

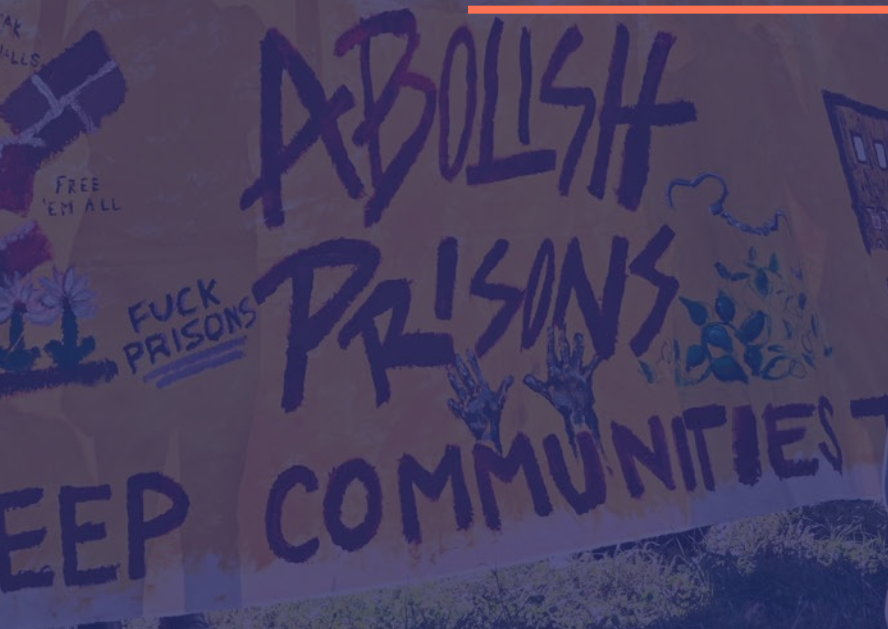


ABOLITIONIST
LAW CENTER



BRICK BY BRICK

DECARCERATING TODAY, BUILDING TOMORROW



IMPACT REPORT

2025

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I'm from Philadelphia, a city with a rich history of challenging tyranny and authoritarianism, and resisting attacks meant to silence and subdue us.

Philly was a key station on the Underground Railroad and a leading center of the Abolitionist Movement.



Yet in 1838, a racist mob burned down Pennsylvania Hall, an abolitionist meeting space here, just three days after it opened. And on election day in 1871, Octavius Catto was assassinated in Philadelphia for boldly challenging the city's racial apartheid prohibition denying Black people the right to vote.

But Philadelphia's freedom fighters have never been deterred. We've risen from the ashes and continued to demand a truly inclusive democracy, and equal rights and resources for all. This liberatory spirit and vision was exemplified by the Revolutionary People's Constitutional Convention that met in 1971 to draft a new guiding document to serve the people.

So it's no surprise that I feel freedom running through my veins. It pulsed within me when as a teenager I was sentenced to die behind bars. It fed me throughout the 27 years I was inside Pennsylvania's prisons, especially during the decade I spent in solitary confinement. **And today, amidst the darkest political time I've ever experienced, it's driving me with a burning intensity as I lead the Abolitionist Law Center in the fight for our lives.**

Pennsylvania, where ALC is based, **is a key battleground in the war against the surging extremism and authoritarianism** that's stripping away our hard-won rights. Advances we make here contesting power, expanding democracy, and dismantling carceral institutions are creating **models that are being replicated around the country.**

When the state told me that I was going to die in prison, I never accepted that. I resisted, rebelled, and made it out because of the movement built by us on the inside and our loved ones on the outside, braided together with the legacy of our freedom-seeking ancestors.

Today ALC is the embodiment of that resistance and redemption. We're part of an abolitionist family — and history — that's fighting, with support from our allies, for our own liberation.

I invite you to learn more and join us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert Saleem Holbrook". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" being the most prominent.

Robert Saleem Holbrook, Executive Director

ABOUT US



The Abolitionist Law Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, movement law firm and community organizing project.

We defend human rights and challenge incarceration and other state & structural violence.

We engage in class action and impact litigation, grassroots advocacy, research and public education, legislative lobbying, and strategic communications. We attack the racist, classist criminal legal system, and protect the rights and well-being of people who encounter jails and prisons, courts, police, and other forms of legal supervision. And we challenge U.S.-based corporate and governmental entities that perpetrate and support carceral violence and wars abroad.

Across our many lanes of work, our priorities include:

- freeing people from incarceration, and advocating for their safety and wellness while they're behind bars
- holding institutions like jails, prisons, and police departments accountable, and redistributing their resources, via litigation and legal settlements, to people impacted by the criminal punishment system
- building and facilitating direct and participatory democracy and transparent accountability practices through the creation of Oversight Boards and community based referendums
- building power among, taking our leadership from, and being accountable to people who are directly impacted by capitalism, state violence, and incarceration

Our work diminishes the ability of the carceral machine to lock people up in Pennsylvania. It results in **fewer people becoming incarcerated; shorter stays** for those who do get locked up; and **safer and more humane conditions** for people while they're inside. And it erodes the narrative that mass incarceration makes our communities safer.

OUR IMPACT

ALC's advocacy in PA's prisons, jails, and courts directly affects at least **60,000 legal system-involved individuals** each year, plus many of their family members and other loved ones.



Our campaigns aimed at probation and parole have implications for the **170,000 people** under these forms of supervision in PA.



Our efforts to defend and expand democracy help protect the rights and wishes of **tens of thousands of voters in communities** bearing the brunt of the carceral state.

And our initiatives are used as **models** in efforts to make **similar changes in other states around the country.**

OUR IMPACT

DBI & Long-Term Sentences

- Argued *Commonwealth v. Derek Lee*, a landmark case currently before the PA Supreme Court that could end mandatory death by incarceration (DBI, aka life without parole) sentences for everyone convicted of second degree murder, potentially release 1000+ individuals, and impact thousands more people condemned to mandatory DBI sentences.
- Presented at a criminal justice policy meeting at the White House with the WH Domestic Chief Counsel to spotlight the aging U.S. prison population and urge President Biden to use his pardon powers aggressively to release aging federal prisoners before leaving office.
- Won clemency, compassionate release, or negotiated releases for multiple clients who had endured decades of imprisonment.

Solitary

- Filed a sweeping case against the PA Dept. of Corrections to ban indefinite solitary confinement throughout the entire PA state prison system and completely bar solitary for people with mental health conditions.
- Ended solitary confinement on PA's death row and won court orders releasing clients from solitary from every federal district court in PA.
- Pressed for and testified at the first-ever PA House Judiciary Committee hearing about solitary confinement.



Safeguarding Rights

- Achieved largest ever settlement against PA Dept. of Corrections, on behalf of an incarcerated person killed by excessive OC (pepper) spray and medical neglect by corrections staff.
- Won the first injunctive order in the country ordering prison officials to provide new curative medications for hepatitis C.
- Protected attorney-client confidentiality for everyone in state custody through litigation that rolled back photocopying incoming legal mail.
- Protected First Amendment rights of currently and formerly incarcerated people through litigation that struck down the Revictimization Relief Act, which was initially aimed at silencing Mumia Abu-Jamal.

OUR IMPACT

Jails

- Achieved a drop in the Philadelphia jail population to the lowest number in 30+ years.
- Co-counseled litigation requiring Philadelphia's jails to address dire conditions in their facilities.
- Negotiated a settlement addressing care and conditions for people with mental health issues at Allegheny County Jail (PA's second-largest county jail).
- Sued Dauphin County Prison officials for cutting off heat, electricity, hygiene supplies, and contact with the outside world for several winter months.
- Protected the \$125 monthly stipend for incarcerated people at Allegheny County Jail to help them make commissary purchases and pay for calls and video visits with loved ones.

Democracy

- Achieved 17,000 contacts and 150,000+ texts/calls during a voter engagement/education campaign in Philadelphia led by justice-impacted canvassers in communities impacted by mass incarceration and violence.
- Organized a multi-year campaign passed overwhelmingly by voters to establish a Prison Oversight Board to bring accountability to Philadelphia's county jail system.
- Led organizing resulting in a first-of-its-kind-in-the-nation voter referendum curtailing solitary confinement and restraint chair use at Allegheny County Jail.

We achieved a drop in the Philadelphia jail population to the lowest number in 30+ years.

We organized a multi-year campaign, passed overwhelmingly by voters, to establish a Prison Oversight Board to bring accountability to Philadelphia's county jail system.

We protected the \$125 monthly stipend for incarcerated people at Allegheny County Jail.



Philly City Council & advocates rally support for prison oversight ballot measure

Jack Tomczuk for Metro Philadelphia

OUR IMPACT



We co-counseled litigation against the Philadelphia police department resulting in the largest settlement in a mass protest-related case in the city's history.

We testified repeatedly at the United Nations in Geneva.

We filed more than 60 judicial misconduct complaints.

Human Rights

- Testified repeatedly at the United Nations in Geneva to bring an international human rights framework to the fight to end death by incarceration and extreme sentencing in the United States and to release political prisoners like Mumia Abu-Jamal.
- Produced a briefing guide showing the complicity of federal officials in the mistreatment of Afghans refugees who were evacuated by the U.S. and are now in detention around the world.
- Contributed findings about U.S. high-tech companies' role in the war in Gaza to a report by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Policing

- Co-counseled litigation against Philadelphia's police department, resulting in largest settlement in a mass protest-related case in the city's history.
- Led litigation in Pittsburgh challenging police repression of protesters that resulted in a monetary settlement and a policy protecting protesters' First Amendment rights.

Court Watch

- Recruited dozens of Court Watch volunteers who documented thousands of criminal proceedings.
- Filed more than 60 judicial misconduct complaints.
- Released transparency reports documenting the Allegheny County criminal courts' treatment of people with mental health disorders and intellectual disabilities, and the racially apartheid practices of the courts and police departments.

Narrative Change

- Annually earned more than 100 news stories quoting ALC staff members and using our preferred narratives and framing on issues.
- Published reports and policy recommendations on compassionate release, death by incarceration, the aging prison population, toxic prison environmental conditions, racial bias in policing and court practices, and how the criminal legal system treats people with disabilities.

INCARCERATION IN PENNSYLVANIA

With the U.S. Supreme Court stacked to shut down or roll back progressive efforts to dismantle carceral systems, the most meaningful challenges are being waged and won at the state level.

Wins in Pennsylvania not only impact hundreds of thousands of people here, they also **create road maps to similar victories elsewhere in the country.**

Pennsylvania has some of the **most severe carceral practices in the country**, and is **ground zero for the explosion of mass incarceration**, extreme conditions of confinement, and excessive sentencing.

Far from being the cradle of liberty, Philadelphia was home to the first penitentiary and the first prison built based on solitary confinement. The city and state have a long and shameful history of racist and repressive policing, prosecuting, and imprisonment, including attacking Black Panthers and Black Liberation Army members, MOVE, and other BIPOC communities and resistance movements right up through the present. And ALC has fiercely represented members of all of these groups.



In 1991 PA had **14** state prisons. Today there are **23**.



More than **5000** people are serving death by incarceration sentences (life without possibility for parole) in PA, a higher number than any other U.S. state except Florida, which has almost twice as many residents.



Nearly **250,000** people are under correctional control in PA on an average day, at least **170,000** different people pass through the state's jails throughout the year, and PA's two largest counties alone cage around **5000** people on a typical day.

OUR WORK

Ending Death by Incarceration



Pennsylvania law dictates mandatory sentences of life without the possibility of parole for people sentenced under charges of first-degree murder or second-degree murder. These sentences are, in effect, death by incarceration, and **PA is an extreme outlier in issuing them.**

The prevalence of DBI sentences has also led to a sharp increase in the number of elderly people in PA prisons. Aging lifers not only pose a low risk of reoffending, but many have invaluable life experiences, wisdom, and leadership to share with their communities, where such mentoring and credible messengers are badly needed. Warehousing people from a young age with no opportunity for release is inhumane, unjust, and tremendously costly to our commonwealth and our communities.

ALC has a robust approach to ending DBI in Pennsylvania that includes litigation, organizing, strategic communications, and legislative lobbying.

- More than **5000** people are serving DBI in PA — more than any other state except Florida.
- More than **1 in 10** people serving DBI sentences in the U.S. are in Pennsylvania prisons.
- Black Pennsylvanians are serving DBI sentences at a rate more than **18 times** higher than that of White Pennsylvanians.
- **More** people serving DBI sentences were convicted **in Philadelphia County** than in any other county or parish in the U.S.
- Most people sentenced to DBI are teenagers and young adults **under the age of 25** whose brains aren't fully developed.

OUR WORK

Ending Death by Incarceration

Litigation

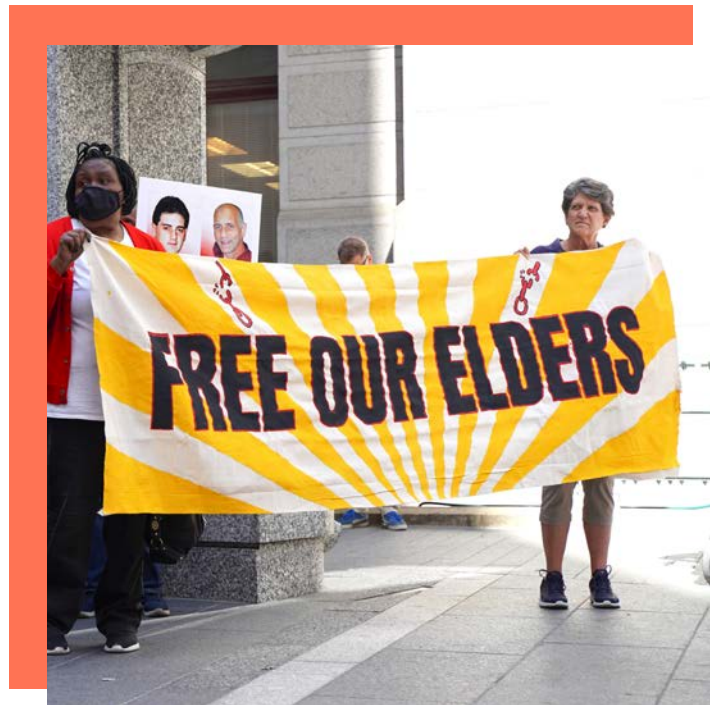
ALC has pursued a **groundbreaking, long-term legal strategy to end DBI** for the more than 1000 people serving this sentence for felony murder in PA. Our case *Commonwealth v. Derek Lee* is currently before the PA Supreme Court. A win for Mr. Lee in this high-profile case would be a landmark victory, likely **creating a pathway to freedom for all 1000+ people** serving this sentence for second degree murder in PA.

Furthermore, it could have **national implications for the broader movement to eliminate all DBI sentences**, as change-oriented criminal defense and civil rights litigators are increasingly turning to state constitutional litigation given the current composition of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Organizing & Narrative Change

ALC is successfully reshaping the public perception of DBI. We're building community power among impacted Pennsylvanians to be a potent force in pushing for legislation to allow parole eligibility for all people currently serving DBI sentences.

- We've organized a **statewide network of lifers** and their family members whom we've enlisted in this effort.
- We've produced **two major research reports** and consistently generate **high-visibility press coverage** about DBI and our campaign to end it.
- Our staff experts regularly participate in **panels, teach-ins, and other public education** initiatives.



International Human Rights

ALC is part of a coalition that's situating DBI as **an international human rights violation**. In 2022, our group submitted a 31-page complaint to the United Nations asserting that the U.S. is committing torture and violating the prohibition against racial discrimination, by condemning people to DBI.

Each year since, **a delegation led by ALC's executive director Robert Saleem Holbrook** and other people directly impacted by extreme sentencing, has traveled **by invitation to the UN in Geneva** to convince that body to pressure the U.S. to end DBI.

In 2024 their testimony resulted in the UN's International Human Rights Committee calling on the U.S. to impose a moratorium on these sentences.

OUR WORK

Eliminating Solitary Confinement



ALC has had unparalleled success challenging solitary confinement, including establishing a growing body of precedent-setting case law.

Litigation

Since our founding, **we've led the legal attack against solitary** in Pennsylvania.

Across more than a dozen cases that have targeted the practice, ALC has:

- ended solitary confinement of those on PA's death row
- won court orders releasing clients from solitary confinement from every federal district court in PA
- set the two most important solitary-related Eighth Amendment precedents in the Third Circuit Court of Appeals
- forced sanctions against the City of Philadelphia for its jails' failure to comply with the terms mandated in a federal civil rights class action suit that addressed solitary and other dire conditions in PA's largest county jail system
- negotiated a landmark agreement that requires sweeping changes in limiting how Allegheny County (PA's second largest county jail system) places people with psychiatric disabilities into solitary

(cont'd)

OUR WORK

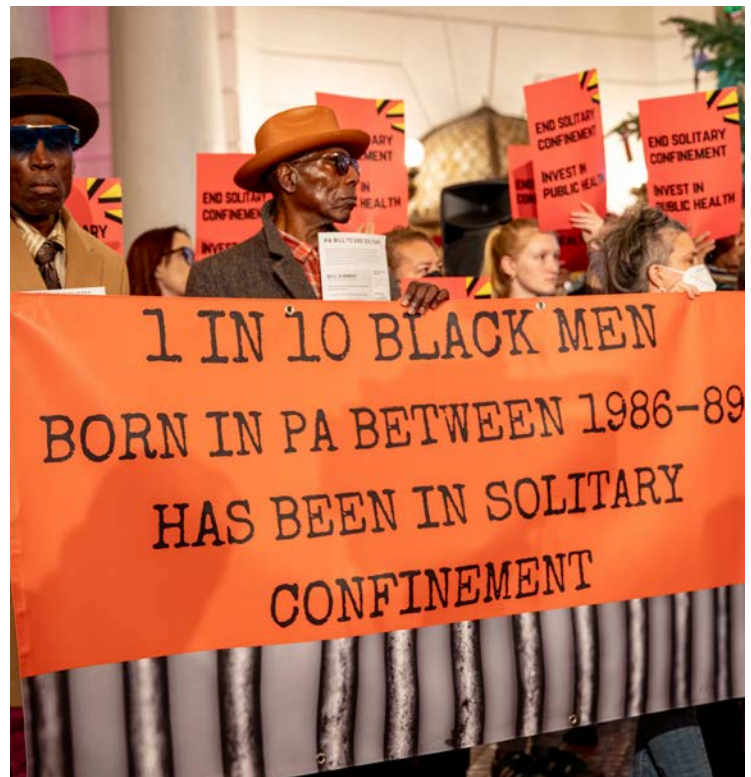
Eliminating Solitary Confinement

(Litigation, cont'd)

- represented defendants in an indefinite solitary unit in a PA state prison, who initially filed pro se in a groundbreaking class action suit
- filed what is to date the largest and most complex federal class action lawsuit aimed at solitary, challenging the practice in the entire PA state prison system
- filed a class action suit against the county jail in Harrisburg (PA's capitol) on behalf of defendants who were held in solitary with no electricity, lights, or heat, for several weeks in the midst of winter

More than
80,000

people are held in solitary confinement on any given day in the U.S. More than **2,000** of them are in PA state prisons.



Organizing & Narrative Change

ALC works in coalition with groups across PA and around the country to build pressure campaigns and champion legislation to end solitary confinement.

Key achievements include:

- coordinating the successful effort to establish a Prison Oversight Board in Philadelphia
- playing an integral role in the effort that led to the passage of a first-in-the nation voter referendum curtailing solitary in a county jail
- initiating the first-ever hearing by the PA House judiciary committee on the topic of solitary
- building a statewide network of solitary survivors advocating against the use of the practice

OUR WORK

Dismantling Deadly Jails



ALC is targeting county jails in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and elsewhere, in coalition with partners and through our legal, organizing, and communications arms.

Pennsylvania's county jail system is a human rights disaster. At least **170,000** different people are booked into county jails in Pennsylvania each year, and on any given day these facilities are collectively caging around **29,000** people. On a typical day there are approximately **5000** people in county jails in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh alone, and since 2020 close to **100** people have died in just those two counties' facilities.

The majority of people incarcerated in local jails have not been convicted of the offense for which they're being held. They simply can't afford to pay bail or are alleged to have violated probation, making them ineligible for bail. So they're stuck behind bars waiting for their legal proceedings, which can take weeks, months, or even years.

ALC has **multi-faceted campaigns targeting county jails in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Harrisburg**, and elsewhere. We build collective power to decarcerate and dismantle these deadly institutions, protect people who encounter them, and shift funding from jails to true public safety supports like housing, health care, and education.

We particularly focus on supporting the most vulnerable people in county jails including **children** in adult facilities; **people with disabilities** and acute mental and physical health needs; and queer, trans and GNC individuals. Through litigation, organizing, court watching, and communications, we address **conditions of confinement** and use of force, including **solitary**, restraint chairs, pepper spray, and other weapons and forms of torture employed by jail staff. We agitate around strip searches, book bans, laundry policies, environmental conditions, food, access to hygiene and health care products and services, and more.

OUR WORK

Dismantling Deadly Jails

We're building collective power to decarcerate and dismantle these deadly institutions; protect people who encounter them; and divest funding from jails and shift it to true public safety supports, like housing, healthcare, and education.



We generate relentless **media coverage** of the dire conditions people experience inside county jails. And we **collaborate with movement partners and impacted community members** to organize activities designed to bring awareness and public pressure to advocate for those who're trapped within these horrific places.

Our strategic, long-term efforts have led to:

- a massive victory, **supported by 77% of Philadelphia's voters** in 2025, that created a **Prison Oversight Board** to bring accountability to PA's largest county jail system
- a huge drop in the number of people incarcerated in Philly's jails, to the **lowest level in more than 30 years**
- dozens of **lawsuits**, right to know requests, and other legal actions
- a highly influential presence at **Jail Oversight Board meetings** in Allegheny County (PA's second largest county jail system)
- spotlighting deaths of people in jail custody, and advocacy around access to autopsies
- participation in county jail working groups and networks across Pennsylvania;
- court support for people during their legal proceedings, and comfort supplies for people leaving jail
- public education events, in-depth data collection and analysis, and influential reports

OUR WORK

Freeing People from Prison



As an abolitionist organization, the objective of winning release for people in prison – both in individual cases and as a result of strategies and policies of decarceration – is the founding core of our mission.

ALC sprang from the self-liberatory efforts of incarcerated people who organized themselves, and their loved ones outside, to fight for their rights and freedom. We have a long history of litigating cases challenging unjust convictions and sentences, and of winning release for political and politicized prisoners, and other people who've served many decades behind bars. Many of those we've represented in successful efforts to win release were mentored by political prisoners in the PA state prison system, including Russell Maroon Shoatz, ALC's first client.

In the last few years we've also amassed considerable experience handling so-called "compassionate release" cases that give a pathway out of prison and into more dignified and appropriate end-of-life care for terminally ill people who meet stringent guidelines. The demand for this representation is intense, as the number of aging people in PA's prisons has grown exponentially as a result of the state's draconian long-term sentencing laws. Compassionate release cases are a highly specialized and labor intensive type of litigation, and we're developing a network of other firms and entities with whom we're sharing our expertise so that more people can be assisted.

OUR WORK

Abolishing Probation Detainers & Long-Term Parole

Two-thirds of people in Pennsylvania's jails have not been convicted of the offenses for which they're being held. They're languishing behind bars (often for weeks or months), waiting for trials or hearings simply because they're unable to afford bail, or haven't been granted the opportunity to be bailed out. Discretionary judicial decisions around bail are often racially biased or otherwise problematic.

At the same time, incarceration for even a few days can have enormous negative effects on those who are detained as well as their loved ones and communities.

ALC uses many tactics to address the harms of pretrial and probation-related detention, including litigation, strategic communications, community organizing, and our Court Watch program. We've also testified at legislative committee hearings about proposed and existing legislation, and presented alternative policies that could reduce needless and harmful pretrial detention.

Alongside probation, parole also ensnares tens of thousands of Pennsylvanians. Roughly 78,000 people were on parole in PA at the start of 2024 (far more than any other state except CA and TX).



More than half of the people in PA prisons are there because of parole violations. Parole subjects people to ongoing correctional control and surveillance, impeding their everyday activities with a gauntlet of rules and restrictions. Yet data shows that parole has diminishing returns since people over age 40 have lower rates of recidivism, and 70% of recidivism occurs within the first three years of release.

As part of the Coalition for Parole Justice, ALC advocates for legislation to end long-term and lifetime parole, and for a "sunset" clause that gives people an opportunity to get off parole after three years.



OUR WORK

Challenging the Police



ALC engages at every point in the criminal legal system and along its carceral pipeline, and challenges all of its institutions, including policing — the system's brutal entry point.

ALC has co-counseled class action litigation on behalf of survivors of police violence in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh during the racial justice uprising in the wake of the police murder of George Floyd in May 2020. Our cases include *Smith v. City of Philadelphia* that resulted in Philly agreeing to pay monetary damages totaling \$9.25 million collectively to those who were harmed — one of the largest settlements of its kind in the city's history.

We've supported families whose loved ones have been harmed by police, agitated around police budgets and attempts to (re)establish aggressive and biased policing practices, published impactful research about how apartheid policing targets BIPOC and poor people, and monitored the accountability measures for police departments that our litigation has mandated.

OUR WORK

Watching the Courts



ALC launched its Court Watch program in early 2020 to monitor criminal court proceedings in Allegheny County.

Court Watch trains and organizes volunteers to attend hearings and document their observations. Data collected by court watchers who observe hundreds of legal proceedings each year, is used by our litigation, organizing, and communications teams to assist people encountering Allegheny County's courts and jail, and to agitate for systemic changes to court-related policies and practices.

Court Watch also organizes other forms of aid for people (and their loved ones) facing court appearances and jail time, including court packing, a participatory defense hub, post-release support, and more.

“

I was interested in donating after reading about your organization in a couple separate articles. One was the call for court watchers, which is such vital work to help hold the justice system accountable and provide voters with real information about judges.

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OUR WORK

Expanding Democracy



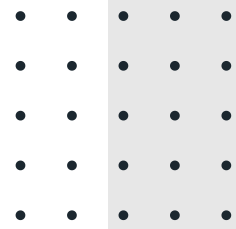
Working to protect voting rights and access, ensuring the will of voters is respected, ending prison gerrymandering — ALC is involved in defending the democratic process in these and other ways, especially for currently and formerly incarcerated people, and for populations heavily impacted by the criminal punishment system.

We educate the public about issues related to the criminal legal system that are influenced or controlled by elected officials and political systems, and work to ensure that people in marginalized communities have access to democratic institutions, and that the choices they make at the ballot box are protected.

We organize and participate in forums explaining the electoral process and highlighting the positions of candidates for office. Our advocacy has supported grassroots efforts around the state to organize voter referendums challenging county jail conditions, and to establish non-police emergency/crisis response entities. We've successfully blocked blatant efforts to undermine the will of – and outright disenfranchise – voters, such as attempts to impeach and strip power from Philadelphia's progressive district attorney, whom voters in Philly's Black, Brown, and poor neighborhoods overwhelmingly supported.

OUR WORK

Safeguarding Rights



In addition to being places of punishment where incarcerated people are removed from their families and communities, prisons are also sites of ideological control. People live under 24-hour surveillance, and their conversation, communication, and reading materials are constantly scrutinized and frequently censored. From our beginning, ALC has advocated for and with people and organizations that understand the importance of personal transformation, political knowledge, and social uplift in the struggle against the carceral state.

Our support for the political rights of incarcerated people dates back to our earliest days. It includes several of our foundational lawsuits, including one that addressed SCI Coal Township's confiscation of the mail of Robert Saleem Holbrook (now ALC's executive director), who was still incarcerated at the time; and one that addressed the so-called "Silencing Act." This law was aimed directly at political prisoner, journalist, and intellectual Mumia Abu-Jamal, while being phrased so broadly as to chill the speech of all incarcerated people and anyone who publishes their words.

OUR WORK

Protecting Health

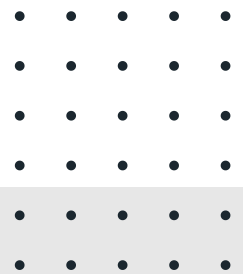


A safe and healthy physical environment, adequate and affordable health care, and access to ample and nutritious food, clean water, and sanitation supplies and services, are vital and essential human rights that are regularly denied to people in prison.

Physical and mental health care are often grossly inadequate, untimely, or altogether non-existent. The quality and quantity of food tends to be atrocious. Incarcerated people routinely experience horrendous living conditions such as high heat, extreme cold, poor ventilation, mold, vermin, and deplorable water quality. They also often lack access to basic sanitation services such as showers and working toilets, and adequate supplies of items such as toilet paper, menstrual products, and face masks.

In addition, prisons and jails are frequently situated in proximity to toxic industries or on sites that are environmentally contaminated, putting incarcerated people at an increased risk of harmful health impacts from polluted air and water.

Through organizing, litigation, and strategic communications, ALC works to mitigate all of these negative health and environmental conditions that incarcerated people encounter.



OUR WORK

Human Rights Program

Human rights violations and state violence travel across borders, so our movements for liberation and justice must be international.

ALC's Human Rights Program builds innovative challenges to U.S. state violence domestically and abroad through litigation and advocacy. Utilizing an abolitionist framework, we aim to strengthen popular movements to redistribute power in support of human needs instead of state violence and corporate profit.

Our Human Rights Program currently focuses on:

Investigating Domestic Conduct Fueling War Crimes Abroad

In partnership with Palestinian organizations and advocates, ALC is conducting investigations into non-state actors, such as corporations, who are aiding and abetting genocide, apartheid, and war crimes in Palestine.



Challenging U.S. Expansion of Detention Practices

ALC's multi-faceted advocacy investigates and documents the arbitrary detention of thousands of Afghan refugees who, following U.S. evacuation efforts from Afghanistan, were detained at U.S.-facilitated or coordinated sites around the world.



Montecruz Foto

OUR MOVEMENT

ALC is a respected leader in movements addressing policing and mass incarceration, and we're called upon as policy and issue experts by the media.

ALC is deeply rooted in the communities that are most impacted by the carceral system, and we're heavily involved with a vast network of formations that are challenging it. Through the lived experience of our staff and our years of work on these issues, ALC has developed authentic connections and credibility with impacted people, allied organizations, grassroots volunteers, funders, policy makers, elected officials, journalists, and others, whom we can mobilize for different opportunities.

Our movement ecosystem includes groups that were formed by people inside prisons and their loved ones, such as the Human Rights Coalition and the Coalition to Abolish Death By Incarceration, as well as inside/outside organizations like Let's Get Free and Prison Radio.

We're part of the PA Justice Alliance, a strategic alignment table organized by our 501(c)(4) sister organization, that coordinates the work of criminal legal reform organizations composed of formerly incarcerated people, grassroots activists, legal and policy advocates, and legislative organizers.



And we're involved with numerous groups and formations around Pennsylvania as well as on the regional and national levels – such as Families Against Mandatory Minimums, Civil Rights Corps, the Center for Constitutional Rights, and the Movement for Black Lives – that are challenging various aspects of mass incarceration and the criminal legal system.

OUR TEAM

We're grateful for the passionate dedication, savvy and relentless work of our staff, and the wise guidance and generous gifts of time and knowledge from our board of directors.



Staff

Robert Saleem Holbrook, Executive Director
Corinne Austen, Paralegal
Amber Black, Development Director
Emily Cleath, Communications Manager
Quinn Cozzens, Staff Attorney
Al Depiro, Operations Director
Sadaf Doost, Human Rights Program Manager
Bret Grote, Legal Director
Nia Holston, Staff Attorney
Margo Hu, Staff Attorney
Jaclyn Kurin, Staff Attorney
Sam Lew, Philadelphia Projects Organizer
Tanisha Long, Allegheny County Community Organizer
Dolly Prabhu, Staff Attorney
Rupalee Rashatwar, Staff Attorney
Autumn Redcross, Court Watch Director
John Rowland, Organizing Campaigns Manager
Kaitlin Shultz, Administrative Manager
John Thompson, Organizer
Airi Tilley, Court Watch Volunteer Coordinator
Clinton Walker, Paralegal
connease warren, Communications Director

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Anita Colon, Treasurer	Shanda Sibley
Jihad Abdulmumit	Kempis Ghani Songster
Alexis J. Hoag-Fordjour	I. India Thusi
Ashley Jimenez	

OUR SUPPORTERS

ALC is honored to receive financial support from individuals and institutions who share our abolitionist goals and recognize our unique expertise and leadership in this movement. We welcome their partnership and we appreciate and value every single instance of funding, from modest grassroots donations to major gifts and grants.

We also appreciate the valuable contributions of our many volunteers, interns, and contractors.

“

“I’ve felt for a long time that our carceral system is one of our country’s worst injustices. I was looking around for criminal justice organizations to support and found the Abolitionist Law Center had a really awesome mix of community, harm reduction, and policy advocacy.”

”

“

I recently moved to Philadelphia, and was looking for organizations to donate to that are positively impacting the people of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania. I very much support the cause to abolish punitive systems, and I quickly found your organization and was heartened to see all the work ALC is doing for both current and long term abolitionist goals — dismantling inhumane conditions that incarcerated folks currently face while also advocating for the dissolution of prison systems as a whole.

”

FUEL OUR WORK

DONATE TO DECARCERATE

- Make a tax-deductible donation
 - By scanning the code
 - By credit or debit card, Paypal, Venmo, or ApplePay at bit.ly/alcimpactgive
 - By check payable to ALC, mailed to
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