

The **ACLU** News

Whistleblower to Speak at Annual Meeting

Submitted by Marsha Woodbury

Join Champaign County ACLU members for brunch at our annual meeting on Sunday, April 11 at Milo's Restaurant in Urbana. Details for reservations are on the insert in this newsletter. In addition to the business meeting, we are pleased to welcome Coleen Rowley as our speaker.

Coleen Rowley, a former FBI agent and whistleblower, held the TIME "Person of the Year" award in 2002 with two other women, Sherron Watkins from Enron and Cynthia Cooper of WorldCom. Rowley testified before the U.S. Senate and was interviewed for the Joint Intelligence Committee Inquiry on 9-11 and the Department of Justice's Inspector General Investigation about the FBI's internal organization and mishandling of information related to the September 11, 2001 attack. She retired from the FBI in 2004 after 24 years with the agency.

Rowley has been active in opposing the use of torture in investigation.

Coleen Rowley grew up in a small town in northeast Iowa. After graduating from law school she joined the FBI, and for part of her career worked in New York on Italian organized crime and Sicilian heroin drug investigations. She also served three separate temporary duty assignments in the Paris, France Embassy and Montreal Consulate.

In 1990 Rowley moved to Minneapolis where she assumed the duties of "Chief Division Counsel" which entailed oversight of the Freedom of Information, Forfeiture, Victim-Witness and Community Outreach Programs as well as providing regular legal and ethics training to FBI Agents of the Division and some outside police training.

In May of 2002 Rowley brought some of the pre 9-11 lapses to light and testified to the Senate Judiciary Committee about some of the endemic problems facing the FBI and the intelligence community. Rowley's memo to FBI Director Robert Mueller in connection with the Joint Intelligence Committee's Inquiry led to a two-year Department of Justice Inspector General investigation.

In April 2003, following an unsuccessful and highly criticized attempt to warn the Director and other administration officials about the dangers of launching the invasion of Iraq, Rowley stepped down from her legal position to return to being a FBI Special Agent. She retired from the FBI at the end of 2004 and now speaks publicly to various groups, ranging from school children to business, professional and civic groups, on ethical decision-making and "balancing civil liberties with the need for effective investigation."

Rowley has authored a chapter in a book published by the Milton Eisenhower Foundation entitled, Patriotism, Democracy and Common Sense: Restoring America's Promise at Home and Abroad. She also ran unsuccessfully for U.S. Congress in Minnesota's Second Congressional District in 2006.



Student Intern Taking a Closer Look at Minority Traffic Stops Locally

Submitted by Matthew Miller, ACLU Intern

As a response to claims that minority drivers were more likely to be stopped and searched, the Illinois General Assembly passed the Illinois Racial Profiling Law, effective January 1st, 2004. Police officers in every law enforcement agency across the state are now required to document the driver's sex, race, reason for stop, result of stop, and whether a search was conducted/requested among other criteria.

This preliminary study looks to see if there have been instances of racial profiling in traffic stops in Urbana-Champaign between 2004 to 2007. The Urbana and Champaign law enforcement agencies claim that should the data appear to suggest racial profiling, it is because consent searches of minorities clump around time and place due to more service calls. Yearly summary reports available on the Illinois website

do not provide enough information to determine whether this is the case, so I am using the raw data in order to conduct a more detailed evaluation. The raw data contains a time and a code for the police beat, which we hope to use in order to derive better location information.

In this preliminary study, I also presented graphs to the steering committee detailing traffic stops by racial demographics for both Champaign and Urbana for the 4 year period, as well as total searches conducted, including vehicle non-consent searches, driver and passenger searches.

Future research includes looking at the time trends of stops and searches, calculating the consent search ratios for minorities and Caucasians, and trying to gather specific location stop data. Email Matt Miller at mmille32@illinois.edu

ABOUT THE CHAPTER INTERNSHIP...

In recent years, the Political Science Department at University of Illinois has been working to strengthen and enlarge the internship possibilities for UIUC undergraduates. In this context, the Champaign County ACLU board saw an opportunity to help ameliorate the chronic problem of all volunteer organizations that there are more issues to follow up on than a part-time board can address—too many issues and too little time. Last fall the board decided to work with the political science department to offer semester-long internships. The political science internship model involves both service activity with an organization and an academic component.

As a member of the political science department, board member Carol Skalnik Leff will handle the academic component and the intern will work with the board as a whole on current issues. As an internship, this one has the advantage for students of a minimum of routine clerical work like photo-copying, and a maximum of direct engagement with issues. From the board's point of view, the opportunity is to have someone whose "job" it is to dig deeper into issues that warrant further study.

It is our good fortune that our first intern, who started in January and is working with us through this semester, is a very committed, engaged and intelligent person. Matthew (Matt) Krug Miller is an economics major at UIUC completing his senior year with a senior honors thesis. A card-carrying ACLU member, he had already been active in ACLU-related projects before he joined us—notably the Safe Schools project. In this issue of the newsletter, he introduces himself and the projects he is working on—you can also expect to see some of the analyses he is doing on the ACLU website in the near future. As our pioneer intern, he will also help us develop a sense of how best to make use of future student internships in a way that will benefit both the ACLU and the intern. We are very glad he joined us. Say hello to him at the April annual meeting.

JOIN THE ACLU LEGISLATIVE ALERT NETWORK

You can find out about important legislation in a timely manner if you subscribe to ACLU of Illinois' email update. Just go to the site at www.aclu-il.org and click the button on the right hand side of the home page to register. Messages are usually not sent out more often than once a week.

Reproductive Health & Access Act Introduced Again

House Bill 6205, the Reproductive Health & Access Act is a critical piece of pro-choice legislation that would prohibit interference with a woman's reproductive choices, including but not limited to: prenatal care, contraception, timely access to emergency contraception, abortion, screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, and comprehensive, factual and scientifically based sexuality education. Last year, we did not have enough supporters to call a vote on the Act. ACLU is working this year with Planned Parenthood and other pro-choice groups to gather the 60 votes needed for House passage this spring. Urbana's State Representative Naomi Jakobsson is a co-sponsor of the bill. All other area representatives need to receive messages of support for this legislation from their constituents.

OPPOSE DISCRIMINATION BASED ON RELIGION AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION

The ACLU is working to defeat two bills that would allow discrimination based on religion and on sexual orientation. Senate Bill 3447 amends the Illinois Human Rights Act to state that the Act does not apply to a religious organization, or any non-profit institution operated by a religious organization, with respect to employment qualifications based on religion or sexual orientation. The bill would apply to all employees; hence applicants could be denied food service, janitorial or other positions that do not involve any religious function, solely on the

basis of the applicant's religion or sexual orientation.

House Bill 5699 would amend the Child Care Act of 1969 to allow religious institutions that offer adoption services to place children only in households where the prospective adoptive parents are members of the same religion as the religious group arranging the adoption. Please contact your legislators to express your views about these bills. Go to www.aclu-il.org for more information.

STEERING COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The local ACLU Steering Committee meets on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm, in room 3405 of the Siebel Center, 201 N. Goodwin Ave, Urbana. Meetings are open to members—if you would like to be placed on the agenda, please contact Esther Patt or any other committee member ahead of time.

At the April 11 annual chapter meeting, the members present will be asked to vote on the following slate of officers and steering committee members for 2010-2011:

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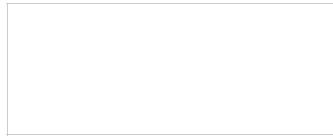
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WWW.ACLU-CU.ORG

**Annual Meeting
Sunday April 11th!**

TWO AWARDS TO BE PRESENTED AT CHAPTER'S ANNUAL MEETING ON APRIL 11TH

**W. ELLISON CHALMERS AWARD TO
BARBARA BAILEY KESSEL**

*For extraordinary service to the community in the
cause of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties*

As a member of U-C Friends Meeting and its Peace and Service Committee, Barbara Kessel has worked for the last 6 years with the local Interfaith Alliance and the National Religious Coalition against Torture. Barbara has also worked with C-U Citizens for Peace and Justice on a variety of issues including a campaign to educate teens about their rights in police interaction, keeping tasers out of the hands of local police, changing the Champaign Police Department's Use of Force policy and trying to get a civilian-police review board in Champaign. Barbara formed the Coalition of Citizens Concerned about Tasers and is a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee on Jury Selection which is a county board effort to increase the number of minorities in the jury pool. Since 2005, the Books to Prisoners project at the Independent Media Center has been Barbara's home-away-from home.

**HORACE W. NORTON AWARD TO
WILLIAM BROWN**

For extraordinary service to the chapter

As a member of the steering committee of Champaign County ACLU for more than a decade, Bill Brown has been the backbone of the organization. He has been editing, often writing and always supervising mailing the chapter newsletters for more years than any of us can remember. He was our webmaster for many years and maintains the chapter's electronic announcement list. Bill devotes considerable time to finding resources and disseminating information. He arranged to have the ACLU's "Freedom Files" series aired on Urbana Public Television and made copies available to teachers and students in local high school libraries. Bill has been a reliable worker on all of the chapter's projects, regularly attends the statewide summits sponsored by ACLU of Illinois and is a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee on Jury Selection created by the county board to increase the number of minorities in the jury pool.