

UPCOMING EVENTS



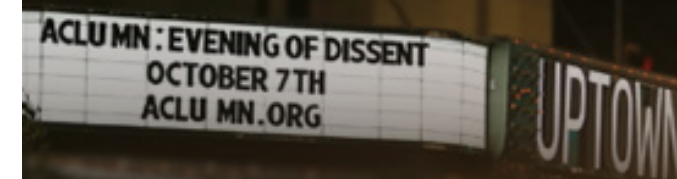
ACLU
Minnesota

Saturday, June 27 & Sunday, June 28
Loring Park - Booth 169

The ACLU-MN has been fighting for LGBTQ+ rights for over 70 years, and we're just getting started!

Stop by our booth for free ACLU-MN swag, to learn about our ongoing work, and more! Keep an eye on our social media accounts and website for swag sneak peaks!

On Sunday, we will be marching in the parade from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. It kicks off at 3rd Street and Hennepin Avenue and will proceed down Hennepin to Spruce Place. As we get closer to June, we will share a registration link to march with us!



Evening of Dissent

Wednesday, October 7
Uptown Theater

For the second year in a row, the ACLU-MN's annual fundraiser will be held at the Uptown Theater! You are invited to join ACLU-MN staff and special guests as we discuss the critical work that we have done in 2026 and what is on the horizon in 2027 and beyond.

More information and registration will be available on our website soon.

MEETING THIS HISTORIC MOMENT



ACLU of Minnesota Executive Director Deepinder Singh Mayell speaking at the third No Kings Rally on March 28, 2026.

When Operation Metro Surge came to Minnesota, it felt like we lived under siege. Thousands of armed, masked federal agents roved through neighborhoods, school zones, parks, and commercial corridors. They harassed, detained, and assaulted people without cause or accountability.

Families were terrorized into staying home. Students missed school. Businesses emptied out. Entire neighborhoods lived in fear.

In that terrible moment, people needed legal support. They needed information. They needed someone to tell the truth plainly about what was happening and respond with urgency and integrity. For 75 years, the ACLU-MN has protected constitutional liberties in the courts, in the legislature, and in community. Operation Metro Surge tested that experience like no other time in this organization's history.

Our response was immediate, integrated, and shaped by the people living through the crisis. From the beginning of Operation Metro Surge, we were driven by the urgency the moment demanded. We took hundreds of declarations from people who witnessed or experienced abuse, and we did not hesitate to bring legal actions against an unprecedented abuse of executive authority.

We expanded our Know Your Rights support, and we worked alongside organizers, legal observers, and community members showing up for one another under extraordinary conditions. And we advanced reforms designed to place limits on unchecked federal enforcement.

That work did not end when Operation Metro Surge ended.

Our work continues in court, where litigation seeks to prevent racial profiling, stop the abuse of protesters and observers, and end the federal government's secret policy of warrantless raids on people's homes.

Our work continues at the Capitol, where we are fighting for legislation that would unmask federal agents, protect sensitive locations like schools from enforcement, and strengthen accountability when federal agents violate our rights.

And our work continues as we file notices under the Federal Tort Claims Act, seeking justice for the people who were harmed and came to us for help.

At this historic moment, the ACLU-MN and the people of Minnesota stood up to protect our constitutional values and the rule of law. Because we fought together, we have forever added to the legacy of the ACLU and the hundreds of years of struggle for civil liberties and rights.

Thank you for your inspiration, courage, and for fighting alongside us.

Deepinder Singh Mayell
ACLU-MN Executive Director

ACLU-MN STAFF

Catherine Ahlin-Halverson, Staff Attorney
Hailey Bailey, Chief Advancement Officer
Grace Barter, Executive Assistant/Board Liaison
John Boehler, Policy Counsel
Naomi Bothe, Major Gifts Officer
Ian Bratlie, Staff Attorney
Benjamin Casper, Staff Attorney
Barbara Clare, Finance Director
Karla Esqueda, Organizer
Rachel Fergus, Communications Associate
Noble Frank, Communications & Marketing Director
Alicia Granse, Staff Attorney
Robyn Hendrix, HR & Operations Manager
Deepinder Singh Mayell, Executive Director
David McKinney, Staff Attorney
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MAGAZINE PRODUCTION

Publication Features

Amanda Gorman • Julio Zelaya

Photography Contributions

Chad Davis - Page 6, 7
TJ Kuhlman - Cover Photo, Page 6, 8
Edwige Moses - Page 5
Kurt Moses - Page 6, 10

THANK YOU

The past few months have been mentally, emotionally, and physically difficult for the ACLU of Minnesota staff. Since December, our team has put in hundreds of extra hours, many sleepless nights, and even a few tears. Through all of it, three things have kept us going: the knowledge that we are doing vital work to protect our neighbors, the comradery of our team, and you.

In the face of unprecedented horrors, you stood up and protected your neighbors. You gave food, shelter, money, transportation, comfort, and safety to people you had never met simply because it was the right thing to do. As the ACLU-MN was flooded with videos and reports of federal agents violating the rights of Minnesotans, we also saw countless moments when you, our community, stood up and said, "No. Not in our city."

You reminded us that we are not alone in the fight to protect the civil liberties of Minnesotans. Thank you.

Thank you for monitoring local schools to protect children and their teachers. Thank you for driving through neighborhoods to ensure the safety of your neighbors. Thank you for boldly using your First Amendment rights and recording federal agents. Thank you for protesting. Thank you for volunteering. Thank you for submitting the hundreds of intakes we received, for calling your representatives, for publicly sharing your stories, for making donations, for writing to your local newspaper, for singing.

And thank you to everyone who did not let borders or distance stop you from joining us in demanding an immediate end to the federal government's overreach in Minnesota.

The ACLU-MN is also beyond grateful for the individuals and organizations that partnered with us in our work, including Ciresi Conlin, Forsgren Fisher McCalmont DeMarea Tysver LLP, Riach Law, the national ACLU, Covington & Burling LLP, Greene Espel PLLP, Robins Kaplan LLP, the Immigrant Defense Network, Kandiyohi County organizers and volunteers, St. James organizers and volunteers, Anna Hall, Mixed Blood Theater, Shari Olson, Hallie Pond, and many more.

For all of this and more, we thank you.

- The ACLU of Minnesota team



WAYS TO GIVE

The ACLU of Minnesota is supported by passionate individuals whose donations help us protect and expand civil liberties in Minnesota and across the country. You can join them by:

- Making a tax deductible donation: action.aclu.org/give/support-aclu-minnesota
- Becoming an ACLU member: action.aclu.org/give/minnesota-join-renew-today
- Giving stock: www.aclu-mn.org/en/stock-donations
- Leaving a legacy: www.aclu.org/legacy/bequests-will

- You can also support our work by:
- Becoming a volunteer: www.aclu-mn.org/volunteer
 - Taking action: www.aclu-mn.org/act

Questions about giving to the ACLU-MN?
Contact mmiller@aclu-mn.org

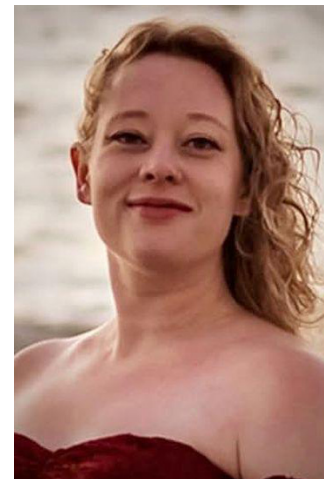


Scan the QR code to donate today



Photo by Edwige Moses

IN MEMORIAM



Renee Good

Renee Nicole Macklin Good was a 37-year-old mother of three. She was a wife, a daughter, and a sister. And, despite having moved to Minneapolis recently, she was a community member who stood up for her neighbors.

"We honor [Renee's] memory by living her values," said Renee's wife Becca Good in a statement. "Rejecting hate and choosing compassion, turning away from fear and pursuing peace, refusing division and knowing we must come together to build a world where we all come home safe to the people we love."

On Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2026, Renee Nicole Good was shot and killed by a federal immigration agent while driving her car, attempting to follow agents' orders. Her last words, captured on video, were directed toward the agents: "I'm not mad at you."



Alex Pretti

Alex Jeffrey Pretti was a 37-year-old ICU nurse at the Minneapolis VA hospital. His parents, sister, and friends remember him as kindhearted, generous, and committed to helping others. He was a former Boy Scout, a cyclist, a dog lover, and a neighbor moved to act by the abuse he saw around him.

"Alex wanted to make a difference in this world," his parents, Michael and Susan Pretti, said in a statement. "His last thought and act was to protect a woman."

On Saturday, Jan. 24, 2026, Alex was shot and killed by federal agents in Minneapolis while attempting to protect a neighbor from agents' abuse.



Photo by TJ Kuhlman



Photo by Chad Davis





Fighting for Legislative Accountability

Even as the legal response unfolded, ACLU-MN staff recognized that litigation alone was not enough – and our organizers, advocates, and policy experts sprang into action.

“You can’t just litigate your way out of a project like Operation Metro Surge,” says Julio Zelaya, the ACLU-MN’s policy and advocacy director. “You must organize decision-makers and everyday people to change the conditions that allowed it to happen.”

The Minnesota Legislature is a key venue for contesting the architecture of the surge. Beginning in January, the ACLU-MN advanced legislative proposals to make federal power more accountable: unmasking federal agents, preserving avenues for constitutional redress, limiting the use of local resources to support federal immigration enforcement, protecting sensitive locations like churches and schools, and confronting the surveillance and secrecy that formed the backbone of the operation.

“What we saw here was a warning,” Zelaya says. “When federal power operates in the dark, communities pay the price, and vulnerable communities pay the first and highest price. Our job in the legislature is to bring light, accountability, and enforceable limits.”

This response is possible because the ACLU-MN works inside a broader web of collective action. Community members documented, translated, escorted, testified, trained, posted alerts, and stood watch. Organizers mobilized. Advocacy groups relayed information.

“This is about what kind of state we want to live in,” says Zelaya.

“Are we willing to accept masked agents in our neighborhoods, unaccountable surveillance, and intimidation as the cost of going about our lives? Minnesotans’ answer was ‘No.’ Our job is to support that resistance.”

Building a Better World Together

When we talk about our work, we often say that, for 75 years, the ACLU-MN has worked in the courts, in the legislature, and in the community to protect and expand civil liberties. But during OMS, we were reminded that the tagline is also a blueprint.

Our response was visible in court filings and committee testimony, but also in the community ecosystem that formed around the surge. We expanded rights training and invested in community education.

“The way we fight and the way we lead dictates the world we create,” says the ACLU-MN’s executive director, Deepinder Mayell. “In a moment when the federal government is trying to isolate, overwhelm, and lie about what is happening, our responsibility is to respond in a way that reflects honesty, courage, and democratic power.”

And that may be the clearest way to understand the ACLU-MN’s role during OMS. We helped turn fear into declarations, declarations into cases, cases into headlines, headlines into pressure, and pressure into broader public refusal.

One lesson of Operation Metro Surge is that our liberties are not self-enforcing and must be fought for. It is that they are worth organizing around, fighting for, and expanding. Our task now is to protect Minnesota from future overreach and violence by the federal government, to defend communities under threat, to force accountability when power is abused, and to fight for a freer, safer, more democratic future.



I was at Walmart specifically to buy diapers and milk for my infant child. I left our house at around 11:00 a.m. and my family expected me to be back soon with the things I needed.

When I was gone longer than my family expected, my wife had no idea where I was.

A.A.
Minneapolis resident in a sworn declaration in our lawsuit challenging ICE’s unlawful actions



I always thought that if something like this happened to me, showing my driver’s license and my passport card would be more than enough to show that I am a citizen. **But this didn’t seem to matter to them.**

They never acknowledged my citizenship. They stopped me without reason, purely because I looked Somali.

A.D.
Minneapolis resident in a sworn declaration in our lawsuit challenging ICE’s unlawful actions



Several business owners have told me that, although they managed to survive the COVID-19 pandemic, they are unsure whether their business will survive Operation Metro Surge...

And now, because of ICE’s presence, we are told business owners cannot pay their rent; they cannot pay their suppliers; and they cannot pay their employees.

A.S.
Minneapolis resident in a sworn declaration in our lawsuit challenging ICE’s unlawful actions



The ICE agents dragged me out of the restaurant and put me into a headlock on the ground. I repeated, ‘I’m a citizen, I have an ID.’ The officer kept saying, ‘That don’t matter, that don’t matter.’

M.H.
Minneapolis resident in a sworn declaration in our lawsuit challenging ICE’s unlawful actions



I kept telling the officer I was legal. An officer said ‘You’re not from here. Where are you from?’ I asked them not to yell at me. I told them again I was legal. **They grabbed my wallet and phone and turned off my phone so the recording stopped...**

They were pointing weapons at me and yelling at me to shut up.

R.C.
Minneapolis resident in a sworn declaration in our lawsuit challenging ICE’s unlawful actions



They were trying to put me into the car. They had not identified themselves, or looked at my ID, which is what I would expect them to do.

I did not know if they were legitimate law enforcement. I was worried that I was being kidnapped.

S.O.
Minneapolis resident in a sworn declaration in our lawsuit challenging ICE’s unlawful actions

North Minneapolis ICE shooting: Children hospitalized after flash bang, tear gas hits van
January 15, 2026
Fox 9

ICE Under Fire After Agents Pin Woman to the Ground and Drag Pregnant Woman
December 17, 2025 | Newsweek

Renee Good was shot three times, autopsy into Minneapolis ICE killing finds
January 22, 2026 | The Guardian

Another Minnesotan has been shot by a federal agent in Minneapolis
January 14, 2026 | MPR

Immigrant whose skull was broken in eight places during Minn. ICE arrest says beating was unprovoked
February 7, 2026 | ABC7 Los Angeles

ICE targeted off-duty police officers in Twin Cities, local police say
January 21, 2026
Washington Post

ICE busts door, Minneapolis family demands judicial warrant
January 14, 2026 | Fox 9

'Because I was Latino, that's it': ICE rams car in south Minneapolis while profiling driver
January 12, 2026 | Sahan Journal

ICE Brutally Dragged This Disabled Woman Out Of Her Car. What Happened Next Was Chilling.
January 30, 2026
The Nation

Witnesses say agents arrest Minneapolis school staff, tear gas students; DHS claims no tear gas used
January 8, 2026 | Kare 11

Man shot and killed by federal officers in Minnesota was an ICU nurse, his parents say
January 25, 2026 | PBS

Minnesota citizens detained by ICE are left rattled, even weeks later
February 1, 2026
NPR

U.S. Border Patrol agent knees man in face in Minneapolis as other agents hold him down
January 12, 2026 | Minnesota Reformer

Border Patrol Agents Smash Car Window, Detain Man in Minnesota
January 12, 2026 | Newsweek

'We Know Where You Live.' Protesters Say ICE Agents Retaliate With Threats, Investigations
February 4, 2026 | Marshall Project



No Secret Police, No Troops On Our Street

Well before the 2026 Minnesota Legislative Session began, the ACLU-MN speculated that very little would be passed this session. Unfortunately, everything went as predicted.

It's been a difficult year at the Minnesota Legislature, where gridlock and razor-thin (or non-existent) margins have prevented even the most common-sense bills from progressing. Despite this frustrating year, The ACLU-MN team has been hard at work creating a strong foundation for an aggressive and successful agenda in the 2027 session.

A key piece of this agenda is "No secret police, and no troops on our streets." This package of policies would address federal abuses in our communities by:

- Banning or limiting face coverings for all law enforcement and federal agents in Minnesota and requiring all law enforcement in Minnesota to carry agency ID.
- Banning Minnesota municipalities from participating in ICE's 287(g) program, which deputizes local law enforcement essentially turning them into immigration enforcement agents.

- Requiring state, city, and county facilities to establish "safe community places," including schools, courthouses, hospitals, and childcare facilities, where federal agents' access to non-public areas would require a judicial warrant. Creating a state civil cause of action against individuals who, while conducting civil immigration enforcement, knowingly violate a person's rights under the Minnesota or U.S. Constitutions.

- Prohibiting state and local resources from being used to enforce federal immigration actions, including sharing data, detention centers, and honoring detainees.

- Requiring the establishment of a hotline and online portal to receive reports from members of the public regarding harms arising from federal deployments or immigration enforcement and to provide support to impacted individuals.

Policy change is a crucial part of our work to protect and expand civil liberties in Minnesota, and to push for accountability when those liberties are abused. Even in the face of partisan gridlock, ACLU-MN continues to influence policy and search for creative ways to advance our shared goals.

The Fight to Prevent the Federal Government from Accessing Voter Rolls

(And Why It Matters)



Since the beginning of the second Trump Administration, the Department of Justice (DOJ) has sued 29 states – plus the District of Columbia – in an attempt to access state voter rolls. Voter registration lists contain private data, often including birthdays, residential address, driver’s license number, and the last four digits of Social Security Numbers.

In August of last year, Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon informed the DOJ that he had denied its request for access to Minnesota voter rolls. A month later, the federal government sued Simon’s office to obtain the records.

On Oct. 14, 2025 the ACLU and ACLU-MN filed motion to intervene in *USA v. Simon* on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota, Common Cause, and two Minnesota voters.

“When Minnesotans register to vote, they trust that their government at all levels will keep their personal information safe and private,” said Amy Perna, executive director of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. “[The DOJ’s] lawsuit is a violation of that trust by the federal government.”

The DOJ is working to compile an unprecedented, unauthorized, and unconstitutional national voter database. The full ramifications of a potential federal database are unknown. However, media reports indicate that the DOJ intends to share the collected voter data with the Department of Homeland Security to support criminal and immigration investigations.

Our case is ongoing, but there have been encouraging outcomes in other states.

The ACLU of Massachusetts opposed the federal government’s effort to access their state’s voter data, and in April, a U.S. District Court judge dismissed the DOJ’s lawsuit. The court found that the DOJ offered no basis for demanding the information and did not attempt to remedy the “clear shortcomings” in its process.

The ACLU-MN is dedicated to protecting voting rights in Minnesota. As we approach the midterm elections, we are prepared to continue working wherever necessary to ensure everyone can use their constitutionally protected right to vote.

LEGAL UPDATES



Affirming the Right to Participate in Sports

In 2024, the ACLU, ACLU-MN and pro bono partner Lockridge Grindal Nauen PLLP, filed an amicus brief with the Minnesota Supreme Court in *Cooper v. USA Power Lifting*. JayCee Cooper sought to compete in powerlifting competitions in the women’s division. However, she was excluded from eligibility by USAPL because she is a trans woman. The ACLU-MN argued that this violates the Minnesota Human Rights Act and conflicts with state courts’ consistent recognition that discriminating against trans women and girls is a form of sex discrimination.

In October 2025, the Minnesota Supreme Court issued a unanimous decision that Cooper, and all trans athletes, have the right to participate in sports that align with their gender identity.



Ending Illegal 287(g) Agreements

The ACLU-MN and pro bono co-counsel Maslon LLP sued Freeborn County on behalf of four residents whose property taxes are being used to fund an illegal agreement with ICE.

In March 2025, the Freeborn County sheriff entered into a 287(g) agreement with ICE, which offers partnerships between ICE and state and local agencies and attempts to turn local officials into ICE agents.

A crucial feature of the 287(g) program is that the agreements can only be applied consistent with state and local laws. In Minnesota, it is illegal to hold individuals for ICE after they have been released from state custody. Minnesota does not authorize state or local law enforcement to conduct civil immigration arrests. However, there have been multiple reports of this happening across the state.

Under 287(g) agreements, it is the county and its taxpayers – not ICE – who are legally and economically liable for the lawsuits that will, inevitably, be filed because of these unlawful agreements.



Preventing Unreasonable Searches

In 2022, law enforcement obtained a warrant to search Jennifer Nagle’s home – a home they knew nothing about. The warrant was based on nothing more than a tip provided by a paid informant (who had been previously arrested for crimes related to drugs).

The ACLU-MN filed an amicus in November 2024, arguing that police should have to verify an informant’s tip with their own investigation before rifling through someone’s drawers.

In October 2025, the Minnesota Supreme Court agreed with the ACLU-MN’s argument and concluded that “The search warrant in this case was not supported by probable cause because the limited, uncorroborated information in the warrant application did not establish a fair probability that contraband or evidence of a crime would be found in appellant’s house.”

For Renee Nicole Good

Killed by I.C.E. on January 7, 2026

by Amanda Gorman

They say she is no more,
That there her absence roars,
Blood-blown like a rose.
Iced wheels flinched & froze.
Now, bare riot of candles,
Dark fury of flowers,
Pure howling of hymns.

If for us she arose,
Somewhere, in the pitched deep of our grief,
Crouches our power,
The howl where we begin,
Straining upon the edge of the crooked crater
Of the worst of what we've been.

Change is only possible,
& all the greater,
When the labour
& bitter anger of our neighbors
Is moved by the love
& better angels of our nature.

What they call death & void,
We know is breath & voice;
In the end, gorgeously,
Endures our enormity.

You could believe departed to be the dawn
When the blank night has so long stood.
But our bright-fled angels will never be fully gone,
When they forever are so fiercely Good.

Amanda Gorman was the first National Youth Poet Laureate and is youngest inaugural poet in U.S. history.

The day after Renee Good was killed by ICE agents on a Minneapolis street, Amanda Gorman shared a poem she wrote titled, "For Renee Nicole Good." Sadly, mere weeks later, Gorman shared another poem, this one titled "For Alex Jeffrey Pretti."

Throughout Operation Metro Surge, Gorman raised money for the ACLU-MN and worked to elevate awareness about what was happening in Minnesota. We share this poem with permission from Gorman.



FELLOWSHIP UPDATE

Minnesota's criminal legal system is shaped by people who have never been inside it, and the result is dysfunctional policies that make us all less safe. That's why the ACLU-MN, the Minneapolis NAACP, and T.O.N.E. U.P. are leading the 2025-2026 Smart Justice Fellowship: to empower a new generation of leaders and partner with community coalitions throughout the state to push for criminal legal reform.



From left to right:
Alessandra Elarae
Machelle Frisbie
Natasha Garner
Josh Mcmillen
Brittany Powell

Winona RedDay
K.J. Rolenc
Al Smith Jr.
Oleg Vinetsky
Myrka Zambrano

Justice Equity Coalition

Fellows: Alessandra Elarae and Natasha Garner

The Justice Equity Coalition works with Minnesota municipalities to add Justice Impacted status to their protected class ordinances. This change would protect individuals with past criminal convictions from discrimination in housing, employment, finance, and more.

HOPE Act Committee

Fellow: Machelle Frisbie

The HOPE Act Committee promotes prison reform bills that would create a pathway for people with long sentences to work toward early release and expand compassionate and medical release for those who are aging, seriously ill, or terminally ill.

Pretrial Justice Coalition

Fellows: K.J. Rolenc and Al Smith Jr.

This coalition is working to transform Minnesota's money-based pretrial practices and create a transparent and accountable pretrial system that seeks to eliminate racial and wealth-based disparities in pretrial detention.

"I am extremely grateful for the ACLU-MN, the pretrial coalition and my fellows," said Al Smith. "It has been a blessing to have the opportunity to take part in the Fellowship. The knowledge and insight into the process of the fight for justice is priceless."

End Slavery Coalition

Fellows: Josh McMillen, Winona RedDay, and Oleg Vinetsky

The Minnesota Constitution allows for slave labor "as punishment for a crime," which means that people in prisons can be forced to work for as little as \$0.25 an hour. This coalition is working to end slave wages for all incarcerated Minnesotans.

"As an Indigenous Smart Justice Fellow, I have seen how going to prison has become a misguided rite of passage for many Indigenous men," said Winona RedDay. "By engaging with the Coalition to End Slavery, our goal is to raise wages to state minimum, ensuring that our men have the resources to support their families, pay child support, and give their children a brighter future despite the distances. The cycle gets a glimpse of hope."

Immigrant Defense Network

Fellows: Brittany Powell and Myrka Zambrano

The IDN works to protect and advance the constitutional rights of immigrant communities across Minnesota. Throughout Operation Metro Surge, the IDN played a crucial role in training constitutional observers, responding to ICE activity, and organizing people and communities.

We March to Honor the Legacy of Those Who Marched Before Us

by **Julio Murphy Zelaya**
Advocacy Director

March 7, 2026, was the 61st anniversary of “Bloody Sunday,” when hundreds of civil rights activists marched from Selma to Montgomery to fight for Black people’s right to vote.

This year my colleague Paul Sullivan and I were invited to travel to Alabama as part of a delegation of roughly 80 activists from Minnesota to observe the anniversary of Bloody Sunday. The invitation came because of our partnership with the Immigrant Defense Network, following an invitation from Rainbow PUSH Coalition and the late Rev. Jesse Jackson.

The gathering memorialized the events that unfolded in Selma in 1965, when the movement for voting rights reached an inflection point. Just weeks before the historic march, Jimmie Lee Jackson, a young Black activist, was shot and killed by an Alabama state trooper while protecting his family during a peaceful voting rights demonstration. His murder galvanized organizers and helped spark the march from Selma to Montgomery.

On March 7, 1965, civil rights marchers – led by John Lewis and other iconic movement figures – attempted to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge and were met with brutal violence from state troopers.

The images from that day shocked the nation and led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act later that year.

Our Minnesota delegation traveled to Selma with that history in mind. Organizers like Rev. Jesse Jackson and Martin Luther King Jr. once crossed the bridge to connect their humanity to the fight for citizenship, democracy, and due process. Like them, Minnesotans have suffered, shed blood, and documented the violence of government overreach during “Operation Metro Surge.” We, as Minnesotans, marched to affirm that the struggle continues in our own communities.

We returned to Minnesota with a deeper sense of clarity and kinship to our shared history.

Through our work, we hope to carry forward the legacy of those who marched before us, the names of Renee Good, Alex Pretti and the now 39 immigrants who have died in ICE Custody.

Hydrate. Eat well. Rest. Enjoy family and community. For the road is long, and I am grateful to be walking with you.



NEW STAFF



John Boehler
Policy Counsel

John joined the ACLU-MN at the beginning of Operation Metro Surge to confront the escalating violence and abuses from the Trump Administration. As policy counsel, John coordinates policy work at the state and local level, including lobbying the Executive and Legislative branches as well as local governments. His work involves drafting bills, testifying on legislation, and providing legislators and other activists with legal and policy information they need to improve and pass legislation that protects and expands our civil liberties.

Originally from New Jersey, John lives in Minneapolis with his spouse and two children. In his free time, John enjoys reading, cooking, and the filmography of Keanu Reeves.

Naomi Bothe
Major Gifts Officer

Naomi joined the ACLU-MN after 15 years in nonprofit development. She has served on executive teams and boards, led capital campaigns, helped build new programs from scratch, and more. At the ACLU-MN, Naomi works with supporters who care deeply about civil liberties and want to make meaningful impacts in our community. Her role is to build relationships, connect people to the ACLU-MN’s work, and ensure the organization has the resources to continue its work.

Naomi lives in Uptown and has two dogs – Noodle, a wiener dog, and Ted, a cocker spaniel – who run her life. She and her partner spend a lot of time at the lakes, biking and reading. Naomi also loves to travel. Her favorite place to visit is Gauteng, South Africa, where friends and family members live.



Noble Frank

Director of Marketing and Communications

Noble worked at the ACLU-MN as a communications associate from 2019 until 2021, before joining Gender Justice and, later, Minnesota Freedom Fund as director of communications. In March, they stepped into the role of director for the ACLU-MN’s communications and marketing department to boost the organization’s response to the Trump Administration and to rising authoritarianism across the U.S. Their goal is to educate, mobilize, and grow the ACLU-MN’s base.

Outside of work, Noble is an enthusiastic backpacker, hiker, and paddler and has adventured all over the state of Minnesota and the United States, including in Appalachia, New England, the Sierra Nevadas, the Pacific Northwest, and most recently in Arizona. Their next project is training for and completing an ascent of Mount Baker (Koma Kulshan) in Washington.

Robyn Hendrix

Operations and HR Manager

Robyn joined the ACLU-MN in July after nine years at LSE Architects, Inc. Her multi-faceted role ensures that everything runs smoothly at the ACLU-MN – that the lights turn on, the wifi works, computers are updated and repaired as needed, employees receive benefits, vendors are paid, and much more.

In her free time, Robyn enjoys visual arts and theater. She also loves to read. Her Dark Materials and The Book of Dust are two of her favorite series. Robyn also enjoys the works of Octavia Butler and N.K. Jemisin.



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HISTORIC ACLU CASE

Tinker v. Des Moines

In 1965, Mary Beth Tinker and a group of students wore black armbands to protest the Vietnam War. When hearing about the protest, the school board enacted a ban. Mary Beth was told to remove her armband and was suspended, along with four other students and were not allowed to return until they did so. After a four year court battle, the Supreme Court ruled that students do not shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at school.



Photo from Landmark cases of the US Supreme Court