



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

OUR WORK IN ACTION

The ACLU of Kentucky has seen unprecedented growth over the past year. We created four new staff positions, filed new legal action against Governor Bevin's administration, and are empowering people throughout the state to build grassroots networks of activists. At the Capitol, our multi-issue advocacy won gains for Kentuckians with felony convictions, public school students, pregnant and parenting workers, and so many more.



REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

With anti-abortion forces in control of the Kentucky Senate, House, and Executive Branch, we're taking bold action in the courts to protect access to abortion.

In all, the ACLU of Kentucky, with critical support from the national ACLU Reproductive Freedom Project, has four active lawsuits that are challenging five different laws and regulations designed to restrict access to abortion or shut down the last-remaining clinic in the Commonwealth.

We're not just playing defense. After years of advocacy, the Pregnant Workers Act was passed and signed into law. It provides clear guidance for Kentucky employers on their responsibility to provide reasonable accommodations to pregnant employees.

We've hired a Reproductive Freedom Organizer to engage more Kentuckians in the work of protecting access to abortion, expanding access to contraception and reproductive healthcare, and battling the shame and stigma that keep too many from adding their voice to the fight.

LEGISLATIVE WINS FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES

At a time when there is a coordinated effort to roll back rights in many different areas, the ACLU of Kentucky advocacy team pushed back, notching some key victories.

EXPANDING FELONY EXPUNGEMENT

Our Smart Justice Field Organizer and Smart Justice Advocates were key players in getting an expansion of felony expungement signed into law. There are now more felonies eligible for expungement and the prohibitive \$500 filing fee has been cut in half.

STRICT GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Our Juvenile Justice Field Organizer helped pass a new school safety law that clarifies law enforcement officers in schools should only work on criminal matters, not student behavior.

The new law includes guidelines for memorandums of understanding between schools and police departments.

MORE INVOLVEMENT FROM MEMBERS, SUPPORTERS, DIRECTLY IMPACTED

Kentucky legislators are hearing from more ACLU of Kentucky members and supporters than ever before thanks to the efforts of our Field Organizer. Our “mini lobby days” on issues ranging from the abolition of the death penalty to immigrants’ rights resulted in more than 60 one-on-one meetings with legislators during the 30-day legislative session.

ABORTION ACCESS

Just hours after the General Assembly passed abortion bans this year, we filed suit and a judge granted our requests for preliminary injunctions blocking the laws from enforcement.

Both the 6-week abortion ban and the ban on abortion if the reason is for the race, sex, color, gender, national origin, or disability status of the fetus are **BLOCKED** from enforcement while we litigate.

LGBTQ EQUALITY

A federal appeals court upheld a lower court ruling awarding \$224,000 in attorney's fees and

costs to couples in the ACLU-KY case who were refused marriage licenses by Rowan County Clerk Kim Davis. The Commonwealth of Kentucky is responsible for paying these fees.

FREE SPEECH

We're fighting to protect free speech in the digital age in a lawsuit challenging Governor Bevin's policy of permanently blocking and banning people from his official social media websites. We're also working to keep Kentucky officials from selectively rejecting certain religious or nonreligious messages on personalized license plates.

GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY

We're working to make the rights enumerated in Kentucky's Open Record Act real by challenging the city of Lexington's attempt to keep secret documents related to their police department's surveillance activities.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

We're standing up for religious freedom by holding the Commonwealth's public schools to their constitutional responsibilities as they offer elective Bible Literacy courses.

LITIGATING FOR WHAT IS RIGHT

The swift and unrelenting attacks on civil liberties in the Commonwealth have meant more action in the courts, and beyond, for our legal team. This fall, two legal fellows joined our staff to work alongside our legal director, staff attorney, and legal assistant.

ACLU ACTIVISTS IN TRAINING

Two mottos guide all of our work: The people closest to a problem know best how to solve it. And, young people are not the leaders of tomorrow, they are the leaders of today.



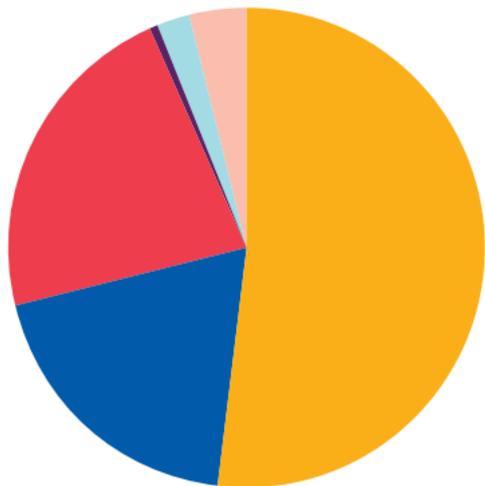
ACLU of Kentucky Smart Justice Advocates are Kentuckians who have been directly impacted by the justice system. They advise the organization on justice reform policy positions and priorities. Individual members have received extensive organizing and communication training through the national ACLU and often share their stories with the media.



The ACLU of Kentucky Field Organizer put together our first-ever Youth Organizing Institute this summer. 25 high schoolers from across the Commonwealth spent a week on the campus of Kentucky State University learning how to build community, run productive meetings, lobby their elected officials, the role of art in movement building and more. Participants are now able to apply for grants for a community development project of their choosing.

The ACLU-KY is a vibrant and influential organization. Its creative and multifaceted strategies to protect freedom are made possible by the generous support of its donors and members. Substantial financial resources are essential for our work. ACLU receives no government funding and never charges for its services. We rely entirely on individual tax-deductible gifts, membership dues, grants, bequests, and periodic court-awarded attorneys' fees.

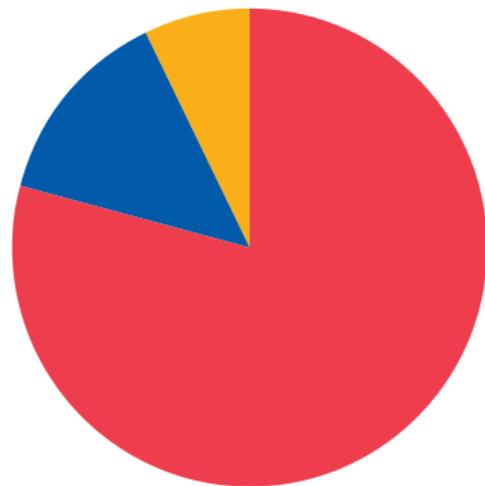
Consolidated Audited Statement for ACLU-KY and ACLU-KY Foundation April 1, 2018-March 31, 2019.



INCOME:

● Contributions	\$708,911
● Grants	\$262,500
● National ACLU Support	\$300,448
● Membership	\$8,289
● Investment Income & Other	\$30,270
● Legal Awards	\$51,829

TOTAL.....\$1,362,247



EXPENSES:

● Programs.....	\$835,002
● Administration & Management....	\$143,343
● Fundraising.....	\$74,305

TOTAL.....\$1,052,650

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

The ACLU of Kentucky is deeply grateful for our supporters who donate, protest, meet with their legislators, share social media posts, vote, share their stories, and walk alongside us as we work to protect and advance civil liberties every day.

THE LEE AND JOAN THOMAS INITIATIVE FOR THE PROTECTION OF REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS



Lee B. Thomas Jr. garnered a lot of accolades, awards, and attention for his expertise as a CEO, first with the American Saw and Tool Co. and Vermont American Corp., and then with Universal Woods Inc. Lee was also recognized for his work toward peace and social justice, including his induction in 2010 in the Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame. But when you'd meet Lee in his later years, he wouldn't tell you about any of this. Instead, he'd ask questions to learn more about you, and then he'd show you a picture of his late wife, Dr. Joan Thomas, and tell you about their 62 years of marriage, and her work practicing medicine in low-income, underserved communities of Louisville. It is the type of work Joan did, motivated by compassion and centered on human dignity and respect that Lee most wanted to emulate in both his business and personal lives.

In 1955, the Thomas' were the first people to provide financial backing to form the KCLU (now the ACLU of Kentucky). Their contribution was in response to the sedition charges leveled against Anne and Carl Braden for their purchase of a home on behalf of the Wades, an African-American couple in Louisville. The case came during the height of the McCarthy era, a time when, "Joe McCarthy and his crowd wrapped themselves up in the American flag and trampled on individual civil liberties," Lee once wrote. Though the Thomas' disagreed with the Bradens' politics, they put up money to defend them and get the KCLU off the ground, because they recognized the charges against the Bradens "as a threat to all liberty-loving people, including Quakers."

Quakers by faith, Lee and Joan were founding members of the Louisville Friends Meeting. They believed that "all persons have inherent

worth, independent of their gender, age, nationality, religion, and sexual orientation." Their opposition to sexism, racism, religious intolerance, warfare and the death penalty led them to marches against the Vietnam War, civil rights marches alongside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and more recently, Iraq war protests.

Lee and Joan Thomas were giants for peace, justice and equality for all. They are missed after 61 years of support but their example continues to inspire. In 2019, the ACLU of Kentucky created the Lee and Joan Thomas Initiative for the Protection of Reproductive Rights, a five-year program of education and litigation to preserve reproductive rights in the Commonwealth.

The Initiative is generously supported by an anonymous gift made in memory of Joan and Lee.



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STAFF MEMBERS



Mashayla Hays,
Legal Fellow



Keturah Herron,
Juvenile Justice Field Organizer



Heather Gatnarek,
Staff Attorney



Jackie McGranahan,
Reproductive Freedom Field Organizer



Jay Todd Richey,
Development Assistant



Corey Shapiro,
Legal Director



Aaron Tucek,
Legal Fellow



Becki Winchel,
Office Manager

Not pictured:
Kate Miller,
Advocacy Director

BY THE NUMBERS



5,715
Members



45,416
Miles traveled for advocacy and public education across Kentucky



1,005
Legal Intake requests



145
Public Education events and speaking engagements



32,245
E-activists in our Community Action Network



47
Litigation Documents Filed



634+
Media mentions



28,230
Social Media Followers

Cover photo
courtesy Phillip Roof.
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