

DEFENDER'S DEBRIEF

ACLUNEBRASKA.ORG / 402.476.8091 / AUGUST 2015



HISTORY TOGETHER WE MADE



Danielle and marriage plaintiff Bil Roby at a decision day rally on June 26. Credit: Thia Hartley

When I took the reins at the ACLU of Nebraska I knew that my leadership and vision would help move our beloved organization boldly forward. However, I could have never predicted how amazing these first nine months on the job would be! The ACLU family has so much to be proud of as we were an undisputed leader on many meaningful victories for civil liberties that benefit all Nebraskans in 2015. This work would not be possible without your phone calls and emails to your elected officials, your online activism, and your generous donations that support our work. The historic victories you will read about in this newsletter belong to you.

This summer we are scored another historic win for gay & lesbian foster parents in the courts and are also

at the fore front of a diverse statewide coalition, Nebraskans for Public Safety, educating voters about the death penalty referendum and why it is important to leave this broken policy in our past. This fall we are preparing to release major policy reports on key issues, negotiating ordinances on free speech issues, preparing impact litigation on LGBT discrimination, and continuing our focus on systemic prison reform. We will not stop working until the rights of all Nebraskans are respected by all Nebraskans.

In friendship and freedom,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Danielle Conrad".

Danielle Conrad
Executive Director

LOVE WON!

On July 10, 2015 a beautiful ballroom at the Magnolia Hotel was filled a special fellowship including our longtime supporters and new friends who welcomed special guest Jim Obergefell, the lead plaintiff in the United States Supreme Court case. Together we celebrated marriage equality, our brilliant legal team, and the seven brave client families in the Nebraska case. A heartfelt thanks to event committee members Marj Plumb, Tracy Weitz, Jason Cadek, Nicolas Kramer, Maria Funk, and Tyler Richard for making this amazing celebration possible.



*Lead plaintiffs and brave Nebraskans Susan & Sally Waters share their gratitude with Jim Obergefell. **View over 100 more photos on our Facebook page!** Credit: Jason M. McClaren*

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TELL POLITICIANS TO STOP PLAYING DOCTOR

New restrictions and unnecessary regulations on abortion are proposed year after year – some that would shut down abortion providers in Nebraska.

According to the Guttmacher Institute, over the last decade Nebraska has quickly become one of the most hostile states to reproductive freedom in the United States while failing to adopt common sense policies like comprehensive sex education and access to contraception. Some of the recently adopted state level attacks on women's health include:

- **Mandatory biased counseling**
- **A mandatory 24 hour waiting period.**
- **Limits on the use of both public funds and private insurance to cover abortion.**
- **Telemedicine abortion ban.**
- **Minors must have parental consent.**
- **Intrusive ultrasound laws.**

THE ACLU OF NEBRASKA IS WORKING ON LEGAL AND POLICY STRATEGIES TO FIGHT BACK AND ENSURE NEBRASKA WOMEN HAVE ACCESS TO THE HEALTH CARE THEY NEED.



Nebraskans joined legal fellow Scott Richters and asked politicians to **#StopPlayingDoctor**

OVER 100 NEBRASKANS ARE ALREADY MAKING A MONTHLY GIFT THROUGH THE GUARDIANS OF LIBERTY PROGRAM. JOIN THEM.

ACLU.ORG/LIBERTY

MEET OUR INTERNS



IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A VOLUNTEER, INTERN, OR LAW CLERK PLEASE CONTACT MARIA FUNK, MFUNK@ACLUNEBRASKA.ORG

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

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
LEGACY
CHALLENGE

TRAINING FUTURE GENERATIONS of Civil Liberties Champions

A record number of volunteers, interns, and law clerks joined us this summer to fight for freedom, justice, liberty and civil rights. The students provided countless hours of critical research and writing talent on parole and pardons reform, state level mass surveillance and privacy issues, civil forfeiture, drug dogs, rights of transgender students, sexual education curriculum, racial profiling, juvenile solitary confinement, and so much more.

The contributions of these dedicated future leaders are critical to expanding our reach. Fostering experiences for these talented young Nebraskans will spark their passion for careers in public interest law or social justice work and as future members of the ACLU of Nebraska.

MARJ & TRACY: WHY WE MADE LIBERTY A LASTING LEGACY

When we moved from California to Nebraska in 2014, we knew we'd be in for a different climate and landscape. We gave up the ocean and friends for a job opportunity in Nebraska that was almost too good to be true. Fortunately for



us, something has remained the same: the talent and passion of those who work for the ACLU. Along with incredible neighbors and coworkers, the ACLU was part of our life in California and has been a part of our creating a home here in Nebraska.

As soon as we signed paperwork for our new house in Omaha, we felt uncomfortable saying on the forms that we were "single" as we had been living as a married couple in California since 2008. We contacted the ACLU and joined with several other couples who sued the State of Nebraska for the freedom to marry. We're so thankful that victory is won for our family and thousands of other same-sex couples in Nebraska and around America.

We know, though, that the work of the ACLU is far from done. While our relationship is now recognized because of plaintiffs and lawyers, legislators and lobbyists, protestors and e-activists and allies that put a supportive sticker on their car or interrupt an anti-LGBT joke at a family dinner, the LGBT individuals who come out every day to family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, and even acquaintances, and the donors who fund this work, there are still many rights yet to be protected or won for our community and all people who need their rights and liberties defended.

What we've found through this past year and a half, with the help of the ACLU, the other clients who fought for the freedom to marry and our wonderful neighbors, is a home and a community. And we're thrilled to do our part to support the work of the ACLU. No matter who is tomorrow's target of intolerance and discrimination, we want to ensure the ACLU is equipped to give freedom a voice. With the ACLU's marriage victory, we feel like we are a part of history. That is why we are annual donors and why we decided to make a gift to the ACLU in our will to defend justice, liberty, and freedom now and forever.

BEYOND PRIVACY

Liberty & Free Speech in the Era of Mass Surveillance



We are excited to welcome Ben Wizner, Director of ACLU's Speech, Privacy, and Technology project and legal advisor to Edward Snowden, as our keynote speaker on liberty, privacy, and free speech in the era of mass surveillance at our upcoming Annual Event.

Please join us in honoring this year's award winners, Dick Holland, the Nebraska Legislature's Judiciary Committee and the Nebraska Freedom to Marry Plaintiffs. September 3, 2015 | 6:00 pm social hour, 7:00 pm program Livestock Exchange Building | 4920 S. 30th St, Omaha Tickets: \$100

MORE INFORMATION AT:
aclunebraska.org/beyond_privacy

To RSVP, contact Maria Funk:
mfunk@aclunebraska.org
402.476.8091 x103

Other Upcoming Events

CONSTITUTION DAY

September 17

BANNED BOOKS WEEK

Septemeber 17 - October 3

HOLLAND LECTURE SERIES

"VOTING RIGHTS: THINGS WE USED TO HAVE"

Featuring Dale Ho, ACLU Voting Rights Project Director

Thursday, September 24 7:30pm
Holland Performing Arts Center
13th & Douglas, Omaha

Sponsored by First Unitarian Church of Omaha



Community
Services Fund
of Nebraska

Defend civil liberties just by going to work!

ACLU of Nebraska is a proud member agency of the Community Services Fund workplace giving campaign.



ACLU

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
of NEBRASKA

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50 YEARS OF PROTECTING YOUR LIBERTY

The ACLU of Nebraska is turning 50 in 2016! To celebrate, we want to hear from you. Do you have a favorite memory or photo from your involvement? Send to 50years@aclunebraska.org.