

The **ACLU** News

Belden Fields to be Presented Victor Stone Award

On April 7th the Chapter is pleased to present our most prestigious award, the Victor J. Stone Award for lifetime achievement in supporting Civil Liberties, to A. Belden Fields. Belden is a Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the University of Illinois in Urbana, but his work for civil liberties has spanned many decades and his contributions encompass many significant issues of justice and freedom in our time.

As a scholar in the field of human rights he has authored many articles and books, including **Rethinking Human Rights for the New Millennium** (2003). Throughout his career as a teacher and writer, he has been equally committed to bringing his intellectual ideas to life through activism and engagement on campus and in our community.

Belden started college at UI Navy Pier in the late 50s, transferring to the Urbana campus and graduating in 1960. In his senior year, one of his first protest experiences was to support Leo Koch, a UI professor who had been fired for suggesting students shouldn't be ostracized for having premarital sex. This academic freedom case led to the ACLU in Chicago becoming involved and generated enough interest that our chapter was founded within a year.

Belden went on to Yale University where he earned his MA and PhD in political science and returned to the UI to teach and be closer to family living in Chicago.

In the volatile 1960s Belden was a strong voice for free speech and anti-racism on campus. He defended the right of students to sell an alternative newspaper called **The Walrus** in the Union cafeteria, after the Illini Union news stand and bookstore refused to sell it. He actively supported many anti-racism initiatives, including the effort to hire and train more African American campus employees. He protested the dismissal of students for protesting against Dow Chemical in 1967, and wrote articulately against the arrest of students during a sit-in at the Illini Union who were demanding better administration of Project 500 (a 1968 campus effort to increase diversity on campus). As chair of the

AAUP race relations committee in 1969, he stood up for a Black bricklayer, O.Z. Griffith, with 15 years of experience who had been fired without warning after only 9 days on the job. Belden was head of the local ACLU chapter's "investigative committee" in the 70s. His anti-racist convictions have shaped his activism throughout his life.

Throughout many decades Belden has been a brave, consistent voice for transparency and accountability in the criminal justice system: speaking out for humane prison conditions, opposing racial profiling and the death penalty, and pressing locally for fair policies and accountability by police and the criminal justice system (especially through his work with CU Citizens for Peace and Justice).

In addition to his scholarship and activism, Belden has promoted civil liberties issues through his work as a citizen journalist with the local newspaper the *Public i*, a non-profit publication of the Urbana Champaign Independent Media Center. He has creatively used every public forum to advocate for the basic human and civil rights of all people – as a participant in public comment before government bodies, in letters to the local newspaper, through public protest, as a speaker at educational forums, and more.

His lifetime commitment to building a more just, free, and open society make Belden Fields the deserving recipient of the Stone Award.

Annual Meeting and Brunch

Sunday April 7th

11:30—1:30

I Hotel & Conference Center

Featured Speaker Robert Naiman
"Transparency and Accountability for the Drone
Strike Policy: A Winnable Fight"

For details, see insert or www.aclu-cu.org
Please RSVP by March 29th!

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.

At the annual meeting on April 7th, the Champaign County ACLU membership will be asked to vote on the following slate of officers and steering committee members for 2013-2014:

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STEERING COMMITTEE SEEKS NEW MEMBERS!

As the annual meeting approaches, we will be losing several members of the steering committee. Carol Inskip, Faruq Nelson, and Rachael Dietkus are stepping down after several years serving the Chapter. Do you have time and interest in pursuing Civil Liberties issues locally through outreach and advocacy or helping to organize educational programs? For additional information or to volunteer for the committee, contact one of the members listed above or email: info@aclu-cu.org

UPDATE ON CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Last fall we became aware of the fact that Champaign County had purchased an unmanned aerial vehicle with surveillance capabilities, also known as a drone. At the same time Brian Dolinar, writing for the *Public i*, obtained a number of documents that revealed the type of aircraft, its purchase price and how it had been tested. We followed up with the Sheriff and learned that he became interested in such aircraft after seeing one used by a private contractor during a search and rescue. The County's drone is currently inoperable and probably beyond repair but the Sheriff has indicated that he would be interested in obtaining one for future use.

The ACLU has several concerns with the use of these high-resolution, quiet operating surveillance vehicles. Unrestrained use can result in warrantless searches and invasion of privacy. The potential for mass surveillance, e.g. during a protest activity, would have a chilling effect on first amendment rights of free speech. Similar to our position on security cameras, we argue for an explicit "use" policy that aims to define under what circumstances the surveillance technique can be used, how long the video is archived, and when a warrant is required.

Chapter president Bill Brown attended a County Board meeting February 12th to express our concerns that no such local policy is in place and he provided information from the national ACLU (also posted on our web site) concerning use of drones by law enforcement. SB 1587, a bill to limit drone use by law enforcement in Illinois, was also introduced in the Illinois legislature later that week.

Thanks to Bob Spitze for hosting our January steering committee meeting at Clark Lindsey Village! Our chapter has 17 members currently residing at Clark Lindsey, so we sent invitations and a number of them were able to attend the meeting. Also at that meeting, Zoe Schein, a student who had recently finished an internship with the ACLU Prison Project in Washington D.C. provided a view from the "inside" of ACLU operations. She described several projects she helped with including overcrowding, overuse of solitary confinement, and the identification of HIV positive inmates by armbands, which leads to ostracism. Originally from Urbana, Zoe was home for the holidays.

With Carol Leff as our liaison, we continue to participate in planning and help to publicize events for the Immigration Forum, a relatively new group that helped identify problems with enforcement of "Secure Communities" programs in Champaign County. The Sheriff has since said he would no longer honor Immigration "hold" requests under that program. They are now working with undocumented immigrants that may qualify for legal status under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) executive order. In addition, they are exploring how comprehensive immigration reform and other initiatives can have an impact on the local immigrant communities.

We also contacted the state affiliate with information about local efforts to FOIA police complaint records. The News-Gazette has twice attempted to get complete records from the city of Champaign. When refused, they appealed to the public access

KAREN BUSH TO RECEIVE CHALMERS AWARD

The Chapter will be presenting our W. Ellison Chalmers award for “For extraordinary service, in the cause of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, to the community” to Rev. Karen Bush. Karen is the Campus Minister for the United Church Foundation, a ministry of several churches in east central Illinois that are members of the United Church of Christ denomination. The Foundation (known as the “Campus Ministry”) has an office at the Community United Church of Christ (CUCC) at the corner of Sixth and Daniel in Champaign.

Karen’s advocacy for justice for the LGBTQ community has played a dominant theme in her personal and professional voice and presence in our community, across Illinois, and more broadly. While she advocated for LGBTQ rights from the time that she became the Campus Minister in 1985, she became a more vocal presence in the community in the 1990’s. During that period she also began to officiate at “commitment ceremonies” at CUCC. She did this because her advocacy is not only political but also rooted in her faith.

CUCC’s congregation not only allowed Karen’s advocacy and commitment ceremonies but also, with the sup-

port of its pastor at the time, Rev. Jack Good, voted to designate itself as an “open and affirming” church. That is the term used by the United Church of Christ for a congregation that formally supports and welcomes LGBTQ members and visitors. CUCC was one of the first in Champaign-Urbana to state formally and publicly that it welcomes LGBTQ people.

Karen has been active with other civil liberties issues as well. In 2005 her advocacy for rights, respect, and understanding of Native Americans was recognized by the Native American Student Association at the University of Illinois by giving her the “Ally of the Year” award. She has formed partnerships with local congregations of other faiths and with the Disabled Students Organization, to name a few. Karen also initiated “alternative spring breaks” in which college students provide services for disadvantaged people while also learning about the challenges faced by many people in the US. For example, for the first alternative spring break trip in spring 1990, Karen and the student group traveled to the US/Mexican border to work with Central American refugee families.

ACTIVITIES CONTINUED...

counselor who twice supported the appeal with a nonbinding opinion that said the city must release the names of officers. The city cites exemption 7(1)(n) of the Illinois FOIA law which allows a public body to withhold “records relating to a public body’s adjudication of employee grievances or disciplinary cases”. However, according to the “Attorney General’s FOIA Guide to Law Enforcement” (posted on our website), an internal investigation by the department does not constitute an adjudication. Complaints and the names of officers contained in those complaints should not be exempt.

Some members have met with Alan Kalmanoff, a consultant from the Institute of Law and Policy Planning who was hired by the County to perform a needs analysis for the county jail and justice system. There will be a couple of community meetings **the first week of April** for anyone who wishes to attend and offer input. Subscribe to our “announce” email list to get updates on times as they are scheduled.

Finally, thanks again to Jay Rosenstein and the College of Media at the UI, the 65th anniversary of the McCollum vs. Board of Education decision was celebrated March 7th with a free screening of Jay’s award-winning

film, *The Lord is Not on Trial Here Today*, followed by a discussion with distinguished panelists including our own Adam Schwartz, Senior Staff Counsel at ACLU-IL. Other panelists included Ken Paulson, president and CEO of the First Amendment Center and UI College of Law graduate, Annie Laurie Gaylor, co-founder and co-president of the Freedom from Religion Foundation, and Daniel Hamilton, professor of Law and History at the UI. The panel was moderated by Jay Rosenstein.



Local chapter members attending the ACLU:Engage State conference in Chicago on December 1st included (from left) Carol Spindel, Bob Illyes, Bill Brown, Esther Patt, and Anne Martel.

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

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**Annual Meeting
Sunday April 7th
at the I Hotel!**

ACLU Issues In the Illinois Legislature

Marriage: Thanks to incredibly strong efforts by supporters, SB 10, which brings the freedom to marry to same sex couples in Illinois, passed the IL Senate on Valentine's Day (February 14th). The bill was heard and passed by the House Executive Committee and now awaits a vote on the House floor. The ACLU of Illinois has been working on passage of the legislation along with partners in the Illinois Unites coalition. We do not yet have concrete information as to when a vote will be scheduled, but we remain hopeful that it will be soon. We are encouraging everyone to call their state representatives to urge a yes vote. **Sen. Michael Frerichs and Rep. Naomi Jakobsson are both sponsors.**

Drones: SB 1587 would limit the use of drone technology by law enforcement. The bill places some basic restrictions on the use of drones to gather evidence or information, and requires a warrant – with a few limited exceptions (for example, to search for a missing person). The bill passed out of a senate committee, and awaits a vote of the full Senate. **Senator Chapin Rose is a sponsor.**

Sexual Health Education: HB 2675 would require that if a public school is teaching sexual health education in grades 6-12, THEN the classes must be age-appropriate, medically accurate, and complete (include instruction on both abstinence and other methods of preventing unintended pregnancy and STDs). The bill passed out of the House Human Service committee, and awaits a vote on the house floor. **Representative Jakobsson is a sponsor.**

Anti-reproductive health bills: Two bills which endanger access to reproductive health care in Illinois were reintroduced this session. HB 2683 would force every woman seeking to terminate her pregnancy to view an ultrasound or decline in writing. HB 2684 adds excessive, expensive and politically-driven regulations for abortions clinics that do nothing for patient health and safety. Both bills were sent to the House Human Services committee. **Rep. Jakobsson is on this committee and is opposed to both bills.**

2013 Annual Meeting & Brunch

ACLU - Champaign County Chapter

Sunday, April 7th

HOTEL
and conference center™

11:00 AM – registration

11:30 AM – brunch

12:15 PM – business meeting & speaker

I Hotel & Conference Center
Alma Mater Room,
1900 S. First Street, Champaign



Robert Naiman

*Transparency and Accountability for the Drone Strike Policy:
A Winnable Fight*

Robert Naiman will discuss the legal, ethical and political problems with the current drone strike policy and make suggestions for citizen engagement that would make the drone strike policy more transparent and accountable.

Naiman was on a peace delegation to Pakistan in October to protest the drone strike policy. He is Policy Director at Just Foreign Policy, edits their news summary, and writes on U.S. foreign policy at the Huffington Post. He is president of the board of Truthout. He has worked as a policy analyst and researcher at the Center for Economic and Policy Research and Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch. Naiman has masters degrees in economics and mathematics from the University of Illinois and has studied and worked in the Middle East.

Victor Stone award for lifetime achievement in supporting Civil Liberties:

Belden Fields

W Ellison Chalmers award for extraordinary service to the community in the cause of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties:

Karen Bush

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

Make checks payable to ACLU. Please respond by **Friday, March 29th**
\$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.

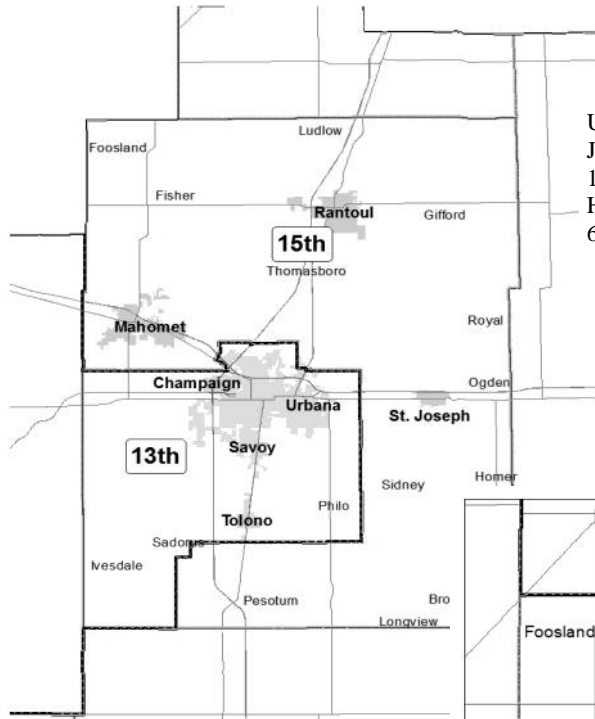
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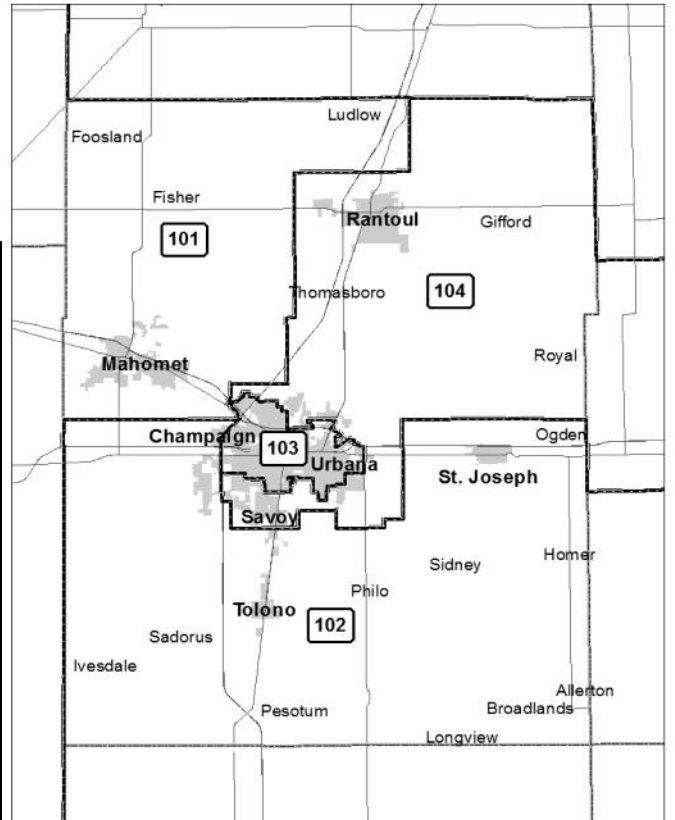
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For detailed maps of all Illinois districts see: gis.elections.il.gov



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✓
 Bill Mitchell

Adam Brown

Chad Hays

SB10 would provide the freedom to marry to same sex couples in Illinois. It has passed the Illinois Senate, with the help of our Senator Michael Frerichs and Bloomington Sen. Jason Barickman, the only Senate Republican to vote for the bill.

Rep. Jakobsson is a sponsor, but please **call the offices of Mitchell, Brown, and Hays** and ask for their support. If you know other people who live in their districts ask them to call too!

Former Rep. Bill Black was one of the few Republicans to support civil unions. We will need Republicans to pass same-sex marriage. Let's do our best to provide bipartisan support from Champaign County!