

# THE ASCENT

ADVANCING EQUALITY IN LOUISIANA



ACLU  
Louisiana

SEPTEMBER 2023

The ACLU of Louisiana has been busy on every front these last few months, fighting back in federal and state courts, defending against emboldened attacks on our rights, and organizing communities to take action. Our Advocacy team fought tirelessly during legislative session, defeating harmful free speech, anti-LGBTQ+, and public safety bills alongside partners and supporters. Meanwhile, in the courts, our Legal team filed their 58th case against racist policing and fought to remove kids from abusive conditions at Angola prison.

As the seasons (slowly) change, we're looking ahead to a critical election season, the continued fight for fair representation, and ongoing efforts to pursue justice for surviving victims of racist policing. Your role is crucial in the movement for equality and justice, and one of the most important parts is your participation in our democracy. We encourage you to visit our [Voter Information Center](#) for everything you need to know to cast a ballot and make your voice heard during upcoming elections.



## AS THE SOUTH GOES...

INSIGHTS FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
ALANNAH ODOMS

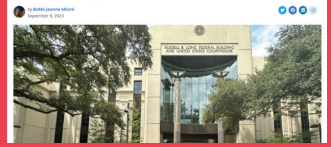
*Across the South, prisons in habitually hot states like Louisiana, Texas, and Mississippi also do not provide centralized air-conditioning in most cases. This summer's heatwave kept temps at punishing levels, even for people who have freedom of movement. And climate change means it will only get worse.*

*The conditions at Angola and other prisons amount to "cruel and unusual punishment," which was outlawed under the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution. What is happening in sweltering prisons is a human rights abuse, and we must stop it.*

READ MORE

## WHAT WE'RE READING

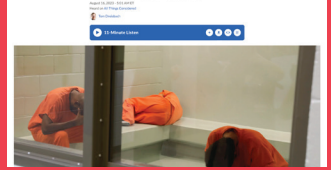
Judge orders state to move youths held at Angola



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READ

Government's own experts found 'barbaric' and 'negligent' conditions in ICE detention



Government experts found 'barbaric' & 'negligent' conditions in ICE detention centers

READ

'I look over my shoulder a little more': LGBTQ+ people on surviving hostile laws in US south



LGBTQ+ advocates on surviving hostile laws in the South, not giving in

READ

## SAVE THE DATE

OCT  
14

**OCTOBER 14: Louisiana Gubernatorial Primary Election Day**  
[Visit our Voter Information Center for everything you need to know.](#)

NOV  
18

**NOVEMBER 18: Louisiana Gubernatorial General Election Day**  
[Visit our Voter Information Center for everything you need to know.](#)

DEC  
2

**DECEMBER 2: The Soul of Philanthropy Launch & ACLU of Louisiana's Ben Smith Fete Gala**  
[Join us for the launch of this national exhibit on the history and impact of Black philanthropy.](#)

# SPOTLIGHT

## Challenging Police Brutality



Anthony Monroe, a **Justice Lab** client who experienced police violence firsthand, and Alanah Odoms, the ACLU of Louisiana’s executive director, share their insights, experiences, and how they’re fighting back.

[Learn more about how Justice Lab is challenging police brutality in Louisiana.](#)

## PARTNER NEWS

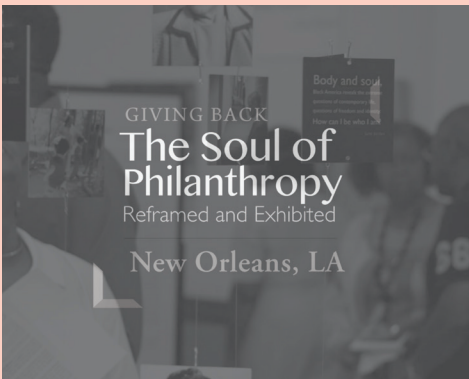
### LocALL’s State Legislative Town Hall: September 18th

Join **LocALL**, Louisiana’s LGBTQ+ advocacy coalition, for a virtual recap of the 2023 legislative session focusing on LGBTQ+-related bills and resources.

We’ll answer questions about the legislation, provide an overview of the bills - including the gender-affirming care ban - and what they mean, and discuss resources available.

Please pre-register to attend!

[REGISTER HERE](#)



## LAGNIAPPE

### The Soul of Philanthropy New Orleans

Launching on December 2, 2023, the ACLU of Louisiana and the Tate, Etienne, and Prevost (TEP) Interpretive Center, and partners will bring the national traveling exhibit, **The Soul of Philanthropy (TSOP)**, to New Orleans for three months. TSOP highlights the history and impact of Black philanthropists across the country and in Louisiana.

[LEARN MORE](#)