



CENTER FOR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS



ANNUAL REPORT



'24

VISION

THE CENTER FOR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

fights for a world without oppression –
where people use their power to achieve
justice and guarantee the rights of
marginalized communities.

MISSION

THE CENTER FOR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

stands with social justice movements and
communities under threat – fusing
litigation, advocacy, and narrative shifting
to dismantle systems of oppression
regardless of the risk.

CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CO-CHAIRS 4

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 5

STRUCTURAL RACISM: DISMANTLING WHITE SUPREMACY 6

PATRIARCHY: FIGHTING GENDER OPPRESSION 12

OPPRESSIVE ECONOMIC STRUCTURES: COMBATING ABUSIVE CORPORATE POWER 16

ABUSIVE STATE POWER: CHALLENGING UNJUST GOVERNMENT POLICIES 20

THE CENTER FOR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS IN THE MEDIA. 27

BUILDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF MOVEMENT LAWYERS

 BERTHA JUSTICE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM 29

 ELLA BAKER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM 30

EVENTS. 31

THANK YOU

 DONOR SPOTLIGHT : TONY HOLTZMAN. 42

 DONOR SPOTLIGHT : DEBORAH SAGNER. 43

 IN MEMORIAM 44

FINANCIAL REPORT 48

BOARD, STAFF, INTERNS 50

WAYS TO SUPPORT THE CENTER FOR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS 52

MESSAGE FROM

THE BOARD CO-CHAIRS

We are excited to present to you the Center for Constitutional Rights 2024 Annual Report. Thank you for another historic year. Despite the chaos that has characterized world affairs recently, you were instrumental in helping CCR continue the work to protect and defend the people, communities, and social justice movements under relentless threat. Your courageous support is being felt from the bayous of Louisiana to the continent of Africa. Thank you.

So much was accomplished with your help. We welcomed new supporters to CCR's family of radical activists and social justice warriors. We took on new projects that promise to strengthen the ability of organizations and communities to push back against abuses of power by the state and corporate interests. Our southern office, launched just two years ago, has become a force in the region – fighting for safe drinking water in Mississippi and challenging prison slave labor in Alabama are just two examples of their life-changing actions over the past 12 months. Our long-term project to develop the next generation of movement lawyers is bearing fruit, having returned to CCR some brilliant young attorneys responsible for much of the litigation you will read about in these pages. Your moral and financial support makes all of this happen. CCR's partnership with our supporters is special. Your commitment to justice and liberation powers all that we do. Thank you.



Lisa Crooms-Robinson



Jumana Musa

Our Palestine work, highlighted in this report, sparked tough conversations with some of you who were not aligned with our actions. However, we took a principled stand to help the Palestinian people. We believe that ethic is what has sustained CCR for more than 50 years, and what will sustain this organization for years to come. We appreciate every one of you who have provided the resources for CCR to fight power that subjugates marginalized people. Thank you for making sure our large portfolio of cases and projects remain at the center of our shared objectives.

With Trump's return to the presidency, CCR's agenda remains as important as ever, and more urgent. As you read these pages and take stock of all the good that you made happen, all the lives you continue to change for the better, and all the movements gaining power, let's stay focused on the work still to be done. We need you if we are going to dismantle the levers of oppression and achieve justice and liberation for all. Thank you for always standing by our side. Thank you for another consequential year. Thank you for all that you do.

In solidarity,

**Lisa Crooms-Robinson
& Jumana Musa**

Co-Chairs, Board of Trustees

MESSAGE FROM

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Supporters,

With the reelection of Donald Trump, CCR stakeholders have been reflecting deeply together about the coming years. I have been a part of rich conversations with staff, board, and supporters like you and all are filled with anxiety, hope, and resolve. Anxiety because we are living in a moment of deep division, violence, threat, and uncertainty. Hope because at CCR, it is not a passive act; it is what gets us up in the morning and sustains us as we fight like hell for the world we want. To hope, as Rebecca Solnit writes “is to give yourself to the future – and that commitment to the future is what makes the present inhabitable.” Finally, resolve because, as you will see in our annual report, our work always finds the lever that can flip inhumanity to inspiration and suffering to safety.

The key to our unwavering hope and resolve is you. Every year when I sit down to write this message to you, the sentiment that always emerges is gratitude. Over the past, extremely challenging year, our supporters have been indispensable partners to the Center for Constitutional Rights. You believed in us and our unique social justice vision, and together we achieved remarkable progress for the people, communities, and movements that we serve. What made this past year different than most, however, is that many of our supporters left us because of our work on behalf of the Palestinian people, and our belief that there can be no hierarchies determining who is worthy of protection and who is not. Yet, you insisted that all of our bold human rights work continue to move forward. Thank you.

I have been with this organization for almost two decades now, and this has easily been one of my proudest moments as the Executive Director.



You reminded us that CCR and our supporters are connected through our hope and resolve, not one case or one project. Together we are committed to dismantling the institutionalized power that subjugates marginalized communities, and to building the power of social movements that strive for justice and liberation. There is nothing easy about what we do, and we are grateful that we

have supporters like you who share our fortitude and who don't look the other way in tough moments. It gives me great pleasure to present to you the Center for Constitutional Rights 2024 Annual Report.

Together we proved, once again, how invaluable CCR is to the movement. In a global atmosphere of violence and uncertainty, we stayed focused and continued to deliver justice. In May, after a year of intense investigation, we asked a state court to compel Alabama to abolish its prison slavery program. In violation of its own laws, Alabama continues to force its mostly Black prison population to work for no pay or meager wages against their will for state and private businesses. And twenty years after the release of the infamous Abu Ghraib torture photos, our case, *Al Shimari v. CACI*, against the contractors responsible for the abuse finally went to trial in April. These cases and more are detailed in the Annual Report.

Our work takes time and resources. We could not do any of it without you. None of it would be possible without your commitment to justice and our future, and your courage and resolve to stand with us firmly on the right side of history no matter the weather.

Thank you for all that you do for justice.

In solidarity,

Vince Warren

Executive Director

STRUCTURAL RACISM

DISMANTLING WHITE SUPREMACY




Gathering with partners and allies at the 2024 Jackson Water Retreat in Jackson, Mississippi.

Row 1 (l to r): Claudia Williams Hyman (formally ACLU-MS), Brooke Floyd (People's Assembly Institute), Kathleen Roblez (Forward Justice)

Row 2 (l to r): CCR Legal Worker Sade Evans, Danyelle Holmes (Mississippi Poor People's Campaign), CCR Associate Director of the Southern Regional Office Emily Early, CCR Board Member Makani Themba, and CCR Bertha Justice Fellow Mikaila Hernandez

Row 3 (l to r): Lori Sherman (Forward Justice), CCR Senior Staff Attorney Jessica Vosburgh, and Sarah Tallman (National Resources Defense Council).

CCR South achieved an important victory in Jackson, Mississippi in March when a federal district court ruled that our clients, Mississippi Poor People's Campaign and People's Advocacy Institute, may intervene in the lawsuit. This means that local community groups now have an official role in the litigation and, more broadly, in the future of their city's water system, which they will fight to ensure is safe and under democratic control.



INTRODUCTION

The Center for Constitutional Rights was born out of the 1960's civil rights movement, and in the decades since we have challenged anti-Black racism, settler colonialism, xenophobia, and racist oppression in all its forms. Our commitment to racial justice means insisting on a society that acknowledges and atones for its historic injustices while centering and resourcing the communities most impacted by systemic inequality to forge a more just future. Through targeted litigation and passionate advocacy, we strive to dismantle the institutionalized white supremacy endemic to law enforcement, land and resource use, and the legal, political and carceral systems in the U.S. We fight relentlessly to end an abusive immigration enforcement regime that generates cruel policies, from mass deportations to family separation to torture of detained refugees. We confront discriminatory policing, press for government accountability, and work to eradicate forced labor in prisons, solitary confinement, and life sentences without parole, also known as Death by Incarceration. Your dedicated partnership fuels our many successful efforts to uproot systemic racism and advance liberation at home and abroad. We are deeply grateful for your crucial investments in this critical mission.



FEATURED CASE

Fighting for Clean Drinking Water in Jackson, Mississippi

For decades, residents of Jackson, Mississippi, a predominantly Black city, have faced threats to their health and well-being from an outdated, unsafe public water system. In recent years, the community has received hundreds of “Boil Water Notices” due to the possible presence of microbial bacteria and lead contamination, and the city has endured complete water shutdowns. Caused by decades of discriminatory neglect, the Jackson water crisis is similar to those facing other U.S. cities with large Black and Latinx populations, as detailed in a report we submitted to the U.N. Human Rights Committee along with Jackson residents and community groups.

In November 2022, the Department of Justice sued the City of Jackson on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Safe Drinking Water Act, and an interim agreement called for a third-party manager to oversee the response to the crisis. But Jackson residents were shut out of the process. As a result, the relationship between the governing entities and large swaths of the community has further deteriorated, and the city’s residents, especially those in low-income neighborhoods, still lack a water system they can trust.

Through the work of our CCR South team, the Center for Constitutional Rights achieved an important victory in March when a federal district court ruled that our clients, Mississippi Poor People’s Campaign and People’s Advocacy Institute, may intervene in the lawsuit. This means that local community groups now have an official role in the litigation and, more broadly, in the future of their city’s water system, which they will fight to ensure is safe and under democratic control. Long denied a seat at the table, residents are now in a position to shape the future they deserve – and that the law demands.

HIGHLIGHTS

Working to Abolish Slavery and Involuntary Servitude in Prisons

On International Workers' Day, May 1, the Center for Constitutional Rights filed a state court lawsuit (*Stanley v. Ivey*) on behalf of six incarcerated workers challenging involuntary servitude and slavery in Alabama prisons. Alabama's prison system continues to incarcerate Black people at disproportionate rates while subjecting them to inhumane conditions. Following a prison labor strike, Alabama voters approved a revised state constitution that prohibits slavery and involuntary servitude in all circumstances, including in prisons. The state responded to the labor strike with three legal measures that allow prison officials to punish incarcerated people who resist involuntary servitude, including by placing them in solitary confinement and eliminating opportunities to communicate with loved ones. Our clients – Traveka Stanley, Reginald Burrell, Dexter Avery*, Charlie Gray, Melvin Pringle, and Ranquel Smith – have all been punished or threatened with punishment for resisting forced work. They are asking the court to declare these recently enacted laws and policies violations of the state constitution. Part of our Southern Justice Rising initiative, this case joins a national movement to remove the prison slavery exception from state constitutions and the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. With your help, we can abolish the practice of forced labor and involuntary servitude in all prisons in the United States.

*Tragically, our client Avery Dexter Avery died on August 19, 2024. Alabama prisons are among the deadliest in the nation.



Our clients – Traveka Stanley, Reginald Burrell, Dexter Avery, Charlie Gray, and Ranquel Smith. Not pictured: Melvin Pringle.*

Working to End Unconstitutional Law Enforcement Practices in New York City



We continue to fight for an end to racially discriminatory and unconstitutional law enforcement practices through our successful federal class action lawsuit *Floyd, et. al v. City of New York*. The landmark 2013 ruling resulted in court-mandated reforms of NYPD stop-and-frisk practices and a court-appointed monitor to oversee compliance. Since then, we have devoted significant resources to developing and implementing these reforms, as the monitor's reports have shown ongoing constitutional violations. In January 2024, we worked with our partners in Communities United for Police Reform to secure passage of the How Many Stops Act in the New York City Council, which brings critical transparency and oversight to the NYPD's stop practices. In May, we objected to the monitor's most recent report, which misleadingly concludes that racial disparities in police stops have diminished even though the overall percentage of stops by race and ethnicity have remained largely unchanged. To honor the 10th anniversary of the *Floyd* ruling, we held two events: In November 2023, we co-presented the symposium "I Am Going to Fight This! 10 Years Since *Floyd v. City of NY* & the Ongoing Campaign to End Racist Policing in NYC," which featured a keynote conversation with Judge Shira Scheindlin, who issued the historic ruling. And in May, our Executive Director Vince Warren participated in the virtual program "Justice 101: Policing in America: Navigating the 4th Amendment, Stop and Frisk, and Civil Rights." These ongoing efforts for NYPD transparency and accountability are a centerpiece of our racial justice work.

Fighting for an End to Discriminatory Policing

In May, we pushed forward litigation against the City of Buffalo and the Buffalo Police Department (BPD) by filing a motion for class certification, which would allow our case to move forward as a class action suit. We supplemented the motion with expert testimony that provides statistical and historical evidence for the City's and BPD's harms to Black Buffalonians. The class action suit – which we filed in 2018, along with the National Center for Law and Economic Justice and the Western New York Law Center, on behalf of the community organization Black Love Resists in the Rust and four individual plaintiffs – charges that, to feed city revenue, the BPD deployed unconstitutional, aggressive, and racially discriminatory vehicle checkpoints and traffic ticketing practices in primarily Black and Latinx neighborhoods. In April 2020, five additional Black Buffalo residents harmed by these practices joined the case as plaintiffs. Subsequent deposition testimony from officers revealed rampant racial abuse and a severe lack of accountability in the department. As we move toward a potential trial, this case exemplifies how we obtain discovery and evidence to expose government wrongdoing, police impunity, and racial injustice in law enforcement.





(l to r) Supporters of CCR client Derek Lee, CCR Staff Attorney Samah Sisay, and Patricia Vickers (Coalition to Abolish Death by Incarceration).



CCR Staff, Abolitionist Law Center and Amistad Law Project co-counsel members, and clients in front of The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in Pittsburgh.

Striving to End Death by Incarceration

In a potential landmark case, the Center for Constitutional Rights, along with the Abolitionist Law Center and Amistad Law Project, filed an appeal with the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in April on behalf of our client Derek Lee to challenge the constitutionality of his mandatory life-without-parole sentence, also known as Death by Incarceration (DBI). In 2014, Lee was convicted of felony murder for his alleged participation in a robbery that led to a death he did not cause and sentenced to life imprisonment with no possibility of parole. Pennsylvania has the country's highest per capita rate of DBI, accounting for 10 percent of the U.S. total, and 70 percent of those serving DBI sentences for felony murder in the state are Black. We first filed a petition with the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in July 2023 arguing that, because he did not himself kill or intend to kill anyone, Lee's extreme sentence is disproportionate and cruel under both the U.S. and the Pennsylvania constitutions. In February 2024, the court agreed to hear Lee's case, which could have national implications for the movement to reduce or end life imprisonment. The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania scheduled an oral argument for October 8th, 2024 in Pittsburgh.

Seeking Accountability for Cruel Immigration Policies

In August 2023, the Center for Constitutional Rights and co-counsel filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of two Cameroonian asylum seekers who were abused by U.S. immigration detention officials then deported back to Cameroon, where they suffered persecution. The case, *J.K.A. and T.B.F. v. U.S.A.*, seeks damages and our clients' return to the United States so that they have a fair opportunity to apply for asylum. In retaliation for peacefully protesting the deplorable conditions of their confinement, which included racist targeting by guards and medical neglect, the two men were pepper sprayed and forcibly placed in solitary confinement. During deportation, U.S. officials then subjected the men to hours of painful restraints, deprived them of access to the restroom and medical care, and illegally gave their asylum documents to Cameroonian officials, who imprisoned them as alleged traitors. Between May and July 2024, we secured the return of both clients – along with other Cameroonians who experienced serious harm after their deportation – to the United States on humanitarian grounds. With your support, we will continue to hold the U.S. government accountable for the abuse and unlawful deportation of asylum seekers, especially Black immigrants who endure disproportionate cruelty at the hands of U.S immigration enforcement simply for pursuing the human right to seek asylum.

PATRIARCHY

FIGHTING GENDER-BASED OPPRESSION



CCR Bertha Justice Fellow Zee Scout speaks at the 2023 National March to Protect Trans Youth and Speakout for Trans Lives.



INTRODUCTION

Combating gender-based oppression has been an integral part of the Center for Constitutional Rights' mission since the 1970s. Thanks to your dedicated support, we remain on the frontlines fighting alongside movements boldly advocating for gender self-determination, equity, and justice. On issues ranging from employment and health care to homeless shelters and prisons, we work with our many committed partners to combat sexual violence, patriarchy, and sexism in all forms. Taking an intersectional approach, we center those with multiple-marginalized identities to ensure that our interventions expose and address the roots of injustice. Our mission is to liberate vulnerable communities from the systemic harms they endure, so we advocate for those fighting for access to sexual and reproductive freedom and gender-affirming health care; those incarcerated, surveilled, and policed; those in the sex trades; those impacted by environmental inequality, poverty, and organized abandonment by government institutions and services; and those targeted by the discrimination-to-incarceration pipeline. We work to protect women, girls, and transfeminine, transmasculine, nonbinary, and intersex people (including those who embody multiple identities) from persecution, discrimination, violence, and denial of resources. We are deeply grateful for your critical partnership in uprooting gender injustice everywhere.

FEATURED CASE


Challenging Anti-Trans and Anti-Queer Legislation

Your unwavering support helped activists challenge Florida’s repressive anti-trans bathroom ban. In recent years, the Florida legislature has passed, and Governor Ron DeSantis has signed, a raft of discriminatory bills hostile to the LGBTQIA+ community, most notably the notoriously over-broad bathroom



restroom that aligns with their gender in government-owned or leased buildings such as school campuses and prisons. Hundreds of activists planned to express their opposition to the ban at the National March to Protect Trans Youth in Orlando in October 2023, but the ban inhibited their ability to do so safely. So, in September 2023, the Center for Constitutional Rights and Southern Legal Counsel filed a lawsuit (*Women in Struggle, et al. v. Bain, et al.*) on behalf of a group of people asking a federal court to declare the state’s bathroom ban unconstitutional and to issue a temporary restraining order prohibiting authorities from enforcing it against them while they traveled to, participated in, and returned from the march.

Our clients, which included six individual transgender and gender nonbinary plaintiffs and the nonprofit organization Women in Struggle, believed this suppression of their gender violated their rights to free expression, equal protection, and freedom from viewpoint discrimination. As part of our CCR South initiative, we sought an emergency order on their behalf prohibiting the defendants—state officials or individuals who must comply with the law—from enforcing the ban against them so that they could exercise their free speech rights without harm.



TGNCl people continue to face opposition and harassment across the country: In 2023, 568 anti-trans bills were introduced in 49 states, including bans on gender-affirming healthcare, suppression of free speech for queer students and teachers, and attacks on drag performances. Your commitment to fighting against LGBTQIA+ persecution, discriminatory policing, and the criminalization of dissent means that this historic grassroots movement knows we stand beside them as they work to defend transgender youth and other marginalized communities.

HIGHLIGHTS

Fighting to Decriminalize Homelessness and Protect Unhoused LGBTQIA+ People

In April, the Center for Constitutional Rights filed an amicus brief on behalf of 45 nonprofit and grassroots LGBTQIA+-rights organizations in a U.S. Supreme Court case involving the criminalization of poverty (*City of Grants Pass v. Johnson*). We argued that municipal ordinances that punish people for sleeping in public areas when shelter beds are unavailable violate the Eighth Amendment's ban on cruel and unusual punishment and have a disproportionate impact on LGBTQIA+ people because they experience elevated rates of poverty and homelessness. Unfortunately, at the end of its term in June, the Supreme Court reversed the appellate court decision blocking enforcement of the Oregon ordinances. The ruling will have a devastating effect on the rights and well-being of the hundreds of thousands of people denied housing across the United States, and it's a dire threat in particular to transgender people of color and LGBTQIA+ youth. Amid a national affordable housing crisis, the ruling affirms a punitive approach to involuntary homelessness rather than one that treats unhoused people as fellow citizens who simply need shelter. It also empowers local governments to use this ruling to suppress Palestinian solidarity activists and other political dissidents who use public land to express their views. Together, we will continue to champion the rights of unhoused people and work toward eradicating discrimination against LGBTQIA+ people while focusing on supporting these communities' basic needs.


OPPRESSIVE ECONOMIC SYSTEMS

COMBATING CORPORATE CAPTURE





INTRODUCTION

 Oppressive economic systems are an existential threat to vulnerable communities at home and abroad. For decades, the Center for Constitutional Rights has used a combination of law, advocacy, and strategic communications to dismantle these harmful structures, fighting corporate abuses while exposing the ways lawmakers collude with corporations to bolster white supremacy and exploit the environment, low-income people, and communities of color. We have fought for years against environmental racism in Louisiana’s Cancer Alley by working to block toxic industrial projects that would further destroy the land, heritage, and health of the people who live there. We also push to hold powerful U.S. corporations accountable for human rights abuses committed abroad and fiercely defend those advocating for racial and environmental justice as we prioritize the protection of people over profit.

Thank you for your continued investment in economic, environmental, and racial justice. Together, we can restrict corporate influence over government policy and end the exploitation and abuse of marginalized populations in the United States and around the world.



FEATURED CASE


Defending Historic Black Communities Against Toxic Industry

With your help, the Center for Constitutional Rights preserved an important victory in *The Descendants Project v. St. John the Baptist Parish* in January 2024 when the court denied the defendants' motions for a new trial. The decision secured our historic win in August 2023, when the court struck down an unlawful zoning ordinance, halting plans for a massive toxic grain terminal that posed an existential threat to a historic Black community in Wallace, Louisiana. The company behind the terminal, Greenfield Louisiana, subsequently announced that it would no longer pursue the project. Part of our Southern Justice Rising initiative, this successful litigation showcases how we work to combat environmental racism and corporate capture across the South.

In the fall of 2021, we partnered with The Descendants Project, an organization that advocates for descendants of enslaved people, and former Center for Constitutional Rights Legal Director Bill Quigley to file a lawsuit challenging a corruption-created 1990 ordinance that rezoned a large tract of rural land for heavy industrial use. Our clients sought to halt approval of Greenfield's grain complex, which would not only exacerbate environmental hazards in Cancer Alley, subjecting Wallace residents to noise pollution, noxious fumes, and grain dust known to cause respiratory problems, but also potentially destroy burial sites of people who had been enslaved on the property. The land in question is part of an 11-mile stretch along the Mississippi River that the National Trust for Historic Preservation recently listed as one of the most endangered historic places in the country.

In August 2022, the Louisiana Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal denied Greenfield's request to appeal a lower court's refusal to dismiss our lawsuit, clearing the way for the case to move forward. A year later, the court struck down the ordinance, ruling it null and void.

In related advocacy work, we helped facilitate a Congressional delegation to Wallace and other parts of Cancer Alley on Juneteenth in 2022. In August that year, we accompanied the Descendants Project's founders to Geneva to participate in the UN's review of the U.S. government's compliance with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Our staff also worked with the Descendants Project to submit a video-recorded oral intervention in October 2022 in support of the UN's proposed treaty on business and human rights, and we teamed up with Representative Raul Grijalva (AZ) to urge the Biden administration to support the positions of U.S. frontline movement organizations in treaty negotiations.



With your dedicated support, we will remain vigilant as we defend historic Black communities from toxic industry and bolster grassroots movements that resist corporate human rights abuses and racial injustice across the South.

HIGHLIGHTS

Fighting Environmental Racism in the South

In March, the Center for Constitutional Rights filed an appeal in our case *Inclusive Louisiana, Mount Triumph Baptist Church, RISE St. James v. St. James Parish, et al.*, a landmark lawsuit challenging the discriminatory siting of industrial facilities in predominantly Black communities throughout Cancer Alley. Along with co-counsel Tulane Environmental Law Clinic, we represent clients seeking a moratorium on all new heavy industrial facilities and on all expansion of existing facilities in St. James Parish, the protection of unmarked cemeteries of people once enslaved there, and a court-monitored process involving directly affected communities to help assess remediation and guide transformation. In November 2023, the judge ruled that our claims are barred by the statute of limitations and dismissed the suit. In our appeal, we argue that the environmental racism our clients have suffered for decades is ongoing and thus not barred by the statute of limitations. We also argue that they have standing to assert their right to protect their historic and cultural origins under the Louisiana Constitution and to practice their religion free of government-imposed substantial burdens. A component of our Southern Justice Rising initiative, this litigation is crucial to our ability to combat environmental injustice throughout the South, and it depends on your support.

Ending the Criminalization of Activism for Environmental Justice



CCR Client Anne White Hat

In June 2024, in *White Hat v. Landry*, the Center for Constitutional Rights filed an appeal of the court's decision dismissing our clients' case challenging the constitutionality of Louisiana's anti-protest law. In 2018, the Louisiana legislature passed an amendment to the state's infrastructure law designed to quash opposition to pipeline projects. Immediately, our lead plaintiff, Anne White Hat, was arrested along with other Water Protectors for peacefully protesting and charged with felonies. We filed a lawsuit in May 2019 challenging the anti-protest trespass law, and after the judge allowed the case to proceed, we filed the motion for summary judgment in April 2022. As part of our Louisiana Environmental Justice Project, this effort highlights how we work to support Indigenous-led movements combating the collusion between industry and state elected officials that results in fossil fuel extraction.

ABUSIVE STATE POWER

CHALLENGING UNJUST GOVERNMENT POLICIES



CCR Client Salah Hasan Nusaif Al-Ejaili



INTRODUCTION

Since our founding, the Center for Constitutional Rights has fought against authoritarianism at home and around the world. We challenge abusive state power in all its forms. Whether protecting activists, advocates, and organizers from state violence and the criminalization of dissent, combating xenophobia and racism in immigration policies, or working to end the inhumane treatment of those incarcerated, we center the communities most threatened by the politics of domination. We work to eradicate laws and policies that reinforce white supremacy, and we strive to hold government officials and institutions accountable for domestic and foreign abuses. We expose the collusion between corporations and government actors that results in environmental racism and exploitation of the land. We have confronted the invasive surveillance and human rights violations of the so-called “war on terror” for more than 20 years, and we continue to support and defend those fighting for Palestinian liberation and those still imprisoned at Guantánamo Bay. Whether in the United States or abroad, we seek justice for those who have suffered torture, war crimes, and violations of their human rights.

We thank you for your deep investment in this vital work for freedom and equal justice.



FEATURED CASE

Holding Military Contractors Accountable for Abu Ghraib Torture and the FBI for Islamophobic Anti-Terrorism Policies

With your unwavering support, we continue to fight against Islamophobic “war on terror” policies and to demand accountability for the abuse and torture of Muslims in U.S. custody. This year, *Al Shimari, et al. v. CACI* – our landmark lawsuit against a Virginia-based private contractor for its well-documented role in the torture of Iraqi civilians at the infamous Abu Ghraib prison – finally made it to trial. The last remaining lawsuit of its kind, *Al Shimari* overcame more than 20 attempts by CACI to have it dismissed and five trips to the court of appeals, enabling survivors of U.S. torture to get a rare day in court. In fact, this was the first time that survivors of post-9/11 torture testified in a U.S. courtroom.


We filed the case in 2008, detailing the central role of CACI employees in the torture at Abu Ghraib in the early months of the U.S. occupation of Iraq. Our clients, Suhail Najim Abdullah Al Shimari, Salah Hasan Nusaif Al-Ejaili, and Asa’ad Hamza Hanfoosh Zuba’e, all held at the notorious “hard site,” are seeking compensation for violations of U.S. and international law, namely torture and cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment. To this day, the men all suffer from physical and mental harm caused by the abuse they endured.

The trial – which began almost exactly 20 years after the Abu Ghraib story broke – featured in-person testimony by Mr. Al-Ejaili, a journalist, and remote testimony from Iraq by Mr. Al Shimari, a middle school principal, and by Mr. Zuba’e, a fruit vendor. With your dedicated support, our clients were finally able to speak directly to the world. Despite our clients’ compelling case, the jury could not achieve unanimity after deliberating for eight days, and a judge declared a mistrial in May.

Additionally, along with co-counsel the CLEAR project at CUNY Law School, we are appealing the dismissal of our landmark case *Tanvir v. Tanzin*, a federal lawsuit challenging the FBI’s abuse of the No-Fly List to coerce American Muslims into spying on their religious communities. Our clients, Muhammad Tanvir, Jameel Algibhah, Naveed Shinwari, and Awais Sajjad, had no criminal records but were approached by the FBI in an effort to recruit them as informants. As a result of their placement on the No-Fly List and the FBI’s unwarranted scrutiny, the men lost their jobs, and some were not able to see family members overseas for years.

The case reached the Supreme Court in 2021, where the Court unanimously agreed that the Religious Freedom Restoration Act authorizes plaintiffs to seek damages against the individual FBI officers who violated their right to religious freedom. Following that historic win, the district court granted the individual federal officers qualified immunity and ordered the case dismissed in February 2023. Our Legal Director, Baher Azmy, argued our clients’ appeal before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in June 2024, and we now await a decision.

The complete lack of transparency and accountability with which the government operates the No-Fly List



makes it ripe for abuse by FBI field agents in the post-9/11 environment. With your partnership, we continue our efforts to end warrantless government surveillance of civilians, particularly those targeted for their Muslim identity or activism.

HIGHLIGHTS

Fighting to End U.S. Support for the Genocide in Gaza

In November 2023, the Center for Constitutional Rights, along with co-counsel Van Der Hout, LLP, filed a lawsuit in federal court on behalf of Palestinians against President Biden, Secretary of State Blinken, and Secretary of Defense Austin for aiding and abetting and failing to prevent Israel's genocide in Gaza. The complaint asked the court to enjoin their unlawful conduct and to issue an emergency order prohibiting any further U.S. military and diplomatic support for Israel while the case was being considered. Following a historic, five-hour hearing in January 2024 that included powerful testimony from our clients, the court found that Israel's actions "plausibly" constituted genocide and "implored" the Biden administration to examine its "unflagging support" for Israel. Unfortunately, the court also dismissed our case on the far-reaching and dangerous grounds that courts cannot review executive branch conduct that touches on foreign policy. We appealed that ruling, and a three-judge panel of the Ninth Circuit affirmed the lower court decision in July 2024 and in August 2024, we petitioned for rehearing en banc as we remain determined to stop Israel's genocide by cutting off U.S. support for it.

Protecting Humanitarian Aid to Palestinians

The Center for Constitutional Rights, along with co-counsel, filed a motion in May 2024 asking a federal court to dismiss a baseless lawsuit against our client, UNRWA USA, a U.S. nonprofit that supports the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). In March 2024, our client was sued on the spurious grounds that it aids and abets terrorism by providing funding for UNRWA, an agency that plays an irreplaceable role in the Gaza Strip by providing aid to more than two million people. As Israel carries out a genocide in Gaza, UNRWA has been a crucial source of humanitarian aid, including food, water, and medicine. This lawsuit is part of a decades-long effort by the Israeli government and its supporters to use meritless charges of terrorism to try to cut off support for Palestinians. Amid exponential growth in the U.S. solidarity movement supporting Palestinians' long struggle for justice, this legal assault is an attempt to shut down support from U.S. donors to UNRWA as Israel starves Palestinians in Gaza.

Fighting for the Safety and Human Rights of Asylum Seekers

In July 2023, the Center for Constitutional Rights and co-counsel filed a class-action suit in federal court challenging the latest iteration of the government's policy of turning away vulnerable asylum seekers at ports of entry along the U.S.-Mexico border. It follows *Al Otro Lado v. Mayorkas (AOL I)*, our successful challenge to the Trump administration's similar policy. The new lawsuit (*AOL II*) opposes the administration's policy and practice of requiring an advance appointment via the government's notoriously glitchy CBP One smartphone app to present at a port and seek asylum. We argue that this policy, which disproportionately hurts the most vulnerable asylum seekers, violates U.S. law, the government's own guidance, asylum seekers' due process rights, and the United States' obligations under international law. It is a fundamental human right to seek safe haven, and we won't allow a broken system to harm refugees.



CCR client Waeil Elbhassi speaking at a rally after the Ninth Circuit Court oral arguments.



CCR Staff, Van Der Hout LLP, co-counsel team, and clients at the oral arguments before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco, CA.



U.N. delegates turning their backs during the 2023 Geneva Conference.

Exposing the Anti-Palestinian Animus Behind U.S. Terrorism Laws

The Center for Constitutional Rights and Palestine Legal published a report in February 2024 revealing how opposition to Palestinian rights has been at the root of U.S. federal anti-terrorism law since the 1960s. For decades, the government has used these laws to target the Palestinian rights movement and to stigmatize Palestinians as terrorists. Our briefing paper provides historical and political context for the escalating effort to restrict the rights of activists protesting Israel’s genocidal assault on Gaza. Efforts to silence advocates for Palestinian rights since October 7 grow out of a long history in which Israel-aligned groups and their allies in Congress have both shaped anti-terrorism laws and weaponized them. Recent calls to investigate Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) university chapters and efforts to defund UNRWA have invoked these same “support for terrorism” laws. We will not allow legislators to continue to weaponize terrorism laws to repress Palestinian freedom struggles, and we insist that advocates and scholars working at the intersection of national security, civil liberties, and humanitarian issues no longer ignore the anti-Palestinian origins and uses of anti-terrorism laws.

Safeguarding Palestinian Human Rights Advocacy

In a victory for human rights advocacy, the U.S. Supreme Court in January 2024 declined to review a lower court’s dismissal of a lawsuit charging that a U.S. Palestinian rights organization’s support for the BDS movement amounts to “material support” for terrorism. Filed in 2019, the lawsuit, Jewish National Fund v. US Campaign for Palestinian Rights, sought to silence USCPR’s organizing for justice and criticism of Israel’s unlawful use of force against Palestinians in Gaza. In March 2021, a federal court granted our motion to dismiss the lawsuit, and the Jewish National Fund (JNF) appealed. The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the dismissal in May 2023, prompting the JNF to petition the Supreme Court, which ultimately declined to hear the case. The JNF’s actions are part of a broader global effort to repress the political activities of supporters of Palestinian freedom around the world. With your help, we will always rise to the defense of activists, academics, and organizations facing legal attacks because of their advocacy.



Holding World Leaders Accountable for Human Rights Abuses

In September 2023, after a 16-year legal battle, our clients in *Mamani et al v. Sánchez de Lozada and Sánchez Berzaín* successfully reached a settlement that provides compensation in an undisclosed amount. Family members of eight people killed by the Bolivian military during the 2003 crackdown on Indigenous “Gas War” protests filed a lawsuit against the country’s former president and former minister of defense. In 2016, a U.S. appeals court held that our clients could proceed with their claims under the Torture Victim Protection Act, and in a landmark 2018 verdict, a federal jury unanimously found the Bolivian leaders responsible for the killings and awarded our clients \$10 million in damages. A judge overturned the verdict, and we appealed to the Eleventh Circuit, which ruled in our clients’ favor in August 2020. The settlement agreement ended ongoing appeals, leaving the 2018 jury verdict in place. This groundbreaking case, which marked the first time in history that a former head of state sat before his accusers in a U.S. human rights trial, exemplifies our efforts to hold world leaders accountable for human rights abuses.

Defending Support for the Right to Boycott and BDS Campaigns

In May, we continued our fight to defend Palestinian rights advocates’ freedom of expression. *Bronner v. Duggan*, brought in 2018, targets the American Studies Association and some of its former leaders for a resolution endorsing the boycott of Israeli academic institutions. The “academic boycott” is part of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) campaign to pressure Israel to stop violating international law and denying Palestinian rights. Those targeted by the suit include our client Dr. Steven Salaita, an outspoken advocate of Palestinian liberation. We won dismissal of all claims in March 2023 under a D.C. law to deter Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs), which allows for quick resolution of meritless lawsuits targeting public interest advocacy. That decision was appealed. We await the outcome of the appeals court hearing, which took place amid a nationwide crackdown on student protests calling on universities to divest from Israel as it wages a genocidal campaign in Gaza. With your help, we will continue to protect the free speech rights of Palestinian solidarity activists on college campuses and beyond.

Seeking Transparency in U.S. Support for Israel’s Discrimination Against Palestinian Americans

In February 2024, the Center for Constitutional Rights, along with the National Immigration Project, the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, and other co-counsel, filed a lawsuit requesting that a district court compel the U.S. government to respond to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. Submitted in October 2023, the FOIA request seeks information related to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the U.S. and Israeli governments in July 2023 allowing Israel to be part of the Visa Waiver Program (VWP), which permits certain countries’ citizens to come to the U.S. without a formal visa if those countries similarly allow U.S. citizens to come to their countries. Neither the Department of State nor the Department of Homeland Security produced any records in response to our FOIA request. The legal complaint adds pressure as we seek transparency about the U.S. government’s introduction of Israel into the VWP despite the Israeli government’s violation of its terms by discriminating against Palestinian Americans seeking entry into Israel. With your support, we will continue to call out the U.S. government’s complicity in Israel’s flagrant abuses of the law.



Creating Tools for Organizers in the South to Obtain Public Records

In March 2024, our CCR South and our Open Records Project produced a series of toolkits for activists, advocates, and community members in Southern states looking to obtain public records from government agencies in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and Louisiana. In recent years, we've used numerous open records requests to bolster the advocacy, litigation, and organizing efforts of activists, including those fighting for racial and environmental justice in Louisiana. Open records requests from RISE St. James, for example, revealed critically important information about the burial grounds of formerly enslaved people threatened by a proposed factory. Part of our Southern Justice Rising initiative, "Sweet Tea with Transparency: An Open Records Resource for Movements in the South" consists of individual state toolkits that include brief explainers on how to file Freedom of Information Act requests and annotated sample requests.

Using FOIA Lawsuits to Expose Abusive Detention Practices Overseas

The Center for Constitutional Rights, in partnership with Muslim Advocates, filed a lawsuit in August 2023 seeking records from several U.S. government agencies relating to the arbitrary detention of thousands of Afghan evacuees since the U.S. government ended its 20-year war in Afghanistan in August 2021. Brought under FOIA, the litigation cites reports of brutal treatment at third-country facilities, which are largely coordinated, facilitated, or controlled by the U.S. government. The litigation stems from a 2023 FOIA request submitted to the Departments of Defense, State, and Homeland Security for records concerning Afghan civilians detained in the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kosovo, and other locations. The agencies failed to respond or produce any information, so we filed suit and followed with a Communique to the United Nations in December. We are bringing this FOIA case with the guidance of Afghan partners who engage in advocacy and educational efforts related to the humanitarian and human rights crises that resulted from the U.S. withdrawal. The public has a right to know about the actions of its government, and we hope to bolster both Congressional oversight and the efforts of Afghan civil society groups to end the warehousing of evacuees abroad.

Supporting the People of Afghanistan

In October 2023, we filed amicus briefs on behalf of seven Afghan and Afghan American civil society organizations urging a federal appeals court to uphold a ruling that 9/11 families and other U.S. victims cannot claim \$3.5 billion in Afghan Central Bank assets held in the United States. Issued in February 2023, that ruling was a victory for the organizations, which argued that the funds in the Central Bank of Afghanistan – sovereign funds the Biden administration froze after the Taliban's takeover in August 2021 – belong to the Afghan people and should be used to alleviate the country's humanitarian crisis rather than to satisfy 9/11 judgments and other cases against the Taliban. U.S. victims' groups filed an appeal, sending the case to the Second Circuit. Advocates at these Afghan civil society organizations have committed many years to documenting abuses against, and securing the rights of, Afghans. They have a deep interest in ensuring that these assets are used to prevent further deterioration of the economic, humanitarian, and human rights situation for the Afghan people.

IN THE MEDIA

Your continued support enables the Center for Constitutional Rights to grow our audiences on social media exponentially, place thousands of articles, expand our press reach internationally, and increase our email subscribers by 11% in just one year. As CCR continues to take bold stances, help build movements, and shift prevailing narratives, our audiences have expressed their support for the change that we're trying to make in the world.

We have reviewed our audience's engagement with our website and social media to ensure that we are providing them with compelling and informative storytelling and interactions. As a result, we've been able to make great strides in uplifting our client's voices and changing the hearts and minds of the public. Some of our achievements include:

- Receiving nearly 2,700 press mentions in verified news sources around the world.
- Press releases and statements on breaking news that get to reporters' inboxes first.
- Streaming press conferences that allow journalists to join in from anywhere in the world.
- Going viral on social media, garnering millions of views on our videos.
- Experiencing the largest single follower growth on our social media platforms in just one year.
- Staying connected with reporters, producers, and booking agents to keep them informed on our range of issues through relationship building and media briefings.
- Coverage of our clients, cases, staff, and issues in national outlets like The New York Times, The Washington Post, Associated Press, NPR, Reuters, The Guardian, The Intercept, and The Root; local outlets like The Louisiana Record, Mississippi Free Press, and the San Francisco Chronicle; progressive press like Democracy Now!, The Nation, Jacobin, The Progressive, Middle East Eye, Truthout, Mondoweiss, and Common Dreams; and legal press like Law360, Courthouse News, and Bloomberg Law.
- The average view of our press stories across various news sites was 6.7 million.
- Receiving over 686,000 engagements across all of our press stories.
- Frontlines of Justice, our weekly email newsletter that brings the Center for Constitutional Rights' latest news every Monday to over 34,000 people.
- Emails on breaking news, upcoming events, and more.

IN THE NEWS

Twin sisters buy former plantation to preserve and protect Black history

Jocymba and Joycena Banner preserve the history of their enslaved ancestors.

By Faith Abushey, Tedra Nwanne, Dharika Pineda, and Sabina Ghebrmariam GMA May 7, 2024, 11:21 AM



Black twins buy Woodlawn Plantation, site of largest U.S. uprising of enslaved people. Twin sisters bought back a former slave plantation to preserve and protect the history of their enslaved ancestors.

What Is Black August And Why Is It Such A Significant Time?

Janice Ossman Acosta Senior Contributor in 700+ stories about creating environments that empower everyone.

Aug 15, 2023, 08:04pm EDT



The Center for Constitutional Rights defined Black August as a time designated to commemorate and honor the freedom fighters, especially those inside the walls of our sprawling prison-industrial complex, who, with their vision, tenacity, and deep love for our communities, are leading us toward the horizon of abolition. Originally started in the 1970s by California prisoners, Black August is a way to "honor the lives

Judge orders retrial of civil case against contractor accused of abuse at Abu Ghraib

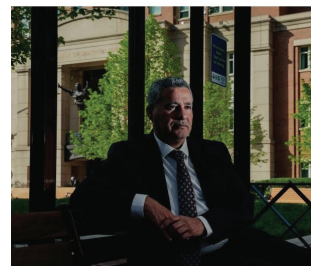


1/27/12 (12) - This image obtained by The Associated Press shows an unidentified detainee standing in a room with a sign on his head and arms attached to him at the Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad, Iraq, in 2002. (AP Photo, Alan Tan) Judge orders retrial over allegations that CIA's program targeted detainees, CNN.com

NY Times | 20 Years Later, a Jury Weighs Claims of Abuse at Abu Ghraib

20 Years Later, a Jury Weighs Claims of Abuse at Abu Ghraib

Three men who were detained at the notorious prison in Iraq are suing a defense contractor, saying its interrogators told U.S. soldiers to "soften up" prisoners.



LGBTQ Advocates to SCOTUS: Don't Let Cities Criminalize Houseless People

Groups warn the Supreme Court that LGBTQ youth make up 65 percent of the chronically houseless youth population.

By Mike Ludwig, Truthout

'Metering' at the border: Asylum-seekers sue over Trump, Biden border policy

Lauren Villaegran USA TODAY Published 4:57 p.m. ET Nov. 28, 2023 | Updated 4:57 p.m. ET Nov. 28, 2023

A federal appeals court will hear arguments this week in a lawsuit targeting a border policy that's spanned Democratic and Republican administrations. The U.S. government calls the policy "queue management." Immigrant advocates call it "metering." Either way, it's designed to manage the number of migrants who can claim asylum each day at the U.S.-Mexico border, at ports of entry.

The Power Of Community: Jackson Residents Finally Have A Say In Resolving The City's Water Crisis

A federal judge is allowing two community organizations to become parties to the legal proceedings with the EPA against the city and a say in how the infrastructure is rebuilt.

- ["I'm So Sad for Our Country": 9/11 Victim's Sister Responds to Def. Sec. Austin Revoking Plea Deal, Democracy Now](#)
- [Judge orders retrial of civil case against contractor accused of abuse at Abu Ghraib, Associated Press](#)
- [Ocasio-Cortez Backs N.Y. Bill Limiting Donations to Israeli Settlements, New York Times](#)
- [The Power Of Community: Jackson Residents Finally Have A Say In Resolving The City's Water Crisis, Essence](#)
- [Twin sisters buy former plantation to preserve and protect Black history, Good Morning America/ABC](#)
- [20 Years Later, a Jury Weighs Claims of Abuse at Abu Ghraib, NY Times](#)
- [LGBTQ Advocates to SCOTUS: Don't Let Cities Criminalize Houseless People, Truthout](#)
- [The Failed Promise of Police Body Cameras, New York Times Magazine](#)
- [Pennsylvania Supreme Court to weigh life sentences for felony murder, Yahoo! News](#)
- [Democratic Lawmakers, Say It's Time To End Solitary Confinement!, MSN](#)
- [Why August Is Such A Significant Time For Black People, Forbes](#)
- ['Metering' at the border: Asylum-seekers sue over Trump, Biden border policy, USA Today](#)
- [Bolivia's former president Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada accepts responsibility for massacre in U.S. civil case, Washington Post](#)
- [20 years later, Abu Ghraib detainees get their day in US court, Washington Post](#)
- [Louisiana residents' lawsuit over racism in petrochemical plant approvals nixed, Reuters](#)



THE JUSTICE FELLOWSHIP

The Center for Constitutional Rights' Justice Fellowship is a two-year program for emerging lawyers to gain practical experience working on cases across the full range of our issue areas and a theoretical understanding of how movement lawyering can create social change. We are pleased to welcome our incoming cohort, who started their tenures in September.



Korbin Felder is a graduate of UCLA School of Law, and he obtained a parallel master's degree in African American studies at UCLA. His deep commitment to challenging mass incarceration has led to internships with the Prison Law Office, the Mississippi Center for Justice, and A New Way of Life Reentry Program. Inspired by our Southern Justice Rising program, he hopes to "create pathways to freedom for incarcerated people in the Deep South" by being "innovative, situated within the legacy of the Black Freedom Struggle." Korbin clerked for the Honorable Carlton W. Reeves of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi.



Ayla Kadeh graduated from the University of Washington, where she worked in the school's Racial Justice Clinic. She has held internships with the federal public defender's office in Seattle and the Promise of Justice Initiative. Her interests include criminal legal reform, civil rights law, racial justice, Palestinian liberation, challenging Islamophobia, and organizing communities against state violence. "I want to imagine new ways of lawyering that go beyond traditional representation," Ayla said, "and that center the healing, thriving, and joy of our communities." Ayla was previously an Ella Baker Intern at the Center for Constitutional Rights.



Adina Marx-Arpadi is a CUNY School of Law graduate and a former staff attorney in the family defense division of the Bronx Defenders. During law school, she worked with Center for Constitutional Rights partners such as Within our Lifetime, Al Otro Lado, Movement for Family Power, and the ACLU of Louisiana. She is a former member of the Birthmark Doula Collective in New Orleans and served in a director role with the Orleans Parish Prison Reform Coalition. Her work is rooted in organizing for abolition, Palestinian liberation, challenging government surveillance, and dismantling family policing/regulation systems.



Celine Zhu graduated from NYU Law, where she did clinical work in Deborah Archer's Racial Justice Clinic. She recently completed a fellowship with the New York Lawyer's Alliance doing nonprofit legal advising and organizing for small, grassroots NGOs. She interned at the ACLU Voting Rights Project, the National Institute for Reproductive Health, and the criminal division of Legal Aid, and she volunteers extensively at Red Canary Song advocating for Mandarin-speaking massage workers. Through her work with us, she hopes to do "everything I can to alleviate the weight carried by those who, by their existence, are engaged in a relentless battle for survival."



THE ELLA BAKER INTERNSHIP

Launched in 1987, the Ella Baker Summer Internship Program honors the legacy of civil rights movement hero Ella Baker by training the next generation of movement lawyers. Each intern must have completed their first or second year of law school and have a demonstrated commitment to social justice. While in the program, they sharpen their theoretical understanding of the relationship between social change, organizing, and lawyering through practical litigation experience. The “Ellas” also become connected to a global community of social justice law students and lawyers through our Ella Baker Alumni Network.

Working under the direct supervision of our attorneys and advocacy program managers, Ella Baker interns are responsible for doing legal research and writing for domestic and international litigation, client and witness interviews, policy/legislative research, and factual investigation. They also participate in client and community meetings, attend court proceedings, and assist with Center for Constitutional Rights organizational events. The wide variety of legal cases and projects the interns work on include challenges to social and economic oppression, discriminatory policing practices, environmental injustice, anti-Black racism, the criminalization of dissent, gender and LGBTQI+ injustice, solitary confinement, the abuse and oppression of immigrants, U.S. detention and targeted killing practices, and international human rights abuses.

Ira Berkley

New York University School of Law

Tiba Fatli

Northeastern University School of Law

Taylor Fox

University of California, Berkeley School of Law

Masooma Haider

Harvard Law School

Charles Jiang

Yale Law School

Rachel Marandett

New York University School of Law

Bria Myles

Washington University in St. Louis

Medha Raman

Georgetown University Law Center

Pedro Sepulveda

CUNY School of Law

Sahil Singhvi

New York University School of Law

Mikaela Wolf-Sorokin

University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School

EVENTS + CONVENINGS

Toward the Closing of Guantanamo

From Guantanamo to Gaza

For over two decades, the Center for Constitutional Rights has been working with clients, partners, and human rights defenders to end U.S. detention of Muslim men and boys at the Guantánamo Bay prison. Last year, on the anniversary of the opening of the prison, and together with longtime partners Muslim Counterpublics Lab and Adalah Justice Project, Center for Constitutional Rights held a webinar “From Guantánamo to Gaza: Resisting State Violence and Occupation”, bringing together formerly incarcerated people, lawyers, and advocates, to learn and make connections, build community, and take action.



Center for Constitutional Rights Advocacy Program Manager Aliya Hussain moderated the panel, which also featured Senior Staff Attorney Katherine Gallagher. A recording of the event is available on the Center’s YouTube channel.

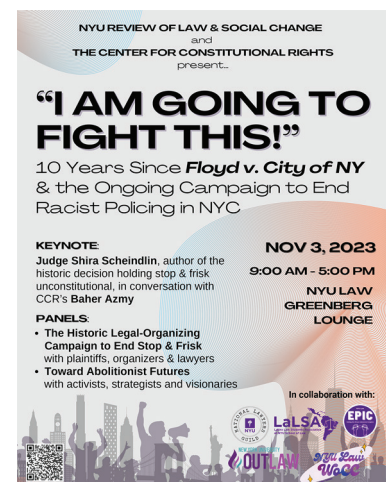
Rally to Close Guantanamo

The Center for Constitutional Rights proudly co-sponsored rallies in NYC, DC, and LA, on January 11, 2024, the 22nd anniversary of the opening of Guantánamo, in which activists came together to stand in solidarity with those imprisoned and demanded that the Biden administration take action to close the prison.

Floyd and the Ongoing Campaign to End Racist Policing in NYC

I Am Going to Fight This

To mark the 10th anniversary of the historic Stop & Frisk ruling in *Floyd v. City of New York*, the Center for Constitutional Rights worked with the NYU Review of Law & Social Change, NYU’s Ending the Prison Industrial Complex, and NYU’s National Lawyers Guild Chapter to bring together law students, lawyers, organizers, and impacted community members for a one-day symposium. The Center’s Advocacy Director Nadia Ben-Youssef moderated the opening panel reflecting on the last decade of movement building to end racist policing.



EVENTS

Staff Attorney Samah Sisay joined activists, strategists, and visionaries to imagine an abolitionist future, and Legal Director Baher Azmy held a keynote conversation with Judge Shira Scheindlin, who issued the landmark ruling in 2013.

10th Anniversary of Floyd v. City of NY “Stop-and-Frisk” Case

In his role as the CUNY Law 2023-24 W. Haywood Burns Chair, Center for Constitutional Rights Executive Director Vince Warren led a panel discussion investigating how movement lawyers and community advocates collaborated to address NYPD racial profiling in the landmark Stop & Frisk case. Vince was joined by Kadiatou Diallo, mother of Amadou Diallo; Joo-Hyun Kang, founding Executive Director of Communities United for Police Reform; Jonathan Moore, co-lead trial counsel in Floyd and CUNY Law Adjunct Professor; Shira Scheindlin, Judge (retired), United States District Court, S.D.N.Y.; and Djbril Toure, Floyd case witness.

Racial and Environmental Justice

Cancer Alley and Environmental Racism: A Discussion with The Descendants Project

In April 2024, the Center for Constitutional Rights partnered with The Climate Museum for a conversation with Joy and Jo Banner, co-founders and co-directors of The Descendants Project. The conversation was part of a new exhibit exploring how the fossil fuel industry has exploited racist inequities and deceived the public to preserve its own power and profit off destruction. The Banners shared their work fighting environmental racism and advancing a positive future for Black descendant communities living in Cancer Alley, Louisiana, their inspiring success partnering with the Center for Constitutional Rights to overturn an illegal rezoning ordinance and block construction of new heavy industry on residential land and historic burial grounds, and lessons learned from the frontlines of the fight for climate and environmental justice.

Beyond Punishment, Stories of Justice and Healing

In the Winter of 2023, as part of the Justice Beyond Punishment Collaborative (JBPC), the Center co-hosted the world premiere of Beyond Punishment: Stories of Justice and Healing, an original interview-based theater performance co-produced by JBPC and Ping Chong and Company. Written and directed by Kirya Traber in collaboration with the performers, Beyond Punishment follows the lives of four remarkable individuals who grapple with the intersections and impacts of interpersonal and state violence. This production, performed by the storytellers themselves, give insight into their lives, leadership, and healing journeys. Together, their stories encourage audiences to imagine justice beyond a punitive system that begets further violence.



EVENTS

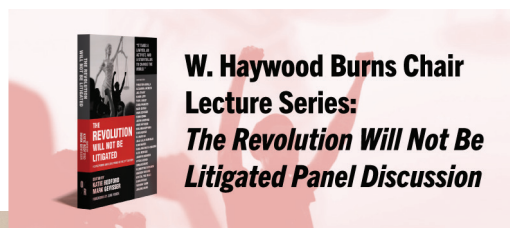
The Intersection of Islamophobia and Anti-Blackness Within U.S. Prisons

Center for Constitutional Rights Political Education and Research Manager maya finoh moderated a virtual discussion about the intersection of Islamophobia and anti-Blackness within U.S. prisons. Co-sponsored by Donkeysaddle Projects, Tayba Foundation, and Missouri Prison Reform, the event was a deep dive into one incident of brutality where a group of Muslim men incarcerated at a Missouri prison were violently pepper sprayed and brutalized while they gathered to pray in the common area. Panelists explored the patterns revealed by the incident and invited participants into the growing movement to abolish prisons.

Movement Lawyering

The Revolution Will Not Be Litigated – Panel Discussion

Vince Warren, Executive Director and 2023 - 24 W. Haywood Burns Chair in Human and Civil Rights, led a panel discussion among contributors of *The Revolution Will Not Be Litigated: People Power and Legal Power in the 21st Century*, a collection of stories about the relationship between social movements and the law. Legal Director Baher Azmy and board members Alejandra Ancheita and Justin Hansford participated in the panel.



CCR Board Member Alejandra Ancheita and CCR Legal Director Baher Azmy.

Burns Chair Keynote Lecture: Lessons in Movement Lawyering from Local to Global

Vince Warren Executive Director delivered his final lecture in his role as Burns Chair at CUNY School of Law. Vince explored the local and global impact of two cases from the Center’s advocacy around environmental justice and mass incarceration and discussed models of leveraging spheres of influence despite apparent obstacles.

REP-A-THON: A Live-streamed Legal Defense Fundraiser

The Center, together with the Southern Center for Human Rights, and the Color of Change hosted a “Rep-A-Thon,” a live-streamed legal defense fundraiser. Harkening back to old-school telethons that generated attention for worthy causes, this modern-age Rep-a-Thon centered on defending the right to protest and dissent in Metro Atlanta. It raised funds to support for the Southern Center for Human Rights First Amendment Lawyer Bridge, a joint effort with Community Justice Exchange to coordinate legal representation for individuals facing prosecution for expressing dissent, and to provide support and training to the attorneys representing them. Executive Director Vince Warren joined other speakers.

EVENTS

Sweet Tea with Transparency Webinar

The Center for Constitutional Rights' Southern Regional Office and Open Records Project co-facilitated a webinar to launch "Sweet Tea with Transparency: An Open Records Resource for Movements in the South" - a series of toolkits for activists, advocates, organizers, and community members in Southern states interested in obtaining public records from state governments agencies or officials in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and Louisiana.



National March to Protect Trans Youth and Speakout for Trans Lives

In October 2023, amidst a dangerous and deadly climate for queer and trans people across the country, the Center for Constitutional Rights staff and clients joined trans activists and allies from across the U.S. in Orlando for a National March to Protect Trans Youth and a Speakout for Trans Lives. The march challenged the range of attacks on trans lives: the cancellation of pride events, legislation forbidding the teaching of LGBTQ+ and Black history, bans on trans children from sports, bathroom bans, and denial of the human right to healthcare for all trans people. Governor Ron DeSantis had turned Florida into a laboratory for attacks on not only trans rights but also immigrant rights and reproductive justice. The march was an act of defiance and solidarity in the belly of the beast.

Strengthening International Human Rights

Insisting on U.S. Compliance with its Human Rights Obligations

In September and October 2023, together with our partners, the Center for Constitutional Rights contributed to the United Nations Human Rights Committee's review of U.S. compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. We submitted six shadow reports and organized several delegations of impacted, front-line human rights defenders on a wide range of issues, addressing: death by incarceration sentences, the continued colonization of U.S. territories, the metastasizing terrorism framework that is silencing social movements, the discriminatory deprivation of clean water in Black communities, the ongoing detention of Muslim men in Guantanamo, and the treatment of Black migrants. The review, which took place during the first weeks of Israel's genocide of Palestinians in Gaza, offered significant opportunities to challenge the U.S. government's failure to uphold its human rights obligations, and to call for action by the international community.

The UN Calls on the US to End Extreme Sentencing

Following the delegation to the UN, the Death by Incarceration is Torture coalition hosted a virtual townhall to share how those impacted by death by incarceration across the U.S. brought the issue of extreme sentencing to the United Nations and won! In its concluding observations to the U.S. the UN Human Rights Committee called for a moratorium on life without parole sentences. Center for Constitutional Rights Staff Attorney and coalition member Astha Sharma Pokharel joined the townhall to report on the coalition's shadow report to the UN and how advocates can leverage these international fora in their organizing.

Supporting Community Response to Jackson Water Crisis: Meeting with UN Special Rapporteur on Racism

In recognition of World Water Day 2024, a coalition of activists, community members and supporting advocacy organizations based in the South, including the Concerned Residents of Brunswick County North Carolina, People's Advocacy Institute (PAI), the Immigrant Alliance for Justice and Equity (IAJE), EarthRights International, and the Center for Constitutional Rights united to present their testimonies of the water crisis in the South to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, Ashwini K.P. The testimonies aimed to draw international attention to the crisis, to highlight the inherent connection of water issues to institutional racism and systemic poverty experienced by Black and brown communities throughout the South, and to press for immediate, tangible changes in policy and funding that would ensure equitable access to clean water and sanitation services. The testimonies serve as a critical step in a larger effort to hold governments accountable and to assert water as a fundamental human right, essential for life and dignity.

Strong UN Advocacy to End Corporate Human Rights Abuses Means Frontline-Led Advocacy

As a proud member of the U.S. Treaty Alliance working to build a new UN treaty to hold corporations accountable, The Center hosted an online event with leading Indigenous and Black frontline community representatives. They discussed how advocates pursuing respect for human rights and environmental justice within various UN initiatives can build collective strength to demand strong global rules to combat corporate abuses. A recording is available on the Center's YouTube page.

Extradition to Third Countries: About torture and prison conditions

The Center for Constitutional Rights, along with the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), hosted a side event to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe to shed light on legal loopholes and States' practices concerning international cooperation in judicial matters that may lead to grave human rights violations such as torture and inhuman or degrading treatment. CCR Staff Attorney CJ Sandley addressed these issues using the cases of *Trabelsi v. Belgium*, Application no. 140/10, and *Lapshin v. Azerbaijan*, Application no. 13527/18.

The Closing of the International People's Tribunal on U.S. Imperialism: Sanctions, Blockages, and Economic Coercive Measures

The Center for Constitutional Rights Deputy Legal Director Maria LaHood served as a juror on the International People's Tribunal on U.S. Imperialism: Sanctions, Blockages, and Economic Coercive Measures. This two-day event concluded nine months of powerful international hearings on sanctions and economic coercive measures and laid the groundwork to continue the international movement to abolish sanctions regimes.

Freedom for Palestine

Since October 2023, in addition to developing and litigating our historic lawsuit against President Biden, Secretary of State Blinken and Secretary of Defense Austin for complicity in Israel's genocide against the Palestinian people, Center for Constitutional Rights attorneys and advocates have participated in dozens of public and closed-door events with partner organizations. From public education events to UN briefings, staff contributed our expertise and analysis to the mass global movement in defense of Palestinian life and in support of Palestinian freedom.

Palestinians File Lawsuit Against the U.S. to Stop Israeli Genocide: Power Hours

In November 2023, the Center for Constitutional Rights organized two “power hour” webinars to pressure strategic advocacy targets. The first event, endorsed by over 20 partners, took place on November 16 (the recording is available on Facebook). Center for Constitutional Rights attorneys shared more about the case, DCIP v. Biden, and urged attendees to send letters to their representatives demanding that they call for a ceasefire. On November 27, the Center partnered with ESCR-Net and AJP to hold a Global Power Hour, targeting US Embassies around the world, generating over 18,000 letters demanding the State Department officials stationed abroad convey the global demands for the US to end its support of the unfolding genocide.

Defense for Children International - Palestine v. Biden Livestream

To amplify the January 26, 2024 hearing in the federal lawsuit, Defense for Children International - Palestine v. Biden, the Center for Constitutional Rights organized a multi-part livestream event. A pre-hearing briefing featured lawyers, organizers, and advocates sharing analysis about the importance of the historic case within the Palestinian solidarity movement.

The hearing was streamed via the court’s online stream. Additionally, the Center and local partners reserved a nearby space in which people were able to watch the live streamed hearing on a large screen. Following the hearing, the Palestinian plaintiffs and Center for Constitutional Rights attorneys who were in the courtroom joined a press conference to share their immediate reactions. Recordings of the pre-hearing briefing and post-hearing press conference are available on the Center’s YouTube channel.

Not on Our Dime! Act: Lobby Day

The Center for Constitutional Rights, as a member of the Not on Our Dime! Coalition and Campaign, participated in a rally and lobby day in Albany, NY urging members of the New York State Senate and New York State Assembly to support the first of its kind legislation. The bill would prohibit New York-based charities from funding Israeli settler violence – and from supporting the Israeli military, which both domestic and international courts as well as legal experts have said is plausibly committing genocide in Gaza.

Defending Dissent: A Panel Discussion on Palestine, Freedom of Speech and the Future of Protest

The Center for Constitutional Rights co-sponsored the 2024 Netroots Nation conference in Baltimore. Executive Director Vince Warren joined the feature panel discussion Defending Dissent: A Panel Discussion on Palestine, Freedom of Speech, and the Future of Protest. Senior Staff Attorney Diala Shamas participated in the panel When You’re Called a Terrorist: How Domestic Terrorism Laws Target Protestors and Activists.



Not On Our Dime! Act: Western Queens Town Hall

Join us for an in person town hall about the Not On Our Dime! Act, legislation that would prevent NY charities from funding war crimes.

NY State Senator Kristen Gonzalez

Assemblymember Zohran Mamdani

Tuesday, August 29
GUNY Law, 6-8 PM
LIC, Queens

Register to attend:
bit.ly/palestine_townhall



Resisting Lawfare: What USCPR’s Win Means for the Movement

The Center for Constitutional Rights, Palestine Legal, and the US Campaign for Palestinian Rights hosted a virtual discussion on the resounding victory in our case brought against The US Campaign for Palestinian Rights (USCPR) by the Jewish National Fund. Senior Staff Attorney Diala Shamas joined the conversation discussing the victory and placing it within the broader context of attacks on the Palestinian movement.

Freedom Flicks

Freedom Flicks, the Center’s long-running film series, harnesses the power of film to educate, activate, and build community. Freedom Flicks engages audiences across disciplines in stories of struggle and courage that shape our world, past and present. Our programming includes screenings of cutting-edge, socially engaged films followed by a short conversation with storytellers, lawyers, and activists. This year, together with partners we screened:

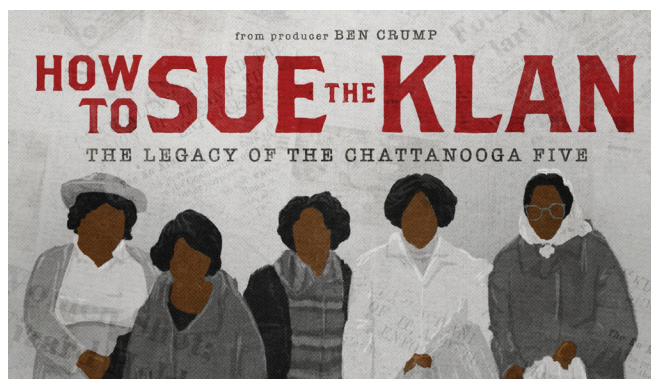
How to Blow Up a Pipeline— A Freedom Flicks Screening

The Center partnered with the Climate Museum and Lapham’s Quarterly to present a special screening of the 2023 eco-thriller film *How to Blow Up a Pipeline*, at the historic Angelika Film Center & Cafe in New York City. Vince Warren joined the post-screening conversation with the filmmakers.



How to Sue the Klan

How to Sue the Klan is the story of how five Black women from Chattanooga used legal ingenuity to take on the Ku Klux Klan in a historic 1982 civil case filed by the Center for Constitutional Rights. Their victory set a legal precedent that continues to inspire the ongoing fight against organized hate. Vince Warren, CCR South Associate Director Emily Early, and former CCR attorneys Randolph M. McLaughlin and Betty Lawrence Louis joined the post-screening discussion.



EVENTS

A CONVERSATION WITH VINCE WARREN

In November 2023, donors from around the country and abroad were invited to join Vince Warren in a Zoom conversation with Staff Attorney Samah Sisay and Communications Coordinator Jen Nessel. The discussion was centered around the October 2023 U.N. Human Rights Committee's review of U.S. compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in Geneva, Switzerland. The delegations focused on death-by-incarceration sentences, the continued colonization of U.S. territories, the metastasizing "war on terror" that is suppressing domestic social movements, the discriminatory denial of clean water to Black communities, the ongoing detention of Muslim men in Guantanamo, and the on-going mistreatment of Black migrants.

A CONVERSATION WITH Vince Warren



Vince Warren

Executive Director



Samah Sisay

Staff Attorney



Jen Nessel

Communications Coordinator

Tuesday, November 14th, 2023
1 – 2 p.m. EST

RSVP (by November 10),
Zoom and call-in instructions, questions:
Theda Jackson-Mau
tjackson-mau@ccrjustice.org, 212-614-6448

EVENTS

INSIDERS

Our Insider dinners are small gatherings – in-person or via Zoom – of CCR donors, program staff, and board members. The September 2023 Insider via Zoom focused on “Protecting Migrants and Refugees,” during which guests reflected on the role of movement lawyering in ensuring the safety and rights of asylum seekers. The December 2024 Insider – “Intervening to Prevent Genocide in Gaza” – was an in-person dinner that brought together donors who have expressed a strong interest in our Palestine solidarity work. Finally, the May 2024 Insider was another in-person dinner, “Racial Justice Advocacy Within the U.N.,” where attendees were given an overview of the recent U.N. Geneva Summit for Human Rights and Democracy.

CENTER FOR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS



Vince Warren
Executive Director



Baher Azmy
Legal Director



Mikaila Hernandez
Bertha Justice Fellow

INSIDER SERIES "PROTECTING MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES"

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
12:00 PM, EST (9:00 AM, PST)

To RSVP and receive Zoom or dial-in information:
Theda Jackson-Mau at tjackson-mau@ccrjustice.org or 212-614-6448



Vince Warren
Executive Director



Noura Erakat
Co-Host &
CCR Board Member



Katherine Franke
Co-Host &
Former Chair of CCR Board

CENTER FOR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

INSIDER BRIEFING & DINNER: INTERVENING TO PREVENT GENOCIDE IN GAZA

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1ST
6:00 PM

Venue to be announced.

To RSVP, please contact:
Mimi Clara at mclara@ccrjustice.org or 212-614-6474

CENTER FOR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS



Vince Warren
Executive Director



Pam Spees
Senior Staff Attorney



Astha Sharma Pokharel
Staff Attorney

INSIDER SERIES "RACIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY WITHIN THE U.N."

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22ND
6:00 PM EST

To RSVP, please contact:
Chelsea Ogun at cogun@ccrjustice.org or 212-614-6461

EVENTS

A SPLENDID BODY OF TIGERISH PEOPLE

In October 2023, we hosted our annual thank you event for donors, A Splendid Body of Tigerish People. Our partners, board members, and staff gathered to show gratitude to Center for Constitutional Rights donors who make our work possible through their generous contributions.

The evening's highlight was the presentation of our Tigerish awards. At CCR, we believe that if you have an activist, a lawyer and a storyteller, you can change the world! The Activist Award was given to Center for Constitutional Rights partner Andrea J. Ritchie, co-founder of Interrupting Criminalization and the In Our Names Network. Charles Victor "Vic" McTeer, founder of McTeer & Associates and renowned civil rights attorney, received the Lawyer Award. Debi Cornwall –documentary artist, photographer and author of [Welcome to Camp America, Inside Guantanamo](#) – received our Storyteller Award. We also honored CCR longtime donor and art gallery director, Sherry Frumkin with a special Justice Takes a Fight Award. It was great to gather and celebrate together and everyone left recharged and inspired!



Justice Takes a Fight Awardee Sherry Frumkin, Tigerish Lawyer Honoree Charles Victor "Vic" McTeer, Tigerish Activist Honoree Andrea J. Ritchie with CCR Executive Director Vince Warren (missing: Tigerish Storyteller Honoree Debi Cornwall).



EVENTS



THANK YOU

DONOR SPOTLIGHT | Tony Holtzman



“Fighting for justice—and equality in particular—deserves a higher priority than defending civil liberties whenever they are violated.”

Tony Holtzman became a supporter the moment he heard about the Center for Constitutional Rights 20 years ago, and he has been contributing to our mission ever since.

Tony spent his professional career at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, where he held joint appointments in epidemiology and public policy at the School of Hygiene and Public Health. His passionate activism first found its footing there. “At Hopkins, I was active in the civil rights movement and anti-Vietnam War protests, and I taught a required course on ethical and social issues in health care,” he said. “I expressed concern that increasing emphasis on the importance of genetics in human diseases would reduce concern about the effects of harmful environments.”

Over the years, Tony has advocated for progressive legislation, worked to elect progressive candidates for political office, and joined get-out-the-vote campaigns. In the early 1970s, he was chairman of a local Democratic club that helped elect Maryland’s first Black congressman. Now retired and emeritus professor of pediatrics at Johns Hopkins, he has written three works of historical fiction and two novels about capitalism’s harmful effects on scientists and science.

Tony became a member of our Thelma Newman Planned Giving Society because “the Center for Constitutional Rights lives up to its slogan: ‘Justice takes a fight.’”

We thank you deeply for your longtime support of our work, Tony.

THANK YOU

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Deborah Sagner



“As our democracy is under increasing threat not only from right-wing white supremacists but also from within both mainstream political parties, the Center for Constitutional Rights’ commitment to training the next generation of movement lawyers is essential.”

A longtime advocate for Palestinian liberation, Deborah Sagner first learned about the Center for Constitutional Rights in the spring of 2018 when Executive Director Vince Warren and then board chair Katherine Franke were denied entry to Israel. Vince’s statement on the situation “validated my own growing concern about Israel’s repression of the Palestinians as well as my commitment to collective liberation,” said Deborah, who has been a supporter ever since.

Deborah is a licensed clinical social worker who practiced as a family and play therapist working primarily with children and families, and she is the author of *The Family Play Genogram*, a guidebook for the play therapy technique she pioneered and popularized. She is also vice president of Ruvin LLC, a residential and commercial real estate development company.

As president of the Sagner Family Foundation, Deborah supports nonprofits working to advance social, economic, and racial justice. She is also the founding donor of Funding Freedom, whose vision is to build solidarity and philanthropic support for Palestinian freedom through education, advocacy, and communications.

Deborah is a generous Center for Constitutional Rights donor and a steadfast advocate for liberation and equality. Our heartfelt thanks go to her for her unwavering embrace of our work.

THANK YOU

IN MEMORIAM

JOAN P. GIBBS

We suffered a great loss with the passing of Joan Gibbs, a staff attorney for the Center for Constitutional Rights and legendary activist for social, racial, and economic justice.

Born in Harlem and raised in North Carolina, Joan became staff attorney for the ACLU's Women's Rights Project after graduating from Rutgers Law School. Later, as staff attorney for the Center for Constitutional Rights, she litigated cases involving gender and racial justice, and represented organizations such as ACT UP. She also served for nearly 30 years as general counsel for the Center for Law and Social Justice (CLSJ) of Medgar Evers College.



Kind, generous, and sharp, Joan was a movement lawyer who for four decades applied her prodigious legal talents to the benefit of Black people, women, political prisoners, and LGBTQIA+ communities. She was a member of the Young Socialists Alliance, a board member of the Brecht Forum, a long-term member of the National Conference of Black Lawyers' International Affairs Section, and a contributor to the National Lawyers Guild's Grand Jury Project, where she pioneered the defense of activists targeted by politically motivated grand juries.

A lifelong activist, Joan was heavily involved in the anti-apartheid movement, the movement for Palestinian liberation, and the campaign to end the U.S. embargo against Cuba. She was also a founding leader of Dykes Against Racism Everywhere (DARE) and founding editor of the groundbreaking journal *Azalea: A Magazine by Third World Lesbians*.

A person of great compassion, Joan dedicated herself to organizing and raising up the voices of Black women and remained committed to the freedom and liberation of all oppressed people. We are forever inspired by her example.

HOLLY MAGUIGAN

We are deeply saddened by the passing of Holly Maguigan, a pathbreaking criminal defense lawyer, professor, and scholar who changed the public's understanding of how the law should treat survivors of domestic violence.

Born in Buffalo and raised in Chester, Virginia, Holly earned bachelor's and master's degrees in history at Swarthmore College and UC Berkeley. Her increasing involvement in the women's rights, civil rights, and anti-war movements led her to acquire a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania. She then worked in the Philadelphia public defenders' office before entering private practice, where she took on civil rights, police brutality, and domestic violence cases.

Holly became a leader in the transformative legal movement that legitimized the self-defense defense in domestic violence cases, broadening the protections for victims who act against their abusers. Respect for the dignity and humanity of women guided her work always.

Holly was copresident of the Society of American Law Teachers (SALT), served on the boards of MADRE and the William Kunstler Fund for Racial Justice, and taught at NYU Law School for more than 30 years. In 1993, she and other advocates for battered women were honored by the New York City chapter of the National Lawyers Guild.

Married to former Center for Constitutional Rights staff and board member Abdeen Jabara, Holly was a visionary mentor to many at our organization, inspiring us with how she leveraged the law to forge social progress. With her passion for social justice, grace, wit, and empathy, she embodied everything we value. We will do our best to live up to the lofty standards she set.

THANK YOU

EMILY HONIG

The Center for Constitutional Rights family mourns the loss of Emily Honig, a friendly and defiant teacher and social justice warrior who supported many causes.

A San Francisco native, Emily absorbed her parents' commitment to social justice while participating in anti-war demonstrations in the 1960s. She studied at UCLA and Brown University, then joined one of the first delegations of student leaders invited to visit China during the Cultural Revolution. She went on to complete a master's in East Asian Studies and a PhD in Chinese history at Stanford.

Emily's pioneering scholarship focused on modern China with particular attention to labor and gender, and she was an early founder of the field of women's history within China studies. She lived in Shanghai for two years as a graduate student at Fudan University and went on to publish several books about China and the Cultural Revolution. After teaching at Lafayette College and Yale University, Emily joined the Department of Women's Studies at UC Santa Cruz, where she taught until her retirement as Professor Emerita of History.

Emily was passionate about languages, music, and Aikido, and she was an enthusiastic cook, whale-watcher, and hiker. In honor of her parents, she founded the Victor & Lorraine Honig Initiative for Bay Area Social & Economic Justice, and she supported organizations such as the Center for Constitutional Rights, Jewish Voice for Peace, and the Race, Gender, and Human Rights Fund.

Emily's zest for life and lifelong concern for others will resonate in our work as we carry on the fight for equality and justice.

MIRIAM POLLET

We are saddened by the loss of Miriam Pollet, a dedicated supporter of the Center for Constitutional Rights for many years.

Born in Brooklyn, the youngest child of Eastern European immigrants, Miriam studied economics and history at Brooklyn College and biology and chemistry at the City College of New York. After working various jobs in labs and serving a stint in administration at the Metropolitan Opera, she earned a degree in library science that led to her career as a science librarian at Brooklyn College, Downstate Medical Center, and the New York Public Library.

Miriam's political engagement began in high school when she raised money for anti-fascist groups in Europe. After retirement, she volunteered at social justice organizations including the Center for Constitutional Rights, where she was struck by the commitment of the staff. Among other efforts, she volunteered with us to respond to requests from incarcerated people. She was proud to be part of an organization that addressed the needs of a severely isolated and underrepresented population.

Miriam remained concerned for the well-being of the world through the last days of her life. We are truly grateful for her support of our work. We will miss her.

THANK YOU

ELAINE WENDER

We mourn the loss of Elaine “Leina” Wender. She was a lifelong champion for social justice and contributor to the Center for Constitutional Rights mission.

After graduating from UC Berkeley, Leina worked as a lawyer fighting for minority rights, including as an advisor and legal defender for the Black Panthers. She resettled in Maui in the early 1970s, and during the 50+ years she lived on the island she advocated for Native Hawaiian rights and water rights, and she was an impassioned activist with the Protect Kahoʻolawe ʻŌhana (PKO) project to take control of the island of Kahoʻolawe back from the U.S. Navy, which still held bombardment training there decades after World War II. She was a regular contributor to dozens of social justice groups, and in her later years she focused on justice for Occupied Palestine, which she visited several times.

“Aunty Leina” was an artist, a hula dancer, and a farmer focused on sustainability who often prepared food for her fellow activists. She was still working on her farm the day she died, when her last words were “the forest.” Leina’s actions on behalf of those in need had wide-ranging effects on her community. She will be greatly missed, though her spirit remains an inspiration to us as we continue our critical work.

ALBERTO WHITE

We mourn the passing of our beloved longtime colleague Alberto “Jefe” White, a steadfast and loyal staff member who made the Center for Constitutional Rights a much better place.

Alberto had been working for the National Emergency Civil Liberties Committee for years before it merged with the Center for Constitutional Rights in 1998. As office manager, he became the heart and soul of our offices for 20 years. He was generous with songs, stories, and treats, and he bestowed every intern, fellow, staff member, and visitor who came through the door with love, dedication, and care until his retirement in 2018.

Born in Panama, Alberto was an accomplished musician who traveled internationally with jazz and pop big bands. He played his trumpet at staff events over the years accompanied by Executive Director Vince Warren on drums, and he once famously invited President Emeritus Michael Ratner to go watch a teenage Tupac Shakur perform at a party in the 1980s.

We hold deep gratitude for Alberto’s many years of service to the Center for Constitutional Rights cause. The music and warmth he brought to the office every day will fill our halls for years to come.

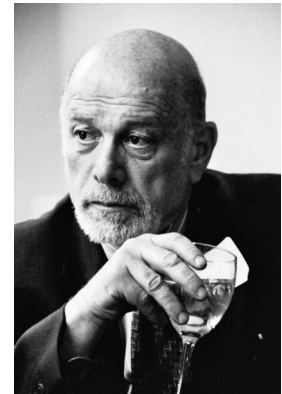


THANK YOU

BILL GOODMAN: Legend and Legacy *By Vince Warren September 6, 2024*

Bill Goodman was a civil rights legend who litigated an almost unimaginable array of cases across a five-decade career in which he worked tirelessly to preserve our rights and challenge the powerful, unaccountable, and awesome power of the state. He was so much more than the legendary legal and political work he did over many decades; he was one of the warmest, most kindhearted souls we had ever met.

Bill long believed that our constitutional rights needed constant defending and nurturing, for they are the fundamental tools to ensure against the perpetual tendency of government to seize power from the people. But what does need naming is the sheer will, determination, fearlessness and mastery that Bill and my colleagues at CCR wielded in the face of such an attack on our democratic principles and the rule of law, with which even the president must comply. With such unprecedented and massive attacks happening in the late 90's and early 2000's, one of the things I greatly admired about Bill was that he didn't disaggregate the importance of the civil liberties struggle from the long-running fight for civil rights. He saw the need to do both.



Bill led lawyers at CCR to challenge the fundamentally unjust way people of color were treated. Most famously, Bill, along with CCR attorneys and Jonathan Moore, filed *Daniels v. City of New York*,¹ a case challenging the NYPD's Street Crimes Unit which was an elite commando unit of more than 300 police officers that patrolled the streets at night in unmarked cars and in plain clothes. It was officers in this unit who killed Amadou Diallo and were responsible for targeting Black and brown people regardless of whether they were suspected of criminal activity. Fourteen years later, *Floyd v. City of New York*,² a new case filed in the wake of *Daniels* would result in a nationally recognized ruling that found the NYPD's pattern and practice of stop-and-frisk unconstitutional.

Bill had a sharp sense of humor and was not above using it to make a larger point. In December 2007, after 5 years of hard-hitting federal litigation against the Bush administration, the Center for Constitutional Rights developed an advocacy campaign in which we asked our supporters to send a copy of the Constitution to George Bush for Christmas in the hopes that he would actually read it. More than 35,000 people signed on and the organization started considering how to get all that mail to the White House. Bill agreed to travel down to Washington, DC and attempt to personally deliver thousands of copies of the Constitution to the President – while dressed up as Santa Claus – understanding the importance of political theater to describe the problem in ways that people could understand. The straight-backed, clipped military response to Bill as Santa worked on many levels: first, the absurdity of telling a man dressed up as Santa that he can't go inside, second, it made the point that even Santa couldn't get Bush to read the Constitution, and third, the inside joke that it's the fearsome Bill Goodman in that Santa suit who turns away with a docile shrug when denied admittance. The clip of this comedic masterwork lives on YouTube under the title "G.W. Bush Hates Santa."

Because of Bill's leadership and charisma, a new generation of lawyers is now running into the fire the way he did. As a result, so many more of us now realize that what makes us safer isn't abandoning our fundamental rights, but, rather, fighting for them, as Bill did and as he taught many of us to continue to do.





¹ 138 F. Supp. 2d 562 (S.D.N.Y. 2001)
² 959 F. Supp. 2d 540 (S.D.N.Y. 2013)



FINANCIAL REPORT



REVENUE



GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS:	\$11,293,477	
ATTORNEY FEES:	\$1,555,752	
INVESTMENT INCOME:	\$1,171,911	
OTHER INCOME:	\$24,032	
TOTAL:	\$14,045,172	



THE CENTER FOR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS IS A NONPROFIT CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION THAT RELIES ON INDIVIDUAL AND FOUNDATION SUPPORT.



EXPENSES

PROGRAM SERVICES:	\$10,779,526	
SUPPORTING SERVICES:	\$3,497,257	
TOTAL:	\$14,276,783	

(PRE-AUDIT)

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Brad Parker, *Associate Director of Policy*
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Wells Dixon, *Senior Staff Attorney*
Sadaf Doost, *Bertha Justice Fellow*
Emily Early, *Associate Director -*
Southern Regional Office
Sadé Evans, *Legal Worker*
Chinyere Ezie, *Staff Attorney*
Katie Gallagher, *Senior Staff Attorney*
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Jessica Vosburgh, *Staff Attorney*


SUMMER 2023

ELLA BAKER INTERNS

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Taylor Fox
Masooma Haider
Charles Jiang
Rachel Marandett
Bria Myles
Medha Raman
Pedro Sepulveda
Sahil Singhvi
Mikaela Wolf-Sorokin

INTERNS

Obi Ananaba
Youssef Aziz
Helina Haile
Raiyan Hossain
AJ Jarrett
Jasmine Marchbanks-Owens
Noor Moughni
Kelsey Perine
Elsa Raker
Stephanie Flores Reyes
Marlene Berroa Rodriguez



WAYS TO SUPPORT THE CENTER FOR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

Join forces with activists, lawyers, and storytellers to fight oppression and build power.

Make an online gift at www.CCRjustice.org/

Donate. It's fast, easy, and secure, and your gift will go to work right away. Online gifts are a quicker and greener way to give.

Join the Justice Sustainers. Monthly recurring gifts provide us with a reliable, steady source of income, making it possible for us to plan, leverage and allocate resources in a way that means more hope for our clients, more support for movements, and more justice and accountability. Sign up online for a monthly recurring gift at www.CCRjustice.org/Donate.

Include the Center for Constitutional Rights in your will. Including us as a beneficiary in your will is an excellent way to make a statement about the values you held during your lifetime while ensuring that we will be here for the long haul. You may choose to make a bequest to us of a specific dollar amount or a percentage of your estate. For more information about including the Center in your will or trust, please visit <https://ccrjustice.mygiftlegacy.org>.

Make the Center for Constitutional Rights your birthday gift! Ask friends and family to make gifts to the Center for Constitutional Rights in your honor as your holiday/birthday/anniversary/no-reason-at-all gift OR make gifts to us in honor of the folks on your

shopping list. These gifts will pay tribute to our shared social justice values and build our audience, while fueling our efforts to fight for the most vulnerable while building the power of social movements.

Donate stock. If you sell depreciated stock and give the proceeds to the Center for Constitutional Rights, you may be able to claim the loss on your taxes, as well as the charitable deduction. If you donate appreciated securities to us, you may avoid capital gains taxes and receive a charitable deduction. For stock transfer information, go to www.CCRjustice.org/gifts-stocks-funds.

Attend our special events — and bring a friend!

If you are on our email list, you will receive invitations. Public events are listed on our calendar at www.CCRjustice.org/calendar.

Stay up-to-date and share our news! Follow @theCCR on X (formerly Twitter), CCRJustice on Instagram, and Center for Constitutional Rights on Facebook and LinkedIn, and bookmark our website: www.CCRjustice.org. Sign up for our weekly newsletter, the *Frontlines of Justice*, at ccrjustice.org/up-to-date. Share our newsletters, action alerts, social media posts, and appeals with your friends and family.

For more information on ways to support us, please contact:

Masha Katz Baer, Director of Development
at mkbaer@ccrjustice.org, 212-614-6481

THANK YOU