 per year to 501(c)3 charities, such as the ACLU Foundation, without having to count the withdrawals as income for federal income tax purposes.

Make an extraordinary impact through an IRA rollover or a planned gift.

<http://aclu.planyourlegacy.org>

Wanted: Volunteer Attorneys With a Passion for Civil Liberties

As a divorce attorney in Omaha, Angela Dunne has to deal with serious cases all the time. But when an opportunity to truly affect change within Nebraska's jails came along, she jumped at the chance.



ACLU client Claudia with volunteer attorney Angela Dunne of Omaha.

Claudia was just a teenager when her mother saved her from an abusive father by bringing her to America without documentation. After being detained by immigration authorities, she was placed with hardened criminals and sexually assaulted by another inmate in a Nebraska jail. When she reported the assault to authorities, they did not provide any assistance or medical care.

Now a legal permanent resident, Claudia's only crime was not knowing that as a survivor of violence, she was eligible to begin the legalization process all along.

As a volunteer attorney for the ACLU, Angela has taken up Claudia's case. "This case could have a huge impact on jail systems and detention centers," said Angela. "Her story could serve as a way to educate everyone on basic human rights." Clearly enthused by the volunteer work she is doing with the ACLU, Angela also added this about ACLU Nebraska Legal Director Amy Miller, "I was always inspired by Amy and she is a dream person to partner with."

Attorneys and other volunteers can affect change in Nebraska!

To volunteer contact us at info@aclunbraska.org.

Steps to Make a Community "Insecure"

- 1** Give untrained local law enforcement the federal government's job – suspecting who is and who is not appropriately in the U.S.
- 2** Use minor traffic offenses (speeding, broken tail lights) to arrest people (citizens/noncitizens) as a pretext for arresting those perceived to be undocumented or unauthorized.
- 3** Arrest someone (maybe you?) based on an untrained officer's assumption or "suspicion" of being undocumented, capture the person's fingerprints for Homeland Security, and detain the person for up to 48 hours.
- 4** Weaken a community's trust that law enforcement will keep it safe and secure resulting in fewer crimes being reported (including serious ones like domestic violence).
- 5** Make local tax-payers liable for the costs of detaining people on behalf of the federal government and for the mistakes that will happen.

Secure Communities creates "Insecure Communities."

It is a new controversial ICE (Immigration Customs Enforcement) program working with untrained local police. The collateral damage can be significant including: increased taxpayer dollars, weakened trust in law enforcement, increased crime, increased racial profiling, and disrespect for the constitutional rights of people who some law enforcement officers suspect are undocumented.

Your Rights Don't End At Homeroom Or The Dormroom

It's commonly believed that a student's civil rights end when the bell rings. Let's not send our children off to school unprepared this year; encourage the students in your life to take our online survey of the Top 10 school complaints. Go to our website, click on student rights and click on the "Stand Up For Students!" graphic.

Be sure that they check out the "Know Your Rights" brochure made specifically for high school students. It deals with common high school civil rights issues such as school dress codes and locker searches, what the courts have ruled, and what can be done if a student feels that their civil rights have been violated.

Kate Miller, an ACLU Nebraska intern and head of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln ACLU student group, created the brochure. She is also working on a college version, so that university students are informed of their rights. The UNL student group will work on several initiatives this year, including serving as a "watchdog" during student rallies, a voter registration drive and raising awareness of constitutional rights on campus. Students in campus residence halls should soon benefit from "know your rights in the dorms" trainings as well.



This dynamic set of UNL students (including ACLU interns Chris Siedholz (left) and Kate Miller (second from right) have already found over 100 civil-liberties loving (and soon to be ACLU members) students at UNL!

MAKE SURE STUDENTS KNOW THEIR RIGHTS!

Support public education from the classroom to the dormroom.
 Donate or become a member today.
www.aclunebraska.org

Supporters Gather in Home of Founding Member



Few organizations can claim the legacy of supporters that ACLU can. Lobbyist and volunteer attorney Alan Peterson spoke about free speech, the death penalty and immigration on Sept. 30 at an Omaha-area house party hosted by ACLU founding member Cella Quinn.



Cella Quinn
Founding
Member

When I was asked to help start an ACLU chapter in Nebraska by Charles Stephens, I did so because it was the only organization really working on issues I care about like equal pay for women and reproductive rights. I'm proud to still support an organization that stands up when no one else will.