

Collection #
M 1457

**AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF INDIANA
COLLECTION ADDITION, 1995-2015**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript box

COLLECTION DATES: 1995-2015

PROVENANCE: American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana, December, 2015

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: ACLU of Indiana Records (M 1056); Rowland Allen Papers (M 0508)

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2015.0399

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The ACLU of Indiana (the Indiana Civil Liberties Union until 2006) held its first meeting on 20 November, 1953, and is an affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union which was founded in 1920 to protect individual freedom guaranteed by the Bill of Rights. The initial meeting gained national attention after the Indiana War Memorial Commission in Indianapolis rescinded its earlier permission to allow the meeting in their facility on the grounds that the organization allowed Communists to belong. The fight to hold their meeting in the War Memorial was to continue for the next twenty years. Among the ICLU's founders were Irving Fink and Rowland Allen.

The ICLU has been involved in numerous cases protecting the rights guaranteed to citizens under the Bill of Rights. In the 1960s the ICLU represented Vietnam War protestors, Jehovah's Witnesses, protecting welfare rights and improving jail conditions. In February, 1973, the Indiana State Supreme Court overturned the Marion County Superior Court's ruling and allowed the ICLU to meet at the War Memorial. Other triumphs for the organization in the 1970s included the right of students to freedom of expression by not restricting the length of their hair and protecting public school students from state supported religious instruction by not teaching creationism in biology classes.

In the 1980s and 1990s the ICLU was at the forefront of several controversial cases. In 1986 it supported Ryan White's efforts to attend school after being diagnosed with AIDS. In 1993 it supported the Ku Klux Klan's right to assemble on the steps of the State Capital arguing that the First Amendment protects free speech no matter how offensive. Other cases in this time period involved ending license branch patronage and protecting against police brutality.

From 2000 to the present the ACLU of Indiana continues to protect rights guaranteed by the Bill of Rights. These include limiting the power of law enforcement to conduct searches using drug-sniffing dogs at roadblocks, striking down the state curfew law for minors and denying Medicaid payment for therapy service to severely disabled children. In 2013 was successful in protecting Planned Parenthood from the state's efforts to cut funding to the organization.

Sources: ACLU of Indiana Collection Guide (M 1056)

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This addition to the papers of the ACLU of Indiana focuses on the years 2014-2015. Included is the annual meeting program for 2014, the "First Wednesdays" Program brochures, 2013-2015; press releases, 2013-2015; list of current litigation, 2014-2015; the organization's magazine, "Common Ground," 1995; and engagement calendars, 1995-1997.

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<i>Common Ground</i> , 1995	Box 1, Folder 5
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