

# The **ACLU** News

## Former Iowa Chief Justice Marsha Ternus to Speak at Annual Meeting

*"We are firmly convinced the exclusion of gay and lesbian people from the institution of civil marriage does not substantially further any important governmental objective." April, 2009*



With those words a unanimous Iowa Supreme Court opened the doors for gay marriage in the state of Iowa. This surprising leap forward for GLBT rights was especially inspiring because it came from the heartland of the country, from a small Midwestern state where only a few years ago such an advance was unthinkable.

But supporters of civil rights were dismayed when just a year later - and for the first time in Iowa history - all three Supreme Court Justices were removed from office after a high profile million dollar state campaign funded by national anti-gay groups. The vote sent a chilling and powerful message: national right wing interest group money poses a tremendous threat to an independent judiciary. Chief Justice Marsha Ternus and Associate Justices Michael Streit and David Baker issued a joint statement following the election: "Your support shows that many Iowans value fair and impartial courts.... We also want to acknowledge and thank all the Iowans, from across the political spectrum and from different walks of life, who worked tirelessly over the past few months

to defend Iowa's high-caliber court system against an unprecedented attack by out-of-state special interest groups."

Since the election and her removal from office after 17 years on the bench, former Chief Justice Marsha Ternus has become a frequent speaker addressing the vital issues around politicization of the judiciary. We are pleased to host her as our special guest speaker for this year's annual meeting on Sunday, May 1 at 11am.

### CHAPTER CO-FOUNDER VICTOR STONE REMEMBERED AS MENTOR, PATRIOT, FRIEND

On Saturday March 12th, a day after what would have been Victor's 90th birthday, nearly 150 people filled the community room on the lower level of Clark-Lindsey Village to share memories, music, snacks, and a brief powerpoint presentation in celebration of "a life well lived." ACLU-IL Division Executive Director Colleen Connell remarked on Vic's years of service to the local chapter and his 9 years on the Illinois Division Board, when Connell was Associate Legal Director.

Other speakers included Robert Spitze who valued Victor as a friend and "cross-campus" mentor, and US District Judge Harold Baker who reminded us that Vic rushed through his under-

grad years so he could join the Navy leading in to WW II, where he served with distinction in the Pacific as a ship's master of a landing craft. Victor & Susan's three children, Mary, Jennifer, and Andrew shared much-appreciated stories and photographs of growing up in Urbana in the 60s and 70s (and Victor educating the grandkids in later years). Nicholas Temperley and Howard Osborn performed several pieces for piano and violin.

Watch for an article in the upcoming "Illinois Brief" newsletter, and we will also be posting several biographical articles on our website.

## VICTOR STONE AWARD TO BE PRESENTED TO HIRAM PALEY

Hiram Paley first joined the ACLU in 1960 but says he "pretty much only made donations for my first 30 years of membership". Well, that's OK Hiram, you were busy with other things... As an Urbana alderman in 1967, Paley was one of only two who voted against a resolution supporting the Viet Nam war, introduced by Republican Johnson (father of Tim Johnson). In the early 70s Paley demonstrated against local businesses for discrimination in hiring. Elected Mayor of Urbana in 1973, he signed a very strong human rights ordinance passed by council in 1975 which included protection based on sexual orientation. He lost reelection in 1977 and returned to his work in abstract algebra and group theory in the UI Math Department. But soon he was tapped for a term on the Board of the Urban League and joined the ACLU steering committee in the 90s.

Hiram has served on the ACLU of Illinois Board of Directors and as chapter representative, often travelling to Chicago by train to attend monthly meetings and reporting back to the local chapter. That liaison function has largely been replaced in recent years due to more frequent electronic communication and conference calls. In 2005 Hiram was awarded the Roger Baldwin Award for a lifetime of service to civil liberties at the Bill of Rights Celebration in Chicago.

Victor Stone once said "Hiram has always been on the right side of the big issues. He's someone to whom everyone turns." Vic and Hiram were friends from the 60s and one of Hiram's most vivid memories of Victor in his ACLU role was when Professor Stone debated a Law School colleague in a campus forum in the mid-70s at Altgeld Hall. Stone was supporting the Nazi's right

to march in Skokie. "My heart was divided" Hiram says, noting that memories of the Holocaust were much fresher then, but Victor was persuasive in explaining why "we had to provide them with the right to march."

When Hiram and Jean are not travelling to distant locales to treat what he refers to as "my cancer problem," Hiram devotes time and energy to the Champaign County Camera Club, helping with their popular shows every April. He continues to attend steering committee meetings, offering insightful suggestions refined by political awareness. He is especially looking forward to our speaker May 1st, hoping that she may offer an opinion on recent efforts to "rig the supreme court" in Wisconsin.

We hope you will join us on May 1st to congratulate Hiram and thank him for his steadfast support.

### Help Desk at the Courthouse

Steering Committee members Shirley Stillinger and Barbara Kessel spoke at a County Board meeting last fall advocating restoration of funds to operate the legal self-help desk at the county courthouse. The help desk, which provides basic legal information and assistance – but not legal advice – to people who represent themselves in court, closed November 30th, but re-opened in mid-January after funding was compiled from a variety of sources, including private donations. At last report, the desk was funded for 10 months, but additional contributions are being sought to complete coverage for the year.

Donations may be sent to: Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance, 302 N. First St., Champaign, IL 61820. The donation should include a memo designating the money be used for the legal self-help desk.

### Additional Chapter Activities...

A pamphlet titled "Interacting with Law Enforcement" was produced by the Champaign Community Relations Commission and Champaign Police for distribution, especially targeted toward youth. Well-intentioned and mostly accurate, the pamphlet did have a factual error and concerns about some of the phrasing prompted our review. We have submitted suggestions to Champaign officials for improving the pamphlet.

We continue to participate whenever possible in discussions with law enforcement and the cities regarding racial disparities revealed in traffic stop data collected by police. Chapter President Bill Brown spoke at the December meeting of the Urbana Human Relations Commission where Durl Kruse of CU Citizens for Peace & Justice presented a number of statistical comparisons. The Urbana council has indicated support for organizing a joint review that would also include the Citizens Police Review Board, the public, and perhaps other jurisdictions.

### Eavesdropping Story on WILL

Illinois Public Media's Sean Powers reported in February on the Illinois eavesdropping law as it affects videotaping police as they perform their duty in public areas. The 5-minute audio report mentions the Patrick Thompson case we fought several years ago and includes supportive quotes from Champaign Chief Finney and ACLU attorney Adam Schwartz. As reported in our Fall newsletter, the Illinois Division has filed suit challenging the constitutionality of the Illinois eavesdropping law:

<http://will.illinois.edu/news/story/eaves110225/>

## Law School Chapter Reports Work on Variety of Issues

The ACLU- College of Law Chapter has worked on several areas of social justice this school year. We passed out rainbow ribbons when the Federalist Society brought in a notoriously anti-gay speaker to talk about Prop 8. We held a petition drive to repeal Don't Ask, Don't Tell in November, which garnered much media attention. We organized "Know Your Rights" bar crawls where we distributed ACLU "Bust Cards" and condoms donated by Planned Parenthood to bar goers. In November we hosted the lead lawyer from the landmark Tinker v. Des Moines free speech case.

This Spring we coordinated several Registered Student Organizations in an effort to protest the campus Chick-fil-A for the restaurant chain's financial support for anti-gay marriage initiatives. In March our members attended pro-collective bargaining rallies in Madison, Indianapolis and Springfield, and we have worked closely with various pro-labor groups on campus to inform them on their rights as

protesters. Most recently, we lobbied to defeat a Student Senate Resolution that would have allowed students to opt out of abortion coverage, effectively creating a larger financial barrier to student access to abortion services.

- submitted by David Amerson

### Jury Awareness Week

The Champaign County Citizens Advisory Committee on Jury Selection is planning several events for the first week of May, which they are working to have designated as "Jury Awareness Week". Recognizing that one of the greatest impediments to jury service is loss of income, they are hoping to compile an "honor roll" of local employers who provide paid leave for jury service. If you know of (especially non-public) local employers who do so, please contact Bill Brown: urbanabill@yahoo.com

### STEERING COMMITTEE CONTACT INFORMATION

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 Bill Brown or any other committee member ahead of time.

**At the May 1 annual chapter meeting, the members present will be asked to vote on the following slate of officers and steering committee members for 2011-2012:**

#### OFFICERS

**President:**  
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\* New steering committee member

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#### LAW SCHOOL CHAPTER

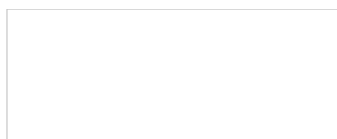
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**American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois  
Champaign County Chapter**

P.O. Box 2651, Station A  
Champaign, IL 61825-2651

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**Annual Meeting  
Sunday May 1st!**

## Surveillance Camera Bill Receives Bipartisan Support

On March 16th, HB 1948, the Surveillance Camera Data Collection Act, unanimously passed the House Judiciary I – Civil Law Committee 11-0. The bill is now on second reading in the House. The bill would require agencies that own or have access to video surveillance cameras to disclose to the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) the number of cameras they own or have access to, and the privacy regulations, if they have any. It would also require the ICJIA to make this information accessible to the public by posting it on its website. The bill defines “cameras” to mean any video surveillance camera that is located outdoors or within a public transit system. The bill does not include a camera used principally to enforce traffic laws, and does not require the disclosure of camera location.

HB 1948 was sponsored and introduced by Naomi Jakobsson in spite of opposition by the City of Chicago and the Attorney General. Please take the opportunity to thank Rep. Jakobsson for this effort. Chapin Rose is also a co-sponsor. There are reportedly thousands of such cameras in use by state agencies in Illinois and they often lack adequate safeguards to prevent abuses such as invasion of privacy and discriminatory targeting. Information about the current number and regulation of cameras in Illinois would facilitate a public discussion regarding whether additional privacy regulations are needed.

The local chapter discussed the UI “security camera policy” available at: <http://www.cam.illinois.edu/viii/VIII-1.5.htm> within the past year. We found it to be generally complete, though we suggested that notice of video camera use within buildings have more consistent and recognizable signage. For example, a decal similar to those used to denote “no smoking” could be affixed to all building entrances where cameras are in use. We are also seeking policies from the cities of Urbana and Champaign. While recognizing the potential security function of cameras and possible deterrent effects, the committee is concerned about over-use and misuse of recorded information.

# 2011 Annual Meeting & Brunch

## ACLU - Champaign County Chapter

### Sunday, May 1



**11:00 AM – registration**  
**11:30 AM – brunch**  
**12:15 PM – business meeting, awards presentation, & speaker**

Milo's Restaurant  
2870 S. Philo Rd., Urbana

Marsha Ternus, former Chief Justice of the  
Iowa Supreme Court  
*Marriage Equality: Courts & the Constitution*

On April 3, 2009, the Iowa Supreme Court unanimously struck down a statutory same-sex marriage ban as unconstitutional, joining the highest judicial bodies of Massachusetts, Connecticut, California, and Hawaii as the fifth court to rule for the right of same-sex marriage under the state constitution. Former Chief Justice Marsha Ternus and two other justices who were up for a retention vote this past November were removed from office by Iowa voters following campaigns by national anti-gay groups. Since leaving office December 31, Marsha Ternus has been a frequent speaker on issues of judicial independence.

**Hiram Paley**  
*will receive the*  
Victor J. Stone Award  
*for lifetime achievement in*  
*supporting civil liberties*

**C. Ward Henson**  
*will receive the*  
Horace W. Norton Award  
*for service to the chapter*

**If you prefer, you may reserve on-line at: <http://www.aclu-cu.org>**

Make checks payable to ACLU. Please respond by **Monday, April 25th**  
\$25 per person / \$15 for students or limited income

\_\_\_ Yes, \_\_\_ of us will attend. Enclosed is a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ Sorry. Can't make it, but here is a check for the Chapter.

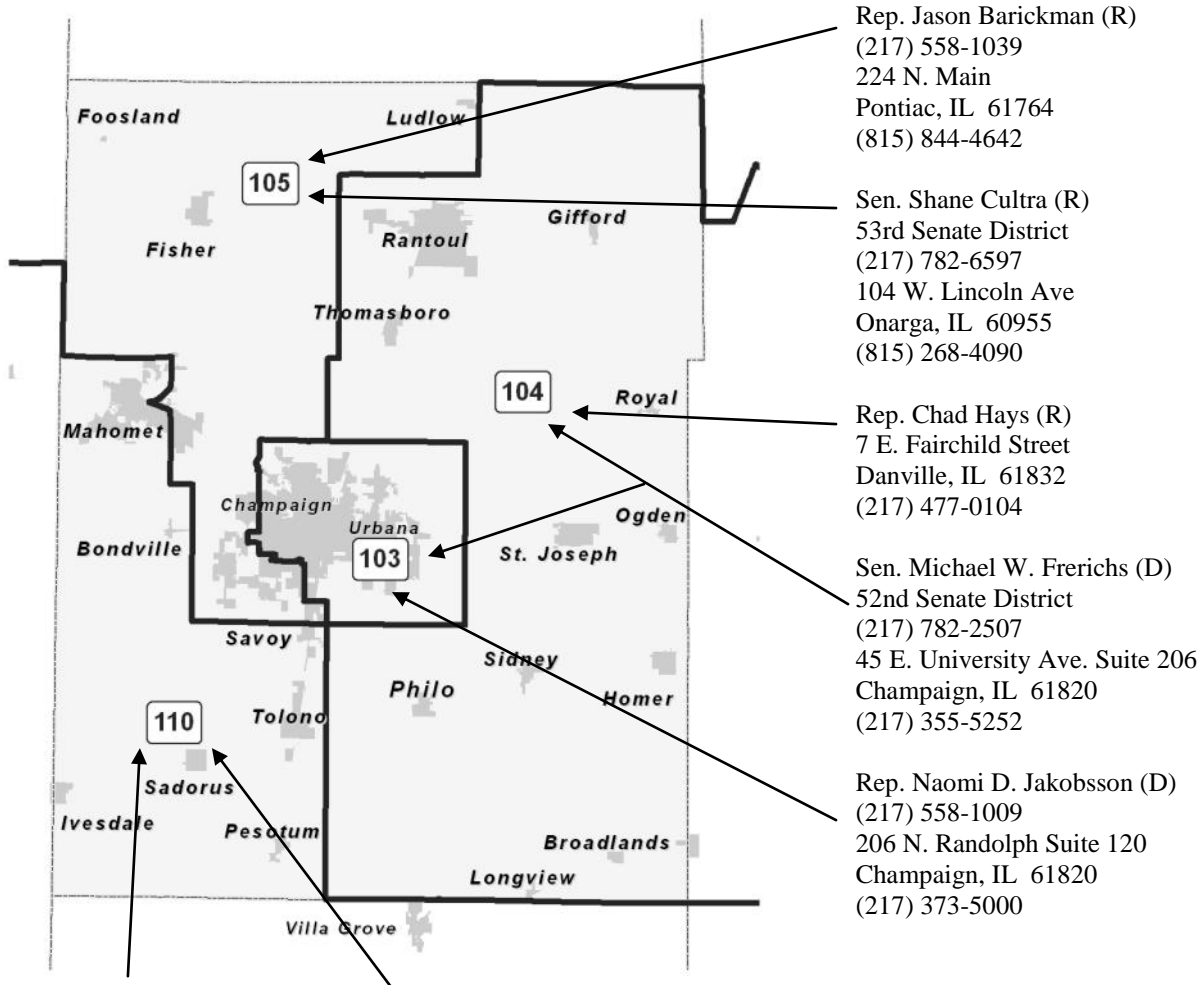
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail or phone: \_\_\_\_\_

mail to:

Champaign County ACLU  
P.O. Box 2651, Station A  
Champaign, IL. 61825-2651



## ***Champaign County representative districts and contact information***

Rep. Chapin Rose (R)  
(217) 558-1006  
1113 Lincoln Avenue  
Charleston, IL 61920  
(217) 348-7673

Sen. Dale A. Righter (R)  
55th Senate District  
(217) 782-6674  
88 Broadway Avenue, Suite 1  
Mattoon, IL 61938  
(217) 235-6033

While most of us know our own representatives, when we are asking others to make calls or write letters, it helps to know who we might contact to reach a specific legislator. Keep this map in a handy location so you can pull it out when trying to think of friends who are constituents in other districts.

**Thanks for passing civil unions!**  
Sen. Mike Frerichs (D)  
Rep. Naomi Jakobsson (D)  
Sen. Dan Rutherford (R) (replaced by Cultra)  
Rep. Bill Black (R) (replaced by Hays)

**Thanks for repealing the death penalty!**  
Sen. Mike Frerichs (D)  
Rep. Naomi Jakobsson (D)