

**Collection #
M 1056
OMB 0138
DVD 0265-0271**

**ACLU OF INDIANA
RECORDS, 1953-2013**

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Processed by

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August, 2013

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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 11 manuscript boxes, 1 oversized manuscript box, 1 folder color photographs, 15 video tapes, 7 DVDs

COLLECTION DATES: 1953–2013

PROVENANCE: ACLU of Indiana, 2013

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Rowland Allen Papers, M 0508

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2013.0181

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 The initial meeting gained national attention after the Indiana War Memorial Commission in Indianapolis rescinded its earlier permission to allow the meeting in their facility on the grounds that the organization allowed Communists to belong.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:

Information in Collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains the ACLU/ICLU's newsletters, board minutes and committee materials, legal issues and programs, materials regarding 2001 Indiana General Assembly and DVDs and video tapes.

The newsletters date from 1968–2013 and list the litigation in which the organization has been involved as well as meetings and programs. Board of Directors minutes and materials are from 1985–2009. In additions to minutes, there are handbooks and materials from the Screening Committee, 1968–1995, and Legal Defense Fund items, 1985–1991.

The collection also contains items regarding legal cases and public programs. Legal materials include the transcript of the public hearing regarding the Indiana War Memorial Commission, 1968; records regarding the Pro-Choice Coalition of Indiana, 1990–1994; press releases; annual meetings, 1979–2013; and public educational programs and conferences, 1981–2013. Topics regarding the ICLU's files on the 2001 Indiana General Assembly include curfew, charter schools, censorship, gambling, taxes, violent video games and police actions. Among the media related materials is a DVD copy of the Edward R. Murrow broadcast regarding the ICLU's attempt to meet in the War Memorial from *See It Now*, 24 November, 1953. Other DVDs and VHS videos include the organization's *First Wednesdays Program*, 2012–2013 and conferences, 1992, 1996.

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The Advocate, 1999

Carrying the Torch, 2000

Carrying the Torch, 2001

CONTAINER

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