



### DEAR FRIENDS,

**T**HE SUPREME COURT'S deplorable ruling to overturn *Roe v. Wade* marked a difficult day in history. All of us at the ACLU share your emotions of anger and exhaustion. In times of such heartache, it can be difficult to find hope. That is when we turn to our community. Together, we will continue to defend everyone's right to an abortion.

**Abortion is still safe and legal in Maine.** The Maine Reproductive Privacy Act protects a pregnant person's private decision to end their pregnancy. **But we cannot be complacent.** We must act together to protect our community, especially LGBTQIA+, Black, and Indigenous folks who are most disproportionately impacted by these attempts to limit bodily autonomy and personal freedom.

**Remember: abortion is still legal in Maine. We will never stop fighting with you.**

Right now, you can take direct action by supporting Maine's abortion providers: Mabel Wadsworth, Maine Family Planning, and Planned Parenthood. In November, we must vote like our rights depend on it, because they do. And in January, we'll be calling on you to join us in Augusta to demand that our elected officials protect the abortion access we've fought so hard to get.

*In solidarity,  
The ACLU of Maine Team*

## Legislative Roundup

BY MEAGAN SWAY

**G**IVEN THE NATIONAL attacks on abortion rights, privacy rights, trans rights, and other core civil rights and civil liberties, the work in our state legislature is more important than ever. We need to make sure our state laws are powerful and protective of people's rights.

This past legislative session—our “short session”—was an eventful one. We had some important wins and we laid the groundwork for next year's session.

Rest up now, because once the temperatures drop, and the nights get long, we'll be calling on you to testify, write and call elected officials like our rights depend on it. Here's what we got done and supported in the Legislature in 2022:

### CRIMINAL LEGAL REFORM

**LD 1862** – We worked with recovery advocates and harm reduction providers to pass one of the strongest Good Samaritan laws in the country. The legislation was spurred by our impacted partners—too many people have had to call for help when someone was experiencing an overdose and face arrest when police would respond, or chance their loved one's death by not calling.

The tireless work of advocates—including from people who had been arrested after calling for help—let lawmakers see that if we want to save lives, we need to make sure people feel safe and empowered to call 9-1-1 for help, instead of punishing them.

LD 1862 received significant bipartisan support in the Legislature, and the Governor signed a slightly amended version, which provides immunity from prosecution for

LEGISLATIVE CONTINUED ON NEXT SPREAD

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jodi Nofsinger, President  
Nancy Fannon, Vice President  
& National Board Rep.  
Robert Kelley, Treasurer  
Susan Bates, Secretary  
Lily Lu, Equity Officer  
Nancy Osher Blumberg  
Chris Branson  
Karla Doremus-Tranfield  
Erick Giles  
Felix Hagenimana  
Lisa Sockabasin  
Kathryn Yates

## TEAM

Pablo Anaya, Director of Operations &  
Associate Director of Development  
Carol Garvan, Legal Director  
Zachary Heiden, Chief Counsel  
Jacqueline Gomez, Development  
Communications Strategist  
Grace Hooke, Engagement  
Coordinator  
Michael Kebede, Policy Counsel  
Tiffani Ortiz, Communications &  
Engagement Fellow  
Laura Retherford, Director of  
Leadership Giving  
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

# MEET OUR NEW STAFF

**W**E'RE EXCITED TO welcome Carol Garvan as our new legal director, and Jacqueline Gomez as our development and communications strategist. Meet the newest ACLU of Maine team members!



## CAROL GARVAN, SHE/HER

*Legal Director*

### **Tell us a little bit about yourself!**

I am a Philadelphia native, but have called Maine my home for the past thirteen years or so. I live in Gardiner with my husband, two daughters, and two unruly terriers.

### **What are you most excited about working on at the ACLU of Maine?**

I am excited to be able to work on such an incredible range of civil rights and civil liberties cases—from First Amendment rights to indigent legal defense reform; from Fourteenth Amendment due process protections to anti-discrimination work. These cases arise under a vast network of statutes and constitutional provisions, but at their core they are all connected. They are all about defending our right to equality and justice under the law.

### **What are your interests outside of work?**

When I'm not working, I love to get outside with my family to hike, cross-country ski, run, and garden. And when the weather is hopeless, we set up beach chairs by the woodstove and work on building miniature dollhouse furniture.



## JACQUELINE GOMEZ, SHE/HER

*Development and Communications Strategist*

### **Tell us a little bit about yourself!**

I recently graduated with a Social Impact MBA and a Masters in Conflict Resolution from Brandeis University near Boston. Now I live happily in Portland with my partner and our two dogs.

### **What are you most excited about working on with the ACLU of Maine?**

I'm excited about connecting with the community of Maine civil rights activists. I started my job search with the expectation that it would take a while to get involved in what I'm most passionate about. Luckily, I was wrong, and I'm already making a difference.

### **What are your interests outside of work?**

Now that the weather is nice, I like to go kayaking, hiking, and camping. Otherwise, I love doing puzzles, watching hockey or football, and going to concerts.

**LEGISLATIVE** CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

most low-level offenses and drug offenses for people rendering aid at the scene of an overdose. As one of our recovery partners, Randy Beard, said: "I am proof that we do recover. But in order to recover, we have to stay alive." LD 1862 means more people will stay alive. We are proud of this move away from the War on Drugs.

**LDs 1897 and 756** – After more reports of horrific violence at Long Creek Youth Development Center, legislators put in a bill in the short session to prevent the use of prone restraints, chemical spray, and tasers at Maine's only youth prison. We, along with our coalition partners, were not opposed to the bill, but used the opportunity to argue, as we have for the last several years, that Long Creek should be closed for good. The Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee amended the bill to close Long Creek. Ultimately, there was not a path forward for the bill because the governor remains opposed to closing Long Creek. As a compromise, legislators passed LD 756, which provided \$1 million to the Department of Education to fund school-based restorative justice programs, as well as mentoring services and workforce development for young people involved in the juvenile criminal legal system.

**LD 696** – Organizers at Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition (MPAC) led a valiant effort to end solitary confinement in Maine. We supported MPAC in the effort, which ultimately failed when lawmakers did not listen to survivors of solitary and their families, and did not act. Solitary confinement happens in Maine. It is

inhumane, and no human being should endure such treatment. We will keep fighting alongside survivors and advocates to make sure all people – including incarcerated people – are treated with dignity. If you're interested in prisoners' rights and ending solitary in Maine, check out MPAC.

**WE'LL BE  
CALLING  
ON YOU**  
to testify,  
write and call  
elected officials  
like our rights  
depend on it.

### **PRIVACY**

**LD 1945** - We led an effort with Representative Maggie O'Neil to put guardrails on how corporations collect and use biometric identifiers—your most intimate, unchangeable characteristics including your fingerprints, your voice, your face. Companies are already collecting this sensitive data about you, but there are no rules regulating how they use it— including storing it and selling it. Use of the information has led to civil liberties violations across the country, including arrest and prosecution using incorrect facial recognition technology. We came very close to passing a biometric privacy bill that would give us control over this

information, not corporations. LD 1945 failed in a narrow vote, but we have the momentum to try again in the next session.

### **TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY**

The most inspiring legislative campaign this session was the Wabanaki tribes' efforts to pass a package of bills to recognize their sovereignty and restore their self-determination over water quality and economic development. The bills related to water quality and economic development passed, but the bill to recognize the tribes' sovereignty, LD 1626, failed despite enormous support from Mainers, tribal citizens and members of the Legislature.

There were more than 1,600 pieces of written testimony in support of LD 1626, which would have amended the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act (MICSA), a law that has stripped sovereign powers from the four federally recognized tribes in Maine — the Penobscot, Passamaquoddy, Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians and the Mi'kmaq Nation. Ultimately, LD 1626 did not have enough votes to overcome the governor's threatened veto.

It is deeply disappointing that a bill with so much public support and that was meant to right a decades-long moral wrong did not pass. But as tribal leaders said, "Our fight for sovereignty restoration will not end today. We want the conversation to continue and we will press forward to engage more Mainers on these issues."

If you want to support Wabanaki tribes and their fight to recognize their sovereignty, I encourage you to get involved with the Wabanaki Alliance.



ACLU of Maine  
PO Box 7860  
Portland, ME 04112  
[www.aclumaine.org](http://www.aclumaine.org)

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

A blue-tinted photograph of a group of people at a protest. They are holding various signs, some of which are partially visible and read "ACT NOW", "JUSTICE", and "PEACE". The background shows a city street with buildings.

# EMPOWER THE FUTURE

For more information on these  
and other ways to give, please  
email Laura Retherford at  
[lretherford@aclumaine.org](mailto:lretherford@aclumaine.org)

## ACLU Maine

Your IRA, Keogh, 401(k) or 403(b) plan is a great way to provide for your retirement. It can also be an incredible way to advance civil rights now and into the future. For many, these plans are the easiest way to make a meaningful charitable gift. And, if you are 70 ½ or older, you can make direct transfers from your IRA without a tax penalty.