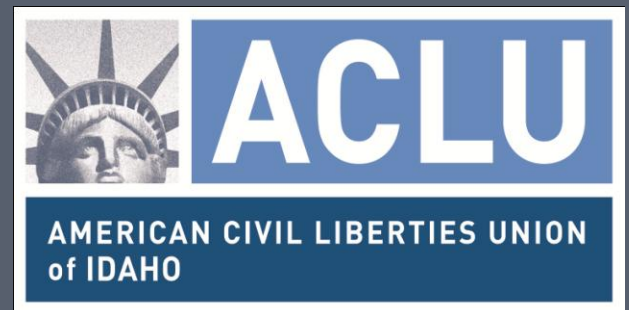


# ACLU 101: BASIC CIVIL LIBERTIES TRAINING



Volunteer Training

# Agenda

- 5:30 Welcome & Staff Introductions
- 5:40-6:30 What Does the ACLU Do?
  - ▣ An introduction to national and local ACLU programs
  - ▣ A look inside the Idaho Affiliate
- 6:30-7:15 How to become an ACLU Super Volunteer
  - ▣ Volunteer expectations, key ACLU messages, what to do when approached by a difficult patron
- 7:15-7:30 Spend your summer with the ACLU
  - ▣ Opportunity to sign-up for volunteer needs
- 7:30 Conclusion & Volunteer Mixer

# How did the ACLU get its start

## □ HISTORY OF THE ACLU 🗨️



**“So long as we have enough people in this country willing to fight for their rights, we'll be called a democracy.”**

-- ACLU Founder Roger Baldwin

# ACLU: National Level

- We are the ACLU in Idaho
- National focuses its programs in four feature areas
  - ▣ Center for Democracy
  - ▣ Center for Equality
  - ▣ Center for Justice
  - ▣ Center for Liberty





## ACLU of Idaho

Executive Director: Monica Hopkins

Public Policy Director/Counsel: Hannah Brass

Staff Attorney: Lea Cooper

Legal Intake Coordinator: Catherine Sant

Office Admin./Program Coordinator: Kathy Griesmyer

# ACLU: Local Level

- The Idaho Affiliate of the ACLU is a non-partisan organization dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of civil liberties and civil rights.
- We believe that the freedoms of press, speech, assembly, and religion, and the rights to due process, equal protection and privacy, are fundamental to a free people.
- We advance civil liberties and civil rights by activities that include litigation, education, and lobbying.

# ACLU: Local Level

- Founded in 1988
- Organization made of 5 staff, 14 board members and over 1,300 members
- Implements public education programs and legal assistance across the state
- Maintains a two-branch structure of operation
  - ▣ Legal Program
  - ▣ Legislative/Public Education



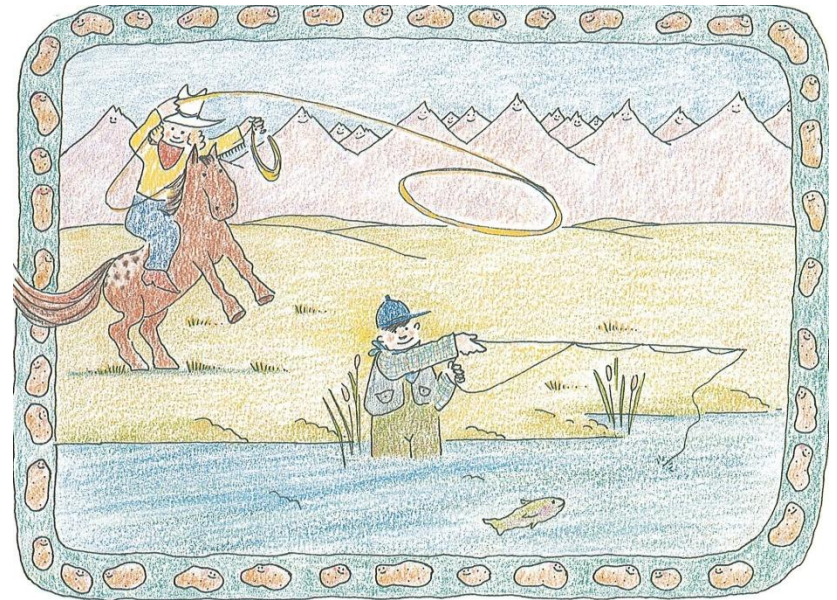
## Legal Program

### Spring 2011 Legal Team

Led by Lea Cooper, Staff Attorney, and Catherine Sant, Legal Intake Coordinator. Pictured with interns Brad Rudley, Diana Oldham, Corey Crownhart and Nikki Weihe

# Legal Program

- General goal of ACLU litigation is to advance civil liberties
- Program is managed by the Staff Attorney in cooperation with the Legal Panel
  - All proposed cases are accepted for litigation upon approval from the Legal Panel and Board of Directors
- Legal Program handles impact litigation
  - Only files or defends lawsuits in federal/state courts
  - Must pertain to civil/constitutional rights issues
  - Must potentially impact a large population group



**“We are the Sheriffs of  
the Constitution!”**

# Legal Program

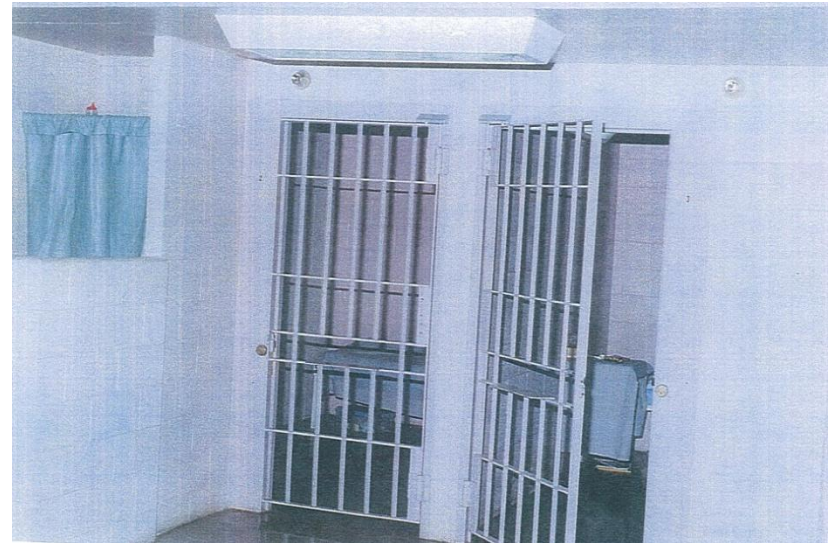


Linda Thompson, a transgender prisoner whom the ACLU of Idaho has represented in the hopes of securing further rights for transgender people and prisoners across the state.



A restaurant in Oregon displays an old wall with the words "All white help" along the side.

# Legal Program



Before & after pictures at Canyon County Jail following our lawsuit to improve prison conditions



## Legislative & Public Education Program

Members and supporters of Safe Schools Legislation holding a rally on the steps of the Capitol Building during the 2011 Legislative Session

-Photo credit: Safe Schools and Fair Employment Working Group

# Legislative & Public Education Program

## □ Legislative Program

- ACLU of Idaho works with the Legislature to advocate for legislation that would protect/strengthen our civil liberties and to oppose legislation that would threaten our civil liberties.
- Daily work includes:
  - Lobbying the legislature, analyze proposed legislation, draft and present testimony, contact legislative offices, and stimulate grassroots contact with legislators.
  - Advocate for reproductive rights, LGBT equality, immigrants' rights, religious freedom, privacy, free speech, non-discrimination, and criminal justice.

# Legislative & Public Education Program

- Public Education Program
  - ▣ Integral part of protecting civil rights
    - Allows us to reach out and connect with Idaho's communities and their members.
    - Informs Idahoans about their civil rights and how they can protect them.
  - ▣ Programs include:
    - Know Your Right's Presentations
    - Lobby day trainings
    - Blues, Brews & Bills
    - Events organized around LGBT Equality, Immigrant's Rights, Constitutional Amendments





The ACLU of Idaho  's its volunteers!

Lea Cooper, Staff Attorney, & Kathy Griesmyer, Program Coordinator, with volunteers at a recent community outreach event. Volunteers pictured: John Lander, Dene Breakfield, Max Head, Samantha Joseph, and Mary Fran Groll.

# Volunteers should...

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- Be courteous
- Be on time
- Be respectful of other's opinions whether it be staff, volunteers or community members
- Minimize cell phone use to emergencies only
- Come prepared to work and learn
- Have fun!

# Volunteers shouldn't...



- ❑ Offer legal advice
- ❑ Try to be a civil liberties expert
- ❑ Share personal political or religious beliefs at ACLU events
- ❑ Argue with non-supporters

# Do you have an ACLU elevator speech?

- How would you answer the question “What does the ACLU do?”
- A strong answer should include:
  - ▣ Local non-profit, non-partisan organization with national support
  - ▣ Work to secure civil liberties through litigation, lobbying and public education
  - ▣ In Idaho working to secure further rights for immigrants, prisoners and the LGBT community
- Talk about the work we do that interests you the most
- Practice, Practice, Practice!

# How to handle difficult patrons

- During your time as a volunteer, you may encounter non-supporters who want to argue with you about their ‘disinterest’ with the ACLU
- Do not fight with them
  - ▣ It is possible that they are looking for an argument and want to catch you off guard
- Be respectful and offer a polite “I respect your opinion, but I'm afraid we're not going to agree”.
- If they persist to the point of causing concern, contact an ACLU staff member to assist you
  - ▣ If you are volunteering at an outreach event, you may leave the table to find an event official to ask the person to leave

# Spend your summer with us!

- Many community events for the summer months
  - ▣ Pride Festival, June 18, Boise
  - ▣ Sawtooth Music Festival, July 29-30, Ketchum
  - ▣ Hyde Park Street Festival, September 16-18, Boise
  - ▣ Many more to come!
- Sign-ups on the back table
- Be sure to sign-up for specific volunteer needs that interest you

# Questions?

- Want to stay updated on the work we're doing?  
Sign-up to receive our E-alerts
- Contact Kathy Griesmyer, Program Coordinator, if you have any further concerns or questions
  - (208) 344-9750 x 201
  - [kgriesmyer@acluidaho.org](mailto:kgriesmyer@acluidaho.org)