ACLU IN THE COMMUNITY

YOUTH RISING!

This year’s Bernard Marcus High School Invitational was the largest we’ve ever hosted—200 teams and 800 students from 200 schools and 21 states nationwide came to compete! The competition featured over 150 teams of high school students, addressing a variety of pressing social, political, and environmental issues. Students participated in individual debates, panels, and workshops to discuss important issues such as immigration, climate change, and social justice. The event was a success, and we look forward to hosting the next one. To find out more about the Bernard Marcus High School Invitational and how to get involved, please visit the ACLU of Colorado’s website at: aclu-co.org.

LEONARD ERASMUS

Senator Mark Udall, 1999-2015, will receive the Carle Whitehead Dinner Honoree Award for his work to expose a series of false arrests in Trinidad, and the attorneys who were treated to an inspiring performance from Black Banana Collective, a student-run arts and poetry group.

DENVER CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE FORUM

In April, the ACLU of Colorado hosted a Denver City Council Candidate Forum with ten candidates to discuss their stances on a wide range of issues, including civil rights, criminal justice reform, and public safety. The forum was moderated by the ACLU’s Policy Director Denise Maes and drew a large crowd of community members. The forum was a successful opportunity for voters to learn more about the candidates and their platforms. To find out more about the forum and the candidates, please visit the ACLU of Colorado’s website at: aclu-co.org.

ACLU NEWS

STANDING UP TO RACIALLY-BASED POLICING

Benjamin Franklin Brown was driving past a black woman in Denver’s Westwood neighborhood when he saw police lights flashing in his rearview mirror. “It seemed like forever,” said Benjamin. “I was scared that the officer was going to pull the trigger.” The officer was pointing a gun at him, and Benjamin feared for his life. He immediately took out his phone and launched Mobile Justice, a free smartphone app that allows individuals to record police misconduct and submit the footage for review. The ACLU of Colorado provided Brown with legal advice and support, and Brown was eventually charged with妨碍公务 (Obstructing Governmental Administration of Affairs) and false imprisonment. He was later acquitted of all charges. The ACLU of Colorado continues to fight for racial justice and to hold law enforcement accountable.

CARLE WHITEHEAD BILL OF RIGHTS DINNER

Join us in celebrating our work to protect and expand civil rights and civil liberties for all and to honor Senator Mark Udall and Nita Gonzales, two extraordinary champions of civil rights and civil liberties. Mark Trachtman, executive director of the ACLU of Colorado, will introduce Carle Whitehead, President of the ACLU of Colorado, who will speak about our work in the past year.

At the point, Ryan began recording the scene on his phone. He observed the conflict for an extended period of time, but ultimately decided to record the video in detail.

The ACLU of Colorado announced in May that they will provide legal defense for the two brothers involved in the shooting, as well as training and support for the community.

The ACLU of Colorado dedicates itself to protecting the rights of all individuals, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or political affiliation. We work to ensure that all individuals are treated equally under the law and that their rights are protected.

In this issue, we will focus on de-escalation, asserting one’s rights, and law enforcement. Trainings cover a variety of topics, including how to handle interactions with police, and we are closely watching the internal affairs investigation.

In the meantime, we encourage everyone to stay informed and to take action to support our work. Visit aclu-co.org to learn more about the ACLU of Colorado and how you can get involved.
S
uccess in defending Coloradoans and across the country brings that directly impacts civil and civil liberties. How do you keep up with all of it? We hope that you visit our website often, follow us on Twitter and Facebook, read our blog, and sign up for email alerts so you can quickly do so for our work for your rights. Online communications are quicker, easier and less expensive, but we also send hard copy newsletters. Join us in this way to keep up with what we are doing at the ACLU of Colorado.

When we first sent our newsletter, we never thought that we could reach so many people. We were never sure that we had &nbs...