

# Virginia Liberties

Newsletter of the American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia, Spring 2006



## ACLU Files Landmark Lawsuit Challenging Extraordinary Rendition

The ACLU of Virginia and the National ACLU have joined forces to file a lawsuit against former CIA director George Tenet challenging the CIA's abduction of a foreign national for detention and interrogation in a secret overseas prison.

The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Alexandria on behalf of Khaled El-Masri, charges that Tenet and other CIA officials violated U.S. and universal human rights laws when they authorized agents to kidnap El-Masri as part of an illegal CIA policy known as "extraordinary rendition."

El-Masri, a 42-year-old German citizen and father of five young children, was forcibly abducted while on holiday in Macedonia. He was detained incommunicado, beaten, drugged, and transported to a secret CIA prison in Afghanistan, where he was subjected to inhumane conditions and coercive interro-

gation. El-Masri was not allowed to contact a lawyer or any member of his family. After several months of confinement in squalid conditions, he was abandoned on a hill in Albania with no explanation, never having been charged with a crime.

In the lawsuit, *El-Masri v. Tenet*, the ACLU claims that soon after El-Masri was flown to Afghanistan, CIA officers realized that they had abducted, detained, and interrogated an innocent man. Although Tenet was notified about the mistake, El-Masri remained in detention for two more months.

El-Masri is one of scores of individuals abducted on foreign soil without due process protection since 9/11. Because the process is so secretive, it is not known how many of these extraordinary rendition targets are innocent victims like El-Masri. El-Masri's case is scheduled to be heard on May 12.

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## Manassas Repeals Anti-Immigrant Ordinance

*Threat of lawsuit from ACLU brings immediate results*

Manassas City officials claimed that their new ordinance placing restrictions on family living arrangements was intended to fight overcrowding, but there was little doubt in the minds of local Latinos that they and other immigrants were its real targets. Rather than adopt new rules reasonably regulating the amount of space required for families based on the number of people in the family, city officials decided in December to address overcrowding by restricting the right of some relatives to live together under the same roof, regardless of the size of the dwelling. Under the new ordinance an aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, great-grandparent, or great-grandchild may not be able to live with members of their own family. The ordinance meant, for example, that a grandparent and an aunt could not live with a father and his two children in a five bedroom house.

Citing a 1977 Supreme Court decision holding that the government may not interfere with the right of family members to choose how they live as a unit, the ACLU of Virginia promised to file a lawsuit if the ordinance were not repealed. Within hours of our announcement, city officials suspended enforcement of the ordinance. One week later, the Manassas City Council began the process of repealing the ordinance.

## Virginia Task Force First to Censure REAL ID Act

When Governor Mark Warner created the nation's first task force to examine the impact of the REAL ID Act, no one knew for certain what the results would be. Comprised of representatives from state agencies, private companies, local governments, and advocacy organizations (including the ACLU of Virginia) it had the look of a group headed for gridlock.

Instead, the group quickly found common ground in its universal condem-

nation of this law that imposes federal regulations on the design, issuance, and management of state driver's licenses—essentially turning them into federal identity papers and making them mandatory for entering federal facilities and air travel. Among its many demands, the Real ID Act requires the creation of a national database for drivers' licenses, unnecessarily complicated background checks for driver's license applicants, and specially marked permits for immigrants.

In its report to the Governor, the Task Force cited concerns about invasion of privacy, discrimination against immigrants, the high cost to taxpayers (\$60 million in Virginia alone) and the burdensome procedures that make obtaining a license far too difficult and time consuming.

Leading the way for other states to do the same, the Virginia Real ID Task Force calls on Congress to rewrite the law.

Learn about REAL ID at [www.acluva.org](http://www.acluva.org).

# ACLU in and Around Virginia

## You're Invited to the 2006 Membership Conference in DC

It's almost hard to believe that the ACLU held its first ever membership meeting in 2003, more than 80 years after the organization's founding and half a century after establishing itself as the nation's preeminent voice for civil liberties. Yes, there were annual nationwide meetings of the staff and biannual meetings of the lay leadership, but the rank and file members—the backbone of the organization—had never had a chance to get together on a large scale.

That all changed when more than a thousand of the ACLU's faithful supporters converged on Washington, D.C., four years ago in June for three days of meetings, speeches, workshops, and even some old fashioned Capitol Hill lobbying.

The 2003 meeting was such a resounding success that we did it again in 2004 in San Francisco. Now, the conference is back in our backyard, in D.C., and it's the place to be this fall.

Having attended enumerable conferences of all kinds over the last thirty years, I can tell you there is nothing quite like a large ACLU-infused crowd to recharge your civil liberties batteries.

Think about it, a thousand people just like you, angry over the government's unfettered abuse of power since 9/11, who not only believe in the right to free speech, but also in the obligation to exercise that right. Put them all together, throw in some of the most important and powerful literary, artistic and political voices in the nation to present their views, and the result is electric.

Mark your calendar for October 15-17 and get ready to take your ACLU affiliation to a whole new level by attending the 2006 ACLU National Membership Conference.

See you there?

*Kent Willis, Executive Director*

## Virginia Liberties

Spring 2006

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## Clarence Darrow Comes to Richmond

See Gary L. Anderson's one-man show, "**Clarence Darrow: The Search for Justice.**" Sunday, April 23, 2 and 7 p.m., Congregation Or Atid, 501 N. Parham Road. Advance tickets \$15/adults, \$12/seniors and students. At the door, \$20 each. Call (804) 272-9516 or email [aurichmond@igos.us](mailto:aurichmond@igos.us). Co-sponsored by the ACLU.

## ACLU's Religion Guru Brings Good News to Legacy Challenge Supporters

ACLU supporters got a chance to hear from the National ACLU's newest heavy hitter when Jeremy Gunn, the ACLU's director of Freedom of Religion and Belief, spoke at Goodwin House in Falls Church on March 9. Gunn, an international expert and author on religious rights who has held the newly-created position since mid-2005, wants to reframe the religious liberty debate in America.

Gunn's message is that the ACLU's position on religious liberty—the right to practice the religion of one's choice, freedom from discrimination based on religion, and government neutrality towards religion—is actually the view held by the vast majority of Americans.

Unfortunately, many Americans have a distorted view of the ACLU. Gunn's job, as he sees it, is not to alter the ACLU's stance on religious liberty, but to help us present an accurate portrait of our position to the public so that its view of us is changed. "Most of the people in this county agree with the ACLU on religion; they just don't know it," said Gunn. "My job is to get them to know it." According to Gunn, once that's done, shaping public policy on religious liberty will get a lot easier.

The audience also learned about the Legacy Challenge, a time-limited opportunity to prompt an immediate cash gift to the ACLU by merely planning a future gift. For more information on the Legacy Challenge, contact the Office of Planned Giving in New York at (877) 867-1025, or the ACLU staff in Richmond at (804) 644-8080.



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## ACLU Premieres TV series, *Freedom Files*

The ACLU's new television series, *The ACLU Freedom Files*, is getting some use as an educational and motivational tool. Created by the ACLU and award-winning filmmaker Robert Greenwald, *The Freedom Files* is a planned series of ten 30-minute documentary episodes featuring well-known actors, constitutional experts, and real ACLU clients and attorneys.

The series debuted on satellite's Link TV in last September and on cable's Court TV in February 2006. Episodes produced thus far include *Beyond the Patriot Act*, *Dissent*, *Religious Freedom*, *Voting Rights*, and *Gay and Lesbian Rights*. Last fall, an audience of sixty attended Virginia's first screening of *Beyond the Patriot Act* at UVA Law School. The event, which also featured a panel discussion by activists and scholars, was sponsored by the UVA Law School and Charlottesville ACLU chapters. In Alexandria,

a showing of *Beyond the Patriot Act* was followed by a discussion with Lisa Graves, Senior Counsel for Legislative Strategies from the ACLU's D.C. legislative office.

The series has also been well-received in screenings by the William and Mary ACLU Chapter in Williamsburg and Democracy for America in Richmond.



To host a screening of one of the *Freedom Files*, contact Elizabeth Wong in Richmond at (804)644-8080 or [ewong@acluva.org](mailto:ewong@acluva.org). For more information on the series or to view previous shows, visit [www.aclu.tv](http://www.aclu.tv).

### *NOVA ACLU Chapter Annual Crabfest, June 11*

Crabs, hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers and more! Don't miss this annual ACLU tradition. Guest speaker, executive director Kent Willis.

**June 11, 1:00-5:00 p.m.**  
**Fort Hunt Park, Area D, Alexandria.**  
(More details to follow in flyer to be mailed to area members in May.)  
NOVA ACLU Chapter (703) 360-1096

## New Chapter Forms at GMU Law School; UVA Law and W&M Groups Grow

The ACLU of Virginia's newest officially-recognized student chapter has gotten off to an auspicious beginning. In its first year, the George Mason University Law School Chapter has sponsored two major events—a discussion on the Guantanamo Bay detainees and a panel on national security and domestic spying.

In addition to sponsoring a showing of *Beyond the Patriot Act*, the University of Virginia Law School Chapter conducted legal research on a proposed law that would have given the state more control over the internal governance of churches and is also helping the StreetLaw group, which teaches high school students about their constitutional rights. Among other activities, the William and Mary chapter co-sponsored a screening and discussion of "After Innocence" and has also been busy with student voter registration drives.

## "Human Rights Hero" David Baugh to Speak in Richmond at ACLU Meeting

David Baugh, ACLU of Virginia board member and high profile Richmond attorney, will speak at the ACLU of Virginia's Annual Membership Meeting on May 20 (see details on last page). Baugh is well known for his zealous defense of criminal defendants and his passion for free speech.

Once referred to by Alan Dershowitz as "my kind of lawyer," Baugh was given the "Human Rights Hero" award by the American Bar Association in 1998 and is the 2006 recipient of the Virginia State Bar's prestigious Lewis F. Powell, Jr. Pro Bono Award. In 1999, Dershowitz wrote that Baugh "deserves a place of honor in the Pantheon of free speech heroes."

Baugh received international attention when he represented Ku Klux Klan member Barry Elton Black after Black was charged with a felony for burning a cross at a 1998 Klan rally, even though the rally was held on private property with permission from the owner. Baugh and co-counsel Rodney Smolla took the ACLU case to the Supreme Court.



# ACLU of Virginia in Action

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## Case Challenges Law Denying Prisoners Access to Information

Under a law passed by the Virginia General Assembly in 1997, no person incarcerated in a state, local, or federal correctional facility may use the Virginia Freedom of Information Act to obtain government documents. As a consequence, Joseph M. Giarratano, an inmate at Red Onion State Prison suffering from Hepatitis C, was unable to obtain a copy of the Department of Corrections' policy describing the protocol for treating the very disease from which he suffers. The same document could be obtained by any non-incarcerated person.

With help from the ACLU of Virginia, the Rutherford Institute, and Charlottesville lawyer Steve Rosenfield, Giarratano filed a lawsuit in federal court in January to overturn the law as a violation of the right to equal protection under the Fourteenth Amendment and the right to access the courts guaranteed by the First Amendment.

## *Chesterfield to Treat Gay-Straight Clubs Equally*

It began as a simple updating of policy to bring Chesterfield County in line with equal access law, but quickly turned in the opposite direction when ultra-conservative groups lobbied loudly and aggressively for amendments that could be used to prevent Gay-Straight Alliances from forming in Chesterfield schools. Our advice was straight forward: adopt the new policy and reject the amendments, or face a lawsuit from the ACLU. In the end, Chesterfield followed our advice.

## Appeals Court Upholds Fallwell.com Website

In a victory for free speech rights on the Internet, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that Christopher Lamparello did not violate trademark laws by running a website critical of Rev. Jerry Falwell under the domain name Fallwell.com. Falwell sued Lamparello claiming that he violated federal trademark law by using a common misspelling of Falwell's name as a domain name. But the Fourth Circuit ruled Lamparello's website, which included the statement "This website is NOT affiliated with Jerry Falwell or his ministry" at the top of the homepage, was protected by the First Amendment. Lamparello was represented by the Virginia ACLU and Public Citizen.

## *School Board Rejects Mandatory Drug Testing For Students*

After months of fierce public debate, including a town hall meeting at which the ACLU of Virginia was a featured speaker, the Williamsburg-James City County School Board has rejected what would have been the most expansive mandatory student drug testing policy in the nation. The proposed policy, which was submitted to the school board by the Superintendent, required random testing of students who participate in any extracurricular activities or who park their cars in school parking lots. With the School Board split for and against the policy and possibly headed toward a stalemate or further delay, a last-minute voluntary drug testing program was adopted by the School Board in March.

The ACLU of Virginia lobbied against the mandatory policy on grounds that it violated student privacy rights and that there is no research indicating that drug testing programs serve their intended purpose of deterring illegal drug use by students. Only about a half-dozen public schools in Virginia now have such policies, but they typically cover only athletes and sometimes other competitive extracurricular activities.

## Suit Filed to Establish Free Speech Rights at Shopping Centers

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On May 7, 2005 Richard C. Collins was quietly standing on a sidewalk outside a grocery store distributing campaign literature when he was told to leave. Although the sidewalk seemed public in every way, with shoppers moving about freely to enter the various stores at the Shopper's World shopping center in Albemarle, technically it was a private sidewalk.

When Collins, a candidate for the Virginia House of Delegates in the Demo-

cratic Party primary, refused to leave, he was arrested for trespassing. And, thus began another ACLU of Virginia case.

The ACLU believes that shopping centers and malls, although privately owned, serve the same function as traditional town squares and should be required to reasonably accommodate free speech. This is particularly true of suburbs where there are no town centers and the surrounding parking lots and sidewalks of shopping areas are privately owned.

Although the Albemarle County General District Court judge was sympathetic to Collins's plight, he found Collins guilty of trespass. Collins then filed a civil lawsuit seeking to establish the right of political candidates to campaign at shopping centers under the Virginia Constitution.

State courts in California, Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Oregon, and Washington have interpreted their constitutions to protect the right to free speech in malls and shopping center.

# Charges Dropped Against Student Military Protestor

Last September, Tariq Kahn, quietly positioned himself several feet from a military recruiting table set up in the Johnson Center on the George Mason University campus in Fairfax. Kahn, a GMU junior, US Air Force veteran and Pakistani-American, then taped to his chest an 8 ½ by 11-inch sign reading "Recruiters Tell Lies."

Despite harassment from a few other students, Khan remained silent, making anti-war pamphlets available to those who sought them. When told by a University official that he needed a permit to "table" in the Johnson Center, Khan politely responded that he was not using a table, but merely standing quietly and expressing his opinion. After refusing to move, Khan was handcuffed by campus police, dragged to a police vehicle, and transported to a Fairfax County Police facility where he was charged with trespassing and disorderly conduct.

Prepared to argue that the First Amendment protected Kahn's right to peacefully protest on the campus of a public university, the ACLU offered legal representation to Kahn. Under pressure from the ACLU and in the face of public criticism, GMU then conducted its own investigation of the incident and decided not to press for prosecution. With the ACLU representing Kahn and GMU backing off, Fairfax County prosecutors dropped the charges against Kahn on the day of his scheduled court hearing.

The ACLU of Virginia recently asked GMU to issue a formal apology to Khan, pay monetary damages for the illegal arrest, and to revise its campus free speech policy to ensure that constitutionally permissible protests by students are protected in the future.

## City Sued Over Prayer Policy

Under pressure from the ACLU of Virginia, the Fredericksburg City Council last November adopted a policy requiring that the prayers used to open its meetings be non-sectarian. This brought Fredericksburg in line with the law on legislative prayers and seemed to settle a controversy created by Councilman Hashmel Turner, who had begun opening meetings with Christian prayers. Under the new policy, Turner could either agree to give a non-sectarian prayer or not pray at all.

Turner chose the latter but then contacted the Rutherford Institute in Charlottesville and, with their help, sued his fellow members of city council for violating his free speech and free exercise rights.

The ACLU is now poised to file a friend-of-the-court brief on behalf of the Fredericksburg City Council, arguing that it not only had the right to adopt the mandatory non-sectarian prayer policy under U.S. Supreme Court rulings that permit legislative bodies to solemnize meetings with a prayer, but only if the prayers are broadly inclusive and do not express a preference for any particular religion.

Hunton & Williams and People For the American Way are providing legal representation to the City of Fredericksburg.

## Amendment to Ban Gay Marriage & Much More on November Ballot

In a disappointing though not unexpected move, Virginia legislators have passed for the requisite second time a state constitutional amendment that would ban gay marriage, civil unions and other same-sex relationships that approximate marriage. It is now up to Virginia voters to decide whether or not to add this new prohibition to the Virginia Constitution.

Similar amendments have passed in 19 states recently, almost always by a large margin. At least a half-dozen additional states will have anti-gay marriage amendments on their ballots this fall.

Despite the ease with which these amendments are passing, gay rights activists in Virginia are optimistic that the amendment can be stopped here. There are several reasons to hold this view:

First, research indicates that the negative reaction to gay marriages is subsiding, even if a majority of voters are still opposed.

Second, the language in the Virginia amendment is unusually broad and vague. It could be interpreted to prohibit not just gay marriages and civil unions, but many other kinds of arrangements between individuals of the same sex.

Third, Governor Tim Kaine, while on record opposing gay marriage, has indicated that he will personally vote against the amendments because of the broad language.

### Text of anti-gay marriage amendment

*That only a union between one man and one woman may be a marriage valid in or recognized by this Commonwealth and its political subdivisions. This Commonwealth and its political subdivisions shall not create or recognize a legal status for relationships of unmarried individuals that intends to approximate the design, qualities, significance, or effects of marriage. Nor shall this Commonwealth or its political subdivisions create or recognize another union, partnership, or other legal status to which is assigned the rights, benefits, obligations, qualities, or effects of marriage.*

### You Can Help Us Defeat Virginia's Anti-Gay Marriage Amendment

The ACLU of Virginia has made the fight against the anti-gay amendment one of our priorities in the coming months. If you would like to get involved, please contact Aimee Perron Seibert at (804) 644-8080 or [aperron@acluva.org](mailto:aperron@acluva.org)

# Unfinished Law: Why We Must Reauthorize the Voting Rights Act

...and How You Can Help! *By Kent Willis*

In August 1965, five months after the infamous beatings of non-violent civil rights marchers in Selma, Alabama, President Lyndon Johnson signed the landmark Voting Rights Act into law.

In the four decades since its passage, the act has come to be regarded as perhaps the most successful civil rights law in our nation's history, and with good reason. Prior to its enactment, there were fewer than 300 African Americans in public office in the United States, virtually none of whom were in the South. Today, there are nearly 300 in Virginia alone and more than 9,000 nationwide, including 43 members of Congress, one of whom proudly represents our Commonwealth.

Virginia is replete with successful Voting Rights Act stories. Less than 25 years ago in Hopewell, for example, African Americans were effectively shut out of city politics, holding no elected offices. Although they comprised 25% of the city's population, the discriminatory design of Hopewell's election plan made it mathematically impossible for minorities to be elected to public office.

In 1982, with help from the ACLU, Rev. Curtis Harris and other African American residents of Hopewell filed a lawsuit under the Voting Rights Act. As a result, Hopewell drew a racially fair electoral plan, and in 1983 Harris became the first African American elected to the Hopewell City Council. After the release of the 1990 census data, Hopewell voluntarily revised the 1983 election plan to maintain compliance with the law. During the next election cycle, two African Americans were elected to city council.

Then in 1998, Hopewell's still overwhelmingly white city council did the unthinkable: In a city that had prevented any minority from holding elected office

from Reconstruction to the mid-1980s, they chose Rev. Harris to be their mayor.

Like most political jurisdictions, Hopewell is not without its problems. But thanks to the Voting Rights Act, its minority citizens today have a real voice in the governance of the community where they live and work.

parts of the law that were set to expire. These actions have been endorsed by Presidents Nixon, Ford, Reagan and George H.W. Bush.

In light of the history of discrimination that minorities have experienced when voting, the proven effectiveness of the Voting Rights Act, and the clearly documented need to continue to protect minority voters, Congress should reauthorize the expiring provisions of the Voting Rights Act. Specifically, here's what should be done:

First, Congress must renew the Section 5 pre-clearance requirements for 25 years, just as it did in 1982. These provisions require designated states (Virginia included) and localities with a history of discriminatory voting practices to submit changes in their election procedures to federal officials for pre-approval.

Second, Congress should renew the language assistance provisions so that new citizens and other Americans with limited command of English can receive assistance when voting.

Third, Congress should renew the sections of the act that authorize the Attorney General to appoint election monitors and poll watchers.

At a time when America has staked so much of its international reputation on the need to spread democracy around the world, it is essential that Congress reauthorize and strengthen the Voting Rights Act to ensure the vitality of democracy here at home.

To learn more about the VRA, go to [www.acluva.org](http://www.acluva.org).

## Civil Rights Groups Meet in Richmond to Plan VRA Action

On March 30, representatives of more than 20 Virginia organizations convened at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Richmond to kick off a statewide campaign to promote reauthorization of the expiring provisions of the Voting Rights Act.

Rev. Curtis Harris opened the event by telling the story of how the VRA brought down a century of racial barriers in Hopewell. Harris ran unsuccessfully for city council seven times before using litigation under the VRA to force the City officials to create the racially-fair electoral plan that led to his election to city council and ultimately to becoming Mayor. Greg Nojeim, Assistant Director of the ACLU legislative office in DC provided an update on progress of the VRA reauthorization in Congress and ACLU Field organizer Nichole Yunk concluded the meeting with a call to action.

### What you can do...

Our goal is to convince Virginia's congressional representatives to support reauthorization of the VRA. You can write letters to the editor, submit op-eds, contact congressional representatives and help us get others to do the same. You may also wish to have someone from the ACLU speak to your civic group or organization on the history of the VRA in Virginia and why it must be re-authorized. Please contact Elizabeth Wong at [ewong@acluva.org](mailto:ewong@acluva.org) or (804) 644-8080 if you would like materials or a speaker.

There are many Hopewell-like success stories in Virginia, and hundreds across the country. But the work of the Voting Rights Act is not yet done. Many state and local governments still erect barriers to minority political participation, and the risk of losing the gains we have made is great.

Armed with documentation of continuing discrimination, Congress has voted four times since 1970 to extend key



# Candidates for Board of Directors

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**Patrick Anderson:** I am interested in continuing to serve on the Board of Directors of the Virginia Civil Liberties Union because I am devoted to working for justice for those who suffer injustice. In fact, as a criminal defense attorney, my entire career revolves around protecting a person's constitutional rights. I would appreciate your support, and I would be proud to serve with the other members of the board.

**Janet Cook:** It has been an honor over the past three years to serve on the Virginia ACLU affiliate board. During that time, I've worked with the Planning and Development Committees, participated actively as a fundraiser in the Liberty Campaign, and done my duty as a Grassroots nudge during the Virginia legislative season. Nationwide, I see federal, state, and local governments encroaching on our natural and Constitutional liberties at every turn. I hope to be reelected to the board to continue in the struggle against the tide of ignorance and regression washing over our country.

**M. Imad Damaj:** I was born in Beirut, Lebanon, and then attended college at the University of Paris, France. I am currently a Professor of Pharmacology at the VCU School of Medicine. I have been involved in various community, social and educational programs for years. Defending civil rights and First Amendment issues are very critical and dear to me, especially in these difficult days. I whole-heartedly embrace the ACLU's goals and principles and will bring, if elected, a strong commitment to protect our civil liberties and free speech. I will also bring the perspective and the help of a very diverse community committed to the protection of our civil rights.

**Stew Dunn:** I am dedicated to civil liberties and the ACLU. I have served on the Virginia Board since 1991 and am currently on our executive committee. Before that, I served for nine years as the representative of our affiliate to the National Board of the ACLU. I also serve on the national Capital Area Board, where I was president from 1986 to 1988. I would greatly appreciate your vote so that I may continue to devote my energies to civil liberties with particular emphasis on advancing First Amendment rights, racial justice and equality for women. I am a lawyer practicing in Washington, living in Alexandria.

**Gene Hulbert:** A Board member since 1991, I am interested in the issues of electronic privacy and freedom of speech and association. My special area of interest and activity is in outreach to and recruiting of new members. My friends and associates know me as a strong, but not strident, advocate of the Bill of Rights. I would be pleased to continue serving on the board.

**Preston M. Royster:** I am very interested in remaining on the board. I have been involved in civil rights since my college days, dating back to 1959. My accomplishments of note include the creation of an equal rights association in Prince William County in 1969, serving as the director of EEO nationwide for the US Dept. of Education, as a member of the Fairfax County NAACP since 1998, and on the Human Rights Commission since 1992. I am especially disturbed by discrimination against blacks, Hispanics and Asians in our criminal justice system.

**Joyce Woodson:** Clearly there has not been a more urgent need for the ACLU than right here, right now. I would be honored to serve on the board. I have been an advocate for civil liberties and civil rights since my student rabble-rousing days in the late 60s and early 70s. As an Alexandria city council member I have taken strong and often unpopular positions on civil liberties and rights. I persuaded my colleagues to support an anti-Patriot Act resolution, and I am well known for my passionate support of affordable housing and democracy education (I teach civics lessons through mock council meetings with high school government students). My term in office ends on June 20, 2006.

**John Vail:** I am a career civil rights-civil liberties junkie. After 18 years as a legal aid lawyer, I now am Vice President and Senior Litigation Counsel for the Center for Constitutional Litigation, a national law firm in Washington. I have been on the board since moving to Virginia in 1997 and currently serve as President. Prior to my arrival, I was President of the North Carolina ACLU. I do grunt work. I have served as chair of the development committee and the planning committee. I am keenly aware that no battle for civil liberties ever stays won. I think the purpose of the ACLU is to re-educate the public about this truth and to enlist the public to fight the battles.

## ACLU of Virginia Elections

*The ACLU of Virginia elects new directors each year. If you are a member of the ACLU, you are invited to seek nomination to the board by submitting your name and a statement of interest to the Nominating Committee for its consideration. The nominating committee will consider any name submitted at least 60 days in advance of the annual meeting. The 2007 annual meeting is scheduled for May 19. The bylaws also allow members to access the ballot through a petition for candidacy signed by at least five members. Board members are elected by a vote of the membership through mail-in ballots and ballots cast at the annual meeting. Below are the candidates for election at the 2006 annual meeting.*

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### Ballot 2006: ACLU of Virginia Board of Directors

(The 2006 Ballot was Distributed to Members in the Mail Edition)

ACLU of Virginia

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## Virginia Liberties

Newsletter of the ACLU of Virginia

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*Available Soon!*

*ACLU of Virginia Review of the 2006  
General Assembly session. Contact us for a  
copy ([acluva@acluva.org](mailto:acluva@acluva.org) or 804-644-8080).*

## *You're Invited!* ACLU of Virginia Annual Membership Meeting *and* Open House (at our new office)

Saturday, May 20, 2:00- 4:00 pm  
530 East Main Street, Richmond

Keynote Address by

David Baugh

We'd like to know if you'll be attending. Call us  
at (804) 644-8080 or e-mail us at [acluva@acluva.org](mailto:acluva@acluva.org).