

# ACLU

Minnesota

# Liberty

magazine

**Preventing Mass  
Deportation:  
Leaders Need  
To Lead**

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*We the People*



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A CRITICAL MESSAGE AND CALL TO ACTION

The second Trump presidency is coming, and many are struggling to get a sense of what that will mean for our country and our daily lives. At the ACLU-MN, we know that as the dust settles, we will find ourselves in a new era in our struggle for civil liberties – a period that will bring unprecedented challenges and will require us to band together and build power in new ways.

The ACLU has been here before.

We are a 105-year-old organization that has fought for constitutional rights during dark and dangerous times in our nation’s history. We have seen 19 presidents come and go. We have been armed with the most powerful instrument to stop the abuse of government power: the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights. It was the Constitution that stopped some of the most notorious and sweeping attempts of presidents over the last century. **But make no mistake — the Constitution and the rule of law itself will be in this administration’s crosshairs.**

No president is bigger than our founding principles and values.

Here in Minnesota, we want to reassure you that the ACLU-MN has been planning for this moment and it is imperative that we get to work immediately to build a firewall in Minnesota to protect our communities from attacks that will restrict our rights and harm our most vulnerable communities.

There must be no daylight between an attack on our liberties and a resounding response.

The ACLU-MN is calling on state leaders to take action to ensure the Minnesota’s state and local resources are not used to support anti-civil rights actions of the federal government, including targeting of the LGBTQ+ community and those seeking reproductive or gender affirming care. This also includes protecting the state from the largest deportation project in US history which may utilize numerous local and federal enforcement agencies as well as the US military.

There are clear steps that can be taken that will make a difference.

The ACLU is also clear-eyed in knowing that we will face new and powerful challenges that will seek to dismantle the paradigm of rights that we have all come to rely on. While attacks on the right to bodily autonomy intensify, we may also see a damaging continued erosion of the separation of church and state. While the federal government stretches its power to the limit to target immigrants, the rule of law, civil norms, and democratic institutions could see dramatic setbacks. This is a critical moment.

We must act boldly, innovatively, and unapologetically.

People build institutions to uphold their values. When our institutions are threatened, it is up to us, the people, to remember those vulnerable values, to let those steadfast truths be our grounding, and to work with resolve and discipline to protect them, against all odds. If we don’t, no one else will.



*Deepinder Singh Mayell*

Deepinder Singh Mayell  
ACLU-MN Executive Director

WE MUST HOLD THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTABLE.

Scan the QR code to learn more!



VOTING BY THE NUMBERS

With 55,000+ Minnesotans now eligible to vote, ACLU of Minnesota and coalition partners (COPAL, MN NORML, JIIVE, IWOC, Erase the Stigma, T.O.N.E U.P., MN Voice) organized and canvassed in an effort to make sure voters were aware of the new law and exercised their right to vote.

KNOCKED ON  
5,000+  
DOORS



Completed  
7,900  
CALLS

TEXTED  
42,000



CITIES REACHED  
Minneapolis  
Saint Paul  
Brooklyn Center  
Brooklyn Park  
Winona  
Rochester  
Duluth  
Mankato





Sharing my food and culture is as instinctual to me as breathing. Once in high school, I baked a traditional Filipino dessert, a cassava cake, to represent Women's Rights in the Philippines for a class. After giving my presentation, I noticed that my classmates wouldn't look at me and were avoiding cutting themselves a slice of cake.

In an attempt to share a part of myself, I realized that my identity made others feel uncomfortable. I looked down at my shoes and couldn't help but feel embarrassed and alone, as if there was something wrong with me. This wasn't the first time something similar happened, and it wouldn't be the last. Moving forward, I discarded and dampened my cultural instincts. I became hesitant to offer my food, hesitant to speak words like "Lola" (grandma) or "Lolo" (grandpa), and hesitant to be vulnerable with others in fear of rejection.

My experience illustrates the short and long-term effects of people's choices to not interact with identity. This could become the reality for many K-12 students if Minnesota does not amend their "Opt-Out" law (Sec. 120B.20).

As it is currently written, the law allows parents to remove their children from lesson plans that represent certain protected classes (race, religion, sexuality, gender, etc.), and choose alternative instruction. Parents have begun to abuse this broad opt-out law and remove their children from the classroom during lessons that expose them to ideas and cultures different from their own.

Instead of choosing which cake is better, why can't we celebrate all the cakes equally?

Imagine how excited a queer high school student would be to learn their class is reading a book with a queer character; how excited they would be to see themselves represented in a book. But then, as soon as the book is introduced, the student's friends and classmates

leave the room because their parents chose to exempt them from all instructional materials containing queer identities. If you were that student, how would you feel?

And not just once – it occurs repeatedly, with every material that contains the identity of that queer students, to the point where they feel ostracized from the rest of the class.

My wish, and the ACLU-MN's goal, is to protect kids from ever having this experience, which is why the ACLU is looking into potential fixes for this issue.

People have the choice to "opt-out" of my identity, and while I have no choice to "opt-out" of my own identity, I wouldn't even if it was an option. Having a marginalized identity brings me more empathy for others and a deeper connection with individuals who have a different background from me. Even if I do not share an identity or directly relate to particular experiences, I am acutely aware of the effects of ignorance, and meet others' vulnerability by being honest about the limits of my knowledge and asking deeper questions to truly understand the individual. This is a practice more people should be accustomed to doing, which is why it is exceedingly vital to preserve diversity in education.

An exchange of cultural understanding is an exchange of vulnerability and proves how an open mind can forge bridges across gorges of difference.

There are numerous actions anyone can take to help change opt-out policies: Attend your local school board meetings and voice your concerns, push to amend local opt-out policies, and elect school board members that are pro-diversity in education.

The current "opt-out" policy, as it stands, is one of many harmful barriers that block us from building a more compassionate world. We must unite to rectify this mistake.



2024 FELLOWSHIP DEBRIEF

On November 9, people from around Minnesota packed into the ACLU-MN's conference room to celebrate the six graduates of the Smart Justice Fellowship.

In February, the ACLU-MN and partners T.O.N.E. U.P. and the Minneapolis NAACP launched the Smart Justice Fellowship. The goal of the Fellowship was to ensure that Minnesotans with felony convictions knew they could safely and legally exercise their right to vote by providing Fellows from around the state with trainings to become grassroots leaders.

Over the course of 10 months, the Fellows met with state legislators, door knocked, published pieces in local media outlets, spoke at ACLU-MN events, and met monthly to learn organizing and advocacy skills.

"I definitely appreciate everything that I've been able to learn," said Fellow Echo Mendoza in Mankato. "It's been really nice to be given all these resources and connections in many different outlets that our communities need and is looking for."

The Fellowship included practice organizing community events. In Mankato, Mendoza partnered with southern Minnesota organizations to host "On Preserving Our Democracy," an event about Democracy and voting. Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon was the guest speaker.

A few hours north of Mankato, Fellow Tarji Kennedy hosted an event in St. Cloud for college students. Participants were able to register to vote, receive voting resources, and grab lunch. In Moorhead, Fellow Jennifer Compeau hosted an expungement clinic.

Community members were able to register to vote, learn about community resources, and meet with attorneys from the Minnesota Attorney General's office to have their records expunged. One participant praised Compeau's event, saying "this really helps. It should be held every year."

Compeau lives and works in East Grand Forks. "Where I come from, it's really difficult for justice-impacted individuals to restart their lives," she said. "So, I have a lot of questions about reducing the barriers for them, and I've received some really good answers and solutions through this Fellowship."

Compeau and the five other Fellows who graduated plan to continue organizing in their communities and beyond.

A theme that was woven into graduation speeches and conversations over dinner was that the end of the Fellowship does not mean the end of the Fellows working with each other, the ACLU-MN, T.O.N.E. U.P. and the NAACP. Instead, graduation is only an important step in each Fellow's advocacy journeys.

The graduation was held less than a week after the 2024 Election, when much was still unknown. But the Fellows are not daunted by what this or any other election could mean for Minnesota and beyond.

**"In the big scale of things," said Fellow Jermale Kling, "What we're doing here, what we're fighting for, what we keep on showing up for, that's really what matters."**









# LEGAL UPDATES

## Freedom of the Press

On October 21, the ACLU and ACLU-MN filed a brief on behalf of nonprofit media organization Unicorn Riot. The brief seeks to quash a subpoena from Energy Transfer, an oil company, which requested vast disclosures of unpublished materials related to the Dakota Access Pipeline protests in 2016.

“This case is about more than just our small media organization,” said Unicorn Riot. “It represents the broader fight for the right to gather and disseminate information freely, without corporate interference — an essential cornerstone of press freedom.”

## First Amendment Rights

In a major victory, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled on October 4 that three Muslim Americans plausibly established a pattern or practice of discriminatory religious questioning by U.S. border officers. This means that their lawsuit in the federal district court can proceed.

Last year, the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California granted the government’s motion to dismiss the lawsuit. The decision from the Ninth Circuit reinstates the case, allowing the men to pursue their claims that border officers’ religious questioning violates their First Amendment rights, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, and the right to equal protection under the law.

The ACLU-MN is partnered with the ACLU and ACLU of Southern California in this case.

## Transgender Rights

The ACLU, ACLU-MN and pro bono partner Lockridge Grindal Nauen PLLP, filed an amicus brief with the Minnesota Supreme Court on August 30.

JayCee Cooper sought to compete in powerlifting competitions in the women’s division. However, she was excluded from eligibility by USA Power Lifting because she is a trans woman. The ACLU-MN argues that this violates the Minnesota Human Rights Act and conflicts with federal courts’ consistent recognition that discriminating against trans women and girls is a form of sex discrimination.

## Native American Rights

The ACLU and ACLU-MN filed an amicus brief on August 28 to urge the Minnesota Supreme Court to uphold the constitutionality of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act (MIFPA).

Both ICWA And MIFPA aim to prioritize the placement of Native children within their extended families or tribal communities, where their cultural identities will be understood and celebrated.

## Voting Rights

The August 7 Minnesota Supreme Court decision in Minnesota Voter Alliance v. Hunt upheld the district court’s ruling, meaning that Minnesotans on felony probation and parole can register and vote.

## Amicus Brief *a • mi • cus cur • iae*

Also known as a friend of the court brief, is a legal document that provides additional information to a court from a person or organization that is not a party to the case.

Amicus briefs can include perspectives to support a party in the case. These documents can also provide additional expertise.

In 2023, a new state law restored the vote to people on felony community supervision. A special interest group sued, alleging that the new law is unconstitutional in a last-ditch effort to stop these Minnesotans from voting in future elections.

The ACLU, ACLU-MN and pro bono attorneys from Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP fought to uphold the new law and preserve the voting rights of Minnesotans on felony community supervision.

## Police Reform

ACLU-MN client Derrick Gilbert settled his lawsuit against the city of Willmar and former Willmar police officer Christopher Flatten for \$50,000 on November 1. This settlement comes after Gilbert was unlawfully arrested by Flatten in a classic case of “walking while Black.”

Mr. Gilbert is a 39-year-old Black man who lives in Kandiyohi County. On the morning of June 22, 2022, Gilbert was walking to work wearing a sleeveless red hoodie with the hood up. Willmar Police Officer Christopher Flatten was driving his police car when he saw Gilbert. Despite not being able to see Gilbert’s face, Flatten assumed he was a different Black man named Sammy Price. He checked to see if Mr. Price had a warrant out for his arrest.

But Price is seven years younger than Gilbert, four inches shorter, and at least 90 pounds heavier. Gilbert also has significantly darker skin than Price. And Flatten reported that he had multiple prior interactions with Price and thus knew what he looked like.

When Flatten saw Gilbert again a short time later, this time walking towards him, the officer decided to arrest Gilbert for Sammy Price’s warrant despite their clear physical differences.

## Protest Rights

On June 14, the ACLU of Minnesota and pro bono partner Forsgren Fisher filed an amicus brief in *Locke v. County of Hubbard*, et al.

Matthew Locke engaged in peaceful protest on August 16, 2021. He was met with excessive and unnecessary force from law enforcement, which left him with lasting facial paralysis.

“Peaceful protestors should not be forced to weigh their First Amendment right to assemble and express their views against the risk of enduring significant injuries inflicted by law enforcement, like the facial paralysis inflicted upon Matthew Locke,” said ACLU-MN Staff Attorney Catherine Ahlin-Halverson.

Imagine how you would feel if your entire house was the size of your bathroom. In place of the bathtub is a bed that may or may not have a mattress. And instead of a window, there is a cinderblock wall that prevents any natural light from slipping into the room.

That’s what solitary confinement looks like for thousands of Americans every day.

According to the United Nations, solitary confinement for 22 hours or more a day for 15 days is torture.

Even short-term stays in solitary can result in permanent psychological damage. A recent study found that people who spent time in solitary confinement were 78% more likely to die by suicide in the first year after release than people who never spent time in solitary confinement.

For children, seniors, and people with mental or physical disabilities, the effects of solitary confinement are worse. Yet, we know that Minnesota detention facilities have minors, senior citizens and disabled people in solitary confinement every day.

Whether prisons and jails call it “segregation,” “lockdown,” “secure housing,” or any other euphemism, solitary confinement is torture. It’s time for Minnesota to stop torturing people.



# Stopping Trump’s Mass Deportation Plans in Minnesota and Nationwide

By Ben Casper, ACLU-MN Staff Attorney

The Minnesota Legislature must ensure that state and local resources are not used for mass deportation.

President-elect Trump and individuals he is nominating to top positions in the Departments of Homeland Security, Defense, and Justice have stated unequivocally that on day one of the new administration the federal government will launch a vast campaign of mass-deportation and mass-detention that will be unprecedented in U.S. history.

The mass-deportation plan will largely unfold far from our national borders. President-elect Trump has stated he will declare a national emergency and then mobilize military forces—including state National Guard troops—to enforce civil immigration laws throughout the interior of the United States.

This stands to touch every community throughout Minnesota, it will result in the separation of thousands of families, and it will cause extraordinary social and economic upheaval. Hundreds of thousands of people will face internment in large military-organized detention camps.

The social disruption and human cost of the coming federal mass-deportation campaign will be by far the greatest in those states that allow or encourage state and local law enforcement officials to cooperate with federal immigration officials in the effort. But this is a choice that each state makes. Federal civil immigration law enforcement is not the work of state and local governments. Minnesota can choose now to join other states – including Illinois, Washington, and California – that have enacted common sense, time-tested laws to ensure that state and local law enforcement resources are kept separate from federal enforcement of civil immigration laws and remain focused on the priorities of local criminal law enforcement.



## Stopping Trump’s Mass Deportation Plans

To protect Minnesota’s values of family and community unity, and to limit the social and economic upheaval that the coming mass-deportation campaign will otherwise inflict upon our state, the Minnesota legislature can and should take urgent action to pass a separation law.

The proposed legislation, modeled on proven laws already in place in other states, would make the following common-sense changes to preserve community trust in Minnesota’s state and local law enforcement officials, consistent with Minnesota values:

- Keep Minnesota state and local law enforcement officials and resources cleanly separated from the uniquely federal work of civil immigration law enforcement by prohibiting active cooperation of state units of government in federal immigration activities.
- Prohibit Minnesota units of government, including county jails, from contracting to use limited local criminal-enforcement resources for the uniquely federal role of holding persons in civil immigration detention.

## Day in the Life of a Field Organizer with



Paul Sullivan

Up grabbing coffee with the ACLU-MN team this Saturday morning ☕  
Next stop: Bemidji’s Sanford Center, where we’re gonna set up for the event with organizers from the Red Lake Nation and Regional Native Defense Public Corporation!

8:20 AM

10:30 AM

Doors in 10! KOJB 09.1 is arranging tables in the lobby to broadcast interviews live from the event. Sound check is also underway for today’s performers (Corey Medina & Brothers, Nataani Means, and Maria Isa) 🎧

11:15 AM

I’m super excited for how many people have already turned up as I go make copies of the run of show for the sound team. All the organizers are in go mode, welcoming community leaders!

11:35 AM

There’s a line for the door prize raffle at least 5 people long – to enter, we are having people text 3 friends & remind them to vote. Prizes include beadwork jewelry, a birchbark votive canoe, a Nintendo Switch , & a signed Napheesa Collier jersey!

11:40 AM

The first round of breakout sessions has started, with topics ranging from ICWA, to parenting, to the criminal legal system, to finding housing & employment. It’s so powerful to see community members engage in this conference-style format – learning by & for the people 🔥

2:00 PM

Breakouts have wrapped up! Now we’re moving on to our performers & community speakers 🎤 Up first we have hand drumming by Brendan Strong & music by Frog Pemberton, + remarks from RNPDC Exec Director James Hughes & White Earth Council Rep. Eugene Summers

4:15 PM

After fantastic performances by Corey Medina & Nataani Means, Maria Isa is taking the stage. Isa is a hip-hop artist & Minnesota House Rep, opening with a powerful freestyle on the shared anti-colonial struggle between Indigenous Minnesotans and Puerto Rico 🙌

5:00 PM

That’s a wrap! So grateful for all the organizations, performers, & community members that made today a success. We’ll be back in Bemidji on Election Day to GOTV with the fantastic volunteers who signed up today. Time to celebrate 🎉





# FIREWALL FOR FREEDOM

President-elect Donald Trump has already shown that he is a threat to our fundamental rights and freedoms.

Project 2025 is a roadmap for limiting our freedoms at the individual level. Regardless of his attempts to distance himself from this draconian agenda, we believe Trump when he says he will attempt to deport millions of immigrants, continue his assault on reproductive rights, prosecute political protesters, and deploy the military to get his way.

States and cities must now build firewalls for freedom: barriers to ensure our state and local officials do not assist anti-democratic forces in attacking our civil liberties and civil rights. And in states like Minnesota — where the political landscape affords us some of the greatest opportunities — the ACLU has already developed state and local policy actions to protect people’s safety, health, and fundamental rights.

We have the playbook to fight back — and we, the people, are ready to defend our fundamental freedoms.

**The ACLU of Minnesota is calling for Minnesota government leaders to act now to strengthen protections against attempted civil liberties violations within the state.**

## OUR PRIORITIES

### Expand Privacy Protections

- Expanded privacy protections are needed to insulate immigrants, the LGBTQ+ community, and people seeking reproductive and gender-affirming healthcare.
- Construct a firewall against the use of state resources for federal anti-civil rights criminal prosecutions and enforcement measures.
- Limit how companies and law enforcement may collect, use, and share data to protect against civil rights abuses and disclosures to law enforcement without legal process.
- Protect health-related information not already protected by HIPAA, including information in health and fitness apps, period trackers, and financial and location information that could all be used against Minnesotans seeking reproductive or gender-affirming healthcare.

### Protect the LGBTQ+ Community

- Ensure the highest possible protections for LGBTQ+ students with a particular emphasis on transgender and nonbinary students.
- Ensure the self-reporting of gender identity - refuse to investigate an individual’s sex assigned at birth.

### Prioritize Equal Rights and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- Pass the Equal Rights Amendment and enshrine the highest protection for Minnesotans against discrimination based on race, color, national origin, ancestry, disability, or sex, including pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes and reproductive freedom, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation.
- Guide school districts in implementing state laws that prohibit censorship and in establishing an inclusive curriculum that accurately reflects historical events and promotes anti-racism.

### Protect Immigrants

- Establish expedited processes to consider pardons for thousands of longtime immigrant Minnesotans facing deportation because of their state level convictions.
- Limit use of state and local resources in deportation and immigrant detention operations.
- Coordinate state and local government response to mass raids.
- Oppose and denounce the use of the federalized National Guard or Military against immigrant Minnesotans and nonviolent protesters.

### Protect Immigrants (Cont.)

- Ensure resources, training, and guidance to fully implement Drivers Licenses For All law, limiting applicants’ vulnerability to deportation and immigration proceedings.
- Limit immigration consequences of criminal charging decisions.
- Limit immigration consequences of criminal proceedings through guidance and resources for local prosecutors so they understand how their charging decisions can impact immigration status.

### Address Gap in Policing Investigations

- Authorize attorney general to initiate pattern or practice investigations and lawsuits against law enforcement engaged in civil rights violations.

### Protect Protest Rights

- Encourage all law enforcement agencies in the state to uphold the right to peaceful protest and dissent and adopt the Minnesota POST Board’s Model Policy on Public Assembly and First Amendment Activity.



## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS CARDS AVAILABLE NOW

LGBTQ+ Know Your Rights  
K-12 Students Know Your Rights  
Immigrant Drivers Know Your Rights  
College Students Know Your Rights  
<https://www.aclu-mn.org/en/know-your-rights>





# MEET THE STAFF



**Grace Barter**  
**Executive Assistant/Board Liaison**  
She/her

Grace brings multiple skills and experiences to the ACLU-MN. Previously, she spent five years working at Personal PAC, a political action committee based in Chicago that works to ensure Illinois always remains a state where abortion is safe, legal, and accessible. Grace held numerous roles at Personal PAC, including campaign organizer, events planner, and consultant. Originally from the East Coast, Grace attended Ursinus College in Collegeville, Pennsylvania, where she earned a BA in environmental studies with a sociology minor. Outside of work, Grace loves to be outdoors, travel, practice her pottery skills, and cook and eat.

**Nyarie Nzvume**  
**Staff Accountant**  
She/her

Nyarie has over 8 years of accounting experience. Before joining the ACLU-MN in October, Nyarie was at Rainbow Health in Minneapolis. Nyarie earned her BA from Luther College and a masters in business analytics from the University of St. Thomas.



**Asha Penprase**  
**Paralegal**  
They/them

Asha provides support to staff attorneys and organizers as ACLU-MN's paralegal. Before joining ACLU-MN, they worked as a legal administrative assistant at Stinson LLP and a legal researcher at Thomson Reuters. Originally from Southern California, Asha moved to Minnesota from Singapore in 2017 to attend Carleton College in Northfield, MN, where they graduated with a degree in political science and international relations. While living in Northfield, Asha volunteered as an after-school tutor at Faribault High School, providing homework assistance to new immigrant students and helped run emergency COVID relief efforts in Rice County, including a mobile food bank and virtual K-12 summer school programming.

# WHY I WROTE



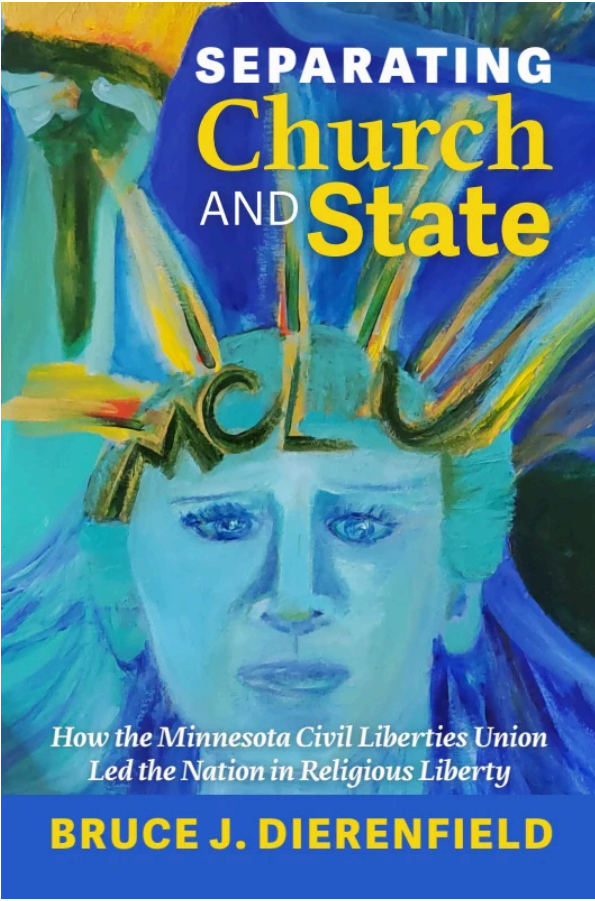
For several decades, historian Bruce Dierenfield gathered a wide variety of material to create the first comprehensive account of the ACLU-MN's crusade to defend the First Amendment. The outcome resulted in *Separating Church and State: How the Minnesota Civil Liberties Union Led the Nation in Religious Liberty*, the seventh book Dr. Dierenfield has published.

Dierenfield, who was raised in Minnesota and began his teaching career in the North Star State, was not alone in his pursuit to tell this history. Until his death in 2018, Dr. Matthew Stark, the former president and executive director of the Minnesota Civil Liberties Union (now ACLU-MN) worked closely with Dierenfield to create this book. "He was all for this project," said Dierenfield of Stark. "He moved heaven and earth to make sure that I got the story."

From 1988 to 2014, Dierenfield interviewed Stark countless times, including twice when Stark made the 1,000 mile trek from Minnesota to Buffalo, New York, where Dierenfield lives. Stark also set Dierenfield up with many interviews with others and provided him with a mountain of personal notes, newspaper clippings, and legal documents related to this subject.

Stark was the MCLU's most visible figure in the continuous fight to protect religious liberty in the 1960s through the 1980s, but he was not alone in the vital work. "He had a lot of help both within and outside the organization," said Dierenfield. This help within the MCLU came from Lynn Castner, executive director and later president; Randall Tighe, legal counsel and later president; Ayers Bagley, chair of the MCLU's Church/State Committee; and many more.

In the age of constant breaking news, it can be easy to forget our long and complicated histories. But Dierenfield believes that even in the chaos of today, this story is an important history for people in Minnesota and beyond to know. "It shows what one affiliate could do with an unwavering commitment to safeguard people's liberties," said Dierenfield. "All our liberties are protected by the work that the ACLU and its affiliates have done and keep doing in a whole host of areas. And so, I think it's inspirational." If you are interested in purchasing a copy, visit [itascabooks.com](https://itascabooks.com) or email [mmiller@aclu-mn.org](mailto:mmiller@aclu-mn.org)



# SUPPORT OUR WORK

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: <https://action.aclu.org/give/support-aclu-minnesota>

Becoming an ACLU member: <https://action.aclu.org/give/minnesota-join-renew-today>

Giving stock: <https://www.aclu-mn.org/en/stock-donations>

Leaving a legacy: <https://www.aclu.org/legacy/bequests-will>

You can also support our work by:

Becoming a volunteer: [www.aclu-mn.org/volunteer](https://www.aclu-mn.org/volunteer)

Taking action: <https://www.aclu-mn.org/act>



# LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Heading into 2025, some of the ACLU of Minnesota's legislative efforts include:

• **Banning Reverse Warrants**  
Reverse warrants allow the government to do widespread surveillance on everyone within a geographic area and/or timeframe.

• **Immigration Separation**  
Prohibit state and local law enforcement from using state resources for the purpose of civil immigration enforcement.

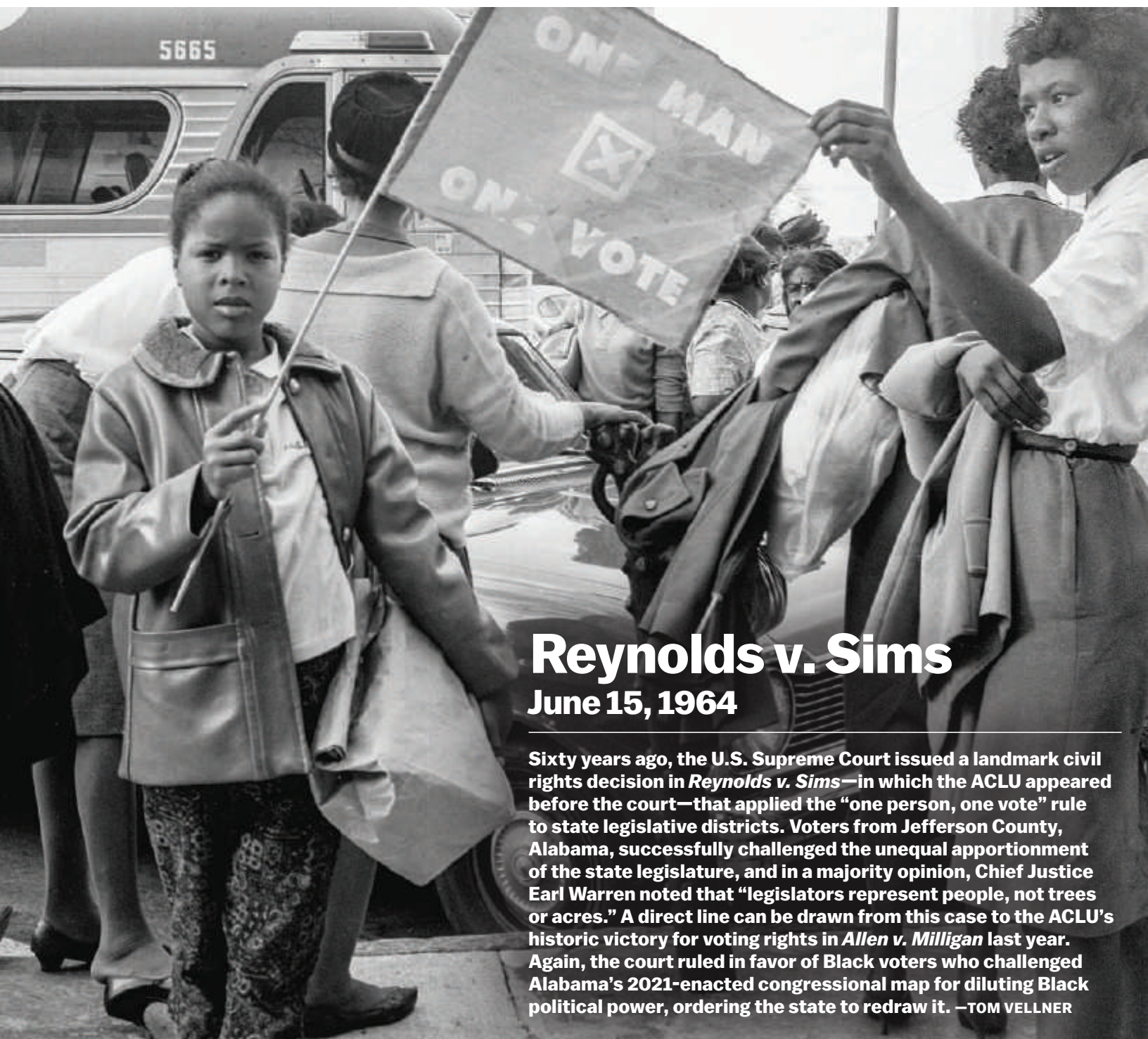
• **Civil Forfeiture Reform**  
Currently, police can seize, keep, and sell private property alleged to have been part of a crime even if the owner isn't charged or convicted. This system must be reformed.



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## Reynolds v. Sims

June 15, 1964

Sixty years ago, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a landmark civil rights decision in *Reynolds v. Sims*—in which the ACLU appeared before the court—that applied the “one person, one vote” rule to state legislative districts. Voters from Jefferson County, Alabama, successfully challenged the unequal apportionment of the state legislature, and in a majority opinion, Chief Justice Earl Warren noted that “legislators represent people, not trees or acres.” A direct line can be drawn from this case to the ACLU’s historic victory for voting rights in *Allen v. Milligan* last year. Again, the court ruled in favor of Black voters who challenged Alabama’s 2021-enacted congressional map for diluting Black political power, ordering the state to redraw it. —TOM VELLNER