

# IDAHO LIBERTY



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## SPRING / SUMMER 2011 2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BY HANNAH BRASS, PUBLIC POLICY DIRECTOR/COUNSEL

**C**oming into the 2011 legislative session, it was difficult to know what to expect. The Idaho Legislature is always an interesting place to work, but that is especially true right after an election year. With so many new legislators at the statehouse, we spent the first couple of weeks getting a feel for the session.

What would be the hot topics of the session? How involved and vocal would the new members be? Would any of the new legislators be friendly to ACLU issues?

### General Thoughts on the Session

It didn't take long for the session to heat up and for the hot topics to rise to the surface. Seemingly out of nowhere, State Superintendent of Education, Tom Luna, introduced sweeping reform measures to education in Idaho. Some of the pillars of his reform plan were more technology in schools, requirements of online classes for all high school students, and the loss of bargaining and contract rights for many Idaho teachers. Although Luna had the support of Governor Otter, what became clear very quickly was many teachers, students, and parents across the state

did not support this plan. Although the bills representing each part of Luna's plan were signed by the governor, the fight is not over as Idahoans around the state gather signatures to put these measures to a vote of the people.

One of the most important things to come of the education debate was the outpouring of community involvement - something I had not seen in the five years I have lobbied for the ACLU of

Idaho. The education debate was just the beginning of a session marked with amazing community involvement. For the first time ever, the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee, responsible for setting the state's budgets, held public hearings on both the Education and Health and Welfare budgets. When it was time to present the Medicaid budget in a joint meeting of the House and Senate Health and Welfare Committees, again, Idahoans from around

the state filled the hearing rooms, waiting in lines to sign up to testify, and marched in front of the statehouse to protest major cuts to very important budgets.

Budget cuts weren't the only issues to make a repeat appearance at the statehouse in 2011. Last session state sovereignty was a big issue and it remained so this session with a major push to "nullify" the federal health care reform legislation. Again, this issue brought in unprecedented numbers of community members, most in favor of nullification. Although these measures were ultimately defeated by votes in the legislature or by governor veto, Governor Otter later signed an executive order that included most of the provisions in the various nullification bills presented.

With the education and budget debates raging in the background, the ACLU of

CONTINUES ON PAGE 4



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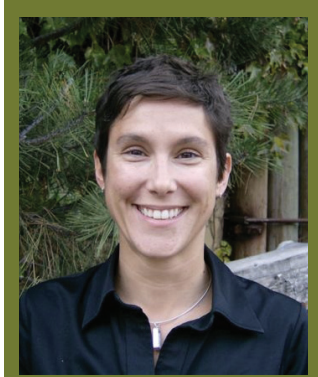
# LGBT STATEWIDE SURVEY

## YOUR DONATIONS CAN HELP PROTECT AND ADVANCE CIVIL LIBERTIES

BY MONICA HOPKINS,  
CFRE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**"Do you agree that it should be illegal to fire someone because they are perceived to be gay or lesbian?"**

That question was asked in the 19th Annual Public Policy Survey conducted by Boise State University in 2007. The results of the question may surprise you – 63% of Idahoans agreed it should be illegal to fire someone based on their orientation. But relying on one question from one survey is not enough to expand LGBT Equality in our state.



**WE HAVE RAISED  
OVER \$9,000 IN  
PLEDGES TOWARD  
OUR GOAL OF  
\$15,000 FOR A  
STATEWIDE SURVEY.**

– “We live in Idaho” or “People just aren’t wanting (or ready) for this type of change.” And during our work at the legislature we consistently hear “My constituents don’t feel that way.” How do we know if this is true? Simple answer – we don’t. So let’s find out.

**"Aren't you afraid of what you might find out?"**

I was asked this question recently by an ACLU supporter. My answer – we are not afraid of the truth. We do a lot of work battling myths

## THE ACLU: BEYOND IDAHO

BY DONNA YULE,  
BOARD PRESIDENT

Seven undocumented students were recently arrested in Atlanta for engaging in a sit-in in front of Georgia State University. They were there to call for a repeal of Georgia’s discriminatory policy that denies undocumented students access to higher education. The students were part of a network of youth activists in support of the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act, a bill that promotes fundamental fairness in access to higher education for all high school students, regardless of immigration status.

The DREAM Act is important to me, and I can’t understand why anyone would be opposed to giving these young people, many of whom entered the country as babies and toddlers, a chance to earn citizenship by getting an education or serving in our military. The ACLU of Georgia is supporting these students in their fight and, as an ACLU member, I’m so proud to stand right there with these students as they fight for basic fairness.

As Idahoans, we need to remember that when we join the ACLU, and when we contribute our dollars, we are supporting the work of the ACLU not just here in Idaho, but all over the country.

**"Why a statewide survey?"**

Research is the critical first step in developing a clear-eyed, fact based understanding of Idaho’s political environment. Having concrete data in all 44 Idaho counties helps us identify areas we might build constructive collaborations in our work, help develop leaders on the community level and identify what kind of change is needed. It makes us more effective in bringing about a more equal Idaho.

**"Who will conduct the survey?"**

The ACLU of Idaho will contract with an outside public policy research firm to conduct the research in each county. This way we ensure the information collected stays confidential and the results unbiased. Being able to conduct this survey with an outside firm will take – you

guessed it – money.

**"What can I do to help?"**

This may be the question you are asking yourself. To date we have raised over \$9,000 in pledges toward our goal of \$15,000 to fund a statewide climate assessment for LGBT Equality. Your donation of \$250, \$100 or \$50 would help us reach our goal of completing a statewide survey, compile the data and be able to more strategically focus our efforts for LGBT Equality in Idaho. If you are interested in contributing contact our office at (208) 344-9750 x 201, donate online at <http://acluidaho.org/supportus.html> or simply mail your donation to our offices at PO Box 1897, Boise, ID 83701.

We are excited about this project and sharing the results around the state. We hope you will join us – your donations help us protect and advance civil liberties!

so proud to stand right there with those prisoners as they battle for simple human dignity.

In the 2011 legislature, the ACLU brought proactive legislation that will prohibit jails from shackling women as they give birth, and that bill became law. I’m so proud to stand right there with those women prisoners when they bring their babies into the world.

We have a noble vision at the ACLU. We stand with people who have been denied their civil liberties and who would have no voice if it weren’t for us.

Now, that should make us all proud!

At the ACLU of Idaho banquet this spring, we were honored to hear from Constance McMillen, who was banned from her high school prom in Mississippi because she wanted to take her girlfriend and wear a tux. The ACLU filed a federal lawsuit stating that her school district violated her First Amendment Right to Freedom of Expression. I’m so proud that I stood right there with Constance as she bravely fought for her own civil liberties.

Right here in Idaho the ACLU is representing prisoners who are so badly abused that the private prison where they are incarcerated is called the “Gladiator School.” I’m

## STAFF

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# LEGAL DEPARTMENT

BY CATHERINE SANT,  
LEGAL INTAKE COORDINATOR

2011 has brought some wonderful, and necessary, growth to our Legal Department here at the ACLU of Idaho. In addition to our staff attorney and legal intake coordinator, our program has grown to include five legal intake interns from Boise State University and one part-time contract attorney.

WE HAVE RECEIVED  
AND RESPONDED TO  
APPROXIMATELY 554  
LEGAL INTAKE  
LETTERS AND  
EMAILS

With all this additional help we've been able to read and respond to more legal intake complaints than ever. Just since January, we have received and responded to approximately 554 legal intake letters and emails and answered approximately 378 phone calls requesting assistance.

In addition to responding to legal complaints, our legal

team is currently involved in litigation with the Idaho Correctional Center and Corrections Corporation of America for failing to protect prisoners from assault at the private prison in Boise. Our Legal Panel has formed a subcommittee of cooperating attorneys charged with the task of monitoring the state of indigent defense in Idaho. The subcommittee is reviewing public defender complaints, reviewing court documents and making public record requests to counties to establish public defender case loads and costs throughout the state. In addition to these current projects, the Legal Department also has an ever-evolving legal docket that includes 5-10 cases at any given time that are being monitored and followed-up on by interns, staff and cooperating attorneys.

This year, the Legal Department reaffirmed our mission to respond to every request for assistance that comes to us and even if we are unable to assist, we always strive to provide additional resources including attorney referrals, case law, other advocacy organizations that

may be able to assist, and the necessary paperwork for complainants to file their own lawsuits. We wouldn't be able to do all of the good work we do without the help of our volunteers and interns and so we would just like to say "thank you" to everyone who has made our work possible.

THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT REAFFIRMED  
OUR MISSION TO  
RESPOND TO EVERY  
REQUEST FOR  
ASSISTANCE

If you are interested in legal intake internship with the ACLU of Idaho, please go to our website [http://www.acluidaho.org/images/summer\\_internship\\_2011.docx](http://www.acluidaho.org/images/summer_internship_2011.docx) or email me at [csant@acluidaho.org](mailto:csant@acluidaho.org) for more information.

## Cooperating Attorneys

Are you an attorney interested in becoming more involved with the ACLU? Contact our Legal Department at (208) 344-9750 x 205 for more information.

# KATHY GRIESMYER JOINS STAFF

BY KATHY GRIESMYER,  
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR &  
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

As a student who was first introduced to the ACLU during my college days, mesmerized by the Human Rights Attorney from the National office in New York who spoke so eloquently of protecting the rights of all citizens, I couldn't be more pleased to announce that I have the great pleasure of working for the ACLU of Idaho!

Prior to working here I was a student at the University

of Oregon where I majored in Spanish and International Studies with a focus in Diplomacy and Law. During my time in school, I interned for several social justice organizations including the Idaho Human Rights Education Center, the Eugene Human Rights Commission and most recently the Idaho Community Action Network.

As the new Office Administrator and Program Coordinator I hope to break through the copy orders, bills and paper jams and transform

this position into an outreach stronghold, connecting staff, board members, supporters and volunteers to unite and work together in securing civil liberties for all.

If you're interested in learning more about the position, programs I oversee or getting more involved with your ACLU, please don't hesitate to reach me by phone at 344-9750 x 201 or email me at [kgriesmyer@acluidaho.org](mailto:kgriesmyer@acluidaho.org). I look forward to working with you all soon. Go Ducks!

# ...LEGISLATIVE SESSION, CONTINUED FROM PG 1

Idaho pushed forward with our legislative agenda. Like most years, we faced some major challenges but were also able to celebrate various victories in an otherwise very difficult session.

## Progress Made Toward LGBT Equality

For the past five years we have been actively working to amend the Idaho Human Rights Act to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodation and education. In 2011 we were back at the statehouse again working to achieve LGBT equality in Idaho, but this year we had the privilege of working with the community led Safe Schools and Fair Employment Working Group. Although Senator McKenzie, chairman of the Senate State Affairs Committee, refused to give the bill a public hearing for the fifth year in a row, there was amazing energy around this issue as the Working Group organized lobby days and rallies across the state. Although we have much work to do to amend the Idaho

**A RASH OF TEEN SUICIDES AS A RESULT OF BULLYING HAVE BEEN WIDELY REPORTED IN THE MEDIA THIS YEAR**

Human Rights Act, this year marked a turning point in the involvement of Idahoans around the state, both members of the LGBT community and allies, who answered the rally cry of the Working

Group and let their voices for equality be heard.

Even more progress was made in the area of safe schools. As many of you are probably aware, a rash of teen suicides as a result of bullying

**SB 1105 WOULD HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT SCHOOL STAFF WERE PERMITTED AND EXPECTED TO TAKE ACTION WHEN BULLYING OCCURS**

have been widely reported in the media over the past year. It is more important now than ever to make sure our kids are safe at school. With that goal in mind, Senators Keogh (R-Sandpoint), Goedde (R-Coeur d'Alene) and LeFavour (D-Boise) introduced SB 1105, which would have strengthened Idaho's anti-bullying law. The bill clarified the penalties for bullying but more importantly, it made it clear that school staff, teachers and administrators were permitted and expected to take action when bullying occurs. The bill also would have ensured that teachers, students, and parents receive information and training about bullying and how to address such issues. SB 1105 passed the Senate with only three no votes and made it to the House floor. Unfortunately, the bill died on the House floor on the last day of the session without ever coming up for a vote. Although all those who worked on this bill are very disappointed with the outcome, we are encouraged by the great progress made and we will be back next year

working to ensure safe schools for all Idaho students.

## Attacks Made On Reproductive Rights

As has been the case for as long as most of us can remember, reproductive rights were under attack again at the statehouse. Among these attacks was SB 1165 introduced by Senator Winder (R-Boise) and signed into law by Governor Otter. SB 1165 prohibits abortions after 20 weeks except under very narrow circumstances.

**SB 1165 DOES NOT INCLUDE EXCEPTIONS IN CASES OF RAPE, INCEST, FETAL ANOMALIES OR THE MENTAL HEALTH OF THE WOMAN**

The legislation does not include exceptions in cases of rape, incest or fetal anomalies and does not take into account the mental and psychological health of the woman. In addition to bad policy, SB 1165 is unconstitutional as it attempts to restrict abortion prior to viability of the fetus and because it does not adequately protect women's health. Unfortunately, this did not sway the legislature and the bill was signed into law.

## ACLU Victories—Megaloads, Internet Filtering and Pregnant Prisoners

Enough with the challenges! Though we do have a difficult job at the statehouse, every session we are able to celebrate victo-

ries, big and small. The 2011 legislative session was no different. You may wonder what megaloads, internet filtering and pregnant prisoners have in common? Well, these are areas of Idaho law in which we celebrated victories this session.

The past couple of years, a group called Citizens for Decency has pushed for internet filtering in both schools and public libraries. Last year a law was adopted to implement internet filtering policies and software in Idaho schools. The group's latest attempt, HB 205 sponsored by Rep. Shirley (R-Rexburg), called for internet filtering software in public libraries that would have censored valuable speech and would have given librarians, educators and parents a false sense of security when providing minors with internet access. We opposed the bill in the House, but it passed and was sent over to the Senate. Once HB 205 reached the Senate the ACLU of Idaho, the Idaho Library Association and others again vocally opposed the legislation. A compromise

**LAST YEAR A LAW WAS ADOPTED TO IMPLEMENT INTERNET FILTERING POLICIES AND SOFTWARE IN SCHOOLS**

was reached and HB 205 was amended in the Senate to protect access to valuable speech for all library patrons.

On the same day the Senate Education Committee sent HB 205 to the amending order, the ACLU of Idaho celebrated another victory as

## ...LEGISLATIVE SESSION, CONTINUED FROM PG 4

HB 193 was also sent to the amending order for improvements. As originally drafted, HB 193, sponsored by Rep. Harwood (R-St. Maries), attempted to put a halt to lawsuits that attempt to set aside

**HB 193 ATTEMPTED TO PUT A HALT TO LAWSUITS THAT ATTEMPT TO SET ASIDE MEGALOAD PERMITS ISSUED BY THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

megaload permits issued by the Idaho Department of Transportation by requiring a plaintiff to provide a bond in

the amount of 5% the value of the “load.” Because such an amount could be so high as to chill access to the court all together, the stated intent of the bill sponsor, the ACLU of Idaho in partnership with the Idaho Trial Lawyers, opposed the bill. While we were unsuccessful in the House, our efforts yielded much better results in the Senate where the bill was amended to no longer require a 5% bond but to leave the decision to the court’s discretion after taking into consideration not only the value of the load but also the plaintiff’s ability to pay and chances of prevailing.

And finally, our biggest victory of the session – the ACLU drafted HB 163, which prohibits the use of restraints on pregnant prisoners during labor and delivery except under extreme circumstances,

was signed by Governor Otter on April 5, 2011. This piece

**HB 163 PROHIBITS THE USE OF RESTRAINTS ON PREGNANT PRISONERS DURING LABOR & DELIVERY.**

of legislation was a unique opportunity to work with a diverse group of allies – ACLU of Idaho, Idaho Sheriffs’ Association, Catholic Charities of Idaho, Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest, and Right to Life Idaho – to advance common sense legislation. After the bill stalled in the 2010 legislative session, this year HB 163 passed both the

House and Senate by unanimous vote. As of April 5th of this year, Idaho law protects the dignity and safety of all incarcerated women and their pregnancies.

While we take the next few weeks to digest this past legislative session we want to thank all of you who have supported the ACLU of Idaho and our work at the Idaho Legislature. We are excited about the progress we have made and the victories we have celebrated but know there is much work ahead of us. We have only highlighted a small fraction of legislation we followed during the 2011 session. If you’d like more information on other bills we followed during the legislative session, check out the 2011 Legislative Bill Tracker on our website at [www.acluidaho.org/legislative](http://www.acluidaho.org/legislative).

## UPDATE ON LITIGATION AGAINST ICC

The past months have been a roller coaster ride, including a reassignment of federal Judges, full briefing and rulings on 6 motions and the taking and defending of 11 depositions.

On April 19, 2011, Judge Winmill recused himself from the *Riggs v. Valdez* case. Defendants had alleged that there might have been improper ex parte communications between lead attorney Stephen Pevar and the court’s Pro Bono Coordinator in Mr. Pevar’s acceptance of the case. Judge Winmill held that although he did not believe any actual impropriety occurred, he was “concerned that there is at least the appearance of impropriety.” The case was reassigned to Judge Lodge. (You can read the Order in its entirety on our website at [www.acluidaho.org](http://www.acluidaho.org).)

On April 27, 2011, Judge Lodge ordered the following: **Plaintiffs’ Motion to Sever** and **Motion to Amend** were granted. This created two stand-alone lawsuits, one of which will go to a jury on Marlin Riggs’ claim for damages and the other of which will seek only injunctive relief requiring improvements at the prison. The new name of the class action is *Kelly v. Wengler*. It will retain all of the claims in the prior Complaint but it adds 3 new plaintiffs assaulted in recent months. **Defendants’ Motion for Restraining Order** was denied. The motion sought to restrict our communications with the public regarding the lawsuit. The Associated Press was granted intervention on this issue, arguing that lawyers can “enlighten public debate” because “[a]n informed public depends on



Two of our plaintiffs gave their depositions at correctional institutions.

accurate and effective reporting by the news media”. (You can read the Memorandum Order in its entirety on our website at [www.acluidaho.org](http://www.acluidaho.org).)

Our named plaintiffs did exceedingly well in their depositions and we are very proud of them. Two of the depositions took place in correctional institutions. Throughout the questioning,

deponents remained composed and cordial, responding fully and honestly to everything opposing counsel threw their way. Although a class action has not yet been certified by the court, the men chosen as class representatives have proven themselves capable of “fairly and adequately representing the interests of the class” as required by federal rules.

**E-ALERT**

Join our e-alert list to receive the most current civil liberties news from the ACLU of Idaho:

- Get updates during the legislative session and take action on bills of interest or concern
- Learn more about ACLU cases in the news
- Find out about upcoming ACLU events—parties, seminars and special happenings such as January’s annual Bill of Rights Dinner.

To join sign up on our website at [www.acluidaho.org/enewsletter](http://www.acluidaho.org/enewsletter) or email us at [admin@acluidaho.org](mailto:admin@acluidaho.org) and ask to be added to our e-alert list. Take a moment and do it today!

**SHARING ACLU STORIES**

Why do you support the ACLU? When did you become an ACLU member or donor?

Over the past years we have heard amazing stories of ACLU supporters, some of whom had been supporters since the 1950s, some as recently as last month. The ACLU of Idaho is collecting stories of people’s dedication and commitment to civil rights. With permission these stories will be used in presentations and publications, such as our newsletter. Telling our stories helps personify the struggle for civil rights and personalize the work we do.

Won’t you share your story with us? Contact our office at [admin@acluidaho.org](mailto:admin@acluidaho.org) or (208) 344-9750 x 201

**ACLU WISH LIST**

The ACLU of Idaho can always use in-kind donations of office furniture and equipment. To help with any of these items contact Kathy at (208) 344-9150 or at [kgriesmyer@acluidaho.org](mailto:kgriesmyer@acluidaho.org)

- Web design volunteer
- Digital camera
- Outdoor canopy
- Tabling/Speaking Opportunities

**A FRESH PERSPECTIVE OF A LEGAL INTERN**

BY BRADLEY RUDLEY, INTERN

Interning with the ACLU of Idaho opened my eyes to many key areas where change must be fought for. From researching and participating in the lawsuit against ICC, and responding to numerous issues within many of Idaho’s jails and prisons, it is evident that there is much work to do towards establishing a safe and more humane environment for prisoners in this state. Not once did I see this resolve falter.

I was also given a chance to work on many interesting cases involving questions of basic constitutional rights, ranging from medical marijuana use to religious and gender discrimination. Interning with the ACLU of Idaho provided me with newfound skills in identifying constitutional violations and abuses of human rights. It is an organization that I will continue to support in the future.

BY DIANNA OLDHAM, INTERN

I am a second degree-seeking student at Boise State University, graduating this fall with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and Paralegal Studies. I have had the opportunity to intern at the Idaho office of the ACLU



Our interns.

this semester and what a wonderful semester it has been! In addition to learning so much about the various issues important to the ACLU, I feel that I've had a positive impact on people's lives. Not only do we provide help to those who have nowhere else to turn, we also are able to find some satisfaction in knowing we have done something good for our fellow citizens. I look forward to continuing my involvement with the ACLU of Idaho.

BY NIKKI WEIHE, INTERN

The compassionate climate that exists in our office is suitable for my yogic temperament; while at the same time, each of us has, at the ready, a sharp sword of justice that is drawn from its sheath at any moment that

social inequity rears its hideous head ... which in the ACLU of Idaho office seems to happen several times a day, arriving in the form of a green, inmate questionnaire.

The ACLU of Idaho holds a space for the downtrodden and the throwaway people of our society.

The clients are mostly prisoners, who have a human voice that begs to be heard by someone – even by someone that cannot help remove them from their plight. Through what appears to be a transcontinental, inmate grapevine, prisoners have heard that the ACLU of Idaho listens. Being the ear that hears small voices is a big deal in a world like this one, and I am proud to be an intern here.

**THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS & VOLUNTEERS**

We would like to especially thank our sponsors and volunteers who helped make our “Prom is for Everyone” Annual Bill of Rights Celebration so memorable. The contributions from our sponsors as well as the many hours donated from our volunteers helped ensure a successful evening for our organization. Thank you from all of us here in the office!

Event Committee: Chelsea Young, Jessica Hixson, Liz Littman & Sam Spencer

Volunteers: Ann Delaney, Ashley Hammargren, Brad Rudley, Brock Lamm, Dan Mannion, Dave Judy, Diana Oldham, Doug Germano, Erica Lopez, Finn Greer, Jamie Johnson, John Lander, Kari Riggs, Mary Fran Groll, Nikki Weihe, Samantha Joseph

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## ABOUT THE ACLU OF IDAHO

Founded in 1920, the American Civil Liberties Union is a nationwide, nonpartisan organization dedicated to working in the courts, legislatures and communities to defend and preserve the individual rights guaranteed to all people in this country by both the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

The ACLU of Idaho began as an independent affiliate in 1990 to work on constitutional issues that are pertinent to Idahoans. Our project priorities include immigrants' rights, LGBT equality, and prisoner rights.

## THE UNION & THE FOUNDATION

Did you know there are two separate ACLU entities in Idaho?

**Union** — The ACLU of Idaho, Inc. is the non-profit organization to which membership dues are paid. Dues paying members who reside in Idaho are automatically members of both the ACLU of Idaho and the national ACLU. Membership donations and other contributions to the ACLU of Idaho, Inc. or national ACLU support our legislative and lobbying work and are not tax-deductible.

**Foundation** — The ACLU Foundation of Idaho is a non-profit organization that provides legal assistance and conducts educational programs. Donations to either the ACLU of Idaho Foundation or the national ACLU Foundation are tax-deductible.

Both the ACLU of Idaho and the ACLU of Idaho Foundation are part of the same overall organization — the ACLU. However, it is necessary to have two separate organizations to enable us to do the broad range of work necessary to protect civil liberties.

# PROM IS FOR EVERYONE

BY KATHY GRIESMYER,  
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

**O**n an early spring evening, the ACLU of Idaho opened the doors of the Powerhouse Event Center to kick off its “Prom is for Everyone” Annual Bill of Rights Celebration. The night, full of festivities and celebratory prom attire, kicked off with a reception hosted by the Pride Foundation, an organization that looks to connect and strengthen Northwest organizations, leaders, and students who are creating LGBT equality.

Attendees strolled through the loft area, sipping beer and wine while learning more about the ACLU through its art exhibit, which chronicles its 90 year existence, outlining major civil liberty victories across the country. As dinner was served, attendees listened to the keynote speech presented by Constance McMillen, a LGBT youth activist from Mississippi. As a senior at her high school, Constance was banned from attending her prom for wanting to bring her girlfriend and wear a tuxedo.

She turned to the ACLU for help and with their guidance, she filed a federal lawsuit where a judge issued a preliminary ruling that school



Constance McMillen shared her battle for LGBT equality at her Mississippi school.

officials violated Constance’s First Amendment right to freedom of expression. Constance shared with us her courageous story of battling discrimination and how speaking out and standing up for equality, her school district implemented a comprehensive anti-bullying, anti-harassment protection for all students.

Following Constance’s poignant speech, we began the auction portion of the evening. Our entertaining emcee’s for the night, Jason Monteleone and Bruce Bistline, dressed to the nines in their matching blue and orange velvet tuxedos, energized the crowd with their comedic stage presence, encouraging patrons to show how much the ACLU means to them.

During our fund-a-need auction, we asked attendees

to help us raise \$15,000 to create and execute a survey to assess Idahoans feelings’ regarding LGBT issues across the state. This survey will gather real data from all 44 counties allowing us to present real information to legislators with the aim to peel back some of the urban myths so pervasive in this state around this matter and look to ensure that equality is achieved for all.

Our live auction portion of the night was full of hot ticket items including a trip to Hawaii as well as a Date Night basket, a private catered dinner by Glen Fierl, owner of Guido’s Pizza, and a Family Fun Frenzy basket, complete with the opportunity to be a zookeeper for the day at Zoo Boise. When all was said and done, we raised just shy of \$22,000! The night was capped off with stylish dance moves filling the event center well past midnight as people boogied on down while prom photographers captured the fun-filled evening.

We would like to thank all of you who were able to join us in making this event such a memorable one for us along with our sponsors who helped make the evening possible. To see photos from the event, visit our Facebook page and don’t forget to “Like” us!



Our event raised almost \$22,000!

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PERMIT # 481

## SPEND YOUR SUMMER WITH THE ACLU

**W**ith the warm weather serving as inspiration, we have been busy filling our schedule with tabling opportunities for the upcoming summer months. Tabling at different community events gives the ACLU the opportunity to meet community members and talk about why our work is so critical in preserving the civil liberties outlined by the Constitution. It also gives us the chance to reach out to new people, growing our support base for members and volunteers, two key groups that help keep our programs running successfully in Idaho.

This list of volunteer opportunities (*see inset at right*) is just the beginning and we plan on adding several more tabling

opportunities as we become aware of them. If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about our programs, please contact Kathy Griesmyer, Program Coordinator at 344-9750 x 201, [kgriesmyer@acluidaho.org](mailto:kgriesmyer@acluidaho.org) or visit us at [www.acluidaho.org/volunteer.html](http://www.acluidaho.org/volunteer.html).

### Coming This Fall

To show our appreciation for all that our volunteers do, we are planning a volunteer recognition event for this fall. We are still in the planning process, but more details are to come so please be on the lookout.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

PRIDE FESTIVAL  
JUNE 18TH

SAWTOOTH MUSIC FESTIVAL  
JULY 29TH-30TH

TOUR DE FAT  
AUGUST 21ST

HYDE PARK STREET FAIR  
SEPTEMBER 16TH-18TH