



American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana

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FAST FACTS & LINKS

- ★ 1920: The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) was founded in New York.
- ★ 1953: The Indiana Civil Liberties Union (ICLU) was established in Indianapolis as an affiliate of the national organization.
- ★ 2006: The ICLU changed its name to the ACLU of Indiana.
- ★ The ACLU of Indiana is a 501(c)3 and 501(c)4 nonprofit organization.
- ★ 2014 Annual Report: aclu-in.org/images/265671-annual_report_web.pdf
- ★ File a complaint: aclu-in.org/get-legal-help or intake@aclu-in.org.
- ★ Get resources: aclu-in.org/resources.

National ACLU & Affiliates...

- ★ Have offices in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C.
- ★ Employ hundreds of staff attorneys.
- ★ Are involved in around 2,000 cases at any given time.
- ★ Participate in one fourth of cases before the U.S. Supreme Court.
- ★ Have hundreds of thousands of members, online activists and social media followers.
- ★ National ACLU website: www.aclu.org.

Who we are

The American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana works daily in courts, legislatures and communities to defend and preserve individual rights and liberties that the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of Indiana and laws of the United States guarantee everyone in Indiana.

The ACLU of Indiana is nonpartisan and does not endorse political candidates. A nonprofit membership organization, we do not receive public funds, tax dollars or government support.

Our strength comes from our supporters whose tax-deductible donations fund our free legal services and educational outreach, and whose annual membership dues support advocacy, organizing and lobbying activities to promote civil liberties.

Mission

The ACLU of Indiana is dedicated to defending individual rights and enhancing and preserving liberties that are grounded in the United States and Indiana constitutions and civil rights laws.

Membership and charitable contributions

Membership in the ACLU of Indiana automatically includes membership in the National ACLU. Membership dues are not tax deductible. Become a member at: <https://www.aclu.org/secure/join-aclu-indiana>.

Donations to the ACLU of Indiana Foundation are charitable contributions and are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Donations to the Foundation may be mailed or made online at: <https://www.aclu.org/secure/support-aclu-indiana>.

Legal work

We hold government accountable to the promises of the Constitution. **Our office in Indianapolis receives hundreds of requests per month by phone, email and online for legal assistance, and we typically have around 40 cases on our Legal Docket at any given time.** Our cases involve a broad spectrum of civil liberties issues including free speech, religious freedom, protection from unlawful discrimination by the government, the right to fair treatment by the government and the right to be free of unwarranted government intrusion into personal or private affairs. Our complete Legal Docket is available at www.aclu-in.org/list-of-all-current-litigation.

American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana
January 5, 2015

Most common issues

The ACLU of Indiana will challenge government actions where they overstep rights and liberties protected by the U.S. and Indiana Constitutions and civil rights laws. **Only the government can violate an individual's constitutional rights.** We sue government entities; therefore, our legal work most often involves:

- First Amendment cases (religious free expression, establishment of religion and free speech and association issues);
- Fourth Amendment cases (the right to be secure against unreasonable searches and seizures);
- Eighth Amendment cases (the right to be free from cruel and unusual punishments)
- Fourteenth Amendment cases (due process rights and equal protection under the laws).

We also argue cases involving civil rights laws including (most commonly) the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Religious Freedom and Restoration Act, the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act and Title IX, which provides gender equity in education.

Nationally, the ACLU takes on government misconduct and overreach on issues of national security, surveillance and privacy, torture and detention, immigration, mass incarceration, police militarization, racial justice, reproductive rights, voting rights and much more.

More information about all ACLU issues is available here: www.aclu.org/key-issues.

How we decide to take a case

Our cases seek to stop government actions and policies that violate constitutional rights. **Our legal team will often consider whether the case will address a problem that is broader than that of one individual, will effect a beneficial change beyond the individual, and will have an impact beyond the clients we represent.** A significant number of our cases are class action lawsuits in which there are a large number of injured parties.

First Wednesdays

First Wednesdays is a statewide bimonthly educational discussion panel that from 2006-2013 was held in Indianapolis. In 2014, we took the program to the cities of Evansville, Muncie, South Bend, Fort Wayne and Gary.

Here is the First Wednesdays calendar for 2015:

- February 4, Indianapolis
- April 1, Lafayette
- June 3, Terre Haute
- August 5, Columbus
- October 7, Richmond
- December 2, Bloomington

More information is available at www.aclu-in.org/events/first-wednesdays.

Advocacy & Coalition Work

The ACLU of Indiana monitors legislation and takes positions on bills affecting civil liberties issues. We also work with coalition partners to have an impact on the legislative process and to advocate on issues of importance to our supporters, including privacy-surveillance, racial justice, LGBT rights, women's reproductive rights and voting rights.

Constitution Day is September 17

September 17 of every year is Constitution Day, a day to recognize the signing of the United States Constitution in 1787. In 2004, Congress passed a law mandating any school receiving federal funds of any

kind provide educational programming on the significance of this event. The ACLU of Indiana and ACLU offer web resources, materials and trained classroom volunteers. More information about Constitution Day is available at: www.aclu-in.org/events/constitution-day.

Board of Directors

The ACLU of Indiana Board of Directors comprises up to 30 elected members from all parts of Indiana. The Board meets bimonthly and holds elections for portions of its membership annually. A complete list board members can be found at www.aclu-in.org/about/staff-board?showall=1&limitstart=.

Local chapters

Active local chapters in Indiana (www.aclu-in.org/about/chapters-clubs), whose activities focus primarily on community outreach and education, include:

- American Civil Liberties Union of Greater Lafayette (GLACLU)
- Indiana University Southeast Civil Liberties Union (IUSCLU), New Albany
- American Civil Liberties Union of Notre Dame Law School (NDLS ACLU), South Bend

History

In 1953, the ACLU of Indiana (at the time, called the Indiana Civil Liberties Union) held its first meeting at Saint Mary's Catholic Church in Indianapolis after it had been denied a meeting space by the Indiana War Memorials Commission. In 1968, we filed suit against the commission, but two years later the state court upheld the commission's decision to deny use of the space to the ICLU. On Feb. 1, 1973, the Indiana Supreme Court reversed the lower court's decision and ruled in our favor. That year the ICLU celebrated with a program on free speech before a capacity audience in the War Memorial auditorium, featuring William Buckley, Mike Wallace and Fred Friendly (producer for Edward R. Murrow). In 2013, the ACLU of Indiana held its 60th Anniversary celebration at the War Memorial. **An overview of our history is on display as part of the *Indiana Experience* at the Indiana Historical Society in Indianapolis, which also maintains our historical records collection.** Articles about our founding, former executive directors and much more are available at www.aclu-in.org/about/our-history.

RECAP

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