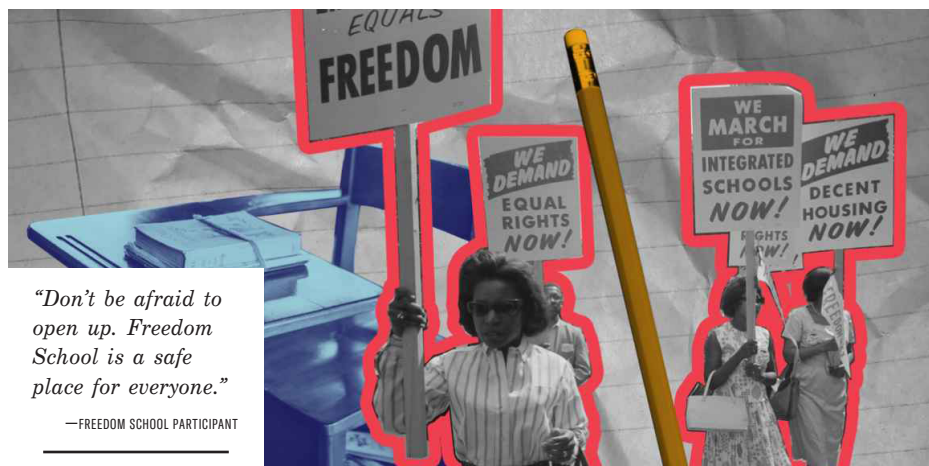




FALL/WINTER 2022

# Idaho Liberty

The Newsletter of the American Civil Liberties Union of Idaho



## ACLU Academic Freedom Schools

Ruby Mendez-Mota | CAMPAIGN STRATEGIST

Since the founding of the nation, structures of inequality deeply rooted in racism and white supremacy have perpetuated unequal outcomes for Black, Indigenous and other people of color. In Idaho, attacks on academic freedom

to intentionally remove or discourage the teaching of race, history, gender and sexuality in public schools have further suppressed our collective ability to build a future where all people, regardless of race, religion or gender, can flourish

*continued on page 18*



## Indigenous Justice at the ACLU of Idaho

Les Hutchinson Campos | DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

Indigenous justice has been part of the work within the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) for decades and is thriving more than ever now. In 2019, staff from ACLU national and state affiliate offices came together to create

*continued on page 14*

## Integrated Resilience

FACING SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES, WE RE-DEFINE WHAT IT MEANS TO ANSWER THE CALL

Leo Morales | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Resilience, a noun. The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines resilience as “an ability to recover from or adjust easily to misfortune or change.” It’s a word that I hold dearly as I reflect on the last year and the challenges and opportunities facing the organization.

Without a doubt, the outcome in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* will be remembered as one of the worst decisions ever made in the history of the United States Supreme Court.

*continued on page 2*



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ACLU  
Idaho

## 2022 ACLU OF IDAHO STAFF

**Aadika Singh**

LEGAL DIRECTOR

**Amy Collins**

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

**Dina Flores-Brewer**

COMMUNITY INTAKE MANAGER

**Erica Rodarte**

LEGAL FELLOW

**Jeremy Woodson**

COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGIST

**Kelsey Dillon**

DIRECTOR OF PHILANTHROPY

**Les Hutchinson Campos**

DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

**Nissa Nagel**

OFFICE COORDINATOR

**Rosseli Guerrero**

COMMUNITY ORGANIZER FELLOW

**Ruby Mendez-Mota**

CAMPAIGN STRATEGIST

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FALL/WINTER 2022

## Are you interested in establishing your legacy with the ACLU? Are you curious about leaving a gift to the ACLU of Idaho in your will?

For more information or questions about legacy giving, connect with Kelsey Dillon, Director of Philanthropy: [Kdillon@acluidaho.org](mailto:Kdillon@acluidaho.org) or 208-344-9750 Ext. 1207

### Resilience *continued from page 1*

The Court—in what appeared more like a political move—undermined our fundamental rights to bodily autonomy, privacy and equal protection under the law with its decision to strike down *Roe v. Wade*, which provided nearly 50 years of protection under a federally recognized constitutional right to abortion. *Dobbs* struck us at the core, leaving many of us in search of meaning and in need of deep reflection about the trajectory of the country, the role of government institutions and ultimately what it means to be resilient in the face of darkness.

To take on the challenges ahead, we at the ACLU of Idaho are adjusting infrastructure to build organizational resiliency for long-term work. We are scaling up our staff in multiple departments to engage in the courts, legislature and community advocacy. In the legal department, we will hire additional attorneys, bring on board legal fellows and interns and reach out to large firms—in Idaho and across the country—to double our efforts and impact we have in court and in the community.

Over the next six months, we'll also hire additional staff to elevate our work at the legislature and in the communities across Idaho. It's abundantly clear that far-right political actors are coming to the legislature with an agenda to strip away additional rights from Idahoans. As it relates to reproductive rights, some have called for a complete ban on abortion, with no exception to the life of the mother. These same political actors are also coming for contraceptives. A larger ACLU of Idaho staff and disciplined legislative strategy, buttressed by legal support and community organizing, will make our efforts the strongest they've ever been at the legislature in fending off these latest egregious attacks on our freedoms. We re-commit ourselves because we must.

# SAVE THE DATE ACLU OF IDAHO 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

## CELEBRATE!

The ACLU of Idaho has fought to protect civil rights and liberties in our state *since 1993*. Please join us as we celebrate our history and achievements over the past three decades.

**Friday, September 22, 2023**

More details are forthcoming, so please keep an eye out on our website at [acluidaho.org](http://acluidaho.org) for more information!



In addition to our anticipated policy work, a larger and more potent legal department will file more state and federal court cases, and we will leverage non-litigation strategies to force government institutions to do right before we take them to court.

For years, and with increased intensity since 2016, the country has been moving in the wrong direction. Thanks to our members, activist base and staff, we are forging ahead with equal intensity to protect the core fundamental values that every person should enjoy. The *Dobbs* decision, the attacks on our LGBTQ communities, lack of progress on immigration reform and the upcoming decision in *Brackeen v. Haaland* (a U.S. Supreme Court case that has the potential to gut the Indian Child Welfare Act and force Native children to be removed from family and culture) are all reminders that we must remain resilient in these challenging times. We must remain resilient as individuals and as an organization.

Today, however, I remain hopeful. Despite the terrible actions we've experienced in Idaho and across the country, I am reminded that through struggle, we see progress. History is full of examples: the women's suffrage movement, the Stonewall riots of 1969 that galvanized the LGBTQ community, the march on Washington and Freedoms Schools of the 1960s that took on white supremacy and ushered in the life-long careers of civil rights giants like John Lewis, Dolores Huerta and Cesar Chaves.

So, during these difficult times, I look to resiliency as a fundamental element for our movement and I am honored to be fighting alongside millions of Americans who believe we can do better.

*We re-commit  
ourselves  
because we  
must.*





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# Can't Stop Won't Stop

WORKING TIRELESSLY FOR IDAHOANS AS ATTACKS  
ON OUR RIGHTS PERSIST

**Aadika Singh** | LEGAL DIRECTOR

FALL/WINTER 2022





The last two legislative sessions have unleashed an onslaught of attacks on civil rights and civil liberties in Idaho. Abortion bans, in particular, have been front and center in the press and front and center for our legal department. We have partnered closely with Planned Parenthood to support their litigation challenges to Idaho's Total Abortion Ban and Texas-style bounty hunter abortion law, which allows relatives of the fetus to sue medical providers for \$20,000 or more. We have helped with the briefing and oral arguments, and filed an amicus brief. And now we are all holding our breath for a decision from the Idaho Supreme Court, due out any day now.

But we are also prepping for the havoc these abortion bans will wreak on Idahoans. Beyond the bans passed in 2021 and 2022, other zombie laws have been on the books for years and have sprung back to life now that the U.S. Supreme Court has overturned *Roe v. Wade*. At the moment, most abortions are unlawful in Idaho but the impacts don't stop there. There are concerns that speech about

abortion is also threatened, and that contraception is the next target. We are also anxious that Idahoans who travel outside the state to seek abortion care may be at risk, as are those who provide support to Idahoans getting abortion care outside the state or self-managing their abortions at home.

We continue working tirelessly to develop additional litigation theories to chip away at Idaho's abortion statutes and have enlisted an army of pro bono attorneys to help us: top tier talent, including former U.S. Supreme Court clerks. We are also counseling medical providers on their risk profiles as abortion-related prosecutions of medical professionals could be coming soon; and we are connecting clergy, mental health providers and criminal defense attorneys to resources as they ready themselves for forthcoming investigations and prosecutions of pregnant people and their supporters. Finally, we are readying ourselves for the legislature's promised attacks on contraception and the provision of gender-affirming care. If those come on, we will sue.

Beyond reproductive freedom, we continue to litigate on LGBTQ+ equality and recently settled *Perez v. City of Boise*, where our client Jax Perez was terminated from their job at the Boise

*At the moment, most abortions are unlawful in Idaho but the impacts don't stop there.*

Public Library for being openly transgender. The settlement resulted in a \$150,000 award for Jax who is ready to move on with their life after enduring years of resistance from the City of Boise. We are hopeful that the City will undertake meaningful policy changes to ensure that no other queer, trans, or nonbinary person ever has to hide who they are at work. We will also be at the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals this fall arguing *Hecox v. Little*, our challenge to Idaho's outright ban on transgender people participating in sports.

Lastly, our legal challenge to Idaho's failure to provide constitutionally adequate public defense continues, as does our First Amendment work. We are currently investigating the Nampa School District's book ban and preparing for litigation, having filed two public records requests. We are developing First Amendment theories to challenge Idaho's abortion bans, which could be read to prohibit speech and education about abortion. We are just two litigators—Aadika Singh, our legal director, and Erica Rodarte, our legal fellow—but we are collaborating with attorneys across Idaho and the country to maximize our fire power and address the most significant threats to civil rights and civil liberties in Idaho today.



# Learning Curves

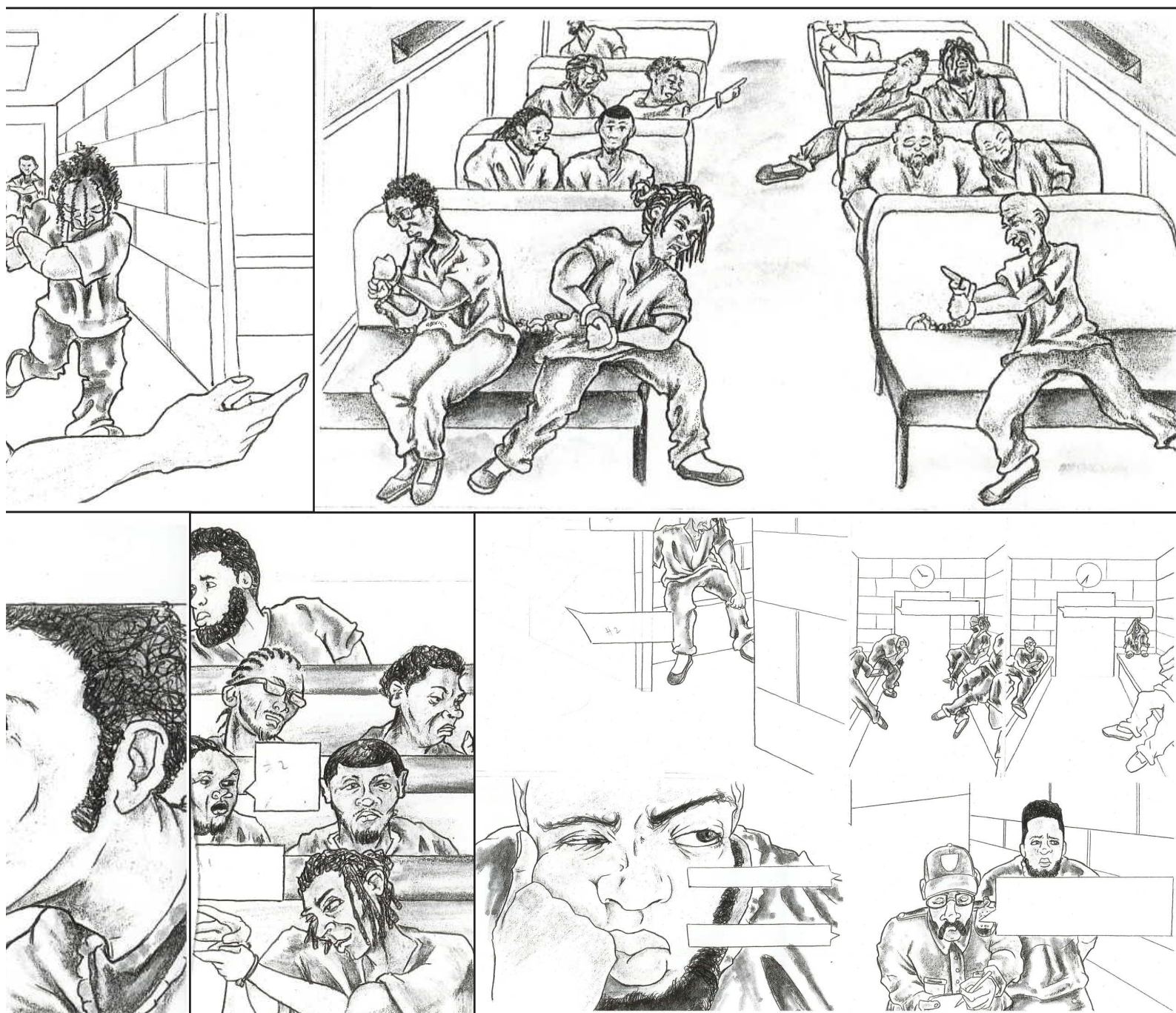
**THE ACLU OF IDAHO LEGAL DEPARTMENT IS EMBARKING ON A CREATIVE NEW MISSION TO HELP IDAHOANS WHO ARE INCARCERATED PROTECT THEIR RIGHTS.**

**Dina Flores-Brewer** | COMMUNITY INTAKE MANAGER

Idaho incarcerates around 8,400 people in 10 state prisons; in any given year, an additional 27,000 people are incarcerated in one of Idaho's 36 county jails and or more than 45 city/local jails. According to the Prison Policy Initiative in 2020, Idaho has an incarceration rate of 761 per 100,000 people, meaning "it locks up a higher percentage of its people than any democracy on Earth."<sup>1</sup>

These people are the forgotten.





*Illustrations courtesy of Nicholas Showers-Glover*

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Idaho is one of the only organizations in the state to offer any kind of help to incarcerated populations, but with these staggering numbers, the ACLU of Idaho can only help a tiny fraction of these incarcerated people.

Most people have heard of the Chinese proverb “if you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and

you feed him for a lifetime.” In keeping with that adage, we are embarking on an exciting new journey to provide incarcerated people with the tools they need to help them protect and advocate for their rights: a Jail & Prison Rights Handbook giving detailed information on top issues of prison rights, including how to advocate for proper medical care, decent prison conditions and food, LGBTQ+ rights and more. The

Jail & Prison Rights Handbook will have checklists, information on how to file in court and robust legal resources—all in an easy-to-read handbook.

The brainchild of former Legal Director and Movement Support Lawyer, Ritchie Eppink, the Jail & Prison Handbook will be in a graphic novel format, similar to a comic book. We hope this format will increase accessibility by providing information in an

interesting, easy-to-read layout for folks to learn from and engage with, limiting the number of words on the page for non-English speakers and providing an engaging visual format for what can be dry “legal” reading.

The ACLU of Idaho was able to get some incredible help from two unique artists: Massachusetts attorney Katherine Fustich, a former journalist and author who is writing the Handbook’s legal content and storyline; and Nicholas Showers-Glover, an artist currently incarcerated in the Alaska correctional system who is bringing the Handbook to life with gritty, black and white illustrations.

*“[Idaho] locks up a higher percentage of its people than any democracy on Earth.”*

Katherine recently graduated from Cardozo Law School in New York and moved to Boston with her husband to join the staff of Northeast Legal Aid Services. She is a published author, children’s book illustrator, and has Boise connections—half of her family live here, and she visits often. We look forward to meeting her in person some day!

“Drawing for me is meditation. When everything seems to

be out of my control, I always can control the pressure of my pencil on the paper. When I can’t verbally express how I’m feeling, I can draw a picture that describes my feelings a whole lot better,” says Nick when speaking about his illustrations.

**MORE OF NICHOLAS SHOWERS-GLOVER’S WORK CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT [ARTFORREDEMPTION.COM](http://ARTFORREDEMPTION.COM).**


We also send thanks to Robin Crisler and James Reilly, residents of the Idaho Department of Corrections, who helped with edits and making sure our language and terminology are legitimate. Both Rob and James recently earned parole. We look forward to celebrating their release dates.

Also, much gratitude to Ritchie Eppink, whose input was crucial in making sure the final product is true to his original vision.

It’s been a steep learning curve in understanding the entire process of getting a graphic novel from concept to reality, but we are getting closer! We hope to send the Jail & Prison Handbook to the publisher in January of 2023 and are excited to share it with our folks on the inside across the state and other ACLU affiliates. In the future, we hope to be able to use this creative format to provide useful information to other communities, such as students, LGBTQ+ and many others. Stay tuned!

<sup>1</sup> [www.prisonpolicy.org](http://www.prisonpolicy.org)





**IDAHO  
INCARCERATES  
8,400  
PEOPLE  
IN ANY  
GIVEN YEAR**





*"I believe that there is so much power in a story, and that art and storytelling are an important tool to bring social and political change. With this project we hope to uplift the experiences of the Idaho immigrant community and when people come to this art exhibit, they can either identify or get an insight of life as an immigrant."*

—ROSSELLI GUERRERO | ACLU OF IDAHO COMMUNITY ORGANIZER



Photo by Natalie Behring



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# Los Caminos de la Vida

## STORIES AS ART. ART AS ACTIVISM.

**Rosseli Guerrero** | COMMUNITY ORGANIZER FELLOW

The ACLU of Idaho held its first art exhibit, called Los Caminos de La Vida, on October 13, 2022, at El Palacio Event Center in Caldwell, Idaho.

The exhibition was an activism project inspired by ACLU of Idaho's DACAmended Project ("activism" is loosely defined as using art to advocate for social or political issues). The DACAmended project, launched in 2020, aimed to show the impact the Deferred Action

for Childhood Arrival (DACA) program has on the lives of its many recipients. Los Caminos de la Vida takes inspiration from that impact, creating a community narrative of undocumented experiences in Idaho.

The Los Caminos de La Vida exhibition showcased the stories of eleven undocumented individuals living in Idaho, meant to symbolize the eleven million undocumented individuals living in the United

States. Each story was presented with photographs accompanied by audio recordings of the storytellers sharing their personal experiences. In welcoming attendees into the space, we hosted a social hour and provided a short introduction to the exhibition. We also invited organizational partner Vision 2C and the Idaho Immigrant Resource Alliance to share about the work and resources they continue to provide to our immigrant and farm-working communities.

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*“[My daughter] was six months old, and well it was difficult leaving her behind, it was something that really hurt... [While being here in the U.S.] I lost my grandma, who was like a mother to me, she was the one who raised us, and well I still have my mom and my daughter, which are the only reason to go back.”*

People from a variety of age groups and countries were included in the exhibit. As attendees listened, they heard stories of hope, strength, determination and often grief. Each story gave listeners an intimate perspective of an undocumented person's life. This is where the title “Los Caminos de La Vida,” which in English, translates to “The Walks of Life,” came from. Although the immigrant story has several similar experiences, every person has their own unique journey.

Pedro, who was born in Colombia, left his mother, grandmother and six-month-old daughter behind to provide a better life for them in their home country.

Another storyteller in the exhibit is Paola, a young adult who came from Mexico when she was only one year old and only has memories of her home country from the stories her family shares. She was also one of the approximately 50,000 applicants who applied for DACA for the first time, eagerly waiting for

her application to get approved. Unfortunately, because of the July 2021 court ruling that made DACA illegal and blocked new applications, she was left with false hopes. However, the ruling didn't stop Paola from pursuing an education. Although she understood that being an undocumented student would present her with obstacles such as not being able to apply for FAFSA and the general lack of resources for undocumented students here in Idaho, Paola decided to pursue higher education and is currently





Photos by Natalie Behring

enrolled in college. She says this is a small way of thanking her parents for the sacrifices they made to come to this country.

The Los Caminos de la Vida exhibition is a project that was created with love for our undocumented community. It is a way to amplify the voices of those directly impacted—not speaking for them, but providing them a platform to share their own experiences. There is so much power in a story, and we hope that others feel empowered to share their stories when they experience the exhibit.

Our Idaho immigrant community is an asset to this state. They are our family, friends, neighbors, teachers, nurses, librarians, etc. With the Los Caminos de La Vida activism project, we hope to start conversations and spark a sense of urgency in persuading lawmakers at the local, state and national levels to provide

*“I can’t really apply for anything, because I don’t have a social [security number]. Idaho State was my top choice and I could have gone there if I really, really wanted to, but you know, and yes, I’m [living] in the state but they were asking me to pay out of state tuition.”*

immigration reform for our undocumented communities. Did you miss the opening night of Los Caminos de la Vida? The ACLU of Idaho plans to take the exhibit on the road to give others around the state an opportunity to hear the stories and engage with important conversations around immigration reform.

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE THIS ART EXHIBIT TO BE HOSTED IN YOUR CITY PLEASE CONTACT ACLU IDAHO COMMUNITY ORGANIZER FELLOW, ROSSELI GUERRERO, AT [RGUERRERO@ACLUIDAHO.ORG](mailto:RGUERRERO@ACLUIDAHO.ORG).**

# Joining the Team



## ERICA RODARTE | PENN CAREY LAW CATALYST FELLOW

In September 2022, Erica Rodarte joined the ACLU of Idaho as the first Penn Carey Law Catalyst Fellow. Erica grew up in the El Paso-Ciudad Juárez border region where she attended the University of Texas at El Paso. After graduating, Erica worked and volunteered for two years at Annunciation House, an organization that offers hospitality to migrants, immigrants and refugees. Her work and volunteer experience reaffirmed her interest in pursuing a law degree to advance immigrants' rights through litigation, legislation and policy.

At Penn Law, Erica had the opportunity to serve immigrant communities through pro bono projects where she assisted Spanish-speaking individuals and families in Philadelphia facing housing insecurity. Throughout law school, Erica also sought internship opportunities where she could research and learn about the intersecting work of nonprofits and governmental agencies in advancing immigrant and refugee rights.

Working with the ACLU of Pennsylvania, she supported litigation efforts to release immigrants from detention during the early months





of the pandemic. As an intern with Al Otro Lado, she learned about the experiences and injustices specific to Indigenous peoples, women, LGBTQ and Black immigrants at the U.S.-Mexico border. In collaboration with the Free Migration Project, Erica co-authored *Fatal Flights: Medical Deportation in the U.S.*, a report on the continued extrajudicial deportation of undocumented and uninsured immigrants in need of long-term healthcare. Through her work at the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division, she saw firsthand the importance of community-centered investigatory work in advancing litigation efforts and even governmental investigations.

Before graduating law school, Erica joined the ACLU of Idaho as a legal intern to investigate issues Indigenous students face in Idaho schools. These issues included repeated instances of discrimination and disproportionate discipline, poor academic outcomes, curriculum that deprives students of their history and little-to-no support for students with disabilities and mental health needs. Working with community members, affiliates, and education experts, Erica supported the drafting of community-driven recommendations, including avenues for legal recourse through litigation and governmental investigations.

As a legal fellow, Erica will continue to support the ACLU of Idaho's work in fighting for immigrant, refugee and

Indigenous rights, including through education advocacy for Latinx students. She hopes to contribute and grow her research, investigation and litigation skills to serve immigrant communities across Idaho. Moreover, with

the same intersectional mindset that has driven much of her work, she hopes to learn directly from community members and their experiences to develop community-informed responses for Latinx students in Idaho.



## NISSA NAGEL | OFFICE COORDINATOR

Nissa Nagel (she/her) joins the ACLU of Idaho team as office coordinator with more than 20 years' experience in administrative and operations roles with an emphasis in finance and communication. She is drawn to the nonprofit sector and has worked with the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation, Giraffe Laugh and Story Story Night. Most recently, Nissa has been providing bookkeeping and business coordination services to a handful of clients allowing her to be a mom first. Events of the last six years have prompted so many discussions with her child about racism, systemic oppression, privilege and their responsibility to stand up and use their voice for equality and human rights. Seeing the position opening at the ACLU of Idaho, Nissa jumped at the opportunity to align her labor with her values and to be more actively engaged in advancing civil rights and protecting civil liberties in Idaho. When at leisure, Nissa enjoys cooking, gardening and playing with her family in nature or adventuring with them in a Dungeons and Dragons campaign.

the Indigenous Justice Working Group (IJWG). The goal of the IJWG was to increase and support nationwide work on Indigenous justice issues within the organization. Since the creation of IJWG, ACLU offices have been working together to coordinate joint responses on issues that impact Indigenous peoples within the United States, specifically with litigation and legal action, but also with education, advocacy, community organizing and communications. What's more, this October ACLU of Idaho staff attended the first ACLU-nationwide Indigenous

Justice Convening where we learned more about how our affiliate can support Indigenous justice across the nation and here in Idaho. Indigenous justice work at our Idaho affiliate is not new, much like it is not new at the national level. The ACLU of Idaho has Indigenous representation both among our staff and our Board of Directors. This year, our legal team provided educational support to the Coeur d'Alene tribe and has brought on new staff to offer continued support for Indigenous and Latinx education across Idaho.





In the communications department, we've begun contributing to Indigenous justice work by designing and collaborating on infographics and other digital assets, including content for the National Day of Remembrance for U.S. Indian Boarding Schools, when we honor survivors and recognize the harms caused by the forced removal and assimilation of Indigenous children in our country. Several ACLU IJWG members across the country collaborated to produce educational talking points and other reference materials, which we then used to design social media and website

content. Personally, I drew inspiration for this work from the collective actions that Indigenous peoples have taken in addressing the violence and trauma of Indian boarding schools in the United States and Canada. The schools were a horrendous intergenerational

act of colonialism that crossed borders and continues to impact our lives today. Under the new ACLU Indigenous Justice logo, we signaled a collective solidarity for remembering this date and the history of Indian boarding schools for audiences across Idaho and the nation.

Aligned with ACLU National Policy, the Indigenous Justice Working Group defines Indigenous Justice as:

*"...the freedom and ability of Indigenous people to exercise their rights and sovereignty over themselves, their people, and their land; including the freedom to engage in traditional ways of governing, being, healing, and knowing; learning and celebrating their cultures, languages, traditions, and heritages by their ceremonies and other practices."*

Increasing our local capacity for advocacy in this area will be guided by this definition and be in the service of Indigenous relations in Idaho and in partnership with Indigenous organizations such as

the Indigenous Idaho Alliance.

As we move into 2023, ACLU Idaho staff will spend time with representatives from other ACLU affiliates and among the IJWG to learn how we can increase Indigenous justice advocacy in Idaho and in collaboration with local partners, other ACLU affiliates and our national office.

Representation isn't everything, but it greatly matters. Having Indigenous staff and board members at the ACLU of Idaho means that doing Indigenous justice work supports our own communities and health. With growing awareness of the negative and lasting impacts of racist school and sport mascots, missing and murdered Indigenous women, education systems and institutions that fail to be culturally relevant for Indigenous students, devastating court decisions such as the threat of overturning the Indian Child Welfare Act by the United States Supreme Court, Indigenous justice work is not only needed, but an essential piece in the fight for civil rights.

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**"MOVE UP, MOVE UP"**



The ACLU of Idaho's ongoing dedication to Indigenous justice shows that we honor our Indigenous relatives and communities for how they've cared for this beautiful

land we share today and, hopefully, moves us toward reparations and sovereignty. One step isn't enough. One of the ACLU Idaho's shared agreements is that we will "move up, move up" by continuing in ways that might seem difficult or uncomfortable. We do so in this case by recognizing that Indigenous justice work isn't a series of steps (which not everyone can take), but a path forward in body and spirit accessible to all of us.

*“What I liked about the freedom schools was connecting with folks who are passionate about helping our communities, growing as activists and learning and relearning.”*

—FREEDOM SCHOOL PARTICIPANT





and be treated as equals. After a sharp increase in efforts to limit classroom discussions, students and teachers around the state reached out to us with many questions. Many folks are interested in opportunities to engage in accurate discussions about history and social issues and are also curious about how to address efforts to ban such conversations in Idaho classrooms.

Our community began to mobilize, and we saw a need to affirmatively push back on the assaults on teaching, learning and the First Amendment. In direct response, the ACLU of Idaho launched its first ever Summer Freedom School program, which aimed to educate, inspire, organize, and integrate young people into the movement for justice. We were thrilled to have high school- and college-aged students across the state register for the program. Though most participants were from the Treasure Valley, we also had representation from the Wood River Valley and Latah County.

In designing the Freedom School program, the ACLU of Idaho advocacy team diligently worked to create a curriculum that would keep the essence of the freedom schools from the 1960s: to facilitate student activism

and participatory democracy. We collaborated with Alex Lalama, lead student organizer with San Francisco Rising; Angie Hernandez, a licensed clinical professional counselor; as well as other ACLU of Idaho staff—all of whom facilitated workshops and left an impact on the students' ability to play a crucial role in social justice work.

The Freedom School curriculum included workshops on power and oppression, the roots of racism, power analysis, self-care, white supremacy, ACLU advocacy issues and storytelling as activism. The workshops were designed for youth participants to be heard, seen, and to nurture an environment for challenging the inequalities that they face in their day-to-day lives. All sessions were held virtually, so we relied on technology to help facilitate presentations, breakout rooms and community discussions in an effort to ensure that all participants could engage and feel safe to share their thoughts and opinions regardless of their location. As the program progressed, facilitators noticed an increase in engagement amongst fellow participants; new relationships and networks began to develop.

Upon the completion of the

program, participants prepared presentations during which they shared what they learned, highlights from the program, and how they were inspired to continue activism and advocacy in their communities. Many shared their own personal stories within the context of trust they developed with fellow classmates of the Freedom School program. It was truly an inspiring way to wrap up the workshops as we were not only able to receive feedback from the students, but also reflect on what stood out for them and made a lasting impact in their lives. Of course, we ended the week by celebrating each one of the Freedom School participants by providing them with a certification of completion as well as sending everyone off with ACLU swag. Something that stood out for our facilitation team was when each participant shared words of encouragement and advice for future participants of the program. Already, some former participants are volunteering with our organization on various projects, and many are continuing to utilize the tools sharpened by their personal advocacy work in their home communities.

The ACLU of Idaho advocacy department plans to open applications for 2023 Academic Freedom School Program in the spring of 2023. Check [acluidaho.org](https://acluidaho.org) for more information including program dates and requirements.

*\*All quotes were submitted anonymously to encourage participants to share freely about the program.*

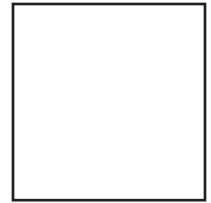
*“What were highlights from the program? Well, the diversity of participants.”*

—FREEDOM SCHOOL PARTICIPANT



Idaho

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## FOLLOW THE ACLU OF IDAHO!



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[www.acluidaho.org](http://www.acluidaho.org)



Members of the ACLU of Idaho Board of Directors serve three-year terms and are voted in by the membership. This year the election will be conducted online. In December, all members will receive a postcard in the mail with voting instructions and a unique code to enable secure voting. You will also have the option to request a paper ballot from the ACLU of Idaho office. The election results will be announced at the Annual Membership Meeting on *February 1, 2023*, which will be held virtually this year.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER, OR IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE YOUR POSTCARD BY THE END OF DECEMBER, PLEASE CONTACT NISSA NAGEL AT OUR OFFICE AT (208) 344-9750 EXT. 1209 OR AT [NNAGEL@ACLUIDAHO.ORG](mailto:NNAGEL@ACLUIDAHO.ORG).**

## ACLU Idaho Board of Directors Elections

Each year our Board Development Committee carefully considers the applications of potential board members to join the group of people who govern and direct the Idaho affiliate of the ACLU. If you would like to be considered for nomination by the Board Development Committee, and you are a member in good standing, you can nominate yourself by submitting a brief statement of interest.

Nominations may also be submitted by petition. Nomination petitions must include a statement of interest with a short statement of petitioner's background and qualifications and be signed by ten (10) current ACLU of Idaho members that includes the name and address of the nominee.

**All submissions must be received by ACLU of Idaho at PO Box 1897, Boise, ID 83701 by December 12, 2022.**

Please include a short bio and headshot with your application (a digital headshot is preferred). This information will be summarized and included on the ballot to the same extent as is such information of persons nominated by the nominating committee.