

**American Civil Liberties Union**  
Center for Democracy  
New York, NY

**POSITION: DIRECTOR, NATIONAL SECURITY PROJECT [LGLF-07/AICH]**

The **American Civil Liberties Union Foundation (ACLU)** is a nationwide, non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to the principles of liberty and equality embodied in the U.S. Constitution. The ACLU is widely regarded as one of the nation's premier public interest law firms. The ACLU invites applicants for the **Director of the National Security Project**, located in the National Office in **New York**.

**OVERVIEW**

The National Security Project is part of the ACLU's newly created **Center for Democracy**, which works to strengthen democratic institutions and values and advocates for government transparency and accountability. The Center for Democracy includes, in addition to the National Security Project, the ACLU's Human Rights Project and Project on Speech, Privacy, and Technology. The Director of the National Security Project will report to the Director of the Center for Democracy.

One of the ACLU's central concerns today is the effect of the government's national security policies on civil liberties and human rights. The Director of the National Security Project will oversee a team of litigators and support staff who work on civil liberties and human rights issues relating to national security. The Director also plays a major role in developing and coordinating the ACLU's non-litigation advocacy around these issues.

The National Security Project's litigation docket is active and diverse. For example, attorneys in the Project represent victims of the CIA's "rendition" program in a lawsuit against a private corporation that facilitated the program. They represent a Muslim charity in a challenge to the government's unconstitutional seizure of its assets. They represent a prisoner held at Guantánamo Bay in a challenge to his indefinite detention without charge or trial. On behalf of a broad coalition of human rights, media, and legal organizations, they have challenged the constitutionality of dragnet wiretapping conducted under the amended Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. And they are litigating suits under the Freedom of Information Act for information about the legal basis for the government's use of drones to conduct "targeted killings" both on and far from conventional battlefields; about the treatment of prisoners held by the United States in detention centers overseas; and about the government's use of new surveillance laws.

In collaboration with other parts of the ACLU, the Project is also engaged in a range of non-litigation advocacy. Through a dedicated website, [www.torturereport.org](http://www.torturereport.org), the Project is assembling a public record of the Bush administration's rendition, detention, and interrogation program. Through a series of public events, called "Reckoning With Torture," the Project is pressing the current administration to hold accountable those government officials who endorsed, approved, or facilitated the abuse of prisoners. With a group of ACLU state affiliates, the Project is engaged in a public advocacy campaign to raise awareness of government surveillance at the federal, state, and local levels. The new administration presents new opportunities for the Project but it also presents new challenges. The Project's docket is likely to remain very active. The Director will play a major role in developing and coordinating the ACLU's non-litigation advocacy around these issues.

**ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Oversee a team of litigators and support staff who work on civil liberties and human rights issues relating to national security;
- Collaborate with the Center Director to determine the ACLU's priorities on civil liberties and human rights issues relating to national security and ensure that the Project's resources are used effectively in support of these priorities;
- Work with other parts of the ACLU to develop and coordinate the ACLU's non-litigation advocacy on civil liberties and human rights issues relating to national security;
- Advise and support ACLU state affiliates that work on these issues in their own jurisdictions;

- Work with the ACLU's Development Department to communicate the Project's goals and successes to foundation and individual donors and prospects;
- Collaborate with other ACLU projects, particularly the other projects within the Center for Democracy to strengthen democratic institutions and values and advocate for government transparency and accountability.

## EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants must have a J.D. degree and:

- Significant experience litigating complex constitutional cases;
- A demonstrated commitment to civil liberties and human rights, and a familiarity with civil liberties and human rights issues relating to national security;
- An ability to develop and implement multi-faceted advocacy campaigns that include litigation, public education, media outreach, and community organizing;
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills including the ability to write and speak persuasively;
- Excellent analytical and writing skills;
- A demonstrated ability to think creatively and work independently;
- A strong record of working in coalition with other public interest advocates and organizations;
- A demonstrated ability to communicate effectively with diverse audiences, including the general public, national and local media, policy makers, and others.
- Strong leadership skills including experience supervising and mentoring lawyers and other advocates;
- Willingness to travel.

## COMPENSATION

The ACLU offers a generous and comprehensive compensation and benefits package, commensurate with experience and within parameters of the ACLU compensation scale.

## HOW TO APPLY

Applications should consist of a cover letter, a resume, the names of three references, and two representative writing samples. Please send materials to [hrjobs@aclu.org](mailto:hrjobs@aclu.org) and reference [LGLF-07/AICH] in subject line, or mail applications to:

Human Resources  
 RE: [LGLF-07/AICH]  
 American Civil Liberties Union  
 125 Broad Street, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor  
 New York, NY 10004

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Please indicate where you learned of this job posting.

**The ACLU is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and encourages applications from women, people of color, persons with disabilities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals.**

*The ACLU comprises two separate corporate entities, the American Civil Liberties Union and the ACLU Foundation. Both the American Civil Liberties Union and the ACLU Foundation are national organizations with the same overall mission, and share office space and employees. The ACLU has two separate corporate entities in order to do a broad range of work to protect civil liberties. This job posting refers collectively to the two organizations under the name "ACLU."*

**PLEASE CONTACT AICH/WIA PROGRAM (212-598-0100, ext 221) FOR JOB-SEARCH ASSISTANCE!**

(Customers must be Native American and meet WIA program eligibility requirements in order to receive transportation assistance, clothing allowance, cash incentives once employed, child care assistance, etc., etc..)

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