In a settlement announced in mid-January, New York City has agreed to pay nearly $18 million in response to lawsuits filed against the NYPD by the NYCLU and others for the mass arrest, detention and fingerprinting of peaceful protestors during the 2004 Republican National Convention. This is the largest protest settlement in U.S. history and a First Amendment victory with profound national implications.

“No lawful protester should ever be treated like a criminal in New York City or anywhere else in the United States,” said NYCLU Executive Director Donna Lieberman. “This settlement is proof that the right to protest is a fundamental pillar of a fair and functioning democracy. Government and law enforcement must not only tolerate protest, but protect and defend it.”

The message conveyed at the February 25 Senate hearing, which included written testimony by Pendergrass and NYCLU Legal Fellow Elena Landriscina, was that the collaborative process between the NYCLU and DOCCS is a model for other municipalities considering reform.

Under the agreement brokered by the NYCLU, New York on February 19 took immediate steps to remove youth, pregnant inmates and developmentally disabled and intellectually challenged prisoners from extreme isolation – making it the largest prison system in the United States to prohibit

NYCLU’s $18 Million RNC Settlement the Largest Protest Settlement in U.S. History
The tale of two cities is a hot theme these days. And in the middle of the state government legis- lative session, it inspires comparison, the tale of two New Yorks — New York City and New York State.

On the state level, the view from the halfway point in the legislative session is bleak. The name of the game is political horse-trading, dysfunction, and jockeying for position in the next election.

But in New York City, we’re seeing opportunities for change. Those of us who have spent most of the last decade criticizing city policies are suddenly in new ter- ritory. There will still be plenty to criticize, but on many fronts we are developing strategies to turn our critique into policy, and a more just and fair city for all.

Perhaps the possibilities are most apparent in polic- ing — specifically stop-and-frisk. As you saw on the front page of this newsletter, we stood with Mayor de Blasio when he announced that New York City would drop its appeal of the stop-and-frisk lawsuits and committed publicly to working with the community that has expe- rience racial profiling to find solutions. After the hard years of the Bloomberg administration, when the mayor blamed civil rights advocates like the NYCLU for gun violence and defended the stop-and-frisk regime every chance he got, it was genuinely historic to stand with the mayor, the police commissioner and the city’s lawyers as they publicly acknowledged the abuse of stop-and-frisk. As you saw on the front page, we are developing strategies to turn our critique of policing into policy that unfairly targeted a whole generation of young men of color.

Even Mayor Bloomberg knew which way the wind was blowing on stop-and-frisk. While he was throwing nasty verbal bars our way, he was quietly directing his police force to change its ways. Street interrogations were down by more than half from 2012 to 2013, with crime dropping at the same time. We expect to see more of the same under Mayor de Blasio.

More good signs out of City Hall include the settlement — finally — of the Republican National Convention litigation (see page 1); the city’s decision to drop the Bloomberg administration’s challenge to an anti-racial profiling law that we helped draft; and the expansion of New York City’s paid sick leave law, giving a total of 1.2 million city workers the ability to care for their health and the health of their families without having to sacrifice their pay. We are also encouraged that the city has also settled the discrimination case brought by the Vulcan Society of Firefighters of Color and has agreed to reforms that will finally end the stunning and, frankly, embarassing history that kept Black New Yorkers out of the FDNY.

The challenge now will be to work with the new administration when it’s with us, while pushing hard when it’s not. We also need to see reforms on the litany of issues that don’t regularly garner front page headlines, but are nonetheless critical priorities for those who care about human rights. The most important of all in my mind is excessive use of suspensions, arrests and criminal summonses to discipline public school students.

In January, just days after the new administration took office, the Federal Department of Education and Department of Justice released strong guidance on ex- clusionary school discipline policies and the appropri- ate role of police with regard to school discipline (read more about it on page 8). The state has yet to follow the federal lead, and a battle is being fought in Albany. The NYCLU has sharply criticized the criminalization of school discipline and appointed Vincent Schiraldi as a special advisor to coordinate reform efforts in New York.

This important development creates a window for us to press for resolution of our class action lawsuit challenging illegal arrests and excessive force in New York City schools.

We’ve also collaborated with the Student Safety Coalition to develop “A New Vision for School Safety,” a set of nine guiding principles to overhaul the deeply flawed relationship between the Department of Educa- tion and the police assigned to our schools. Agreeing to these principles would clarify that educators, not police officers, should have primary responsibility for school discipline.

The phenomenon of police in schools is of course not confined to the five boroughs. The NYCLU is lead- ing the effort across the state to ensure that all children go to school without having to fear the very officers that are supposed to protect them. We are challenging the abuse of Tasers in schools in Syracuse. Plaintiff Trevor Hanks spent his 18th birthday in jail before being trumped up disciplinary conduct charges against him were dropped. He was shot with a Taser three times and arrested for lying on the floor and crying out of frustration that he might not graduate on time, even though he didn’t graduate at all. Trevor Hanks was found not guilty on all charges. We expect to win, though he has decided to change his major from criminal justice to English. For some reason he wants to be a teacher instead of a cop now.

Our progressive legislative agenda is bogged by the Republican minority that controls the State Senate with support from the break-away Independent Democratic Caucus. Still, our biggest news of the year comes from Albany. The changes the state agreed to on solitary confinement — you can read about them on page 1 — have become a touchstone in the international movement against this kind of torture. Our agreement on the front page of The New York Times and was supported in the lead editorial, as well as by newspapers across the state, and has driven a conversation far and wide. Since our announcement, the Senate has been considering prog- ressing on extreme isolation and the former director of the Colorado Department of Corrections released a powerful op-ed in The Times which condemned the use of the practice except in very narrow and extraordinary circumstances.

With our win, we took New York State light years ahead of where it was when we issued our report, “Boxed In,” in 2012. We set the stage and a timeline for more com- plete reform in our state prison system and bolstered the movement to reform solitary confinement practices across the world.

And just because the capitol is filled with road- blocks, it doesn’t mean we aren’t pushing hard and laying the groundwork on our agenda. We continue to help lead a coalition of more than 800 statewide organizations to push for a 10-point Women’s Equal- ity Agenda, which would align our abortion law with Roe v. Wade and protect a woman’s right to an abortion at any point when necessary to protect her health and life.

Our win on the Senate’s paid family leave bill, and where a bill supporting paid family leave insurance passed in March. While the chances for both paid family leave and the Women’s Equality Agenda to get all the way to the gerrymandered Senate look slim this session, there are still people out there brave enough to champion what’s right, and we’re confident we’ll be able to realize these reforms in the near future.

We are also continuing the groundwork for a Farmworkers’ Bill of Rights to end the shameful exclusion of state agricultural workers from basic labor law protections; to decriminalize marijuana possession; to secure public financing of electoral campaigns as a way of bringing a greater measure of fairness to the electoral process; and to reduce the vast number of wrongful convictions that occur, particularly when a confession has been coerced by the police or results from flawed witness identifica- tion procedures.

We are also continuing our decade-long drive to reform New York State’s broken system of legal rep- resentation for poor people accused of crimes. We just marked the 51st anniversary of Gideon v. Wainwright, the landmark case that established the right to counsel and has been upheld by the NYCLU and the editorial boards of major media outlets. The state has yet to follow the federal lead, and a battle is being fought in Albany. The NYCLU was a key leader in this effort. Our members and the editorial boards of major media outlets. The NYCLU was a key leader in this effort. Our members and the editorial boards of major media outlets. The NYCLU was a key leader in this effort. Our members and the editorial boards of major media outlets. The NYCLU was a key leader in this effort. Our members and the editorial boards of major media outlets. The NYCLU was a key leader in this effort.
Celia and Andrew Keenan-Bolger rare birds in New York's theatrical avairy: Siblings and Broadway veterans, both started in New York before they could vote — Celia as a teenager, in a 1994 production of Kindertransport, and 10-year-old Andrew as Chip, the teacup-bay in Beauty and the Beast. In the years since, their political birthright continues to inform their lives. One happy piece of proof is their involvement with Broadway Stands Up for Freedom, the New York Civil Liberties Union’s annual summer benefit concert, in support of NYCLU youth programs. Celia’s been a part of the Broadway Stands Up team since she first met Lina Stampus who, with Erich Bergen and Dana Steinfeld, created the concert as a way to connect Broadway’s creative artists and New York’s civil rights community. Celia remembers first meeting NYCLU Executive Director Donna Lieberman in 2007, when Celia was starring in The 25th Annual Putnam Count Spelling Bee, for which she earned a 2005 Tony nomination. The concert, then in its third year, was much more modest — and a little more slap-dash — than it is today. “Dona reminded me of the women I’d been raised around but hadn’t seen in a long time,” Celia recalled. “Warm — but full of fight spirit.” That describes Celia and Andrew’s mother, too, who raised all three Keenan-Bolgers — including middle sib Maggie, herself a creator of political theatre — on a steady diet of protests, marches and rallies. “Social justice was a huge theme of our family,” Celia said. “We had very political parents,” Andrew added. “We were always going to marches. Our parents were really big hippies.” “Activist-hippies,” Celia quickly filled in — “not free-love-and-drugs hippies.” After a stint in Panama, where their father, Rory Bolger, was serving with the Peace Corps, Bolger and his wife, Susan Keenan, settled in Detroit. Rory worked as an urban planner, Susan as a teacher. Susan’s family had history in Detroit. One story that’s been handed down has to do with a flaming cross on a tower on their mother’s parents’ lawn — immolated in response to their grandmother’s efforts to integrate Detroit’s public schools and a scene, both siblings suggest, that must have seared itself in their mother’s memory. But even the most ardent political families enjoy an occasional afternoon at the theater. When Celia was 5, she saw The Sound of Music and — echoing the sentiments of millions of little girls — announced to her parents, “That’s what I want to do!” But unlike the zillion, she did it. On Celia’s urging, her parents enrolled her in classes, which brought Celia into Detroit’s Mosaic Theatre Company. Maggie and Andrew trailed close behind, with Andrew eventually following Celia to the University of Michigan’s musical theater program (where both earned BFA’s). Maggie went to Oberlin, “and that’s where the political bug bit her — hard,” said Andrew. The bug that bit Maggie took a nbble out of Andrew and Celia, too. That’s what brings them back to Broadway Stands Up every year, most recently with backstage video featuring performers who can’t participate in the concert because they’ve got a show to do. (Andrew’s a seasoned video hand, having created the popular web series, www.submissionsonly.com, and other video diodes laid out in New Times and The Wall Street Journal.) “The desire to be part of political change is what inspires Andrew to work with LGBT youth, alongside his sister Maggie.” “I’m a gay man and I think it’s incredibly important,” Andrew said. “But I feel my right to marry may be secondary when there are kids on the street. A lot of young trans people are on the street, in hard situations. Kids are fighting to get beds.” Raising funds — and consciousness — for youth on the edges of society is a tougher sell than marriage equality, he noted, but the needs undeniable. Andrew’s also committed to educating the theatrical companies he’s in, like the cast of Broadway’s Newsies, many of whom are young adults away from home for the first time. Andrew makes sure they’re registered to vote — and that they know where to go on Election Day. Broadway Stands Up features the work of young people in the NYCLU’s teen programs, including the Teen Activist Project and the annual Freedom of Expression contest, which invites city youth to create artworks in any media. Often, some of the prize-winners invited on stage to read their work have experienced the kind of homelessness and uncertainty that move Andrew so deeply. Celia’s wake-up call came in 2008, when she left New York for two months to serve as a field organizer for the Obama campaign. She lived in Plymouth Meeting, Penn. — with Andrew’s best friend’s parents — and rallied the local vote. “In open a show on Broadway and it’s great, it’s amazing — but it’s only another show. That election was something truly important,” she said. Her political and social activism continues an important force — and will, far into the future, even though some of today’s issues hark back to the past. “Take women’s rights,” Celia said. “It’s like we’re back in 1968, fighting to win the vote, basic Four rights for women. That’s something I really inherited from my mother.” (Susan Keenan died in 2001.) For Celia, there’s a chance to be living link in a political chain — and a way to pave the path for her own children, one faraway day, into activism. “I do this because my mother did it,” Celia said. “That’s what I look forward to, having kids. If you get dragged to a bunch of marches and rallies, it’s in your bones.” For Celia and Andrew Keenan-Bolger, bone-deep activism is in both their bloodstreams — and Broadway Stands Up is all the richer for their loyal commitment and lively creative contributions.
WHO MAY VOTE
All members whose names appear on the NYCLU membership rolls as of June 4, 2014 may vote. If you have a question about your voting status, please call 212.607.3364.

HOW TO VOTE
NYCLU members may vote either:
1) in person, at the annual meeting.
2) by proxy, using any one of the ballots that appear in the following places:
   • printed on page 5 of this newsletter.
   • by mailing a ballot at www.nyclu.org/boardelections. (All votes not cast in person must be cast on paper ballots; one CANNOT vote electronically.)

IN ORDER TO VOTE BY PROXY
Complete the proxy ballot. Mail the ballot you have filled out to Douglas Cuthbertson or Ron Tabak, Election Supervisor, New York Civil Liberties Union, 125 Broadway Street, 19th Floor, New York, NY 10004.

So that we may verify your membership, cut out the address label (listing your name and address) from this newsletter and affix it to the outside of the envelope you use to return the ballot. If you affix the label, write your name on it and address on the back of the envelope in order to provide verification of your membership so that your vote can be counted. (Note: To ensure a secret ballot, do not sign the ballot or put your mailing label inside the envelope.)

CANDIDATES
There are fourteen (14) candidates for fourteen (14) vacancies. Thirteen vacancies are for three-year terms, and one vacancy is for a one-year term. In accordance with the NYCLU by-laws, exactly as many candidates as there are vacancies were nominated by the NYCLU Nominating Committee. The person elected with the lowest number of votes will receive a one-year term.

Each candidate was asked to supply biographical data and a brief statement of views on NYCLU policies and issues. See them set forth below in alphabetical order. To view lengthier candidate statements, to obtain contact information for individual candidates, or to print out a proxy ballot (one CANNOT vote electronically), please visit www.nyclu.org/boardelections.

AM I A MEMBER?
The NYCLU has nearly 50,000 members statewide, plus many thousands of supporters. To be a current member, you must have made a non-tax-deductible contribution to the NYCLU or ACLU — notwithstanding any tax-deductible donations to the NYCLU Foundation or to the ACLU Foundation — since February 1, 2013, or you must be a lifetime member. If you have any questions about your membership status, please call the NYCLU at 212.607.3364 or email kkole@nyclu.org.

Deborah Archer
As a member of the NYCLU Board for the past 6 years, I bring a unique perspective to the work of the organization and hope you will give me the opportunity to continue. Growing up as the child of Jamaican immigrants in Connecticut was not easy. I have been the victim of racial discrimination more times than I would like to recall and have faced many of the challenges of growing up in a society in which protecting civil rights and equal opportunity has been a lifelong commitment and passion. In fact, my legal career began as an ACLU Kaplan fellow. Following that, I was an attorney with the New York New York Law School, where I direct the law school’s Racial Justice Project. Throughout, I have worked on cases involving a wide range of issues including education reform, voting rights, indigent defense and employment discrimination. I believe that I have served the NYCLU and its members well. I am currently an at-large member of the ACLU National Board and a member of the NYCLU Board of Managers. As an Afro-African American, Affirmative Action Officer and have tried to use these positions to help present and protect the interests of the NYCLU. I work closely with members of the NYCLU staff to support the work of the organization as a cooperating attorney.

I am honored to serve as a member of the Board and am excited about the opportunity to continue to serve the NYCLU. I would love to be reelected and hope to receive your support.

Elliot H. Auerbach
Current board member (since 2003), Chair of the Elections Committee, member of the Privacy Committee and the Campaign Finance Committee.

I have particular interests in First and Fourth Amendment issues. The last two national administrations’ practices in utter disregard of Fourth Amendment protections — the 4th Amendment — are particularly abhorrent; I support all challenges made by legal staff of NYCLU and ACLU to these practices. With respect to campaign financing, I find very disturbing the current jurisprudence that equates money to speech; it may be necessary for the NYCLU to take a somewhat different approach to campaign finance law (and the reason to limit to the Citizens United decision) from that of the national ACLU. I advocate public financing of elections for statewide offices and of the State Legislature under a system that provides adequate resources to candidates that are not part to incumbents. Public financing of elections in larger counties and municipal bodies should also be considered. I have been active in the Suffolk County Chapter since the 1980s as a press officer and as a member of the nominating committee. During my time on the Board I have served on the Education, Nomination, Audit, and Executive Committees as well as being a part of the NYCLU Governance Working Group.

Additionally, as a member of the Affirmative Action Committee, I strongly believe in the importance of a diverse board using both officially enumerated categories as well as targeted institutional goals (such as geography

Rebekah Cook-Mack
I have been proud to serve as a member of the NYCLU and to have had the opportunity to serve on the board’s executive committee.

During this time I served on the education committee. As a member of that committee I helped the committee to draft and present a policy on high school testing. The board adopted the policy, which I believe is the first of its kind in the nation. I also chaired an ad hoc committee formed to support our ALCU board representation in evaluating and addressing concerns raised by proposed changes to the ACLU governance structure. I am currently a member of the Audit Committee.

It has been an honor to serve on the board of the NYCLU as it has led the way on such important issues as marriage equality and stop and frisk. I am excited about that fact that I look forward to supporting their work to end the over policing of schools and advancing the objectives of the woman’s equality coalition.

The NYCLU has demonstrated a commitment to leave no stone unturned. From litigation to ‘know your rights’ guides, legislative advocacy to high quality research and reporting, the NYCLU does it all. I would be honored to continue to serve on the board this vital organization.

Tracy Givens-Hunter
As a champion of civil liberties and human rights’, I have served on the Lower Hudson Valley American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) since 2009 and a member of the NAACP. I have visited public schools in the Hudson Valley area and spoke on behalf of the LHV ACLU about The Bill of Rights. I visited several organizations giving presentations on the History of the US Voting Rights Act. I represented the Lower Hudson Valley ACLU on several panels where the discussion was on voting disenfranchisement.

I became Vice president of the NAACP Southern Dutchess Branch 2132 and served until 2012. The branch, working together, was able to grow to 200 members.

At the same time I was Legal Redress Chair. The Legal Redress Chair committee was able to show films, invite local law enforcement and conduct presentation on “What to do if stopped by police” in local schools, churches and community centers. I am presently Secretary of the Southern Dutchess NAACP Branch.

I have facilitated two New Jim Crow book reading in Dutchess County. Both groups have moved forward to work together and produce a book. I am also a member of End The New Jim Crow Network where we are currently challenging Dutchess County on building a new $200 million dollar jail.


K elsey Haley
The old adage, “I know what I know, and I know what I don’t know,” is my advocacy mantra. I know that the New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU) fights the good fight to hold those in power accountable for the injustices they commit against people who feel disempowered—among them, the working poor and residents of marginalized communities that deserve better.

I know that belonging to many of the groups so often affected by the impact of bad policies and without concern for the greater good allows me to identify with the impact of this dynamic.

I know equal access, equal representation, equal pay; and equal opportunity are human rights.

What I don’t know is how anyone can, with a clear conscience, deny any neighbor, in any borough or county, and anywhere in New York State, the right to be counted as a citizen, the right to pursue their fundamental freedoms as the opportunity to enjoy life, liberty and happiness.

My name is Kelly Haley. With over twenty years of professional experience in strategic communications, I am currently the Deputy Director at East Harlem Block Nursey, Inc., an early childhood education nonprofit that has served the culturally rich Harlem community for four decades.

As a writer and advocate for what is right and true, I humbly ask for your vote to elect me to the NYCLU Board of Directors. I know that I’m prepared to bring my passion, time, life experiences and skills to further the NYCLU’s mission, vision, values and purpose.

Michael J. Hall
Dutchess Community College, Assistant Professor; NYCLU Board of Directors, 2008-2014; NYCLU Executive Committee, 2014. ACLU-Nebraska President 1996-2003; ACLU-NE Board Member 1995-2003.

I am seeking renomination to the NYCLU Board. For my entire adult life I have been a passionate advocate and supporter of civil liberties and civil rights issues within the ACLU family as well as with other advocacy organizations. My passions include protecting the freedom of speech, defending the rights of GLBTQ persons, and of course, civil liberties.

I believe a successful candidate should bring something different to bring to the board that is not part of their skills or perspectives. As a non-attorney, I do not have specific legal expertise to contribute, however I believe my interest in and willingness to commit to the internal institutional structure of the NYCLU is what my skills are. During my time on the Board I have served on the Education, Nomination, Audit, and Executive Committees as well as being a part of the ACLU Governance Working Group.

Additionally, as a member of the Affirmative Action Committee, I strongly believe in the importance of a diverse board using both officially enumerated categories as well as targeted institutional goals (such as geography
Finally, as one of the newest members of the Executive Committee I seek renomination so that I may continue to contribute to the organization in a leadership capacity and take on additional challenges as they present themselves.

Thank you for your consideration of my contributions and my candidacy for the NYCLU Board.

George Kannar
Professor of Law, SUNY-Buffalo; ACLU, Karpatkin Fellow (1978-79); Staff Attorney (1979-86); NYCLU Board since 2001.

The organization in America performs a more important civic function than the ACLU and NYCLU. The NYCLU’s long and principally recorded of defending liberty and equality makes it a unique and credible voice for freedom. And a very effective one.

I currently serve as Chair of the Board’s Legal Committee, which is charged with assisting staff when NYCLU policy is at issue. (I’ve served on the Committee in the role of NYCLU Board representative from Western New York especially important going forward.)

As an NYCLU staff member, I have considerable experience with the NYCLU’s institutional culture and workaday needs – and the most profound affection for it. I hope very much to put all that to good further use.

Amin Kassam
Senior Counsel at Bloomberg L.P.

It is my distinct honor to be nominated by the Nominating Committee for a position on the Board of Directors of the New York Civil Liberties Union. I have always been greatly inspired by the work of the NYCLU and its tireless efforts which have impacted me personally and directly in issues relating to racial and religious profiling and discrimination, immigration rights, and marriage equality.

Throughout my legal career, I have represented organizations and individuals in the defense of fundamental rights and liberties. Moreover, as a technology lawyer, I work on issues relating to the digital rights and privacy, I have particular experience with the ways in which new technology can be used to violate the civil rights and liberties of individuals.

For the better part of the past decade, I have served on the boards of organizations within my own Ismaili Muslim community focusing on issues relating to conflict resolution and tolerance and inclusion. I have served both in the U.S. and abroad. In the process, I have learned a great deal about the governance of non-profit organizations and the challenges and opportunities that they face in order to effectively serve their communities.

I continue to believe that the work of the NYCLU is not just a force for advocacy, but for the outreach and education needed to continually remind our fellow citizens (and ourselves) that preserving our civil liberties is an issue which is critical, even, and especially, when we may disagree with those rights. As I explained for my previous nomination, I value the organization’s work in defending free speech, fighting religious discrimination and defending the establishment clause, as well as its work for greater accountability and safeguards for our civil liberties. If elected, I look forward to continuing to bring my skills and experience to this critical effort. I would be truly honored to have your support.

Naved Sheikh

I continue to believe that what I did three years ago: The NYCLU is not just a force for advocacy, but for the outreach and education needed to continually remind our fellow citizens (and ourselves) that preserving our civil liberties is an issue which is critical, even, and especially, when we may disagree with those rights. As I explained for my previous nomination, I value the organization’s work in defending free speech, fighting religious discrimination and defending the establishment clause, as well as its work for greater accountability and safeguards for our civil liberties. If elected, I look forward to continuing to bring my skills to promote the causes for which the NYCLU fights but also increase membership and awareness of this critical effort. I would be truly honored to have your support.

Amin Kassam

I am excited for the opportunity to be part of the NYCLU Board. If elected, I will bring asset management and non-profit governance and leadership capacity and take on additional challenges as they present themselves.

Thank you for your consideration.

Stacy Raye Kellogg

I am excited for the opportunity to be part of the NYCLU Board. If elected, I will bring asset management and non-profit governance and leadership capacity and take on additional challenges as they present themselves.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jordan Thomas

I believe deeply in the mission of the NYCLU, and, in particular, am very interested in issues of criminal justice. I came to my life of civic engagement in 2007, when I co-founded Brooklyn for Barack, a grassroots organization, which was disputed by Barack Obama’s presidential campaign’s complaint, one of the for-profit Administration from the University of San Francisco. While attending grad school, I worked with a nonprofit providing rehabilitation classes to San Quentin State Prison inmates and helped raise funds for affordable housing in SF’s Tenderloin District. Since that time, I have served as ED of a rape crisis center, and have written job training grants and taught job search skills classes to low-income San Franciscans. Today, I help build relationships and revenue for an international nonprofit that uses video to expose human rights abuses, WITNESS.

I look forward to supporting the NYCLU during this pivotal time when some injustices are shifting progressively while some are threatened by devolution.

Arjun Patel

Director – PriceWaterhouseCoopers, Management Consulting practice

I am excited and honored to be nominated to the NYCLU Board. While I believe that legal expertise is not usually for a nominee, I believe that my deep finance, strategy and business skills will be valuable advantages to the Board, adding a diversity of thought that will significantly benefit the Board and the NYCLU.

As a management consultant I’ve spent my career as a change agent working with clients to harness the value of new technologies, create internal communications strategies for fragile situations, recommend million-dollar annual budgeting processes, and develop social media strategies to grow membership, to name a few of the initiatives I’ve undertaken.

In my work, I’ve seen first-hand the increasing amount of data and information that new technologies enable. This has given me a deep sensitivity to the need for greater accountability and safeguards for the collection and usage of this information to protect individuals’ rights to privacy.

As the son of first-generation immigrants who moved to this country because of the availability of public and community-based services for my disabled brother, I am deeply committed to not just the rights of immigrants and people with disabilities but of all vulnerable populations that share a common struggle.

If elected, I look forward to not only bringing my skills to promote the causes for which the NYCLU fights but also increase membership and awareness of this critical effort. I would be truly honored to have your support.

ABOUT THE BALLOT

There are fourteen (14) candidates for fourteen (14) positions.

NOTE: There are two columns of boxes. If you have a single membership, mark only boxes in the first column. If you have a joint membership (indicated by a mailing label on this newsletter with both names on it), you are entitled to two votes and can vote by marking boxes in both columns. To view lengthy candidate statements and to obtain contact information for individual candidates, please visit www.nyclu.org/boardelections.

PROXY BALLOT

TO: Election Supervisor, NYCLU - 125 Broad Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10004

You are hereby authorized as my proxy to cast my votes as indicated at the annual meeting of the New York Civil Liberties Union to be held on June 18, 2014 at 6 p.m. at the NYCLU offices, 125 Broad Street, 17th floor, New York City for the election of directors, with the same power I would possess if I were personally present.

Michael J. Hall

Elliot H. Auerbach

Amin Kassam

Ellen Yaroshefsky

Naved Sheikh

George Kannar

Ralph Valente

Kelly Haley

Tracy Givens-Hunter

Arjun Patel

Deborah Archer

Stacy Raye Kellogg

Rebekah Cook-Mack

Mail the ballot you have filled out to either

Douglas Cuthbertson or Ron Takab, Election Supervisor, New York Civil Liberties Union, 125 Broad Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10004.

So that we may verify your membership, cut out the address label (listing your name and address) on page 1 of this newsletter and affix it to the outside of the envelope; or, write your name (or both names, if you have a joint membership) and your address legibly on the back of the envelope. You must affix this label or write your name(s) and address on the back of the envelope in order to provide verification of your membership so that your vote can be counted. (Note: To ensure a secret ballot, do not sign the ballot or put your mailing label inside the envelope.)
The Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA), introduced more than a decade ago, will provide transgender New Yorkers with the same essential civil rights protections other state residents enjoy: freedom from discrimination in employment, housing, health care and education. It will also expand the state’s hate crimes law to explicitly bar crimes against transgender people. While 11 cities and counties in New York State have enacted laws protecting the civil rights of transgender people, many others have not. In areas without solid legal protections, transgender people risk the loss of jobs and homes if their trans status is disclosed. Others face discrimination in health care – when someone living as a woman is forced into an all-male hospital ward – and in public accommodations – when a child in transition from the biological gender assigned at birth to the child’s gender identity is barred from school bathrooms, locker rooms and sports teams, for example.

The work to pass GENDA depends on public education, according to NYCLU Policy Counsel Katharine Boddie. “We are hopeful we can continue to elevate the conversation regarding the need for GENDA across New York State, and among state lawmakers in Albany in particular,” Boddie said. “The city of Albany and Albany County are among the 11 entities that have approved civil rights protections for transgender people. NYCLU Capital Region Chapter Director Melanie Trimble is participating in local conversations to advance and protect the rights of transgender people within the criminal justice system.

The work to pass GENDA depends on public education.

“Along with the Albany Police Department and County Sheriff, the NYCLU and a coalition of LGBT activist organizations are rewriting arrest and strip-search policies, and addressing housing issues at the county jail,” with an eye to sharing the new policies and procedures that result with surrounding counties, Trimble said.

The NYCLU and the New York Trans Rights Coalition are working across the state to raise awareness of trans issues and the need for full civil rights protections for transgender New Yorkers. The groups plan a legislative “teach-in” in Albany in late April, to bring the issue directly to legislators, and an increased focus on transgender advocacy, including the rights of transgender youth in New York’s public schools.

Since its introduction, GENDA has passed the Assembly many times but has yet to come up for a vote in the Senate; the Assembly is expected to consider the bill again in the current legislative session.

As a statewide organization.

Ellen Yarashefsky
I am so pleased to be nominated to serve on the NYCLU Board. I am a long time supporter of the amazing and varied work of the organization, and I am particularly inspired by its work in the past 10 years. I have been involved directly and indirectly with NYCLU staff in litigation in civil rights cases and in its educational work. In the past years, I have worked closely with the NYCLU on youth justice issues including school suspension, solitary confinement and stop and frisk. These issues inspire passion and led me to create a Youth Justice Clinic at Cardozo. My students are engaged with the NYCLU staff.

I work well with a wide range of people and hope that my more than 30 years of involvement in social justice work will help move the NYCLU to even greater success in making positive change in New York. I am excited about the prospect of using my experience and skills toward that end.
once upon a time we could only dream of stand-
ing by the mayor and celebrating a commitment to reform stop-and-frisk, but on January 30 that is exactly what we did. Side by side with New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio and NYPD Commissioner Bill Bratton, New York Civil Liberties Union Execu-
tive Director Donna Lieberman applauded the official announcement that the administration would drop its appeal in two class-action lawsuits challenging the NYPD’s unconstitutional and discriminatory stop-and-frisk regime.

“We look forward to working together to make New York City a place where the police protect both safety and individual rights.”

During the press conference in Brownsville, Brook-
lyn, a community facing some of the highest rates of stop-and-frisk, the city committed to reform the Police Department as well as to participate in a historic com-
unity engagement process involving New Yorkers who have been subject to a decade of racial profiling. “We understand that the culture of the largest police force in the country cannot change overnight,” said NYCLU Executive Director Donna Lieberman. “But we believe in the good will and good intention of the new NYCLU Executive Director Donna Lieberman. “But we

The excessive force used by police and the lack of county oversight over the 50 area police departments has spurred the coalition to push for reforms including the creation of an area board to oversee three police practices, increased use of crisis intervention teams, and proper training for when force should be used by officers.

Major Solitary Confinement Reforms in New York

From page 1

"By entering into this agreement, the Cuomo administration has shown that it has the vision to transform New York into a national leader in the movement toward alternatives to solitary confinement, and has prioritized the safety of prisoners, prison staff and New York’s communities.

This agreement is an important step toward dignity and decency," said lead plaintiff Leroy Peoples, who served 780 consecutive days in isolation for nonviolent behavior after police officials determined he filed false legal documents. "I thank the governor for taking this seriously and hearing us out.”

Later this spring, the two experts will issue their recommendations for further reform and DOCCS will

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Republican National Convention Settlement

From page 1

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NYPD officers stand at the ready during the 2014 RNC.
Advocates around the state want to see this sense legislation. It is time to politics aside and stand up and continue to work to raise the profile of this common sense legislation. It is time to politics aside and stand up for the reproductive health measures contained in the Women's Equality Act which targets the barriers that perpetuate discrimination and inequality for women, including pay equity, stopping sexual harassment, preventing pregnancy discrimination and protecting women's reproductive health care decisions.

"Abortion opponents have been using the same scare tactics for the past six years to prevent an update to New York's outdated reproductive health law," said NYCLU Western Region Director John Curr. "We are continuing our advocacy efforts to set the record straight, and to educate people on what each plank of the Women Equality Act will do for the women and families of New York.

"More than 80 percent of New Yorkers - across political and party lines - support the reproductive health measures contained in the Women's Equality Act. The Senate's inaction betrays the will of the vast majority of New Yorkers and instead reflects a fringe but powerful minority. This spring the NYCLU will continue to work to raise the profile of this common sense legislation. It is time to politics aside and stand up for the gender equity.