

# Writing

## “Demanding Truth and Accountability”

In our 88-year history of defending civil liberties, we have never seen our fundamental liberties more threatened. To successfully protect our fundamental liberties, the ACLU relies on the support of members like you. These are the monumental challenges we are facing in 2008, both in Illinois and across the country:

- **Challenging Abuse of Power by the Government:** No one is above the law, not even the President. The ACLU is challenging the Bush administration's illegal spying, which violates the Fourth Amendment and other Constitutional protections guaranteed to every American. Without a system of checks and balances, the government can monitor any phone call or e-mail they want, and they can collect and disseminate any data they find however they like. Just knowing that the government is spying without cause on innocent Americans sends a chilling message to all of us that our conversations are not our own. The truth must be aired and our leaders held accountable.
- **Fairness for Gay and Lesbian Couples and Families:** We cannot advance as a society if we continue to deny basic fairness to some — simply on the basis of who they love. We are organizing in all corners of Illinois to pass the Illinois Religious Freedom Protection and Civil Union Act. This landmark legislation would extend state legal protections and responsibilities to all committed couples in Illinois.
- **Standing Up for Religious Liberty:** In 2007, state legislators passed a law that requires all schools in Illinois to observe a “moment of silence” at the beginning of the school day. We are working to pass legislation to remedy any confusion among students, teachers and parents about the implementation of the law. The right to practice religion, or no religion at all, is among the most fundamental of the freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights.
- **Defending Reproductive Rights:** After a disappointing Supreme Court ruling in 2007, reproductive rights advocates in Illinois rallied together to guarantee access to reproductive health care for current and future generations of women and girls. We are working in coalition to pass a comprehensive Freedom of Choice Act which will make Illinois a safe zone for reproductive access.
- **Eliminating Racial Profiling:** Ethnic and racial minority drivers are more likely to be asked for consent to search their cars during a routine traffic stop. In Illinois, we are working on a bill to ban police from asking seemingly innocent motorists to consent to unnecessary and unconstitutional searches.
- **Moving a progressive agenda as the nation prepares for a Presidential election:** Campaigns are in full swing. Our efforts to pass a progressive slate of reform bills are being met with resistance. Your membership and activism can help us pass important civil liberties legislation.

This work can't happen without you. Elected officials, even those with a record of protecting civil liberties, need to hear our concerns about important issues, like government spying or fairness for all families. Whether or not we get in the door can depend on how many ACLU members live in Illinois or in the elected official's district.

Membership growth across the state continues to convince state legislators from both parties to vote to protect civil liberties. This is when your membership makes the difference.

P.S. The time to act is now. Please take this opportunity to directly support our efforts in Illinois and fully fund our lobbying and educational work. Please consider providing your e-mail address when you join the ACLU. Our e-mail Action Alert system is one of our most effective organizing tools. Legislation moves quickly and we often only have days to organize a response. We also invite members to statewide events and meetings through our Action Alert list.

## Website



AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION  
of ILLINOIS

Because Freedom Can't Protect Itself

[site map](#) | [search](#) | [contact us](#) | [home](#)

[About Us](#) | [Events](#) | [News](#) | [Lobbying](#) | [Legal](#) | [Membership](#) | [Donate](#)



**How Can You Help Ensure Fairness for EVERY Family in Illinois? Support Civil Unions!**

[Visit Your State Legislator](#)

[Send a Free Fax to Your Legislator](#)

[March in the Chicago Gay Pride Parade](#)

[Learn More About Civil Unions](#)

[SHARE](#)

### Death Penalty Flaws Exposed in "At the Death House Door"

The American Civil Liberties Union, the ACLU of Illinois and a number of Chicago-based groups will host a special screening this week of a documentary film that exposes deep, systemic problems in the death penalty system in the United States. The organizations will present the film, *At the Death House Door*, on Wednesday, May 28, 2008, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at Thorne Auditorium at Northwestern University School of Law, 375 East Chicago Avenue in Chicago.

[more »](#)

**Sign up for e-mail updates!**

[click here »](#)

**Become an ACLU member!**

[click here »](#)



**YOUNG ADVOCATES**

**Jobs at ACLU**

**FROM THE MEMBER CONFERENCE**

### Upcoming Events

May 28 - Civic Cinema: At the Death House Door, Chicago Screening and Discussion

[Go »](#)

[more events »](#)

### From the Blog

- [California Supreme Court Rules in Favor of Marriage Equality for Gay & Lesbian Couples!](#)  
The California Supreme Court's decision is available here. The

### Take Action

Ask Governor Blagojevich and your Congressional Representatives to ensure that Illinois joins the ranks of 17 other states who have rejected Title V abstinence-only funding and start fully funding sexual health education.

To send a free message to Governor Blagojevich and your Congressional Representatives, visit the action

# Blog



[site map](#) || [search](#) || [contact us](#) || [home](#)

- [About Us](#)
- [Events](#)
- [News](#)
- [Lobbying](#)
- [Legal](#)
- [Membership](#)
- [Donate](#)

[Home](#) » [ACLU Insider](#)

## ACLU Insider

Read about ACLU issues on our site and around the Internet, and leave us a comment!



[Subscribe to our feed](#)

## California Supreme Court Rules in Favor of Marriage Equality for Gay & Lesbian Couples!

The California Supreme Court's decision is available [here](#). The California Supreme Court has ruled that it is unconstitutional under the California constitution for the state to continue to bar lesbian and gay couples from getting married. The decision was decided by the California courts based on the California constitution. While we believe that the rest of the country will ultimately follow California's lead, this decision is not binding on our courts.

Nonetheless - it is enormously exciting. One more state has recognized that marriage is a fundamental right - a right that ought not be denied based on the gender of the individuals involved.

We'll have more commentary on the details of the decision soon.

**Update:** ACLU National is posting the details [on their website](#).

**Update 2:** The ruling should go into effect in [30 days](#) (so, June 14th). Anti groups are asking for a stay until after the November election.

[read more and leave a comment](#) »

Posted by Allie Carter on May 15, 2008 12:17 PM | Categories:

[All Eyes On California](#)

Sign up for e-mail updates!

[click here](#) »

Become an ACLU member!

[click here](#) »



[Send this to a friend!](#)

READ THE ACLU BLOG



## Young Advocates

May 2, 2008  
The Silver Room  
1442 N Milwaukee  
6pm - 9pm  
Free Admission

The ACLU of Illinois' Young Advocates presents  
**ACLU 101**  
ACLU Members receive a special gift

Featuring:

- DJ by Reckless Young People
- ACLU Video Call Outs
- "Pop Quiz" and Raffle Prizes
- Wine and Nibbles

Please RSVP to:  
[youngadvocates@aclu-il.org](mailto:youngadvocates@aclu-il.org)

Sponsored by  
THE SILVER ROOM

[www.aclu-il.org/youngadvocates](http://www.aclu-il.org/youngadvocates)

# Graphic Design



# Print Layout



## 2007 ACLU Member Survey

1. Please rank these issues in order of importance to you  
*(1 being the most important, 6 being the least important)*

- Ensuring racial equality in our justice system
- Preserving reproductive rights
- Advancing equality for gays and lesbians
- Promoting free speech
- Protecting religious liberty
- Defending the Constitution in the "War on Terror"

2. Are you interested in meeting with your legislators about ACLU issues and pending legislation?

- Yes, please contact me!
- No, thank you.

If yes, are there any specific issues that you would like to talk about with your legislator?

3. Are you interested in attending ACLU events in your area?

- Yes, please contact me!
- No, thank you.

Would you like to receive event invitations via email? *(If yes, please remember to provide your email address below.)*

- Yes  No

4. Are you interested in attending the annual ACLU of Illinois Membership Conference?

- Yes  No

Which of these dates would you be able to attend? *(Please mark all that apply!)*

- January 27  April 28  July 28  October 27

5. Are you interested in receiving lobby alerts via email? *(If yes, please remember to provide your email address below.)*

- Yes  No

How often would you like to hear from us via email?

- More than once a week  Once a week
- Once a month  Twice a month

6. What kind of content would you like to see in the ACLU of Illinois member newsletter? *(Check all that apply)*

- Profiles of ongoing litigation
- Profiles of staff and board members
- Event Photos
- Updates on legislative issues

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide the following information if you would like to receive ACLU email. We will not share your email address with any other organization.

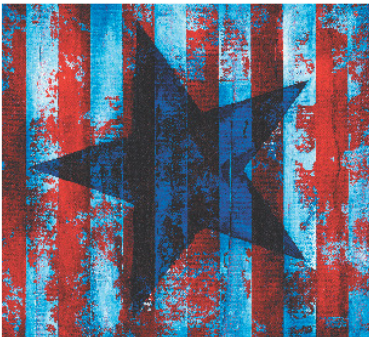
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: IL Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Use the enclosed envelope or mail to: Membership Department, ACLU of Illinois, 180 N Michigan, Ste 2300, Chicago IL 60601.  
You can also fill out the 2007 ACLU Member Survey online at <http://www.aclu-il.org/membersurvey>.



EXCLUSIVE  
DONOR  
BRIEFING





# The Illinois Brief

## New Hope at the Cook County Juvenile Detention Center



The appointment – at the urging of the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois – of a nationally-recognized expert in operating and fixing juvenile detention centers has created new hope that chronic problems at the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center can be reformed. After a lengthy process, Cook County agreed with the ACLU of Illinois to appoint Earl Dunlap as Transitional Administrator, and granted him broad powers to make improvements at the facility. Dunlap is moving quickly to make those changes.

In one instance, Dunlap actually sent a staff member to a local retail store to purchase ample underwear for the approximate 400 juveniles housed at the facility. The lack of appropriate quantities of underwear, caused by the chaos and bureaucratic confusion present at that JTDC, was one example cited by the ACLU in seeking to force changes at the nation's largest juvenile detention facility.

"We are hopeful for our clients," said Benjamin Wolf, Associate Legal Director for the ACLU of Illinois. "We always believed that putting a professional with experience in

charge of the detention center would be a critical first step in creating a better, healthy environment for the children detained by Cook County."

"Earl Dunlap's initial steps suggest that we were correct," added Wolf.

According to reports, Dunlap is moving aggressively to implement new systems for managing and supervising the personnel at the JTDC. He has committed to developing a system to dismiss all personnel who are found to be abusive toward the children in their care – a matter of contention between Cook County and the ACLU of Illinois.

Emblematic of Dunlap's new regime, he brought in an outside cleaning crew – over some internal objections – simply to correct the filthy conditions at the facility. The ACLU of Illinois and our legal partners at Kirkland & Ellis (see related article on page 3) have complained about the unsafe, unsanitary conditions at the facility.

Dunlap's appointment, approved by U. S. District Court Judge John Nordberg, resulted from an ACLU of Illinois request that the court appoint a Receiver with complete authority to operate and reform the JTDC. Though County officials objected to the need for a Receiver, the County Board ultimately agreed to a proposal to retain Dunlap as a "transitional administrator" with most, if not all, of the powers that a Receiver would possess. As a result, Dunlap has the authority to make changes at the JTDC without seeking approval from County bureaucrats or from the Cook County Board.

(continued on page 4)

Save the Date  
April 5, 2008

Join us for the  
2008 ACLU of Illinois  
Annual Member  
Conference  
on  
April 5, 2008  
in  
Peoria!

### IN THIS ISSUE

|  |   |
|--|---|
| From the Executive Director.....         | 2 |
| 2006 Supreme Court Term ..               | 4 |
| Access for Homeless GLBT Chicagoans..... | 4 |
| Legislative Update.....                  | 6 |
| Board Nominations.....                   | 7 |
| Sign up for ACLU email.....              | 8 |

Remember to renew your ACLU membership!