Lawsuit Says State Failing Poor Criminal Defendants

New York State is failing in its constitutional duty to provide effective counsel to poor New Yorkers accused of crimes, according to a landmark lawsuit filed by the New York Civil Liberties Union. As it stands, the state’s broken public defense system routinely denies criminal defendants their constitutional right to a competent attorney.

The lawsuit, filed in State Supreme Court in Albany on Nov. 8, followed years of inaction by state lawmakers despite the county-operated public defense system’s clear failures, documented over decades by dozens of reports, commissions and newspaper investigations. Last year, a commission appointed by state Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye concluded the system is “seriously dysfunctional” and “structurally incapable” of meeting its “constitutional and statutory obligations” to protect the rights of the accused.

“Every day throughout the state, people accused of crimes are deprived of justice because they are poor,” said Donna Lieberman, executive director of the NYCLU. “The time for study is over. Now is the time for action, and the NYCLU is leading the effort.”

The 100-page complaint lists 22 plaintiffs from five counties. They seek reform on behalf of all criminal defendants in the state who cannot afford a lawyer.

The class-action lawsuit asks the court to de-
As revelations surfaced this winter that the CIA destroyed video tapes containing evidence of torture, yet another example of official lawlessness—America—indeed the whole world—were aghast. I am proud to say that the New York Civil Liberties Union and the American Civil Liberties Union sprung into action. Within days we went to court to have the agency held in contempt.

Our team remains vigilant in this case and on all human rights issues. Emboldened by a record of more than 50 years of dynamic civil liberties advocacy, the NYCLU is now doing its best work—work that is improving the lives of New Yorkers.

Major accomplishments mark this past year.

In November we filed a landmark class action lawsuit to require New York State to provide adequate legal representation to poor people accused of crimes. There is nearly universal agreement that the current system is broken. No fewer than a dozen government commissions, expert investigations, and reports by some of the most respected leaders in our civil community have concluded that the state has failed to meet its constitutional obligations. A commission appointed by New York’s chief justice herself concluded in June 2006 that the system is “severely dysfunctional” and “structurally incapable” of providing proper legal representation. We faced countless challenges while preparing the lawsuit. The effort consumed vast amounts of time and resources. But thanks to the extraordinary dedication and expertise of our Legal Department, our Chapter network and the pro bono counsel of Schluth Roth & Zabel, as well as the critical support of Atlantic Philanthropies, we hope this lawsuit will become New York State’s Gideon v. Wainwright. We’re fighting this battle in other ways too. A year ago, we were a lonely voice objecting to the jail-like atmosphere of many schools. But between our policy report Criminalizing the Classroom and our advocacy campaign, for School to Prison Pipeline there is now no longer ignored. We were instrumental in securing a day of hearings before the New York City Council where the NYCLU and scores of students and parents testified about the heavy-handed police presence in city schools. The hearings made clear that the Department of Education and the NYPD don’t really know who is responsible for enforcing school rules—and that our children are paying the price.

Our advocacy prompted New York Times columns and editorials and a full-page attack by NYPD Commissioner Ray Kelly in the New York Daily News. While I’m proud we have played such an important role raising this issue, we still have a long way to go before educators regain control over school discipline.

In a First Amendment victory, the NYCLU was instrumental in persuading New York City to drop proposed rules that would have required a permit and $1 million of insurance for all photography and filmmaking in public places. These rules would have muzzled artists, journalists and casual photographers. We rallied supporters of filmmakers and photographers to demand a new proposal. The city rescinded its plan in August, and negotiated with the NYCLU on a new set of rules. Under the new proposal, photographers would generally not need a permit or insurance unless they block the sidewalk.

We are hopeful about these new rules, but we harbor no illusions that the harassment of photographers will end, so we just filed our second lawsuit in as many years, this time on behalf of a Columbia medical student arrested for taking pictures in the subway, demanding the NYPD leave photographers alone.

Our reach extends across the state. Phone calls from Albany illuminate our switchboard. The state Legislature has lobbed us heavily about the congestion pricing proposition, which is intended to reduce traffic in Manhattan. While we are neutral on congestion pricing as a concept, we have called on policy makers to address our concerns about the increased government surveillance it entails. If the current plan is implemented, thousands of government cameras would constantly record law-abiding people. There must be a public discussion about these privacy concerns, and safeguards to protect us from abuse.

In September our Reproductive Rights Project issued a report on abstinence-only-until-marriage funding. That same day the state health commissioner called to say that New York would reject millions of dollars in federal funding to fund that redacted state funding toward comprehensive sex education. Our children need full, unbiased and useful information regarding sexual issues. Thanks to our work, they’re one step closer to getting it.

On a Saturday morning in October, Governor Spitzer appeared in Washington, D.C. for a photo op with Governor Spitzer must join bipartisan movement of Democratic and Republican governors across the country that has rejected the Real ID Act as a threat to

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In the News: Real ID Act

President Bush’s national ID card isn’t about immigrants or the DMV

While it is encouraging that Governor Spitzer is holding off, for now, on implementing the Real ID Act in New York, the governor needs to put an end once-and-for-all to New York’s participation in President Bush’s national ID card scheme. New York was the first state to enter into a contract with the federal government and promise to implement the Real ID Act. We are now a step closer to the creation of a national database that can be used to track lawful New Yorkers’ every step. What starts as a swipe of the card to board an airplane or enter a federal building, which the Real ID Act already demands, could easily expand into requirements to scan the card to pick up your child from school or to attend a baseball game. With each swipe of the card, a digital fingerprint will be left behind, though how it will be used is far from clear. Coming from the administration that brought us the Patriot Act and warrantless wiretapping, the possibilities are endless, as is the potential for abuse.

New York does not have to submit to President Bush’s Real ID Act. In fact, the Real ID Act contains so many threats to our privacy, security and pocketbooks that 17 states have already passed legislation critical of it. New York should join bipartisan movement of Democratic and Republican governors across the country that has rejected the Real ID Act as a threat to
Reproductive Rights Project Takes on Phony, Taxpayer-Funded Programs
NYCLU Instrumental in State Rejecting Abstinence Money

The New York Civil Liberties Union released a report in September showing that the state’s tax-payer-funded abstinence-only-until-marriage programs endangered youth by leaving them unprepared to make healthy decisions about sexual activity.

Before the NYCLU had finished its press conference, State Health Commissioner Richard F. Daines announced that New York would reject millions of dollars in federal funding for abstinence programs and direct state funding toward comprehensive sex education.

Daines called the Bush administration’s abstinence-only-until-marriage program “an example of a failed national healthcare policy directive, based on ideology rather than on sound, scientific-based evidence that must be the cornerstone of good public health policy.”

Donna Lieberman, NYCLU executive director, applauded the NYCLU’s Reproductive Rights Project for drawing the state’s attention to the failure of abstinence-only-until-marriage programs.

“Even if the state responded to all of our reports with such immediate, positive action,” Lieberman said, “it is a credit to the hard work that Galen Sherwin and our Reproductive Rights Project put into reporting the failures of these programs and the need to provide children full, unbiased and accurate information regarding sexual health.”

The report, Financing Ignorance: A Report on Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Funding in New York, chronicles an in-depth investigation of 19 abstinence-only-until-marriage programs statewide that received federal funding through 2006. The NYCLU’s analysis revealed that:

- Abstinence-only-until-marriage curricula used across the state contain serious medical inaccuracies and employ fear-based teaching methods:
  - Curricula used by 22 programs inflate rates of STIs and HIV/AIDS and exaggerate the failure rates of condoms in preventing STIs, HIV/AIDS and pregnancy.
  - Curricula used by seven programs contain scare-tactics, presenting a list of dire consequences of pre-marital sexual activity; one curriculum includes in this list: “heart-attack.”
  - Curricula used by two programs inflate rates of STIs and HIV/AIDS and exaggerate the failure rates of condoms in preventing STIs, HIV/AIDS and pregnancy.
- These same curricula rely on scare-tactics, presenting a list of dire consequences of pre-marital sexual activity; one curriculum includes in this list: “heart-attack, infertility, loneliness, cervical cancer, [and] poverty.”
- Curricula used by seven programs contain falsehoods regarding abortion, telling students, for example, that an abortion could significantly endanger a young woman’s ability to have children in the future. Five programs partnered with crisis pregnancy centers, organizations that frequently promote inaccurate and biased views about abortion.
- The same curricula demonstrate serious bias:
  - Gender stereotypes regarding the different natures of girls and boys with respect to sexuality and relationships are presented as immutable, scientific facts. For example, one program teaches that “feminine support” is one of the five “major needs of women,” and “domestic support” is one of the five “major needs of men.”
  - Lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender youth are either completely ignored or de-personalized as “unnatural.”
- At least 19 of the funded programs focused a significant amount of programming on after school recreational activities with no direct relation to education.
- Instructors were not required to have special training or expertise as educators.
- Programs were not evaluated, or even required to evaluate themselves.
- Religious groups received more than half (53 percent) of this government funding without adequate safeguards against proselytizing, and religious content was included in some of the programming.

Since 1981, the federal government has distributed more than $1 billion for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs throughout the nation. New York had been the third-largest recipient of federal funding for such programs – behind Texas and Florida. In fiscal year 2006, New York accepted more than $10 million in federal money, matched by nearly $4 million in state funding.

New York’s announcement means that federal funds granted under Title V, one of the main funding streams for abstinence-only-until-marriage education, will be discontinued. Beginning Oct. 1, the New York government must do more.

Donna Lieberman, NYCLU executive director, applauded the NYCLU’s Reproductive Rights Project for drawing the state’s attention to the failure of abstinence-only-until-marriage programs and redirect state funding toward comprehensive sex education.

New York State Failing Poor People Accused of Crimes

Finding counties with dysfunctional public defense services was easy. Onandaga, Schuyler, Washington, Suffolk and Ontario counties were named in the complaint but, “we could have thrown darts at a map of New York,” Stoughton said.

New York has a 50 percent chance or higher to ensure that New York’s youth receive the information or testify at trial; file necessary pre-trial motions; do their jobs,” Stoughton said. “Their attorneys really committed to this case. “Their attorneys really committed to this case.

She had no previous criminal record. Thomas said it was difficult to listen to the inmates’ stories knowing the lawsuit wouldn’t necessarily help them in their individual criminal cases. Plaintiffs from understood the broader picture, however, and knew that their participation might spare others from suffering similar injustices.

From page 1
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sentation is available to those accused of crimes who cannot afford to hire lawyers. At a minimum, the state must set statewide standards for public defense, establish overall performance metrics, and adequately fund public defense services.

Filing the lawsuit required years of preparation, and the effort intensified in December after the NYCLU received an Atlantic Philanthropies grant. The law firm of Schulte Roth & Zabel joined the effort over the sum-

mer, providing much-needed pro bono support.

“The firm put so many hours into it,” said Corry Stoughton, NYCLU staff attorney and lead counsel for the case. “Their attorneys really committed to this issue.”

She also acknowledged Barrie Gewanter, di-

rector of the NYCLU’s Central New York Chapter, and Melanie Timbre, director of the Capital Region Chapter. Stoughton and Demetrius Thomas, a paralegal, began traveling the state in January to identify counties who named in the lawsuit. They interviewed defense attorneys, county executives, assigned counsel administrators and other officials involved in the public defense process. They chose those counties that represented each of the three forms of public defense services that state law allows: a county public defender office, a private law aid society or a panel of private assigned counsel. They also needed a geographically diverse group of counties that included rural and urban areas.

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“Joy is an essential ingredient of art, and of democracy, it's the vitality that, as Sondheim has it, drives us to the difficult tasks, the hard work of putting it all together, step by step, law by law, civil liberty by civil liberty. Joy is civic and free, and that's why we're here, that's why Broadway Stands Up for the NYCLU.”

Daphne Rubin-Vega (the original Mimi in Rent), Tony-winner LaChanze (Celie in The Color Purple) and Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Tony Kushner (Angels in America) were among the stars of the fifth annual Broadway Stands Up For Freedom! concert, a benefit for the NYCLU's youth programs.

A Powerful Tradition Continues for Five Years and Counting

Broadway Stands Up For Freedom, Supports Civil Liberties

On July 16, New York theater’s finest came together for Broadway Stands Up for Freedom!, a benefit show to support the youth programs of the New York Civil Liberties Union. Playwright Tony Kushner hosted the evening, which featured performances by Tony Award winners and Broadway stars including LaChanze (The Color Purple), Harriet Harris (Thoroughly Modern Millie), and Denis O’Hare (Take Me Out, Assassins).

Seth Rudetsky (Seth's Broadway Chatterbox) was musical director, and Daniel Goldstein (Indoor/Outdoor, But I'm a Cheerleader: The Musical) directed. All proceeds from the concert benefited the dynamic youth programs of the NYCLU, which include campaigns to combat overly-aggressive policing and abusive military recruitment tactics in city public schools and a Teen Health Initiative that has trained thousands of high school students as peer educators. Winners of the NYCLU's 2007 Student Expression Contest were honored at the event and spent time back stage with Broadway's brightest stars. Veteran actor Denis O'Hare gave a stirring performance of the contest's winning poem, “Draft Me!” by 11th grader Cordell Jacobs.

Also presented was the first annual “Freedom of the Press” award for outstanding student journalism, given to The Advocate, published by the journalism class of the High School for Law and Public Service. Harriet Harris of “Thoroughly Modern Millie” read the story of Biko Edwards, a Brooklyn teenager who was assaulted by a school-based employee of the NYPD while walking to chemistry class and whose story was featured in the NYCLU's report, Criminalizing the Classroom: The Over-Policing of New York City Schools.

Student contest winners meet some of the stars of Broadway Stands Up For Freedom.

An excerpt of Tony Kushner's Remarks

As you’ve probably read, George W. Bush has been whiling away his lonely hours recently in deep, deep conversation with philosophers and scholars and historians he’s invited to the White House. Together they ponder the larger mysteries, like: why does everyone hate me? Why doesn’t Jesus make the Iraqis do what I tell them to? What the heck is a stem cell, anyway? And how come Jerry Falwell doesn’t call me anymore like he used to?

Since he’s President, Bush can summon to the White House any philosopher, scholar or historian he wants — Dr. Phil, Camille Paglia, Tim Hardaway, Cardinal Bernard Henry Law, Ed Koch, the nun who was Clarence Thomas’s first grade teacher and, on any day other than Tuesday, Morrie. Given the talent available to him, imagine my surprise when, last week, my cellphone rang and I was summoned to the White House for a late night talk! Who knew W was into theater?

It was great. I felt like Jimmy Cagney in Yankee Doodle Dandy. There I was, in the Oval Office, just me and the President and the Secret Service and a big bowl of pretzels. Maybe it was the pretzels that made me nervous, since W has had his troubles swallowing those, or maybe it was not knowing what sort of difficult, searching questions he was going to ask me. I’m only a playwright, after all.

But I needn’t have worried. We talked about Christine Ebersol and Lhenwood’s review of Xanadu. We argued about whether John Doyle's approach worked better for Sweeney Todd or for Company, and how gay is Bobby supposed to be, and how much we both love Raul. Then W asked the question he’d invited me to answer, the question that had clearly been gnawing at him. Why, he wanted to know, and it’s bothered him for as long as he can remember, has the Broadway musical always pushed a liberal agenda, what is it about musical theater stars that make them such rarities in right wing and Republican circles, so much more likely to come out to do a benefit in support of the NYCLU than a benefit for the NRA or Swift Boat Veterans for the Truth?

Why aren’t there any Republican musicals? I explained to the President that theater, like all art, is made by people, practiced by people who are led places by their joy rather than by their fear, and this is perhaps some-

Save the Date: Broadway will stand up again this year on July 21. Watch www.nycul.org for details.

Photos by Starpix
Youth Camera Action Empowers New York City Students to Share Their Experiences with Police in Schools

Devon Chowdury faces the camera, unmoving, and says something startling about his high school.

“The school I go to, we have a precinct on the first floor—a precinct, right there on the first floor,” he says. “That makes me feel more like a criminal than a student.”

Chowdury, who graduated in June, “I’d see the recruiters at the guidance counselor’s office. I’d see people talking with students.”

Over the summer, the New York Civil Liberties Union teamed with youth from three community organizations—Future of Tomorrow, Make the Road New York, and Youth on the Move—to produce three short documentaries on student experiences with the over-policing of New York City’s schools.

The films are “Schoolhouse to Jailhouse” by Make the Road New York, “School: Where Safety is Nothing But An” by Future of Tomorrow, and “Our Schools: Safe or Not?” by Youth on the Move.

Youth developed the content and shot the footage for each film. They were assisted by Chloe Dugger, an NYCLU field organizer, and Rebecca Haimowitz, a professional filmmaker who volunteered to help with the documentaries.

“The students did excellent work,” Dugger says. “They poured hours of their summers into producing these films, which will be valuable tools to educate people about the School to Prison Pipeline.”

The films feature more than a dozen youth discussing how the massive police presence in city schools affects their lives. They address the presence of metal detectors inside schools, the over-reliance on suspensions as a form of discipline, the aggressive behavior of school safety agents and other ways that schools

We Want You(th) Report Reveals Aggressive Recruitment Techniques in Schools

Survey Looks Up Close at Military Recruitment

Rony Chowdury started being approached by military recruiters during his junior year at Thomas A. Edison High School in Queens. The military recruiters became a constant presence inside his school, always in pairs, engaging students in the hallways and the guidance counselor’s office.

“At one point it got pretty intense,” said Chowdury, who graduated in June. “I’d see the recruiters twice a week, or even three times a week on the first floor walking around and talking with students.”

A Marine recruiter, in full-dress uniform, once aggressively confronted him outside the school about enlisting.

“He was so persistent,” Chowdury said. “He wouldn’t leave me alone.”

Chowdury’s experience is not unique among New York City high school students, according to a report released in September by the New York Civil Liberties Union and Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer.

The report, We Want You(th), was based on a survey of nearly 1,000 students in 45 public high schools. military recruitment activities were thought to be prevalent in schools, it concludes that the Department of Education is not properly regulating military recruitment activities in the schools or safeguarding students’ privacy rights.

The federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 grants military recruiters wide access to public high schools and to students’ personal information, but the law also requires schools to allow students and parents to withhold personal information from the military. According to the report, many schools are not meeting this requirement.

About 40 percent of students surveyed at the beginning of the 2006-2007 academic year said they did not receive an opt-out form to withhold their personal information from the military. An additional 33 percent
What were the primary legal arguments against the NSL provision?

Accordingly, the ACLU and the NYCLU filed suit on behalf of the recipient of the NSL. We claimed

that the NSL and the statute authorizing the issuance of it were unconstitutional in two important respects. First, we argued that by failing to inform recipients of the NSL that they were permitted to consult with counsel and by making it appear that they could not do so, the NSL provision effectively denied recipients the ability to seek judicial intervention to review the scope of any document demand. Without potential judicial review, the NSL provision denied recipients their Fourth Amendment right to remain free from unreasonable searches and seizures.

How did the NYCLU get involved in this case?

An NSL issued, under the authority of the USA Patriot Act, adopted in September 2001, Congress eliminated the requirement that NSLs be limited to investigations of a "foreign power" and substituted a "triot Act, adopted in September 2001, Congress eliminated the requirement that NSLs be limited to investigations of a "foreign power" and substituted a prohibition direct-to Fourth Amendment standards limiting the scope of information and that appeal is pending in the Second Circuit.

What happens next?

The government has again appealed the decision in the Morrison case, and filed charges against the sergeant and an assistant police officer, as well as a city employee. In August 2005, the sergeant was found guilty of using excessive force against a pedestrian, and a report released by the CCRB found that an NYPD sergeant had used excessive force against a drug arrest in which a man accused of buying a small amount of cocaine was choked, tackled, handcuffed and repeatedly kicked and punched. The man suffered fractured ribs and a ruptured spleen, which was surgically removed a week after the beating following a 911 call. The Department accepted the CCRB’s findings and filed charges against the sergeant and an assistant deputy commissioner of police for actions that would merit incarceration if committed by a civilian.

The report included several examples of lenient punishments imposed against police officers for actions that would merit incarceration if committed by a civilian. In a 2003 incident highlighted in the report, the CCRB found that the NYPD sergeant had used excessive force against a drug arrest in which a man accused of buying a small amount of cocaine was choked, tackled, handcuffed and repeatedly kicked and punched. The man suffered fractured ribs and a ruptured spleen, which was surgically removed a week after the beating following a 911 call. The Department accepted the CCRB’s findings and filed charges against the sergeant and an assistant deputy commissioner of police for actions that would merit incarceration if committed by a civilian.
Yours Papers, Please: What the Real ID Act Means for American Values
From page 3
American values...
Congress passed the Real ID Act in May 2005 when lawmakers slipped the legislation into a “must pass” spending bill that also increased the tax on imports. The Real ID Act requires states to make vehicles pass government- approved background checks, and access and control points. New York...
The 2007 Legislative Session: A Civil Liberties Overview

Legislative Director Robert Perry on the NYCLU’s View

It is not surprising that, after 12 years with a Republican in the governor’s office, the election of Eliot Spitzer would engender great expectations. But not before the final showdown, upstate Republican Andrew Ayer related her family’s and her son’s struggle in coming to terms with his identity as a gay man: “My God loves my son and as sure as I am standing here tonight, this issue is certainly not one for me, or should be out of our hands, anything other than a civil rights issue.”

Commitment of Sex Offenders

The NYCLU, along with victims’ rights advocates, mental health experts and public defenders, urged the governor’s staff to reconsider the administration’s support for legislation that would permit the state to incarcerate an individual following a sentence served for a sex offense. Nevertheless, the governor brokered a deal. The new law reflects a political deal-making that led to its adoption. The authority to utilize a civil commitment petition is overly broad (arson, robbery and assault could trigger a civil commitment proceeding if sexual motivation could be shown); it erroneously conflates “mental abnormality” with criminality; and it will require an enormous allocation of resources to conduct and treat a fracture of the sex-offender population, diverting scarce resources from sex-offender management programs.

Good public policy reflects sound constitutional principles. This precedent reflected in a recent federal court ruling that struck down on constitutional grounds the state’s new civil-commitment law.

Expansion of the state’s DNA databank

DNA is considered the gold standard of forensic science. And, as a consequence, both the Assembly and the governor (through a senate sponsor) advanced bills that would require every person convicted of a crime – even low-level misdemeanors – to submit a DNA sample for inclusion in the state’s databank. These provisions were intended to ensure the collection and preservation of crime-scene evidence and to provide persons charged and convicted of crimes against DNA evidence for purposes of establishing their innocence. These provisions, absent from the Senate bill, led to an impasse.

But absent from negotiations was any discussion of potential problems with a massive expansion of the DNA databank. (One scholar attributes this lack of critical thinking to “the CSI effect.”) DNA is no magic bullet. Lab technicians are not infallible; they are not immune to negligence, bias or malpractice.

In public testimony before the Assembly codes and correction committees the NYCLU documented systemic error and fraud in crime labs throughout the country – including mishandling and cross-contamination of evidence, flawed analysis of computer-generated DNA profiles, and intentional misrepresentation by lab technicians and prosecutors of ambiguous lab results. These problems are exacerbated by a mandate to collect and analyze DNA from many tens of thousands of low-level, non-violent offenders. This has led to massive backlogs – delaying the identification of violent felons and creating inefficiency in the law-enforcement system.

The NYCLU’s testimony called for reconstituting the state’s forensic commission, providing it the independence, authority and resources required to provide rigorous oversight of the state’s DNA databank.

Civil Liberties Watch: 2008

Rockefeller Drug Laws. In March of 2007, Governor Spitzer appointed a Commission on Sentencing, charged with ensuring “appropriate and just criminal sanctions.” But the Commission’s preliminary report, published in October, was all but silent on the state’s notoriously unjust drug-sentencing laws – notwithstanding the emergence of a new national paradigm that diverts drug offenders from incarceration by utilizing a robust program of treatment and rehabilitation. The NYCLU will advocate for a comprehensive reform bill in 2008.

LGBT Rights. The historic-three-hour Assembly debate on the same-sex marriage bill offered a rare display of conviction and frankness that may have favorably shifted the politics of LGBT issues in Albany. The NYCLU will work with the Empire State Pride Agenda to convene this political dynamic into broader support for LGBT rights and the Real ID Act.

DNA Databank. There are compelling legal and public-safety arguments against expanding the state’s DNA databank. The bottom line: Before undertaking any further expansion of the state’s databank, legislators must ensure there is sufficient regulatory oversight to protect the privacy and due-process rights of individuals whose DNA is in the possession of the state.

Real ID Act. The Real ID Act dictates to the states a federal standard for issuing and verifying licenses. As a practical matter, the Real ID is a national identification card that will leave a digital fingerprint whenever, if ever, swiped, scanned or read at the thousands of electronic check points people are required to pass through.

Seven states have opted out of compliance with the Real ID Act. But Governor Spitzer, editorialized The New York Times, may be turning his constituents into “the nation’s guinea pigs for the controversial Real ID.” The NYCLU is mobilizing a statewide campaign to exclude New York from the Real ID regulatory scheme.

Notice regarding board nominations

The annual meeting of the members of the NYCLU will be at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 11, 2008 at 125 Broad St., New York, NY for the purpose of electing directors, receiving the annual report and transacting any other appropriate business. All directors are elected by a vote of the statewide membership. This year there are 15 vacancies to be filled. The NYCLU Nominating Committee is charged by the NYCLU by-laws to nominate only as many candidates as there are vacancies on the Board. The Nominating Committee will nominate its state slate. If you are interested in finding out who the nominees are, please write to Donna Lieberman, Executive Director, 125 Broad St., New York NY 10004.

The governing board of each NYCLU chapter is entitled to nominate one director. Nomination may also be made by petition of at least 25 members.

Nominations must be filed with Executive Director Donna Lieberman by April 12, 2008, 60 days prior to the annual meeting, at 125 Broad St., New York NY 10004.

A proxy ballot, along with biographical information and supporting statements of the nominees, will be published in the next issue of the NYCLU News.

New York Civil Liberties Union
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New York, NY 10004
Tel: 212.607.3300 Fax: 212.607.3329

Help the NYCLU continue to fight for individual freedoms and democratic principles. Help us advance a civil liberties agenda in Albany. Help us ensure your freedom and the freedom of every New Yorker.

Announcing the 2007 NYCLUiders: by the Empire State Pride Agenda

Photo by the Empire State Pride Agenda

Enclosed is my check payable to the NYCLU Foundation in the amount of:

$500
$250
$100
$50

If you are interested in finding out who the nominees are, please write to Donna Lieberman, Executive Director, 125 Broad St., New York NY 10004.

The governing board of each NYCLU chapter is entitled to nominate one director. Nomination may also be made by petition of at least 25 members.

Nominations must be filed with Executive Director Donna Lieberman by April 12, 2008, 60 days prior to the annual meeting, at 125 Broad St., New York NY 10004.

A proxy ballot, along with biographical information and supporting statements of the nominees, will be published in the next issue of the NYCLU News.

Nr001