



## Lower Hudson Valley Chapter

297 Knollwood Road, Suite 217

White Plains, New York 10607

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MARCH 2011

## Confronting Attacks on the 14th Amendment

The current efforts to reinterpret the 14th Amendment so as to deprive children born in the U.S. to undocumented parents of their birthright citizenship will be the focus of the chapter's Public Meeting on March 29. Birthright citizenship is a time-honored principle in our country. The 14th Amendment was passed to establish that all born in the U.S. are citizens with equal protection and due process under the law. Several cases after the passage of the 14th Amendment have upheld birthright citizenship. (See *U.S. v. Wong Kim Ark*; *Perkins v. Elg*; *Afroyim v. Rusk*)

Currently, legislation has been proposed in Congress and several states to eliminate and/or restrict birthright citizenship. The various versions of this leg-

islation would require all persons in the U.S. to prove their citizenship status before they could receive a birth certificate for their children. These efforts are routinely presented as measures to address the problem of illegal immigration.

Aside from the bureaucratic nightmare that the passage of such laws would create, they would only serve to enlarge the population of the undocumented. Secondly, these measures would create an international legal dilemma as immigration courts would have to grapple with the issue of exactly where these individuals would be deported. It would create a more expensive and burdensome process in an already broken U.S. immigration system. Finally, it

*cont. on page 2*

### COME TO A PUBLIC MEETING ON THE 14TH AMENDMENT

Tuesday March 29 • 7PM

Ethical Culture Society  
7 Saxon Wood Rd.,  
White Plains, NY

*Keynote Speaker: Udi Ofer, Esq.*  
NYCLU Advocacy Dir.

*Hear panel of Americans who  
would be deprived of their citizen-  
ship because their parents are  
undocumented.*

**For more info: 914-997-7479**

### JOIN US AT OUR ANNUAL DINNER HONORING CHAMPIONS OF FAIR HOUSING

*Stanley and Doris Schear Champion of Housing Rights Awardees*

**WESTCHESTER RESIDENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES, INC.**

**ROSA BOONE • KARL BERTRAND**

MONDAY, MAY 16, 6 P.M.

THE RIVERVIEW • 1 WARBURTON AVE., HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NY

FOR INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS CALL: 914-997-7479

Tickets are \$100.00 per person, but you if you purchase before April 15, 2011 they are only \$90.00 per person. Students can purchase a ticket for \$50.00. Commemorative journal ads can also be purchased.

## Champions of Fair Housing

On Monday, May 16, the LHV / NYCLU will honor the following advocates of Fair Housing:

Established in 1968, **Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc.** (WRO) is a non-profit organization that works to "promote equal, affordable and accessible housing opportunities." One of the major projects they undertook was investigating housing practices in Westchester, Rockland, and Putnam counties. WRO recently released the findings in their Fair Housing Testing Report, which reveal that though there was a reduction in race-based discrimination rates, many minorities were still being denied their housing rights.

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## From Chapter Director Linda Berns

We are launching our latest Statewide Advocacy Initiative, which will focus on defending and strengthening youth and students' rights through public education. This work will include advocating for effective anti-bullying measures in local public schools and instruct students on their rights both inside and outside of school. *Call me at 914-997-7479 if you want to get involved.*

Our recent work has included:

- Banned Books Week: This year, we celebrated with events at the Greenburgh Public Library and the Mount Vernon Public Library to raise awareness about censorship.
- Death Penalty Lecture: Bryan Stevenson, renowned civil rights attorney and director of the Equal Justice Initiative, delivered our 12th Annual Schwarzschild

Death Penalty Lecture.

- Filing Freedom of Information Law requests with police departments in Putnam and Rockland counties in anticipation of Secure Communities (S-Comm) implementation. This misguided federal program gives Immigration and Customs Enforcement access to the fingerprints of all arrestees and can detain them before trial.
- Bill of Rights Essay Contest: Students in our seven-county area took a position on the building of the Park51 Muslim community center in lower Manhattan. We had 175 entries. Winners were from Cornwall Central, Hendrick Hudson, North Rockland and Nellie Thornton high schools.
- Bill of Rights Day Event at St. Paul's Historic Site: Students from White Plains,

Hendrick Hudson, Thornton, and Blind-Brook attended the 219th Bill of Rights Day event. Four students from ThorntonHigh School provided a lively debate on the essay contest topic.

- Responding to a complaint from a man being held at Sullivan Correctional Facility, who said he was being denied proper medical treatment for a congenital eye disease.
  - Investigating ion scanning at Mid-Orange Correctional Facility. A woman visiting her husband at Mid-Orange Prison tested positive on an ion scan, which aims to detect traces of drugs on visitors to the prison. We contacted the prison and were pleased to discover that the positive scan will be discarded.
- Of course, none of this work would be possible without your generous support.

### 14th Amendment, cont. from page 1

it would deprive our country of the creativity, intellect and resources of millions of children who love this country and wish to work here and contribute to its prosperity.

These laws, if passed, would do absolutely nothing to solve the problem of illegal immigration. Clearly, since undocumented immigrants do not achieve legal status merely by having babies in the U.S., and children have been declared not to be at fault for the undocumented status of their parents, these efforts to eliminate birthright citizenship are clearly geared toward other purposes.

The current legislative efforts seek nothing less than the creation, and perpetual exploitation, of a sub-class of people who would never be afforded the full benefits of citizenship, despite their allegiance and contributions, solely because of the sins of their parents or grandparents. Those who seek to eliminate birthright citizenship are pursuing an economic and political agenda to per-

petuate the economic exploitation of immigrant labor and to undermine their political representation. It is grossly unfair that a country would seek to deprive the birthright citizenship of the children of immigrants whom the country allows to remain here for years, and years, and from whom the country derives myriad benefits by way of their cheap labor; income tax payments; contributions as a consumer market; and physical and intellectual labor. The movement to eliminate birthright citizenship belies the very foundations of our democratic system. It disgraces the struggle for equality waged by so many in our nation's history.

As such, the NYCLU and the Lower Hudson Valley Chapter urge all citizens to get involved in fighting efforts to eliminate birthright citizenship. You can help by working to oppose legislation currently being considered and to ensure that such legislation is not presented in our state. Please attend our public meeting and learn more! *Maria I. Valentin, Esq.; Teacher, Scarsdale High School; Member, LHV/NYCLU Board; Immigration Attorney*

### Fair Housing Champions cont. from page 1

**Karl Bertrand** is the founder and first executive director of Yonkers' very first homeless shelter, The Sharing Community. He founded Program Design and Development in 1989, where he developed new programs in areas ranging from law enforcement and HIV/AIDS to housing, health care and youth services.

Mr. Bertrand now coordinates the Continuum of Care-funded Shelter Plus Care programs for the Westchester County Department of Community Mental Health.

**Rosa Boone** is the executive director of the Westchester Coalition for the Hungry & Homeless, Inc. where she coordinates the efforts of over 140 Westchester service providers in serving over 240,000 citizens.

Ms. Boone was also appointed by Mayor Joseph Delfino as a commissioner for the White Plains Housing Authority.

For more information about the dinner or about the honorees, please call us at 914-997-7479.

## Election Biographies: NYCLU/LHV Officers and Board of Directors

### OFFICERS

#### Chair

**JOANN PRINZIVALLI, Esq., Incumbent**  
 Attorney. Founder and Director of New York Transgender Rights Organization (NYTRO). Member, Westchester County Executive's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Advisory Board. Democratic Party district leader (White Plains). Board member, Paul Rapoport Foundation, serving LGBT community. Chief Counsel, Insignia National Title Agency, NY, NY.

#### Vice Chairpersons

**ARLENE R. POPKIN, Esq., Incumbent**  
 Attorney. Former Chair of Lower Hudson Valley Chapter. Member, Board of NYCLU; Criminal Defense Lawyer, Legal Aid Society of Westchester County.

**LUIS QUIROS, M.P.A., M.S.W., Incumbent.**  
 Former WestCOP chairperson; Adjunct Faculty at Fordham University; Professor, Social Justice, Policy and Race, Class, Gender; community advocate and organizer.

#### Secretary

**LAWRENCE GRUNBERGER, Incumbent.**  
 Former Chairperson of NYCLU/LHV. Retired physicist, technical writer, editor.

#### Treasurer

**ANTHONY WYNNE, Esq., Incumbent**  
 Homeless advocate; Principal Court Attorney with NYS Appellate Division, Second Department

#### Members of Board of Directors

(TERMS TO EXPIRE IN 2013)

**MARIANNE ARTUSIO, ESQ., Incumbent.**  
 Director of Clinical Education, Touro College, Jacob Fuchsberg Law Center.

**CHARLES AUERBACH, Incumbent.**  
 ACLU member since 1972. Co-Founder, Don Aux Associates, Management Consultants. Thirty-eight-year career, Sales and Marketing Consultant. Chairman Emeritus of SCORE. Director of Public Relations for the Westchester SCORE Chapter.

**TRACY GIVEN-HUNTER Esq.**  
 Background in Telecommunication, Information Systems, Database Systems, and International Management. Vice President of the Southern Dutchess NAACP community outreach organizer. Board member of the Martin Luther King Culture Center in Beacon and ACT =Adults Caring for Teens in Nyack.

**TIM JAMES, Esq.**  
 Attorney and former aide to Congressman Jerry Nadler, is a Vice Chair of the Westchester Democratic Party, a White Plains Public Library trustee and a former Rye City Human Rights Commission member.

**TRUDY KATZ, Incumbent**  
 Adjunct faculty member LIU. currently pursuing Ph.D in Information Studies. Former vice president and director of the corporate library information center of Mastercard International. Member American Library Assn. (ALA) and Special Library Assn.

**WINSTON ROSS Incumbent.**  
 Executive Director, Westchester Community Opportunity Program. Formerly, Regional Director, NYS NAACP. Past Chair, NYS Social Work Board. Board member, NYCLU; ASCW.

**SAAD TURAB SIDDIQUI, Esq, Incumbent**  
 Attorney at Young & Bartlett, L.L.P. in Westchester. Assisted in cases covering such legal issues as negligence, personal injury, medical malpractice, criminal defense, and civil rights.

Law degree at Pace University School of Law (2007) where he later taught.

**RALPH STEIN, Esq., Incumbent.**  
 Senior professor at Pace University School of Law. Teaches courses on the Constitution, First Amendment, National Security, Privacy Law, Slavery, and the Civil War. Involved in First Amendment activities for over 35 years. Instrumental in bringing ACLU challenge to unlawful political surveillance activities of the Army. Chief field investigator for Senate Subcommittee on Civil Rights regarding military surveillance of civilians.

**MARIA VALENTIN, Esq., Incumbent**  
 Part-time attorney, specializing in immigration issues. Full-time high school teacher of history, human rights, and criminal justice at Scarsdale High School. Member, Hispanic Advisory Board for Westchester County. World travel has inspired her focus on human rights, particularly for women and children.

**MARGARET YONCO-HAINES, Esq., Incumbent**  
 Attorney. Mediator, both in private practice and as volunteer; Board: New Yorkers for Verified Voting; Co-chair: Putnam County Democratic Lawyers Council; organizer: Hudson Valley Community Coalition

(TERM TO EXPIRE IN 2012: CANDIDATE FOR SEAT VACATED BY JULIE DAVIS CARRAN'S RESIGNATION)

**JACK ECONOMOU, Esq.**  
 Hearing Officer, New York State and Local Retirement Systems, Adjunct Instructor, Dutchess Community College, Pro bono attorney, Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, Private Practice of Law, Poughkeepsie, 1960-2009. Former Poughkeepsie City Judge, Mayor, City of Poughkeepsie, 1972-1973.

### BALLOT for 2011 NYCLU-LHV ELECTION of OFFICERS and BOARD

#### Officers

(one-year terms)

#### Chair

Joann Prinzivalli

#### Vice Chairs (elect two)

Arlene Popkin

Luis Quiros

#### Secretary

Lawrence Grunberger

#### Treasurer

Anthony Wynne

#### Board Members

(two-year terms)

#### ELECT 10

Marianne Artusio

Charles Auerbach

Tracy Given-Hunter

Tim James

Trudy Katz

Winston Ross

Saad Turab Siddiqui

Ralph Stein

Maria Valentin

Margaret Yonco-Haines

(one-year term)

#### ELECT 1

Jack Economou

Mail Ballot to:

Secretary, NYCLU/LHV  
 297 Knollwood Road, Ste. 217  
 White Plains, NY 10607

(To ensure that only ACLU members vote, please cut out your mailing address and tape as your return address on envelope.)

OR:

Bring Ballot to Annual Meeting/Election:  
 Ethical Culture Society, 7 Saxon Wood Rd.,  
 White Plains, on March 29, 2011, 6:30 PM.

ALL BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED  
 BY MARCH 29, 2011

Note: JOINT MEMBERS MAY EACH VOTE  
 ON THE SAME BALLOT.



# YES, I want to hear from the NYCLU!

Our newsletter is going digital; we need your email address so you can stay involved and follow the work of the New York Civil Liberties Union.

YES! I want to continue receiving updates from the NYCLU and support civil liberties through email campaigns.

My email address is: \_\_\_\_\_

YES! I want to continue receiving updates from the NYCLU, but email is not a good way to reach me. Please mail me a copy of the next newsletter.

In the coming year we will fight to:

- Oppose S-Comm in our local counties
- Advocate for fair marriage laws that protect all families
- Guarantee women's reproductive freedom
- End racially-biased policing practices

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_



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# NYCLU

NEW YORK CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION  
Lower Hudson Valley Chapter Formerly Westchester Chapter

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