

LIBERTY REPORTER

Spring 2020

WHAT WE ARE DOING DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Transitioned our entire staff to work-at-home with minimal disruptions

Wrote about Utah's failed wireless border checkpoints for national ACLU blog

Updated members & supporters about key results from the 2020 Legislative Session

Filed lawsuit against all 29 counties and the state to protect the health of people in jails and prisons



Shared legal resources with allies engaged with immigrant communities

Lobbied legislators to amend the new voting bill to enable safe access to in-person voting in San Juan County

Motivated staff of 15 to stay healthy, sharp, and productive



Adapted the ACLU's intake system to respond to complaints while working remotely

Maintained four ongoing lawsuits and the San Juan County settlement agreement



Hosted a webinar with St. George-area nonprofits on sharing community resources

Sent letters to county sheriffs and jails urging the protection of vulnerable inmates

Drafted and shared template motion to obtain the release of inmates due to COVID-19



Live-streamed *Know Your Rights* videos on immigration enforcement and movement restrictions that reached 1,000 viewers

Kept the office finances and human resources moving smoothly

Tracked breaking news and alerts on ACLU of Utah's Facebook and Twitter channels

Ballot Intervention in Weber County | Q & A: How We Shape Legislation
Meet Our Newest Attorney: Valentina De Fex | SCOTUS Preview

ACLU
Utah

PERSPECTIVES

What are the “red lines” governments shouldn’t cross when responding to a public crisis?



Brittney Nystrom, Executive Director

“Identifying appropriate guardrails for government in a time of public crisis is complicated for anyone who cherishes individual freedoms. While there is a need for strong government leadership during a pandemic, there must also be checks on its action. One “red line” that shines brightly for me during a crisis is the risk of discrimination, whether unconscious, subtle, or deliberate. Which patients receive a ventilator in the ICU? Which businesses are deemed essential or approved for an emergency loan? Which inmates are released early from a county jail? Or which votes are missing if in-person voting options are eliminated?”



Roni Jo Draper, Board President

“I understand that all governments must balance protecting the public good and ensuring individual freedoms. And I recognize that some of our freedoms may have to be limited during a time of crisis. Ultimately, however, the “red line” that the government most not cross is limiting the freedom of speech. The press must be free to question the decisions made by governments, to fact-check statements, and to shine a light on uncomfortable truths. People will have conflicting views and values during a time of crisis, but the civic conversation must be allowed to continue without restrictions.”



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THANK YOU!

On behalf of the ACLU of Utah staff and Board of Directors, we want to thank you for your loyal and generous support.

Your gifts allow us to continue the fight for civil rights and liberties throughout the state of Utah.

THE ACLU OF UTAH

The ACLU of Utah, chartered in 1958, operates through public education, legal advocacy, litigation, and lobbying at both the state and local levels to ensure the constitutional rights and freedoms of everyone living in or visiting Utah.

Our Mission is to defend and promote the fundamental principles and values embodied in the Bill of Rights and the U.S. Constitution, including the freedom of speech and religion, and the right to privacy, equality, and due process for all Utahns.

Staff & Contractors

Brittney Nystrom, Executive Director

Marina Baginsky Lowe,

Legislative & Policy Counsel

John Mejia, Legal Director

Erin Hurtado, Development Director

Leah Farrell, Senior Staff Attorney

Jessica Andrews, Director of Finance & Administration

Hannah Nerone, Development & Finance Coordinator

Angelica Guzman, Office Manager

Jason Groth, Smart Justice Attorney

Margie Nash, Paralegal

Sydni Makemo, Southern Utah Community Outreach Coordinator

Nikila Venugopal, Voting Rights Coordinator

Valentina De Fex, Immigrants’ Rights Legal Fellow

Sara Wolovick, Equal Justice Works Fellow

Jason Stevenson, Strategic Communications Manager

Nicholas Cockrell, Communications Consultant

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Brian King, Kass Harstad, Kathryn Lindquist

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Tarin, Shane Marx, Mary Woodhead, Kass

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Claire Smith, Alex Marticorena, Kimber Parry,

Pedro Padilla-Martinez, Atticus Teter, John

Soltis, Brittany Urness, Cash Mendenhall, Maura

Cheney, Chloe Lovik, London Reynolds

Capitol Strategy

Smart Justice Attorney Jason Groth explains how he promotes better criminal justice legislation at the Utah Legislature.

Q: Where do you find ideas for legislation?

[Jason Groth] First, we lean on the practical experience from experts within the criminal justice system, from attorneys to impacted persons to advocates. When they realize the barriers they face can't be addressed on a case-by-case basis, they approach us about seeking broader legislative solutions. For example, this year's prosecutor transparency bill (H.B. 288) was motivated by the fact that we know racial disparities exist within the criminal justice system, but we need better data about the drivers of those disparities.

Q: How closely do you work with lawmakers?

[JG]: It depends. Sometimes we spend months debating policy points and crafting language that becomes legislation. Other times, a lawmaker will contact us a few weeks before the session begins, or even in the middle of it, to get our take on their bill. Most of the time,

lawmakers aren't looking for the "ACLU seal of approval," but they recognize our expertise in key areas like criminal justice reform and free speech and want our feedback.

Q: Do lawmakers ever tell you, "I can't believe I'm working with the ACLU?"

[JG]: When it comes up, I just joke, "I can't believe I am working with you, but this is a great bill. Let's pass it." It's normal for the ACLU of Utah to collaborate with legislators on issues like

criminal justice reform, and oppose them on other issues, like reproductive rights. That split happens all the time. But if we acknowledge our differences and can still work together, we can get a lot more done.

Q: How much do you rely on your experience as a former public defender?

[JG]: All the time. It helps me understand how new legislation will impact what happens in the courtroom. For Utah-specific issues, I rely on allies like the Utah Association of

Criminal Defense Lawyers to answer questions and check my hunches. But my legal experience allows me to speak about criminal justice issues in a meaningful way.

Q: How do you prepare to testify for or against a bill?

[JG]: In an ideal situation, I meet with other stakeholders prior to a legislative hearing to develop an effective strategy.

Continued on page 7

“Most of the time, lawmakers aren't looking for the 'ACLU seal of approval,' but they recognize our expertise in key areas...”

Jason Groth, ACLU of Utah



Jason Groth (right), testifies in support of Rep. Cory Maloy's (left) bill limiting drivers license suspensions for unpaid court fees.



Decision Time

The U.S. Supreme Court is poised to decide several landmark cases by the end of June.

LGBTQ Discrimination

R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Homes v. EEOC & Aimee Stephens

Altitude Express, Inc. v. Zarda

Can someone be fired for being transgender or gay?

Five years after the Court established marriage equality, the justices will decide two more cases interpreting whether federal civil rights statutes prohibit discrimination against LGBTQ individuals in the workplace. Both plaintiffs, who are now deceased, are represented by ACLU attorneys. Aimee Stephens was fired by a Michigan funeral home for being transgender, while skydiving instructor Don Zarda was terminated after telling a customer he was gay.

Immigrants' Rights

Department of Homeland Security v. Regents of the University of California

Did the Trump administration legally end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals ("DACA") program and can the Court review that decision?

While the questions raised in this case are technical, the stakes are high for the more than 10,500 Utahns who live and work under the protection of the DACA program. After the Trump administration ended the DACA program in 2017, multiple states and institutions sued to reverse the action and to protect the rights of DACA recipients. Last month, advocates submitted additional briefing to the Court highlighting the 27,000 healthcare workers with DACA status fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

Abortion

June Medical Services v. Gee

Can states require doctors who perform abortions to have hospital admitting privileges?

Although the Court answered "no" in an identical Texas case three years ago, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit upheld a Louisiana law requiring admitting privileges for abortion providers, leading to this legal do-over with two new justices—Kavanaugh and Gorsuch—on the Court. Of local interest, our legal challenge to Utah's 18-week abortion ban is on hold until the justices answer another issue associated with the case—whether Louisiana's abortion clinics have standing to challenge laws on behalf of their clients.

ACLU of Utah Legal Docket Update

- **Petition For Extraordinary Relief** (Utah prisoner safety during a pandemic) - Filed petition on April 1
- **Planned Parenthood Association of Utah v. Miner** (Utah's 18-week abortion ban) - On hold until U.S. Supreme Court decision in June on standing issue (see "Decision Time" on this page)
- **Márquez v. Burdine** (home raid by probation officers) - Defendants' answer due in late May
- **ACLU of Utah & Disability Law Center v. Davis County** (jail standards) - Trial date to be determined
- **Ramirez v. Reddish** (home raid by federal agents) - Recent decision allows lawsuit to continue against federal and state agents on three counts, dismissed several others
- **McCubbin v. Weber County** (Ogden Trece gang injunction) - Trial and hearing dates to be determined



The 2020 Legislative Session was unusual by all accounts—beginning with a bottleneck of bills stuck in the drafting office—and ending under the looming threat of COVID-19.

Nevertheless, the ACLU of Utah was on Capitol Hill every day from January to March as we tracked 155 bills that impacted the civil liberties of all Utahns on topics ranging from criminal justice to free speech to reproductive rights.

We worked behind the scenes, in coalition with partners, and in the public eye to pass legislation promoting fundamental freedoms and working to stop or amend harmful bills. The following recap is a snapshot of some of our more high-profile efforts.

ABORTION BILLS:

H.B. 364 - ABORTION REVISIONS (ULTRASOUND)

S.B. 174 - ABORTION PROHIBITION

S.B. 67 - DISPOSITION OF FETAL REMAINS

Abortion faced a triple threat during the 2020 session, with three bills targeting reproductive rights from new and pernicious angles. But thanks to a smart strategy, persistent lobbying, and the courage of six women Senators, we helped defeat a medically-unnecessary ultrasound requirement (H.B. 364) for every woman seeking an abortion and revealed fatigue for more anti-abortion legislation in Utah. When all the women Senators walked out of the debate over the forced ultrasound bill, it became the most powerful moment of the 2020 session. It also illustrated a key finding of our statewide survey of abortion rights released at the beginning of the session: When informed about the state's current abortion restrictions, 80 percent of Utahns object to legislation adding more limits.

Despite our strong opposition, the two other abortion bills passed the legislature and became law. Grabbing the most headlines was Sen. Dan McCay's (R-Riverton) full ban on elective abortions (S.B. 174). As a "trigger bill," this measure will only take effect if a higher court like the U.S. Supreme Court allows it by overturning four decades of abortion rights established by *Roe v. Wade*. Taking a more indirect approach was Sen. Curt Bramble's (R-Provo) fetal remains bill (S.B. 67), which requires medical providers to inform women about how they can dispose of the fetal remains after an abortion or miscarriage while also limiting their available options. Even though our lobbying team pushed several amendments to make this legislation more workable, the inclusion of miscarriages in this bill demonstrated the legislature's willingness to limit all women's healthcare choices just to strike a glancing blow against abortion rights.

JAIL & PRISON BILLS:

S.B. 185 - GOVERNMENT RECORDS AMENDMENTS

S.B. 193 - STATEWIDE JAIL DATA AMENDMENTS

What happens inside Utah's county jails has long remained hidden behind locked doors and secret records. This concealment masked problems like the state's dubious distinction of having the nation's highest per-capita rate of jail deaths in 2016. While the ACLU of Utah has pursued difficult but ultimately successful public records requests and lawsuits to shed daylight on jail practices, we recognize that better legislation could help. Hence, our strong support and testimony in favor of two Senate bills. Both bills passed in the final hours of the 2020 session. S.B. 185 will increase the transparency and accessibility of public documents related to jail operations by making jail standards and audits public, while S.B. 193 will create a statewide demographic census of people incarcerated in jails as well as an account of how many people county jails are incarcerating on behalf of ICE or the state Department of Corrections. Together, both bills will provide necessary data to guide future criminal justice reform efforts.

PRIVACY & TECHNOLOGY BILLS:

S.B. 218 - FACIAL RECOGNITION PROVISIONS

H.B. 231 - GENETIC INFORMATION AMENDMENTS

H.B. 466 - LAW ENFORCEMENT USE OF BIOMETRIC INFORMATION

S.B. 210 - BODY CAMERA AMENDMENTS

After last year's success at approving the nation's first protections for cloud-based data storage (H.B. 57 Electronic Information or Data Privacy), we expected to pass more bills this session limiting law enforcement use of facial recognition (S.B. 218) and personal DNA databases at consumer genetic testing companies like Ancestry.com (H.B. 231). But neither of those bills advanced. Why? These complex issues often require several years of study before they become law. Plus, recent state and national surveys indicate that the public is willing to give law enforcement significant leeway in using crime-fighting technology even if it erodes their personal privacy. Much work remains, but look for these two issues, plus restrictions on law enforcement's ability

to force you to use your face to open your smartphone (H.B. 466), to return in future sessions. One successful privacy bill we supported this year provides much-needed regulation for when law enforcement officers deactivate a body camera (S.B. 210). Not only does the bill require police officers to document why they failed to turn on a body camera, it also allows a judge to instruct a jury to view missing footage negatively against the officer.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM BILLS:

H.B. 288 - PROSECUTOR DATA COLLECTION AMDS.

We know that bias exists in the criminal justice system. But where does it start, and where is it concentrated? This bill will attempt to answer those questions by collecting previously unavailable data from all prosecutor offices in Utah—from city prosecutors to the Attorney General—on how they do their jobs. This information, including jail data on age, race, and ethnicity of defendants, as well as what charges the prosecutor filed or whether a plea deal was offered, will be sent every six months to the state's Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice. This information will be made available to researchers and the public. Given that this new law will create mountains of new and useful data to illuminate the "black box" of Utah's prosecutorial system, it's no surprise that the bill's sponsor, Rep. Marsha Judkins (R-Provo), has a day job as a math professor at Utah Valley University. ACLU of Utah Smart Justice Attorney Jason Groth not only shaped the content of this bill, but also spent hours lobbying lawmakers and testifying before committees to build the bipartisan support that enabled its passage.

H.B. 146 - DRIVERS LICENSE SUSPENSION

Most people believe that your driver's license can be suspended only due to a driving-related offense like a DUI or serious accident where you were at fault. But every year, 30,000 Utahns are losing their licenses due to non-payment of legal fines or failing to appear for a court hearing. This didn't make

sense to the ACLU of Utah, nor to Rep. Cory Maloy (R-Lehi), who sponsored legislation to remove license suspensions as a consequence of non-payment of fines or missing court dates. After all, losing your ability to drive will make it harder to earn wages to pay fines and show up at court. Plus, we learned the state was collecting \$1 million a year in license re-instatement fees. Despite support in both chambers for this commonsense legislation, Sen. Curt Bramble (R-Provo) held this bill in the final hour of the session and prevented it from passing.

H.B. 206 - BAIL & PRETRIAL RELEASE AMENDMENTS

Did you know that over 50 percent of the people incarcerated in Utah jails and prisons haven't been convicted of a crime? They are held in pre-trial detention, with many of them unable to pay bail to get out. This bill, which passed in the final hours of the 2020 session, brings important reforms to Utah's bail system with the goal of reducing pre-trial detention. Not only does the bill create a new rule that defendants eligible for release "shall be released under the least restrictive reasonably available conditions," but it also allows judges to consider a person's ability to pay when setting bail amounts. Opposition to the bill by the bail bond industry was overcome by strong lobbying and testimony from a powerful combination of advocates, public defenders, and prosecutors whose testimony propelled Rep. Stephanie Pitcher's (D-Salt Lake City) bill across the finish line to begin the process of reforming bail in Utah.

H.B. 298 - VICTIM GUIDELINES FOR PROSECUTORS (U VISAS)

A "U Visa" is a visa the federal government may grant to victims of violent crimes who report the crime and cooperate with criminal investigations. First created in 2000, U Visas provide protection that allows recipients to legally live and work in the U.S. As a first step, victims must obtain a certification by a law enforcement agency that they have been helpful

to the investigation of the crime they reported. For years, immigrant communities and service providers have reported inconsistencies in the way Utah law enforcement agencies handle requests for U Visa certifications. Fortunately, Rep. Andrew Stoddard (D-Midvale) agreed to our request, working in coordination with the Refugee Justice League, that he champion this bill to promote and standardize the use of this important tool to protect vulnerable victims of crime. Legislators agreed with his approach, passing the final version of H.B. 298 unanimously in both chambers to secure this session's major win for immigrants' rights.

ADDITIONAL BILLS:

H.B. 243 - WARNING LABELS AMENDMENTS

Originally written to protect children from the dangers of pornography by slapping a 57-word warning label on any potentially obscene material, this bill was revised during the session to more clearly focus on obscenity, which receives less First Amendment protection. One troubling aspect of this bill that didn't change was the provision that allows individuals, with support from the Utah Attorney General, to bring civil suits against any person who distributes obscene material without a visible warning, including a \$500 "bounty" paid to the person who initiated a successful suit. This practice could promote self-censorship and a chilling of free expression, not to mention spawn a cottage legal industry to file civil actions against book stores and other businesses. For these reasons, the ACLU of Utah opposed this bill, although it ultimately passed both chambers of the legislature and Gov. Herbert allowed it to become law without his signature.

S.B. 200 - REDISTRICTING AMENDMENTS

Of the three ballot initiatives passed by Utah voters in 2018, only Proposition 4, the anti-gerrymandering initiative, remained unaltered by legislative meddling at the beginning of the 2020 Legislative Session. As a result, everyone, including the ACLU

ACLU On the Hill



Watch video interviews about our lobbying efforts
www.acluutah.org/2020session

of Utah (which actively campaigned for Prop 4 to promote fair elections) waited for the ax to fall on it and stood ready in defense. But instead of a complete repeal, negotiations between Better Boundaries (the main backers of Prop 4) and lawmakers resulted in a compromise bill that kept the independent redistricting commission intact and funded it with \$1 million. However, the bill also removes the commission's leverage over the legislature's review of redistricting maps and restricted public lawsuits against lawmaker-drawn maps. With Better Boundaries claiming the commission will retain significant power and urging passage of the compromise agreement, the Legislature voted for the bill nearly unanimously to set the redistricting process in motion.

H.B. 449 - STUDY OF THE DIAGNOSIS, TREATMENT, AND CARE OF TRANSGENDER MINORS

As lawmakers in South Dakota and Idaho debated bills this winter that would have criminalized hormone therapy and other medications for transgender youth, a similar bill drafted by Rep. Brad Daw (R-Pleasant Grove) sat waiting at the Utah Legislature. When national attention, public outcry, and boycott threats derailed the bills in neighboring states, and local pressure and lobbying ramped up in Utah, Rep. Daw knew his bill was in trouble. So, when Daw released his bill with a week left in the session, he had re-written it to require the Utah Department of Health to establish a \$26,000 grant to study the "benefits and side effects" of hormone therapy by transgender youth. But even that attempt to deflect opposition failed when a bipartisan coalition of House members voted 55-17 to stop the bill from advancing and secure a major win for LGBTQ rights in Utah.



Marina Lowe (standing) prepares to testify against H.B 243 (Warning Labels Amendments).

Download the ACLU of Utah's Legislative Review at www.acluutah.org/2020wrapup

Election Day in Weber County

How does the ACLU of Utah protect ballot access?
Our Voting Rights Coordinator Nikila Venugopal explains.

On the day of Utah's presidential primary election, March 3, I found myself standing in the chilly morning air outside an empty library with just a clipboard, pen, and a couple of homemade signs. And I was several miles from the nearest polling place.

Was I in the wrong place? No, but over the next 12 hours I would meet many frustrated Utah voters who were.

Four weeks earlier, the ACLU of Utah had learned that the Weber County Clerk planned to open only one of the usual six in-person polling places for the primary election.

Despite the county's emphasis on mail-in ballots, we were concerned this change would disenfranchise many Weber County residents, especially rural and low-income voters, people

needing language assistance or disability accommodations to cast a ballot, and those wanting to register to vote on Election Day. In response, I recruited a team of volunteers to stand in front of every library where Weber County residents had previously been able to cast an in-person ballot. Starting early in the morning, our teams re-directed hundreds of confused voters while tallying their frustrations. Sadly, we also encountered many Weber County residents who were unable to vote because they lacked the time to drive to the county's one remaining polling center located in downtown Ogden.

By the end of the day, our team of thirteen volunteers staked out five libraries, monitored the lines at the main Ogden vote center, and spoke to over 300 frustrated voters. I drove back and forth across the county to deliver supplies, fill schedule slots, and conduct media interviews. When I got home late that night, I had put over 130 miles on my car.

Thanks to our volunteer-driven effort, we were able to compile many stories from people who could not vote in the primary election because they lacked the time, money, or gas to get to the county's single vote center. We submitted our findings in a report to the Weber County Clerk and will continue to advocate for more accessible polling places for the general election in November.

Our March 3 deployment to Weber

County, however, was not the first time our Voting Rights Campaign has mobilized to protect fair and straightforward ballot access for all Utah voters. Last November, I led a team of volunteer attorneys and community members to monitor a special election in San Juan County. In addition to monitoring the terms of our settlement agreement to assist voters living on the Navajo Nation, our poll watchers also discovered the county clerk inappropriately distributing partisan election materials inside the polling places. A vote cast in Garfield County or San Juan County matters just as much as a vote cast in Salt Lake City. But the unique power held by county clerks over the mechanics of voter registration and ballot access often means that rights violations remain unseen and uncorrected by watchdog groups. To guard against any infringements, the ACLU and our partners must be on the ground across the state to uncover problems and dismantle barriers as they arise. We will also focus more attention on the influence of county clerks over the voting process and the importance of these positions for promoting fair and accessible ballot access.

For the pivotal election in November, we will need even more volunteers to protect voting rights in Utah. If you believe that voting should be accessible, I invite you to join us by signing up as a volunteer at the website below.

Join the ACLU of Utah Voting Rights Project
www.acluutah.org/votingvolunteer



Nikila Venugopal (top left) and ACLU volunteer John Soltis assist voters during the March 3 election in Weber County.

Privacy Still Matters

We will remain vigilant against state surveillance that violates personal privacy.

On April 10, thousands of motorists entering Utah at nine border crossings received a text message directing them to complete a government survey with their personal details and any potential exposure to COVID-19. But just three days later, the state cancelled the project after wayward text messages clogged the phones of people sitting in their kitchens

miles from a state border. Utah's failed attempt at wireless "gate-keeping" received wider attention after the National ACLU re-published our blog post about it (see link at right). But we also realize the state's keenness to use surveillance technology to tackle COVID-19 is just beginning. On April 22, state officials began promoting the "Healthy

Together" app that uses location tracking to accelerate contact tracing. As more issues arise, the ACLU of Utah will evaluate each new development and defend the importance of privacy—even during a time of pandemic.

Read our blog post on Utah's COVID-19 checkpoints
www.acluutah.org/wirelessborders

Meet Valentina De Fex

The ACLU of Utah's newest staff member is an attorney with a passion for immigrant justice.

Although Valentina De Fex joined the ACLU of Utah staff in early April as our first Immigrants' Rights Legal Fellow and fifteenth full-time employee, she has yet to set foot in the Salt Lake City office.

Instead, she began her tenure with the ACLU by working remotely from Portland, Ore., where, for the last 18 months, she has engaged in direct legal representation for clients who are immigrants.

Despite the intervening 750 miles, Valentina already has made her presence and expertise felt through numerous video conference calls where she has offered input on how immigration issues permeate the current civil liberties conversations—from pandemic response to voting rights to criminal justice.

"I am excited to join the ACLU of Utah where my priorities will be ensuring that immigrants' rights are both recognized and protected," she said during an interview via FaceTime. "I also want to increase the understanding of how the criminal justice system serves as another tool of immigration enforcement."

Valentina earned her undergraduate degree at the University of Pennsylvania, where she double majored in political science and diplomatic history. Her first professional exposure to immigration law—arguably one of the most challenging practice areas—came while working at Boston College Law School's immigration clinic. She discovered a passion for this legal arena after being exposed to the impact of racialized police enforcement on immigration proceedings, and she never looked back. As a third-year law student, she co-wrote and argued an

immigration case before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco—a career capstone for many attorneys let alone one still in school.

But even before her legal training began, Valentina's experience as a first-generation immigrant in Texas exposed her to the systemic barriers that many immigrants face on a daily basis. This personal experience coupled with the

race-based deportations she witnessed in law school combined to lead her down the path to defending immigrants' rights.

What makes immigration law so challenging (and appealing to her), Valentina said, is that it operates with minimal due process, which are the rules that protect individuals from state authority. "A lot of the legal protections that we consider fundamental rights, such as the right to an attorney provided by the government or a ban against excessive detention, are absent from immigration law," she explained. In addition, immigration law does not always operate within the judicial branch of government. Instead, it is regulated by the executive branch, primarily the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security. During the last three years, Valentina explained, many federal immigration policies set forth in

case law have been completely transformed. "Immigration law is by nature a fluid system open to administrative policy changes and

interpretation," Valentina said. "And in recent years, the immigration field has been like a storm-tossed sea." Although she has not yet relocated to Utah, Valentina acknowledges that it is a conservative state with a radical streak for



Valentina De Fex, Immigrants' Rights Legal Fellow

welcoming refugees. But at the same time, she notes that many Utah law enforcement policies are not as welcoming as the state's cultural and political rhetoric. "A person is viewed as an immigrant until they become a U.S. citizen," she said. "And a lot of mistakes can happen in a person's life during that intervening time period." She also notes the similarities that many Utahns ignore between refugees and asylum seekers. "In many ways, the only difference between a refugee and an asylum seeker is where and when they file their application," she said. "The same humanitarian safety concerns apply in both situations." The ACLU of Utah is glad to add Valentina's astute and practiced skill at immigration law to our team, and we look forward to the impact she will make in improving the rights and lives of all refugees and immigrants in Utah. Welcome Valentina!

STRATEGY, continued from page 3

Because testimony is often limited to two minutes, you need to have a game-plan that emphasizes your side's key points. For example, Rep. Stephanie Pitcher's bail reform bill (H.B. 206) passed a Senate committee in the final minutes of a hearing because its supporters organized compelling testimony that overwhelmed the disjointed opposing statements from the bail bond

industry. Also, you might think that people checking their phones during committee hearings are on social media, but it's more likely they are sharing last-minute ideas and strategies with other people in the room.

Q: Is compromise necessary to pass bills?

[JG]: Compromise is an integral part of legislative advocacy. Because most bills impact broad swaths of policy, a supporter might be unaware of downstream effects.

For example, the prosecutor transparency bill originally required prosecutor offices to collect race and ethnicity data on the cases they pursue. Because smaller offices lacked the capacity to handle this request, we amended the bill to require county jails, which already collect this data, to do it instead. The bill remained effective, and we addressed opposition from smaller prosecutor offices.



Utah

355 North 300 West
Salt Lake City, UT 84103
Phone: (801) 521-9862
Fax: (801) 532-2850
aclu@acluutah.org
www.acluutah.org

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2020 YOUTH ACTIVIST SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

UPDATE

2020
COMMUNITY BLOCK
PARTY

Tentatively Rescheduled
for August 7, 2020

Watch video interviews with the winners

www.acluutah.org/2020winners



Ria Agarwal
Rowland Hall



Emory Bouffard
Academy of Math,
Science & Engineering



Dulce Horn
Rowland Hall



Ainsley Moench
Skyline

