

The ACLU News

SAVE THE DATE—ANNUAL MEETING ON APRIL 27,

The Champaign County Chapter annual meeting and dinner will be held Sunday April 27. UI Chancellor **Nancy Cantor** has agreed to be our featured speaker.

One of the functions of the annual meeting is to elect officers and select members who will serve on the Steering Committee. If you or someone you know would be interested in serving, contact an existing Steering Committee member. Names of suggested members will be given to the nominations committee in January, which will recommend a slate to the membership at the annual meeting.

Serving on the Steering Committee is a great way to make sure your civil liberties concerns are addressed at monthly meetings. Committee members also have opportunities to organize educational or activist events and to serve on other community panels as a local representative of the ACLU. We strive to have representation on the Steering Committee from all segments of our community, so no particular qualifications are necessary other than a commitment to the ideals of the ACLU.

Chapter Update

One of the main projects this year will be to organize a high school essay contest for area schools, a long-time goal of the Chapter which is finally within reach. Spearheading this effort is Cecile Steinberg, who will be working with Deb Rugg and Barbara Wisocki. Local law firms and the News-Gazette have also expressed interest in helping. The theme will focus on defending specific constitutional rights—stay tuned to local media for details.

The Chapter continues to be involved on community boards and panels. Stan Levy is on the Champaign Police Department Advisory Board and provides the Steering Committee with regular updates on evolving policy and procedure.

Stephen Portnoy has been our representative on the Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Policy Board, but the board is disbanding for the time being due to lack of funding.

While not officially Chapter activities, Steering Committee members Stan Levy and Stuart Laird are active advocates for CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates. The Chapter heartily supports their efforts in helping to protect the interests of minors in difficult situations.

We were a co-sponsor for a candidate's forum September 30th focusing on child welfare, providing input for questions to the candidates.

Susan Cohen is helping to organize a program at the UI entitled "Increased

Security and the Law of Unintended Consequences".

The *Crue* case involving prior restraint of free speech at the UI has received favorable judgments at every phase. The University has appealed the latest action concerning the award of legal costs.

The Steering Committee recently invited Clarence Shelley, former dean of students and associate vice chancellor at UIUC, to join the committee. Integral in advancing opportunities for African-American students at the UI for more than 30 years, Clarence will bring vital knowledge and experience to the Chapter.

The campus chapters have representatives on the Steering Committee who have been active as well—see page 4 for their updates. The Chapter provided financial support for speaker expenses for the death penalty forum in the spring and for a *Daily Illini* ad which presented a "know your rights" summary customized specifically for resident aliens.

Mark you Calendar for Nov 17!

It's time again for the Fall Gathering. Let's talk one-to-one on current issues—criminal justice, election results, national threats to civil liberties in the name of security, local free speech and religious freedom, the intricacies of international law and our constitution— or how 'bout those Bears! See inside for more information...

ACLU Officers & Steering Committee

The local ACLU Steering Committee meets on the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm, in the conference room at Campbell Hall (WILL studios) in Urbana. Meetings are open to members—if you would like to be placed on the agenda, please contact Stan Levy or any other committee

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National Attention on Illinois Death Penalty: C-U

Former Student Chapter president **Rachael Dietkus** has found a new career as Program Director for the Illinois Coalition Against the Death Penalty. Since landing this position in April, she has been a valuable resource for local groups organizing educational events concerning the death penalty.

With Governor Ryan's current moratorium and consideration of clemency for Illinois death row prisoners, Rachael has had a challenging and eventful first year, to say the least. Recent

emphasis has been on addressing concerns of murder victims' families. There are upcoming events downstate in Normal and Decatur in October and the National Coalition will be holding their annual convention in Chicago October 24-27.

For more information, see the web site or contact Rachael:
<http://www.icadp.org/>
phone: (312) 849-2279
rdietkus@icadp.org

Roger Baldwin Award for Victor Stone

Heartfelt congratulations go out to our chapter founder, UI College of Law professor emeritus **Victor Stone**, for receiving the Roger Baldwin Award at the ACLU of Illinois Bill of Rights Celebration Saturday October 5. This is the highest honor awarded by ACLU-IL, presented to only 8 individuals over the past 20 years including Victor and Dawn Clark Netsch, who also received the award this year.

In response to our letter to the chapter earlier this summer, several area members attended the event and donations of more than \$2000 in Victor's honor were generated for the Roger Baldwin Foundation, the legal and

educational arm of the ACLU. Tax-deductible gifts may still be made to: Roger Baldwin Foundation, c/o ACLU of Illinois, 180 Michigan Ave., Suite 2300, Chicago, IL 60601-9919.

An excellent feature article by Jodi Heckel ran in the News-Gazette on Sunday September 29, and is available on-line at:

<http://www.news-gazette.com/story.cfm?Number=12418>

The article details Victor's numerous civic and professional activities as well as highlighting some of the higher profile cases he pursued.

2002 FALL GATHERING

**Sunday, November 17
5:00 to 7:00 PM**

**at the home of Cecile and Allan Steinberg
2606 Nottingham Court South
Champaign**

This is the ONLY fundraising event the Chapter holds on an annual basis. Please join us for wine, conversation and snacks!

RSVP to:

Cecile Steinberg
2606 Nottingham Court South
Champaign, IL 61821
(217) 359-2607

shbooks@insightbb.com



Please respond by November 13th!

___ Yes. ___ of us will attend. Enclosed is a check for \$____.*

___ Sorry. Can't make it, but here is a check for the Chapter.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

*Suggested contribution: \$20 per person; \$5.00 student and limited income
Please make checks payable to *Champaign County ACLU*.

CAMPUS ACLU ACTIVITIES IN FULL SWING

The Champaign County Chapter is fortunate to have two active student groups—the UIUC Student Chapter and the College of Law Chapter.

The Student Chapter held a Community forum on the death penalty October 2 with speakers from the Illinois Coalition Against the Death Penalty. They are also sponsoring speaker Jello Biafra October 16, whose band the Dead Kennedys’ *Frankenchrist* album was the subject of a 1987 court battle over artistic expression. He is currently active in the Green Party and continues challenging conventional wisdom as a spoken-word artist.

Plans for the year include a candidate forum, a benefit concert, and a discussion of post-911 civil liber-

ties challenges featuring a video of legal experts who spoke at a demonstration on the quad earlier in the year. They also hope to bring a speaker from NORML (the National Organization for Reform of Marijuana Laws).

The College of Law Chapter held their first general meeting September 14, a cookout at a private home attracting more than 40 law students.

Their main project this year is to organize much needed “street law” classes. These classes, geared toward high school and college students, aim to help avoid unnecessary arrests by educating young people on how to safeguard their rights in a calm and confident manner when approached by police on

the street or pulled over in a car. Suggestions for locations and target audiences would be greatly appreciated—contact David Christlieb at 766-6280, christli@law.uiuc.edu.

Both campus chapters are making a special effort to reach out to international students this year. The County Chapter closely followed the case of former UI student and political activist Ahmed Bensouda, who was arrested in Urbana last June on immigration charges and spent several weeks in custody before being allowed to leave the country. While we had made contact with ACLU-IL regarding the case, it was resolved relatively quickly due in part to great public response from friends and support from attorneys hired by family.

American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois
Champaign County Chapter

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