



NEW HAMPSHIRE CIVIL LIBERTIES

NEWS

AN AFFILIATE OF THE ACLU

SPECIAL ELECTION ISSUE, JANUARY 2010

Read About the Nominees

The order of names of the ballot was determined by random selection.

Leonard “Skip” Small, Barrington. Has managed a Pediatric Practice in Dover for thirty years. Led the campaign to fluoridate Dover’s water. Advocate for better sex education in the Dover schools. Past chair of Planned Parenthood of Northern New England. Past board member of the Special Olympics of New Hampshire. Executive Committee of the New Hampshire Pediatric Society.

“As a pediatrician I have spent my career advocating for the needs of children. Their rights and needs are often overlooked or ignored. George Bush made me aware of the need to become involved at a broader level.”

Brendon Browne, Dover. Franklin Pierce Law Center graduate. Member of the New Hampshire House of Representatives. Serves on the Judiciary Committee. Manchester West and UNH graduate.

“I have always been an advocate for an end to discrimination—against the poor, against women, against gays and lesbians, against racial, ethnic and religious minorities. I have a passion for the First Amendment, for the protections that it provides to every person and for the robust debate that it guarantees. I will bring youth and energy and a willingness to work with the Board to advance the legal and educational programs of the New Hampshire Civil Liberties Union.”

Soudie Tahmassbipour, Nashua. Managing Attorney for the New Hampshire Public Defender, Nashua. University of Utah, Northeastern University School of Law graduate. Staff and managing attorney with New Hampshire Public Defender since 1999.

“As an attorney I have defended adults and juveniles who cannot afford representation in criminal cases. I have seen the damage that poverty and a lack of education can inflict. The civil liberties guaranteed in the Bill of Rights are precious, but they must always be defended or they will be lost. I hope to work with the NHCLU staff and Board members to educate young people about their constitutional rights, and to support efforts to protect and value privacy from PATRIOT Act and other government searches.”

Kara M. Simard, Manchester. Attorney at Borofsky, Amodeo-Vickery & Bandazian, P.A., a law firm in Manchester. Member of the New Hampshire Women’s Bar Association and its Public Policy Committee. Volunteer with the Campaign for Change, NH Voter Protection Program, an effort to ensure that eligible voters were able to cast

their vote on Election Day and that all ballots were counted. ACLU member since 2003. Suffolk University Law School. Graduated Stonehill College in 2003.

“I wish to serve on the NHCLU Board because I am interested in constitutional law, particularly with respect to protecting individual rights, I would like to help further the goals of the NHCLU and this current time period is particularly apt for enhancing civil liberties in New Hampshire. This is something I want to be a part of. I am part of Generation Y or Generation Next, or whatever the generation of communication, media and digital technology is labeled. Because of that, I think I have a unique ability to help communicate the messages of the NHCLU.”

Buzz Scherr, Portsmouth. Professor of Law at Franklin Pierce Law Center in Concord and national recognized authority on forensic DNA evidence. Has served as the lead attorney in numerous pretrial hearings in homicide, robbery, and sexual assault cases to determine the admissibility of forensic DNA evidence. Extensive experience as a trial and appellate lawyer, handling over forty homicide cases. Currently teaches courses in Criminal Procedure, Evidence, Expert Witness and Scientific Evidence, Genetics and the Law and Trial Advocacy. Also directs the Trial Advocacy Program at Pierce Law. Buzz has spent the last seven years as a Board Member of the NHCLU and as the New Hampshire representation to the ACLU National Board since 2005.

Pat Yosha, Exeter. Retired Education Administrator and Gender Equity Consultant. Volunteer English instructor in Native American Colleges, past chair of the NH Commission on the Status of Women and current coordinator of the Social Justice Committee of the Exeter Unitarian Church. Current NHCLU Board Member, chair of NHCLU Education Committee which presented three successful membership and public foras; two on student privacy rights and one on abolition of the death penalty in New Hampshire.

“I have been an ACLU member for several years, addressing civil liberties issues through my professional and community activities for 35 years, beginning with training on sexual harassment laws and prevention techniques. On the NH Commission on the Status of Women, I was particularly active in addressing gender discrimination issues and inequities of

incarcerated women in New Hampshire. My desire to continue engagement in civil liberties programs is served through my active participation on the NHCLU Board of Directors.”

Jerry Goddard, Newmarket. Retired Unitarian Universalist minister. First joined the ACLU in 1963. Was a plaintiff in the 1987 ACLU Supreme Court case, *Kendrick v. Bowen*, which found that the government could not give money to churches to teach sex education. Has served churches in Massachusetts and New York, and since retirement been an Interim Minister to churches in New Zealand, South Africa, London, Australia and St. John, USVI. Member of the NHCLU Board since 2005.

“Over history human rights have been slowly recognized and incrementally improved. The injustices of slavery, black and women suffrage are just behind us, yet issues of sexuality and reproduction, incarceration, and freedom of conscience (i.e. religious freedom) are among many of the unresolved social problems in our state, nation and world. There is no organization with a better record nor more acute antennae than the ACLU and its affiliates in identifying and aggressively correcting abuses. I am proud of being part of the NHCLU, but must acknowledge that none of our policies is above criticism or debate. It would be difficult to agree with every policy to correct human injustice in the turbulent culture in which we live, but the ACLU is the very best civil rights institution we have in an imperfect world.”

Atlant G. Schmidt, Nashua. Mobile phone software engineer. Former member of the Nashua Board of Education, chaired the Instruction and Personnel Committee that dealt directly with difficult issues including sex education, church/state separation and access by the disabled to our school facilities. NHCLU Board Member since 2004. Currently active in many local and national political campaigns as well as the anti-war and anti-USA PATRIOT Act movements.

“Still taking place are the dramatic incursions into our constitutionally-guaranteed rights are the greatest challenge facing our country. We cannot allow these incursions to take place unchallenged, and while street protests are useful, the ACLU and its local affiliates are one of the few organizations that can take that citizen momentum and convert it into a real challenge to the USA patriot Act, the ever-increasing media consolidation, terrorist and non-terrorists attacks on women’s rights, unlawful detention, and all of the other challenges facing our democracy today.”

Bill Siroty, MD, Amherst. ACLU member for 11 years. NHCLU Board of Directors 2003—present; Editor; New Hampshire News Links; Past Vice Chair,

Hillsborough County Democratic Committee; member 2002 NH Democratic Party Platform Committee; Past Chair, Democrats of Amherst. Received Jefferson-Jackson Award for “dedicated volunteer service” to the NH Democratic Party, October 2000. Co-Founder and first co-chair of Gay People in Medicine caucus of the American Medical Student Association, 1976.

“Preserving our civil liberties requires constant vigilance. From the Patriot Act and domestic wiretapping to seemingly innocuous movements to force the word ‘Christmas’ on one and all, we are seeing government and special interest groups encroaching on our rights. In my career as a physician, I have seen how government can interfere with proper medical care, most notably with the Schiavo debacle. My involvement with gay and lesbian groups has shown me that, no matter how many advances we have made, there are individuals and organizations that would send us back in the closet (or worse). I became involved in the NHCLU to preserve our rights, and wish to strengthen and enhance its mission by continuing to serve on its Board.”

Dawnangela Minton, Manchester. Litigation attorney since 1999. Has tried numerous criminal and civil matters. Has argued a myriad of criminal and civil matters before the New Hampshire Supreme Court. Is particularly interested in issues of free speech and personal liberties. Before joining Bernstein Shur, Ms. Minton worked at the New Hampshire Public Defender as both a trial attorney and an appellate attorney.

“I wish to serve on the NHCLU because I am so concerned about the gradual erosion of civil liberties that plagues today’s society. Individuals of every age and background are too ready to sacrifice their civil liberties in the name of security without understanding the ramifications of those capitulations. I hope to bring my skills as an advocate, a writer, and an organizer to the NHCLU. It is my opinion that the NHCLU should inspire the citizenry and the media to question the actions of our so-called leaders. Through example and education, the NHCLU should peak individual interest in governmental actions and omissions and the long-term impact upon our individual rights, liberties, and privacy.”

Harley Featherston, Salem. Retired Real Estate Broker, NHCLU Board Member 6 years. Worked and lived all over the world prior to moving to New Hampshire 35 years ago; member of ACLU since before moving to New Hampshire.

“I feel that there are still important issues, which the NHCLU will have to address in the future. I will bring hard work and tenacity to those efforts. Joseph Rauh was one of my heroes.”

Board Election

*Please vote for no more than 11 candidates**

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**The order of names of the ballot was determined by random selection.*

Please return ballots by Monday, March 1, 2010 to:

New Hampshire Civil Liberties Union
18 Low Avenue, Suite 12 • Concord, NH 03301

ELECTION BALLOT ENCLOSED

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

CONCORD, NH 03301

18 LOW AVENUE, SUITE 12

NEWS
NEW HAMPSHIRE CIVIL LIBERTIES



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CONCORD, NH 03301

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Save the Date!

Please join us for

A celebration to honor the founders and the first decade

of the

New Hampshire Civil Liberties Union

and the

New Hampshire Civil Liberties Foundation

at

Franklin Pierce Law School

March 31st, 2010 ~ 5:30-7:30 P.M.

*All New Hampshire Civil Liberties Union members
are invited to attend*