

# The **ACLU** News

## “Tough Lawyer” Standish Willis to Speak at Annual Meeting

Standish Kwame Willis, chair of the Chicago Chapter of the National Conference of Black Lawyers and noted civil rights litigator in the Chicago area, will speak at the ACLU annual meeting (Sunday, April 1, 11:30 to 1:30 at Milo's) on "Countering Torture, the Entire Assignment." Named one of "30 Tough Lawyers" by *Chicago* magazine in 2002, Willis has focused his career on pursuing police brutality cases and civil rights violations, participating in dozens of trials in the State and Federal Courts.

Stan was with People's Law Office in 1988 when they took on the case of Andrew Wilson, then serving a life sentence in the Illinois Dept. of Corrections, who claimed he had been tortured into a confession by South Side police. As the Wilson case progressed, many more victims came forward, as well as police with anonymous information, confirming the existence of torture by electrocution, burning and temporary strangulation with plastic bags of more than 100 African American men at the Area 2 police station from 1973 to 1991. However, after decades of broad struggle, not only in the courts, but also through "every avenue open to citizens of a democratic society," Lt. Jon Burge and his five torturing detectives remained protected and apparently above the law.

In 2005, while attorney Willis was sidelined with a broken ankle, at home watching television about the breaking Abu Ghraib scandal, he conceived of an international strategy. As every lawyer and military officer knows, torture is banned by the Geneva Conventions, as well as the 1984 U.N. Convention Against Torture, to which the United States is signatory. The several treaties included in these Conventions since 1948, extend beyond battlefields and into domestic law and enforcement. In September 2005, Stan Willis and his colleagues presented the "Burge case" before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the human rights arm of the Organiza-

tion of American States. The following year, one of his colleagues went to Geneva, Switzerland, to present evidence of police torture before the Committee Against Torture (CAT). The CAT findings, issued as a press release on May 19, 2006, called the United States government to account for Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo and the Jon Burge case in Chicago. In February 2008, Willis introduced evidence of police torture to the U.N. Committee to Eliminate Racial Discrimination (CERD). This led directly to the federal government launching a special investigation into perjury against Burge. Now Burge is in prison and the majority of his still-living victims have been released, some after serving their entire sentence and others as a result of vigorous post-conviction advocacy. Twenty-two African-American men are still imprisoned.

Everyone is aware that torture is continuing under U.S. auspices abroad; not everyone is aware that it is going on here at home. Atty. Willis is in the forefront of the battle against it. He also mobilized the African-American Community to lobby the Illinois General Assembly to successfully pass the Illinois Torture Inquiry and Relief Commission Act on August 10, 2009. He has helped to build democratic citizen action pressure, so vital to making the work of the commissions and the United Nations translate into results. Finally he has been a groundbreaking individual for joining grass-roots efforts\* with the growing global movement for Human Rights.

*\*These efforts recognize the ACLU of Illinois, the Campaign to End the Death Penalty, the Chicago Conference of Black Lawyers, the Chicago Chapter of the Natl lawyers Guild, the Christian Council on Urban Affairs, MacArthur Justice Center at the University of Chicago Law School, the Midwest Coalition for Human Rights, the South Side Branch of NAACP, and others.*

## 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.

### OFFICERS

#### President:

Bill Brown  
304 W. Nevada, U 61801  
344-3797  
urbanabill@yahoo.com

Stuart Laird  
stubearto@gmail.com

Diana Lenik  
dslenik@gmail.com

Faruq Nelson  
faruq\_nelson@hotmail.com

#### Vice-President:

Carol Inskeep  
606 E High, U 61801  
carolinskeep@yahoo.com

Esther Patt  
estherpatt@hotmail.com

Richard Schnuer  
rschnuer@alumni.tufts.edu

#### Secretary:

Carol Leff  
604 W Washington, U 61801  
leffc@uiuc.edu

Carol Spindel  
cspindel@illinois.edu

Shirley Stillinger  
shirley.stillinger@gmail.com

#### Treasurer:

Stephen Portnoy  
112-D Whitehall Ct, U 61801  
367-8853  
sportnoy@uiuc.edu

Marsha Woodbury  
marsha@uiuc.edu

\* New steering committee member

### EMERITI

Susan Cohen  
s-cohen3@uiuc.edu

Harry Hilton  
h-hilton@uiuc.edu

### STEERING COMMITTEE

Paul Debevec  
debevec@illinois.edu

\* Rachael Dietkus-Miller  
rachael.dietkus@gmail.com

### LAW SCHOOL CHAPTER

Bob Illyes  
illyes@illinois.edu

Catherine Page  
cjpage2@law.illinois.edu

Barbara Kessel  
barkes@gmail.com

Noelle Dupuis  
noellemariejd@gmail.com

## Ed Yohnka Interviewed on WILL Radio

Ed Yohnka, Director of Communications and Public Policy for the ACLU of Illinois, was interviewed on WILL's "Focus" program January 5th, speaking on a variety of topics and taking questions from callers. If you missed it, you can still access the archived interview at:

<http://will.illinois.edu/focus/interview/focus120105a/>

## Deleting Your Google Search History

On March 1, Google's much-criticized unified privacy policy went into effect. The new policy makes it so the information Google has is more easily shared across its various services.

One area this is most clear is with search. Our search histories can reveal a lot about us: what we like or dislike, our religion, political leanings, sexual preferences, age, and even health information. All that data collected through searches performed **while logged into your Google account** was kept separate from the troves of other data the company has in its coffers, but as of March 1st it will be shared across services.

If you have a Google account and want to delete your history:

First, go to [google.com/history](http://google.com/history). There, you'll be asked to sign into your Google account.

Second, click the Remove all Web History button. And that's it! You're done. Not only is all your search data removed from Google's grasps, but doing this automatically pauses Web History, meaning no more information will be collected until you click the blue Resume button at the top of the page.

Note that users without Google accounts and searches performed when you are not logged in to Google do not accumulate in your personal history, although other non-personally identifiable data is collected.

<http://www.digitaltrends.com/web/how-to-delete-your-google-web-history/>

## “Motion to Dismiss” Legislation Introduced by Jakobsson

HB 5292 provides that the court may dismiss an indictment, information, or complaint with prejudice in furtherance of justice, even though there may be no basis for dismissal upon grounds specified in the Code.

A defendant, the prosecutor or the judge can begin this process. An evidentiary hearing would be conducted where the moving party must clearly demonstrate to the judge that some compelling factor, consideration or circumstance suggests that continuing the prosecution would result in an injustice. It is not expected that this motion would be filed often nor granted often. It is a safety valve. This proposal would temper justice with mercy, founded on the notion that following the letter of the law can lead to injustice. The ACLU of Illinois supports this legislation.

## REMEMBERING HIRAM PALEY

Hiram Paley, a long-time supporter of the ACLU, served on the steering committee of the Champaign County ACLU chapter for more than 15 years, and served for several years as our chapter's representative on the ACLU of Illinois Board of Directors. 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. Last year, he received our chapter's highest award, the Victor Stone Award for lifetime achievement in supporting civil liberties.

Through his decades of supporting civil liberties, we could always count on Hiram for letters to the editor and guest commentaries explaining the fundamental principles of civil liberties and how they related to various issues of the day. One could also depend on Hiram to offer an honest political opinion, when one was needed.

Hiram Paley was best known to the public as a Professor of Mathematics who served two terms on the Urbana City Council followed by one term as Mayor of Urbana. He signed into law the 1975 Human Rights Ordinance that prohibited discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation

- the first in Illinois and one of the first in the nation. He was also publicly known to be an active supporter of Democratic candidates for federal, state and local offices.

Behind the scenes, Hiram played a key role in persuading candidates for public office to adopt policy positions in support of civil liberties. When many local Democrats wanted to let anti-choice officials off the hook for opposing reproductive choice for women, Hiram made good use of his stature as a former mayor to publicly criticize the officials. A few office holders who are now pro-choice found their way to that position thanks to the persistence and persuasion of Hiram and Jean Paley.

Hiram Paley provided a voice of conscience and reason that has inspired countless people. He passed away on January 9, 2012 after a 10 year battle with cancer. We will miss him greatly.

A memorial service will be held from 3-5 p.m. on **Saturday, March 10** on the 4th floor of the Illinois Terminal Building in downtown Champaign.

## 9/11 Symposium to Explore a Variety of Issues

Throughout the month of March, the student chapter of the ACLU at the UI College of Law and other co-sponsoring organizations at the law school are inviting speakers both from the surrounding community and nationwide to speak on changes in the law since 9/11.

Presentations will range from the effect of new TSA guidelines on transgender individuals to civil rights violations at Guantanamo Bay to environmental problems spawned from our nation's dependence on oil.

The entire event will culminate in a debate between students from the ACLU and the Federalist Society at the end of March on whether the PATRIOT Act strikes an appropriate balance between our new needs for national security and the civil rights guaranteed to us by the Constitution.

Sponsor	Speaker	Topic	Date	Room
PRRP	Thomas Dunkin	Terrorism after the Reign of Bin Laden	Fri Mar 9	TBA
LSALC	Aaron Hughes	The War at Home: Veterans after 9/11	Mon Mar 12	Room B
ELS	Eric Freyfogle	Nature, Oil and National Security	Wed Mar 14	Room A
IMLS	Laura Vasquez	Immigration Problems Post-9/11: AZ and AL	Mon Mar 26	Room A
ACLU	Geoffrey Stone	Debate with Fed. Society on PATRIOT Act	Wed Mar 28	Room D
MELSA	David Harris	Racial Profiling Post-9/11: Inevitable or Evil?	Thu Mar 29	Room A
HLA	Murray Kampft	The Threat of Bioterrorism: The Law Behind Emergencies	Fri Mar 30	Room A

Student organization co-sponsors and participants include: Prisoner's Rights Research Project, Law School Labor Action Coalition, Immigration Law Society, ACLU - College of Law chapter, Environmental Law Society, Middle Eastern Law Society, Health Law Society, and the Federalist Society. **All events at NOON at the College of Law, 504 E Pennsylvania, Champaign.**

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

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

PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
CHAMPAIGN, IL  
PERMIT #481

**We're on the Web!**  
**WWW.ACLU-CU.ORG**

**Annual Meeting  
Sunday April 1st!**

**Free Anti-Bullying Film Screening - Wednesday, April 4th**

On Wednesday, April 4th, a free film screening will be offered at the Champaign Public Library in Robeson Pavilion Rooms A & B from six to nine in the evening. During this time, three film documentaries will be shown followed by a group discussion.

**6:00 - 6:35 PM - *That's a Family*  
(recommended for adults and students in grades K - 8)**

This film explores what it's like to grow up in a family with parents of different races or religions, divorced parents, a single parent, gay or lesbian parents, adoptive parents, or grandparents as guardians. The children in the film take viewers on a tour through their lives as they speak candidly about what it's like to grow up in their particular family. This award-winning film produced by Groundspark will stretch your mind and touch your heart, and is ideal for young children and their families.

**6:45 - 7:20 PM - *Let's Get Real*  
(recommended for adults and students in grades 5 - 9)**

Name-calling and bullying are at epidemic proportions among youth across the country and are often the root

causes of violence in schools. *Let's Get Real*, produced by Groundspark, gives young people the chance to tell their stories in their own words, and the results are heart-breaking, shocking, inspiring, and poignant. The film examines a variety of issues that lead to taunting and bullying including racial differences, perceived sexual orientation, learning disabilities, religious differences, and sexual harassment, and it gives a voice to targeted kids and also to the bullies themselves.

**7:30 - 8:10 PM - *Bullied*  
(recommended for adults and students in grades 6 - 12)**

*Bullied*, produced by Teaching Tolerance, chronicles one student's ordeal at the hands of antigay bullies and offers an inspiring message of hope to those fighting harassment today. It is designed to help create a safer school environment for all students, not just those who are gay and lesbian. It is also intended to help all students understand the terrible toll bullying can take on its victims in the hopes that students will stand up for classmates who are being harassed.