

PUTTING RACIST POLICING ON TRIAL

NON-LITIGABLE CASES: STORYTELLING PROCESS

The ACLU of Louisiana's (ACLU-LA) Justice Lab initiative recognizes that litigation is not the only way to support and empower those who have been directly impacted by systemic racism. Storytelling is a powerful tool that humanizes statistics on such issues. Through our storytelling initiative, ACLU-LA aims to make our website a space to honor and amplify the experiences of directly-impacted people, engage the community, and inspire involvement in local police reform efforts. **In addition to catalyzing social change, storytelling aids healing—as recovery often begins with reconstructing the impact of trauma. Finding a personal narrative can help bring self-awareness, closure, and a sense of connection with the community.**

Here, we provide details on the storytelling process and the role intake volunteers will play:

- » ACLU-LA will provide the option of storytelling to any prospective plaintiff whose case cannot be litigated through the initiative.
- » ACLU-LA will match each interested person with an intake volunteer who will assist in developing a story for online publication. Whenever possible, this will be the same volunteer who performed the initial intake interview. Otherwise, the new volunteer will be provided a copy of the intake memo to become familiar with the case.
- » After assignment, intake volunteers will initiate a meeting to discuss options for anonymity, resources for support, and storytelling methods. Storytelling methods include:
 1. Voice Recording
 2. Transcription of Voice Recording
 3. Video
 4. Written Narrative
- » For voice recording, transcription, and video options, individuals will share their stories with an intake volunteer, who will record the conversation via Zoom. Written narratives will be shared in a handwritten or word-processed format and intake volunteers will offer feedback to assist in developing the story.
- » After receiving approval from the directly-impacted storyteller, the intake volunteer will send the story to ACLU-LA, which will seek permission from the storyteller to prepare and publish the story for publication. Story preparation will include the creation of a synopsis/preview of the story that will prompt readers to click “Read More” to access the original story. To preserve the voices of directly-impacted people, stories will not be editorialized or condensed. Storytellers may opt to publish their stories anonymously and may, of course, decline publication.