

DEFENDER'S DEBRIEF

UPDATING YOU ON THE RIGHTS & LIBERTIES THAT YOU DEFEND

ACLUNEBRASKA.ORG / 402.476.8091 / SEPTEMBER 2017



The ACLU Family is Growing

ALLIE CURTRIGHT JOINS AS DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE

I am honored to join the growing ACLU of Nebraska family as the first-ever Development Associate. By simply being supporters of this organization, you are bravely standing against injustice every single day and I thank you for that commitment. Growing up in Omaha, I remember wondering why some schools had computers in every room while others had only one or two for all of the students; why the police would grab people who were panhandling off the street and place them in the back of patrol cars without any explanation. Reading *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander during college inspired me to work with local political candidates. I am now thrilled to bring my experience and expertise to the ACLU of Nebraska.

If you have questions regarding your membership, donations, event sponsorships, or anything related to your generous contributions and how they make a difference in our organization, I am happy to answer! I hope that together our ACLU family can change Nebraska into a state that is not only “Nebraska Nice” but Nebraska Fair, Nebraska Equitable, and Nebraska Free.

Allie Curtright



Allie Curtright
Development Associate
402-476-8091 x107
acurtright@aclunebbraska.org

Victory for Family Planning Funding

Health care providers and patients rally with the ACLU during the 2017 legislative session

“I’m sharing my story in hopes that our elected officials will understand that taking away funds from family planning clinics means taking away health care from women like me.”

Mia Fernandez, Lincoln Journal Star, 07/17/2017

- Over 14,500 rural and low-income Nebraskans rely upon health centers that receive federal Title X family planning funds for well woman exams, lifesaving cancer screenings, STI testing and treatment, and birth control.
- Many Title X health centers are the only provider for low-income women in rural Nebraska communities.
- Over 1,000 Nebraskans made phone calls and over 250 emails were sent to lawmakers in less than two weeks.

In an effort to defund Planned Parenthood, lawmakers in Nebraska attempted to change the formula for how Nebraska distributes federal Title X family planning funds. This was another blatant attempt to put politics before patients in Nebraska. Thousands of Nebraskans saw through the sneak attempt and together we sent thousands of messages to the Unicameral in just two weeks. While the proposal was stopped this session, lawmakers have made it clear they want to try again in 2018. We hope you will stand with family planning patients like Mia and thousands of other Nebraska women again.



DEFEND FREEDOM! ACLUNEBRASKA.ORG/DONATE

PEOPLE POWER IS THE ROCKET FUEL FOR RESISTANCE & PROGRESS

At the dawn of this new political reality, our goals must be both resistance and progress. When I feel heartsick for my Nebraska neighbors caught in the crosshairs of Trump/Ricketts rhetoric and policies, I stiffen my resolve to use my time, talent, and every fiber of my being to fight back. Today, I have hope and I remain optimistic because of the ACLU and because of you. People Power activists like you have stepped forward from Omaha to Lincoln to Fremont and beyond to ensure that our refugee and immigrant neighbors are not profiled or discriminated against. Scores of lawyers have volunteered as legal first responders, ready to help out if a raid happens in one of our communities. Recently, a new supporter stopped me in the grocery store to thank us for our work and showed me their ACLU pocket Constitution.

The ACLU of Nebraska—fueled by your activism—is making a positive difference. For example, in 2017 a diverse coalition and countless grassroots activists like you beat back a discriminatory Voter ID law for the 6th year straight. We established first ever protections for pregnant and parenting students in our schools to ensure no person has to choose between finishing their education and taking care of their family. Our historic victory at the Nebraska Supreme Court striking down the ban on LGBT foster parents has opened scores of safe homes and warm hearts to some of Nebraska’s most vulnerable children. These are ACLU People Power victories!

People who have never before engaged with the ACLU are stepping forward to fight back. Long time loyal ACLU supporters are deepening their investment and renewing

their activism. Even with our list of members, supporters and activists tripling to over 20,000 supporters, the ACLU of Nebraska is still the David to the Trump/Ricketts Goliath. Nationally our team of 300 litigators is up against 11,000 at the Department of Justice. Locally our small but mighty 6-person staff is up against 100+ staff at the Nebraska Attorney General’s office and scores of government lawyers across Nebraska. Our Attorney General has sadly decided to score political points by attacking transgender youth and young Dreamers. Our Secretary of State might turn over sensitive information about voters to a sham Presidential Commission. Local city attorneys are still bringing criminal charges against those experiencing homelessness when they peacefully ask their neighbors for help. We have a lot of work to do. But we can and we will win by working together.

I renew my promise to you—we will never stop fighting until the rights of all Nebraskans are respected by all Nebraskans. Working together we can and we will do just that. Power to the people!

In friendship and freedom,

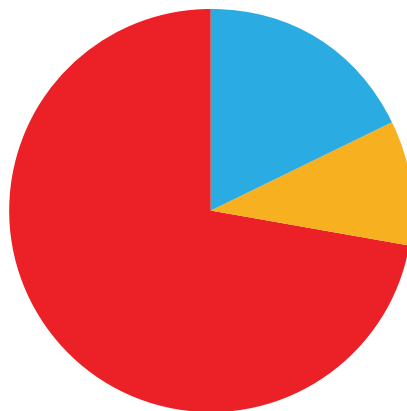


Danielle Conrad, J.D.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

GOOD STEWARDS OF YOUR INVESTMENT APRIL 2016 - MARCH 2017

The challenges put forth by the current administration will last for the next several years. An unprecedented number of Americans—including thousands of Nebraskans—have stepped forward to fund this work. We rely upon the generous support of the private sector including individuals and foundations to make our work possible. Because of growing support during our last fiscal year, the ACLU of Nebraska is adding three staff positions during 2017 which we intend to sustain into the future. The ACLU consists of a 501(c)(3) and a 501(c)(4) organization.

EXPENSES \$514,174



	Fundraising	10%	\$ 54,286
	Management	18%	\$ 102,095
	Program	72%	\$ 405,078

REVENUES \$690,974



	Individual Donors	27%	\$ 185,419
	National ACLU Support	51%	\$ 352,673
	Grants	14%	\$ 95,500
	Attorneys Fees	8%	\$ 57,382

SHAPING CIVIL LIBERTIES FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

Nathan Calvin, Grinnell College, heads into the Nebraska State Capitol to discuss his work with State Senator John McCollister.

Each year, dozens of undergraduate interns and law clerks join our ranks to hone their skills as the next generation of civil rights leaders. They don't just make copies or fetch coffee. They make a difference on the front lines of Nebraska's most pressing civil rights and civil liberties issues.

The First Amendment & Asking for Help

I am researching panhandling ordinances to ensure Nebraska cities understand how to reform their ordinances to respect free speech rights. The First Amendment protects freedom of speech and that includes asking people for help. For an ordinance to be constitutional, there can only be very narrow limits on this protected free speech. Recently, the Omaha City Council changed the panhandling ordinance (with help from the ACLU) and it has kept hundreds out of debtor's prisons. I have hope that my research will support these kinds of changes in Lincoln so the City Council updates our local laws to stop criminalizing those who are engaged in peaceful free speech.

Shailana Dunn-Wall
University of Nebraska College of Law

Meeting Our Transgender Neighbors

Growing up in rural Nebraska, I know there is a strong sense of community. This summer I traveled to three Nebraska communities with Ashley Swartz, a transgender Nebraskan, as she shared her story of growing up and living in Malmo, NE. During these events, it was the audience questions that gave me the most hope. In North Platte, an educator asked how to show that her classroom is a safe place for all students. In Scottsbluff, religious leaders gathered to discuss inclusion for our transgender neighbors in their congregations. In McCook, individuals sought support for friends and loved ones. Nebraska still has a long way to go to secure basic rights and full equality for our transgender neighbors but seeing Nebraskans like Ashley sharing her story to change hearts and minds for lasting change gives me hope.

Abigail Kuntz
University of Nebraska College of Law

\$1.00 A Minute: For-Profit Jail Calls

I served an open records request to all 68 county jails to investigate how those who are incarcerated can stay in contact with friends, families and their attorneys. I was shocked at how much families were paying to stay in contact – \$19 for a 15-minute call was not out of the ordinary! Private companies and jails in Nebraska are openly profiting off the families of the incarcerated. I presented our findings to State Senator John McCollister who is taking the lead on this issue. My research will result in a first of its kind report on this issue in the fall of 2017. While it is easy to get caught up in all the many ways that government is dysfunctional, working on this project has given me hope that committed organizations can successfully work with legislators across the political spectrum to solve pressing problems.

Nathan Calvin
Grinnell College



(top) Joy Kathurima, Rachel Kunz, Abigail Kuntz, Taylor Rivera, Nathan Calvin (back), Emily Murphy (front), Cristina Prentice, Shailana Dunn-Wall, and Haley Wurdinger.
(bottom) Miranda Rodgers, Joseph John, Courtney Strayer, Shailana Dunn-Wall, Senator Ernie Chambers, Nathan Calvin, Joy Kathurima, Abigail Kuntz and Rachel Kunz visit in the Capitol Rotunda before the ACLU's prison litigation press conference.



People Power in Nebraska

Leading the Resistance in the Courts,
The Halls of Power and Taking It To The Streets

Five months ago, activists and volunteers all over the country came together to launch the People Power movement, seeking to bring meaningful policy change to their local communities and the nation.



There have been dozens of People Power events around the state of Nebraska. Find one near you. peoplepower.org

“I’m a Muslim and a Nebraskan. My family has been contributing to this community for 15-plus years and to dismiss any of it...based on my faith, that’s something I don’t understand.” Natasha Naseem is a 20-year-old Muslim rights activist and UNL student. The daughter of Pakistani immigrants, Naseem grew up in Lincoln.

Lincoln Journal Star, July 29 1027



*Credit: Amber Baesler,
Lincoln Journal Star*



Keynote Speaker **Faiz Shakir**
National Political Director for the ACLU

“ In a few short months, thousands of citizen activists, joined together in a common commitment to freedom and fairness, have brought about real and lasting policy changes. Imagine how much more could be done as this movement grows...People have known us for ‘See you in court.’ I hope now they’ll know us as, ‘See you in the streets.’”

ACLU of Nebraska Annual Event

Celebrate the **PEOPLE POWER** that fuels the **ACLU**

September 21, 2017

6:00 pm social hour

7:00 pm program

Heavy hors d’oeuvres & cash bar

Nebraska Club

233 S 13th St

20th Floor

Lincoln, NE 68508

Purchase Your Ticket Today!

Tickets: \$100

Young Professionals: \$55

35 and under

VIP Reception

5:00 pm Hosted Bar

\$50 plus regular or young professional ticket

This year, we will be honoring:

- **Herb Friedman** | Robert M. Spire Founders Service Award
- **Sen. Tony Vargas** | Defender of the Bill of Rights Award
- **Joel Busch & Todd Vesely; Janet & Lisa Blakey; Greg & Stillman Stewart** – Gay & Lesbian Foster Care Clients | Roger Baldwin Civil Libertarians of the Year Award

JOIN OUR BOARD

Board elections are coming up in April. If interested in joining our Board of Directors or to see a list of upcoming meetings visit aclunebraska.org/board

PRIVACY POLICIES

We care about your privacy. View our privacy policy at aclunebraska.org/privacypolicy