

# ACLU

Maine



## FALL NEWSLETTER

# Resisting nationwide attacks on ABORTION RIGHTS

**A** CROSS THE COUNTRY, abortion rights are under attack. States passed more abortion restrictions in 2021 than in any year since the Supreme Court decided *Roe v. Wade*.

Texas's unpopular and unconstitutional anti-abortion law has rightfully received a lot of attention. The law bars abortions after six weeks, before most people know they are pregnant. Because of this law, people in Texas will have to travel an average of 248 miles to access an abortion after six weeks. That's about the distance between Bangor and Boston.

Even worse, Texas state officials have deputized private citizens to enforce the law. People can bring civil lawsuits to collect up to \$10,000 from anyone who helps a person get an abortion after six weeks. This bounty hunting scheme is intentionally designed to overwhelm clinics in the state with lawsuits and legal bills, ultimately forcing them to shut down.

The ACLU and its affiliates are resisting this assault on reproductive freedom in Texas, and all over the country, in state legislatures and in the courts. The ACLU filed a successful lawsuit blocking Arkansas' abortion ban. We have pending lawsuits in Ohio, Georgia, Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee and Alabama that have stopped abortion bans in these states from taking effect.

Over the years, the ACLU of Maine and our reproductive rights partners have worked to ensure

Maine has some of the best abortion access laws in the country, including recent changes that make abortion more available to low-income and rural Maine people.

Nevertheless, we had to defend our hard-fought wins this year. With our reproductive rights partners, and with your continuing support, we blocked six bills in the legislature that would have imposed unnecessary barriers to abortion.

In Maine, and across the nation, your support for the ACLU is more important than ever, so that we can defend abortion rights from a nationwide backlash. For years, the ACLU of Maine and our partners have worked to improve abortion access, and we're not stopping now. Together, we'll continue to improve and defend people's right to an abortion.

The decision to become a parent is one of the most consequential a person can make in their lives. They should be able to do it with safety, and without fear of punishment. With your support, we can make sure this is the reality for all people, everywhere.

Your support for the ACLU is more important than ever, so that we can **defend abortion rights from a nationwide backlash.**

# The ACLU Out of the Office

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jodi Nofsinger, *President*  
Daniel N. Crewe, *Vice President*  
Robert Kelley, *Treasurer*  
Susan Bates, *Secretary*  
Nancy Fannon, *National Board Rep.*  
Krystal Williams, *Equity Officer*  
Chris Branson  
Sally Dobres  
Erick Giles  
Colleen Khoury  
Cathy Kidman  
Lily Lu  
Lisa Sockabasin  
Kathryn Yates

## TEAM

Pablo Anaya, *Director of Operations & Associate Director of Development*  
Alison Beyea, *Executive Director*  
Emma Bond, *Legal Director*  
Luca DeAngelis, *Executive Assistant*  
Zachary Heiden, *Chief Counsel*  
Grace Hooke, *Engagement Coordinator*  
Michael Kebede, *Policy Counsel*  
qainat khan, *Communications Director*  
Tiffani Ortiz, *Communications & Engagement Fellow*  
Laura Retherford, *Director of Leadership Giving*  
Joelle Rutembesa, *Finance & Development Associate*  
Margarita Salguero-Macklin, *Office Manager*  
Anahita Sotoohi, *Legal Fellow*  
Meagan Sway, *Policy Director*

## PUBLISHED BY

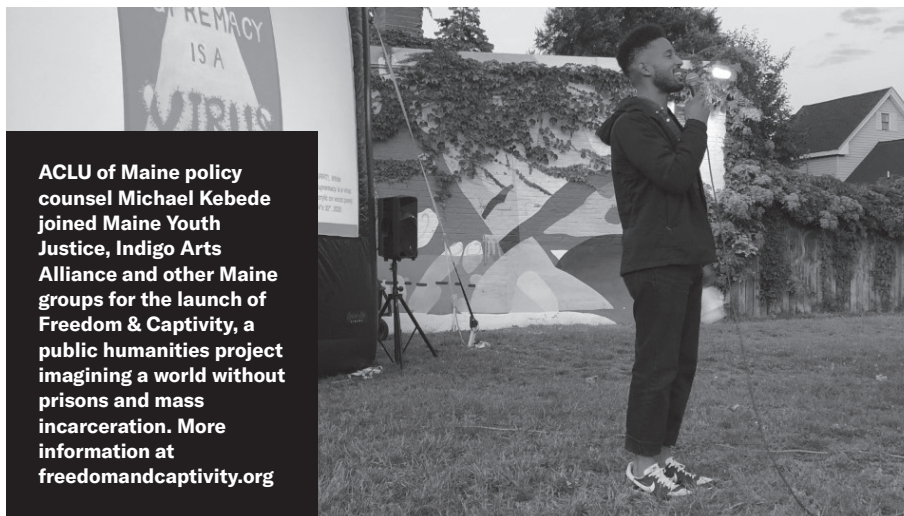
ACLU of Maine  
PO Box 7860  
Portland, ME 04112  
(207) 774-5444  
info@aclumaine.org  
www.aclumaine.org

## DESIGN

Talley-O Design  
www.talley-o.com

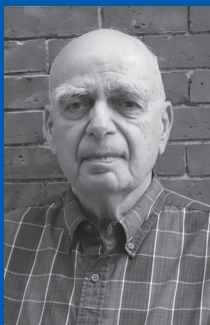


**ACLU of Maine policy director Meagan Sway joined Planned Parenthood for a nationwide rally in solidarity with Texas after the abortion law went into effect.**



**ACLU of Maine policy counsel Michael Kebede joined Maine Youth Justice, Indigo Arts Alliance and other Maine groups for the launch of Freedom & Captivity, a public humanities project imagining a world without prisons and mass incarceration. More information at [freedomandcaptivity.org](http://freedomandcaptivity.org)**

## REMEMBERING LEO BARRINGTON



This month, we said goodbye to a fierce advocate and lifelong ACLU supporter, Leo Barrington. Leo volunteered with the ACLU of Maine for decades. Former and current staff remember him as kind, committed and willing to do anything – from blowing balloons for the Pride parade to spending hours phone banking. He has left a lasting impact on Maine with his support for civil rights and civil liberties. We will miss him.

# MEET OUR NEW FELLOWS

The ACLU of Maine is dedicated to training and supporting the next generation of civil rights and civil liberties advocates. Meet two of these future leaders – Tiffani Ortiz and Anahita Sotoohi – whom we have welcomed as our new Communications & Engagement Fellow and Legal Fellow.

## TIFFANI ORTIZ, they/them/she/her



### TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOURSELF!

I'm a born and raised Mainer, a previous ACLU intern, and a recent college graduate. This past spring, I graduated from Clark University with a major in International Development and a minor in Peace Studies.

### HOW DID YOU LEARN ABOUT THE ACLU?

I first encountered the ACLU in January 2017 at the Women's March in Augusta. My mom and I decided to go last minute; neither of us had ever been to a protest, so we arrived without posters. There were people handing out bright blue and white posters and I got one from them. After a morning of holding that poster with my mom as we yelled, cried, and listened to inspiration, I hung it up on my wall at home. It's 2021 and I still have my ACLU "We the People" poster.

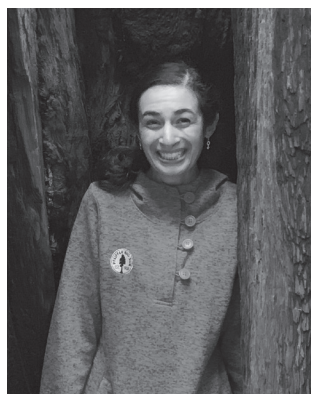
### WHAT ARE YOU HOPING TO ACCOMPLISH?

One of my goals is to deepen my understanding of advocacy and its various applications. I identify as a person who inhabits a working class and marginalized identity, and I'm aware that political and legal systems purposefully exclude us. Advocacy enables us to take up space and participate. I hope to play even a small role in empowering Maine people – especially youth – with the tools to uplift and organize their communities to make their voices heard in our democracy.

### WHAT ARE YOUR INTERESTS & TALENTS OUTSIDE OF WORK?

Outside of work I can often be found diving into a new book or TV series, going on morning coffee walks, and expanding my Etsy jewelry collection.

## ANAHITA SOTOOHI, she/her



### TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOURSELF!

As a Connecticut native previously living in Colorado, I am excited to be back on the east coast! After attending law school at the University of Iowa, I lived in Colorado for three years. During those years, I clerked for a trial court

judge and worked as a government defense litigator.

### WHY DID YOU WANT TO WORK AT THE ACLU?

I knew that working here would be an opportunity to do real, meaningful legal work while surrounded and supported by incredibly smart and dedicated people—the dream, in other words! As cheesy as it sounds, I really did apply to law school because I wanted to make the world a better place, and I knew that working for the ACLU would help me work towards that goal.

### WHAT ARE YOU HOPING TO ACCOMPLISH?

One of my goals here is to focus on work that addresses the civil rights of Mainers with disabilities. People with disabilities are often under-served at so many levels—when incarcerated, when in foster care, or when trying to vote. I would really like to be a part of both raising awareness of these issues and working to change them.

### WHAT ARE YOUR INTERESTS & TALENTS OUTSIDE OF WORK?

I am an avid reader, and I love to cook and bake. Having just moved here, I am also very into all things Maine and love spending my weekends exploring new-to-me towns and state parks.



ACLU of Maine  
 PO Box 7860  
 Portland, ME 04112  
 www.aclumaine.org

NONPROFIT  
 ORG  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 Portland, ME  
 Permit No.235

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



**WHY BECOME AN ACLU OF MAINE DONOR?**

"At The Wedding Barns of Maine, we believe our professional values and actions should mirror our personal beliefs. In that spirit, we've committed a portion of our client revenue to the ACLU of Maine. We're proud to support an organization that is challenging the systems that create and perpetuate inequity and injustice in our state, and our wedding clients are so grateful that their most memorable weekend can support this essential and timely work." – Essie & Mike Haimes