



# ACLU of Alaska **2025 Annual Report**

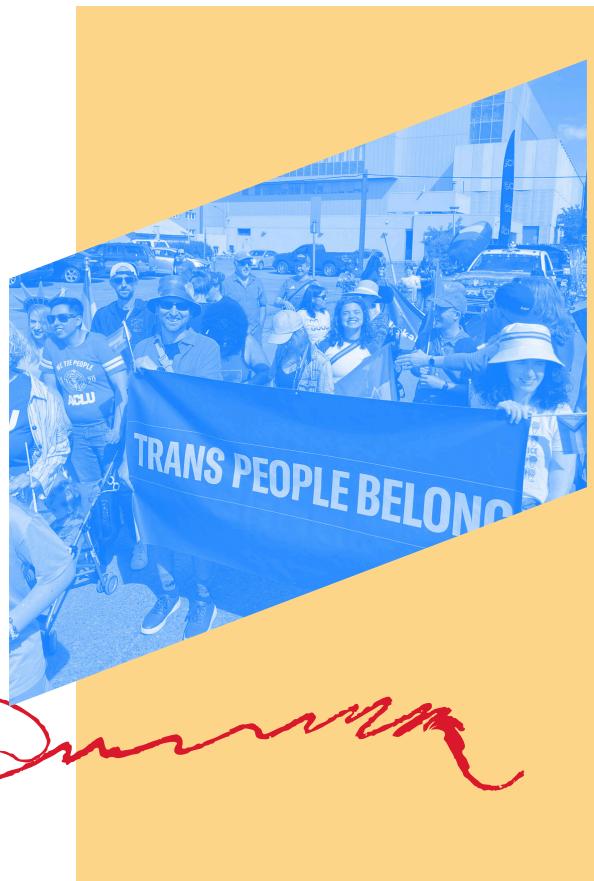
# our mission and vision for alaska

The ACLU of Alaska defends the civil rights and liberties of all Alaskans through litigation, advocacy, and community engagement. We strive to create a more equitable state by partnering with a diverse network of Alaskans dedicated to preserving the rights guaranteed by the U.S. and Alaska Constitutions.

We envision a future where every Alaskan lives with dignity, enjoys full constitutional freedoms, and every community supports equity and justice for all.

## our operational principles

- **We are equitable**, knowing that the strength of Alaska's justice ecosystem lies in reciprocity and relationship.
- **We are generational**, building strong, integrated systems that sustain organizational wellness and longevity.
- **We are transparent**, remaining accountable to our community, our staff, and our Constitutions.
- **We are place-based**, rooting our work in the strengths of the communities and lands we serve.





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# mara's message

Friends,

Since last January, we have seen unimaginable civil rights challenges that have ripped at the seams of democracy and communities across the country and our beautiful state. But we were prepared, and since day one, the ACLU of Alaska has been ready.

We responded quickly to the firehose of unconstitutional actions at the federal level, and stepped in and served Alaskans with critical information to build a firewall for freedom. We took collective action to defend our civil rights and liberties, and worked in partnership with Alaskans to strengthen the legal and advocacy tools for our most threatened neighbors. I couldn't be prouder to do this work with our team, and with the support of so many Alaskans who have joined us on the front lines.

As we gear up for another year of protecting and defending the civil rights of all Alaskans, I share my gratitude for your support and encourage you to stick with us. The fight continues.

*Mara*



## STAFF \*new staff in 2025

### **Becca Stern\***

Alaska Fellow-Policy

### **Cindy Woods\***

Senior Staff Attorney: Immigrants' Rights

### **Doron Levine\***

Staff Attorney: Criminal Justice Reform

### **Eddy Falcon\***

Community Engagement Specialist

### **Eric Glatt\***

Managing Attorney

### **Helen Malley**

Skadden Legal Fellow

### **Kate Moe\***

Alaska Fellow-Digital Communications

### **Katherine Wagner**

Staff Attorney: Civil Rights

### **Kristy Aldridge\***

Operations Director

### **Lu-Anne Haukaas Lopez**

Deputy Executive Director

### **Mara Kimmel**

Executive Director

### **Meghan Barker**

Communications Director

### **Megan Edge**

Director of Integrated Justice

### **Michael Garvey**

Policy Director

### **Susan Orlansky**

Senior Counsel

### **Tuan Graziano**

Development Director

## BOARD

### **Rich Curtner** President

### **Mino Minaei** Vice President

### **Sheri Heritage** Treasurer

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Crystal Nixon-Luckhurst

Galen Paine

Luis Gonzales

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Irene Tresser

# annual highlights

## IN THE COMMUNITY

**67** In-person and virtual events

**2,320** Event attendees

## IN THE COURT ROOM

**13** Open cases

**268** Legal requests (unrelated to incarceration)

## IN THE LEGISLATURE

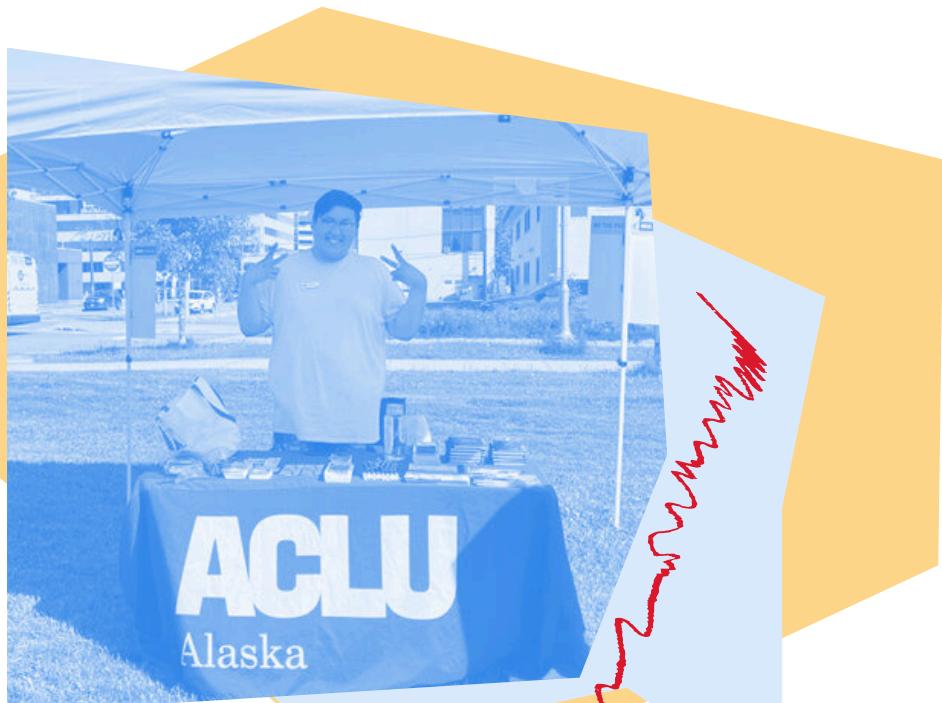
**27** Bills tracked in the Alaska legislature

**1,427** Messages from Alaskans sent to legislators on priority bills

## IN THE NEWS

**2** Op-eds published by staff and board in state newspapers

**65** Media hits featuring ACLU of Alaska staff or work



Right: Eddy Falcon, Community Engagement Specialist, hands out "Know Your Rights" information and swag at the June "No Kings" event.



the ACLU of Alaska  
**IN ACTION**

# defending the rights of non-citizen Alaskans

The Trump Administration's mass deportation regime has sent fear and chaos through immigrant communities across the country and in Alaska. While mass deportation efforts look significantly different in Alaska than they have in the Lower 48, the ACLU of Alaska has responded with litigation, advocacy, and community education to defend the rights of our neighbors and community members targeted by immigration officials.



## KASHIKOV V. NOEM

In April, the ACLU of Alaska filed a lawsuit against the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to protect the due process rights of Jean Kashikov, a recent graduate of the University of Alaska Anchorage who studied under an F-1 student visa. Mr. Kashikov's practical training period was unlawfully and abruptly terminated by the DHS for no valid reason and without notice. Two days after the lawsuit was filed, the Trump Administration and DHS announced that they would reactivate SEVIS accounts for F-1 students whose status had been revoked, including Mr. Kashikov's. **The ACLU of Alaska secured a temporary restraining order for Mr. Kashikov to ensure he could remain in Alaska** and continue working while the government sought to reverse course.



## 'KNOW YOUR RIGHTS' TRAININGS

The best way to combat the mass deportation agenda of the Trump Administration is to ensure that every person knows their rights, and for community partners to know their responsibilities while interacting with immigration law enforcement. **The ACLU of Alaska hosted 23 in-person and virtual "Know Your Rights and Responsibilities" trainings** for immigrants, organizations that serve immigrant communities, and bystanders who witness an immigration arrest. These trainings reached nearly 1,000 Alaskans, and training materials were widely distributed across the state.

# defending the rights of non-citizen Alaskans



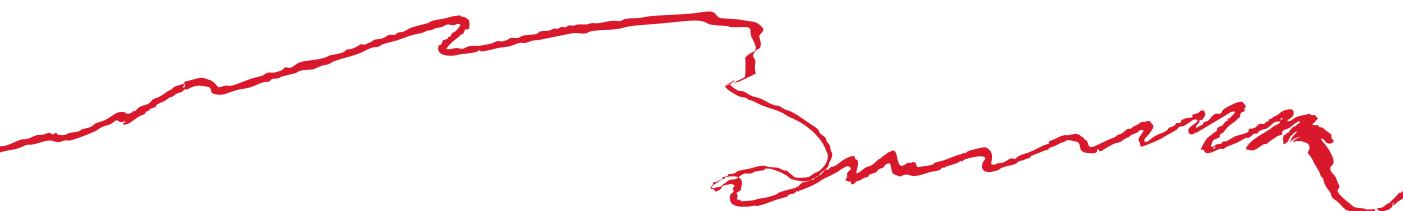
## FAMILY SAFETY PLANS

The ACLU of Alaska created [a guide](#) for how immigrant families can prepare for a worst-case-scenario immigration emergency. **The Family Safety Plan, translated into eight languages, can help Alaskans identify where loved ones might be held and help prepare important documents if a person is arrested by ICE.**



## RINGING THE ALARM ON UNLAWFUL DETENTION

In June, the ACLU of Alaska investigated the Alaska Department of Corrections (DOC) and the state's decision to take temporary custody of more than 40 immigrant detainees formerly housed in Washington state. Evidence from individuals in ICE custody detained at Anchorage Correctional Complex (ACC) confirmed that DOC failed to meet federal detention standards of care. **Cindy Woods, Senior Attorney for Immigrants' Rights at the ACLU of Alaska, testified before the Alaska House Judiciary Committee** on her findings from meetings with detainees at ACC. The ACLU of Alaska, with ACLU National Prison Project, sent DOC, ICE, and Alaska Attorney General Treg Taylor [a letter](#) demanding that DOC discontinue its agreement to hold ICE detainees for longer than 72 hours unless it improves conditions of confinement. The detainees were sent to other detention facilities in the Lower 48 shortly after, and no other detainees have been held in Alaska since then.



# securing safety for all Alaskans

Article VII of Alaska's Constitution promises that the state shall provide for the health and welfare of all Alaskans. Our efforts this year have worked to clearly establish these rights and push for housing-based solutions to address housing insecurity. We know that communities are healthier and safer when everyone has access to housing as a basic need and that the lack of access should not be criminalized.



## PUSHING BACK ON THE CRIMINALIZATION OF HOMELESSNESS

Since the *Grants Pass v. Johnson* Supreme Court decision in 2024, we have seen an increase in municipalities across the country working to criminalize the actions of people who lack stable and secure housing. Anchorage, Juneau, and Palmer considered criminalization ordinances this year; Anchorage and Palmer passed measures imposing legal and financial penalties on people sleeping or camping outside.

**The ACLU of Alaska provided written and oral testimony at public hearings and organized dozens of people to testify against these ordinances in each community.** We will continue to monitor these types of ordinances in 2026.



Above: Helen Malley, Skadden Legal Fellow, testifies against a homelessness criminalization ordinance in June.



# securing safety for all Alaskans



## HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION & COMMUNITY CARE

In communities across the state where securing and maintaining housing is a challenge, knowing your rights as a tenant can help mitigate issues that can lead to eviction, unhealthy living conditions, or homelessness. This year, **the ACLU of Alaska hosted two 'Know Your Rights' presentations on housing rights for tenants**, educating Alaskans about their legal rights while renting a property. In September, we attended Project Homeless Connect in Anchorage and connected with more than 50 people, including individuals seeking services and those providing services to people experiencing homelessness. We will continue to serve as a community partner to address the causes of homelessness and support our neighbors who are living unsheltered.



## ABATEMENT WINS IN COURT

In 2024, the ACLU of Alaska argued before the Alaska Supreme Court on behalf of Greg Smith, an unhoused Anchorage resident who challenged the constitutionality of the Municipality of Anchorage's (MOA) abatement process. The abatement notice stated that people could appeal the abatement to the Superior Court, but when Mr. Smith did so, the Superior Court dismissed his case, saying it lacked jurisdiction to review his constitutional claims. **In May, the Alaska Supreme Court ruled in favor of Mr. Smith** and returned his case to the Superior Court for further proceedings. We have also continued to litigate our other cases to protect the rights of all Anchorage residents, regardless of where they call home. In February 2025, **we filed Aquila v. MOA**, challenging the constitutionality of abatement when winter shelter is unavailable. In July 2025, **we delivered oral arguments in Banks v. MOA** on the constitutional rights of unhoused residents during an abatement, including the right to due process and freedom from unreasonable seizures. Both lawsuits are ongoing in 2026.

# rooting our criminal legal system in accountability & rehabilitation

As the Alaska Prison Project transformed into the new Department of Integrated Justice in 2025, we continue to prioritize criminal legal reform and fight for a more just system.



## VAIL V. DUNLEAVY

In May, the ACLU of Alaska, with the ACLU National Prison Project, filed a class action lawsuit against the Alaska Department of Corrections (DOC) challenging its inadequate, dangerous, and inhumane health care system. **The federal court lawsuit, brought on behalf of incarcerated Alaskans, contends that the state's failure to provide adequate health care is a violation of the Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments** and has resulted in needless suffering, decline, and death. This litigation is ongoing in 2026.



## A NEW AND IMPROVED PRISONER RIGHTS GUIDE

The ACLU of Alaska's Prisoner Rights Guide has been a go-to resource for incarcerated Alaskans for years. With support from the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, **we produced new and improved guides on voting during and after incarceration, religious freedom, grievance processes, and accessing gender-affirming care.** These guides were translated into seven languages and distributed to all DOC facilities statewide.



# rooting our criminal legal system in accountability & rehabilitation



## GROWING OUR NETWORK OF ADVOCATES

Alaska's legal resources are scarce, particularly for individuals involved in the justice system. To share our resources and build a stronger network for allies and advocates, **we provided legal and policy trainings to the Disability Law Center and appellate attorneys at the Public Defenders Agency** so they can advocate for their clients' needs as it relates to release and conditions of confinement.



## DEFENDING OUR RIGHT TO GENDER-AFFIRMING CARE

The ACLU of Alaska, with Lambda Legal, represented an incarcerated transgender woman in her lawsuit against DOC's medical policy, which has denied her gender affirming care during her time at Goose Creek Correctional Center. **After a week-long trial in Anchorage, the judge ordered Alaska's prison system to reconsider her request to undergo surgery after declaring a state policy on the issue is so restrictive that it violates the U.S. Constitution.** The State has appealed this decision, but the ACLU of Alaska will continue to defend our rights and the court's decision.

# exercising our freedom to protest



## ‘NO KINGS’ ACTION DAYS

In 2025, the ACLU of Alaska participated in “No Kings” protests and rallies across the state and the country, which drew millions of people to push back against President Trump’s authoritarian agenda. **The ACLU of Alaska designed unique posters that were highly sought after by protesters and featured in outlets ranging from Alaska Public Media to The Rolling Stone.** We were a featured speaker at the Anchorage rally in October. We will continue to support and participate in national days of action to exercise our freedom of speech against authoritarian leadership.



Above: Lu-Anne Haukaas Lopez, Deputy Executive Director, delivers her address at the “No Kings” rally in Anchorage in October.

# controlling our own choices and bodies



## FIGHTING FOR ABORTION AND TRANS RIGHTS AT THE ALASKA SUPREME COURT

In September, we received an unfavorable ruling in [X.A. v. Mat-Su Borough School District](#), a challenge to the District's policy requiring students to use the bathroom that aligns with their gender assigned at birth. **We filed an appeal to the Alaska Supreme Court because we firmly believe that the District's policy is unconstitutional as it violates transgender students' rights to privacy and equal protection** under the Alaska Constitution. In October, we supported oral arguments to the Alaska Supreme Court in [Planned Parenthood Great Northwest, Hawai'i, Alaska, Indiana, Kentucky v. State of Alaska](#), a case that will determine whether qualified advanced practice clinicians — including nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and certified nurse midwives — can continue providing abortion care in Alaska. A written opinion is expected in the coming months.



## CELEBRATING PRIDE ACROSS ALASKA

The ACLU of Alaska joined Pride festivities across Southcentral Alaska in June and July to celebrate and honor the LGBTQIA2S+ community. **We shared 'Know Your Rights' information regarding passport guidance for transgender people, as well as Family Preparation Packets** to help queer families strengthen their legal rights in times of uncertainty.

# advocating for civil rights and liberties in Juneau

## OUR VOICE SHAPING POLICY

The ACLU of Alaska team provided oral testimony at seven legislative committee hearings on topics ranging from ballot curing to sexual assault examination kit tracking to parole. Our expertise was sought after by elected officials and their staff, securing our role as a trusted partner on civil rights and justice issues.



Above: Michael Garvey, Policy Director, provides testimony during a legislative committee hearing on ballot curing in January.

## DELIVERING ALASKANS TO DECISION-MAKERS

We supported legislators who hosted committee hearings on immigration, deaths in Department of Corrections custody, and voting issues for American Samoan U.S. Nationals. We delivered Alaska voices directly to decision-makers. We ensured elected officials heard from affected Alaskans on high-priority issues, enabling effective advocacy for changes that will improve access for all Alaskans to the promises of the Alaska and U.S. Constitutions.

# your impact

**Plain and simple, we couldn't do this work alone.** With the help of our supporters, advocates, donors, and partner organizations, we're able to be a strong leader in Alaska's justice ecosystem.

**3,520** Member donors

**13,518** Gifts from Alaskans

## PRO-BONO PARTNERS

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## philanthropy is activism

We need your help to protect our liberties and rights. People across Alaska are coming together to stand up for what they believe is right. Take your stand — become a card-carrying member of the ACLU or make a gift today.



scan  
to take  
action

or visit  
[action.aclu.org/give/alaska-join-renew-today](https://action.aclu.org/give/alaska-join-renew-today)

# host a house party with us



Above: Mara Kimmel, Executive Director, addresses friends and supporters during a summer house party to support the ACLU of Alaska.

Hosting a gathering of our fellow Alaskans who share the commitment to civil rights and liberties is a great way to support the cause, help us fundraise, and connect advocates to action opportunities.

We were so grateful to host parties with our friends and supporters in 2025.

Contact [giving@acluak.org](mailto:giving@acluak.org) for more information on hosting or donating.

# ACLU

Alaska

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