

THE ASCENT

ADVANCING EQUALITY IN LOUISIANA



ACLU
Louisiana

MAY 2023

With supporters and partners by our side this Spring, we've packed the courts to fight for voting rights and police accountability, fought back against unconstitutional bills and harmful attacks on our LGBTQ+ community at the legislature, and continued our work to aid people held in Louisiana's immigration detention centers.

Our state legislative session began on April 10, and since then, we've been advocating for the rights of ALL Louisianans at the Capitol. Right now, we have a real opportunity to make change. Your passion, your visibility, and your willingness to show up and speak truth to power fuels our work. Learn how you can get involved by viewing our [Werk The Lege activism guide](#) or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or [Instagram](#) for easy-to-follow updates of what's happening at the Capitol on your timeline. Link arms with us this legislative session as we continue the march toward justice for ALL.



AS THE SOUTH GOES...

INSIGHTS FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
ALANAH ODOMS

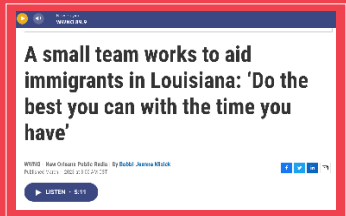
My dear friend Carlton Miller wrote a beautiful piece about his brother's incarceration for The Brennan Center. It's a testament to eliminating excessive sentencing and restoring possibilities for parole eligibility.

This legislative session, we are seeing increasingly harmful narratives and attempts to roll back Louisiana's landmark criminal justice reforms. In Carlton's words, "If we are going to end the incarceration crisis, we need to see that people are redeemable and can be restored..."

Read more on the human costs of America's reliance on this unfair system:

READ MORE

WHAT WE'RE READING



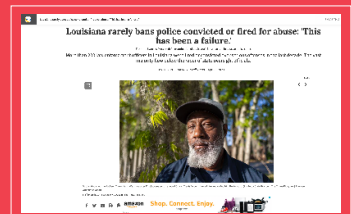
WWNO follows our legal team's work to aid those in LA's immigrant detention centers.

READ



As book-banning and censorship efforts proliferate statewide, librarians are targeted.

READ



Failure to discipline & decertify problem officers perpetuates the violence, corruption that plagues LA police agencies.

READ

SAVE THE DATE

MAY
18

MAY 18: Pride Day

Join us at the State Capitol in Baton Rouge from 9 AM - 3 PM for a day of education, storytelling, and community building. [Register here.](#)

MAR
24

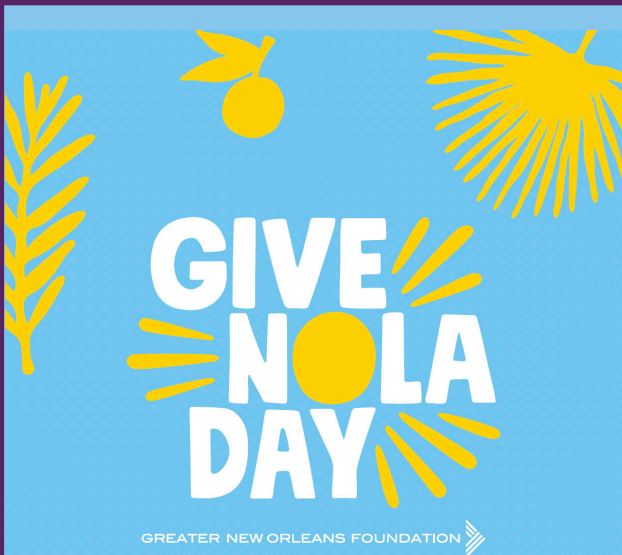
MARCH 24: Pack the Court for Justice Lab Police Accountability Hearings

ACLU supporters are invited to join us as we pack the court in New Orleans for two important police accountability case hearings - *Hankins v. Wheeler et al.* and *Tapps v. McClendon et al.* - Both hearings will be held at the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana starting at 9am. [Register here.](#)

JUNE
11

JUNE 11: Longue Vue Gardens Family Equality Day

Celebrate Pride with us from 10AM to 1PM at this free event with fun for all ages. This outdoor celebration features Drag Queen Story Time, dance performances, fan decorating, a community resource fair, a children's parade, and other surprises. [Learn more.](#)



**GIVE
NOLA
DAY**

GREATER NEW ORLEANS FOUNDATION

THANK YOU!

**ACLU
LA** **274 DONORS**
\$101,361 RAISED

GIVENOLA DAY SPOTLIGHT

A message from our Development Director, Maggy Baccinelli

Dear supporters,

Thank you for your support on GiveNOLA Day! We exceeded our goals - raising over \$100K to support our efforts to advance racial and gender justice. I'm counting this as our most successful GiveNOLA Day yet.

Three years ago, your GiveNOLA Day support empowered us to launch Justice Lab: Putting Racist Policing on Trial. Last week was a full circle moment, as on May 3rd (the day after GiveNOLA Day) many ACLU supporters packed the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals as we represented Teliyah Perkins, a woman who was violently arrested at her own home in St. Tammany for a traffic violation she did not commit, while her son videoed the incident. This is one of 53 Justice Lab cases we've filed against police across the state for unconstitutional actions against people of color since we brought in that seed funding in 2020.

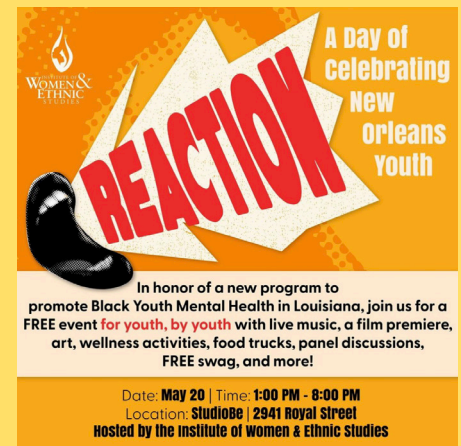
It takes a lot of effort to sustain a movement, and I'm so proud of our team for their commitment, hard work, and heart in doing so. **And we are deeply grateful to you.** This campaign will sustain us in the year ahead and keep the momentum going. It's important to be alive today - in the Civil Rights movement of our time - and to be in this fight for justice together.

Thank you,
Maggy

PARTNER NEWS

Reaction: A Day of Celebrating New Orleans Youth

This Saturday, May 20th, the Institute of Women & Ethnic Studies presents REACTION – a free event geared towards young people featuring youth-led conversations on the intersection of mental health with the arts, reproductive justice, and safety. Event will feature food trucks, live music, film, healing services, giveaways and more! Open to the public – 1 PM to 8 PM at Studio BE in New Orleans.



REACTION

A Day of Celebrating New Orleans Youth

In honor of a new program to promote Black Youth Mental Health in Louisiana, join us for a **FREE event for youth, by youth** with live music, a film premiere, art, wellness activities, food trucks, panel discussions, **FREE swag, and more!**

Date: **May 20** | Time: **1:00 PM - 8:00 PM**
Location: **StudioBE | 2941 Royal Street**
Hosted by the Institute of Women & Ethnic Studies



LAGNIAPPE

Clint Smith, a Louisiana native and award-winning author, journalist, and poet, recently appeared on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert* and shared his views on how poetry “is the act of paying attention,” and an act of love and resistance during challenging times.

Watch the interview [HERE](#) for his insights on how art reminds us of how much of the world there is to love despite the despair we so often feel, and hear a poem from his latest collection, *Above Ground*.

Photo by Kendal Thomas from poetryfoundation.org