

Enfranchise:

- 1. to give somebody the right to vote in an election**
- 2. to set somebody free, especially from slavery**



**THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF TENNESSEE
RIGHT TO VOTE CAMPAIGN
PRESENTS:**

**BREAKING THE CHAINS:
FROM JAIL CELL TO
VOTING BOOTH**

*Thursday, May 3, 2007 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
United Steelworkers Union Hall
3340 Perimeter Hill Dr., Nashville, TN 37211*

NOTE: CLE and CEU Credits Provided by TN Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

Conference Schedule

8:30 AM REGISTRATION

9:00 AM WELCOME

Hedy Weinberg, ACLU-TN Executive Director

The Moral Imperative: Moving from Punishment to Enfranchisement

Reverend Edwin Sanders, Metropolitan Interdenominational Church, Nashville

Changing the State of Affairs: The New Voter Restoration Law

The Honorable Riley Darnell, Tennessee Secretary of State

9:30 AM OPENING SESSION

Marc Mauer, Executive Director, The Sentencing Project

Topic: Punishment, The US Record: Who, Why and How We Punish

10:45 AM PLENARY

Jeff Manza, Professor of Sociology, Northwestern University, and Author of *Locked Out: Felon Disenfranchisement and American Democracy*

Topic: Locked Out Research Findings

Rachel Bloom, Advocacy Coordinator, National ACLU Racial Justice Program

Topic: Exploration of US and International Incarceration Rates

Nancy Abudu, ACLU Southern Regional Office- Voting Rights Project, Atlanta

Topic: Current Tennessee Enfranchisement Law, Comparison with Other States, and the ACLU-TN Child Support and Restitution Challenges.

12:00 PM LUNCH

Recognition of The Honorable Larry Turner, State Representative, Memphis

PANEL DISCUSSION

Topic: Impact of Regaining the Right to Vote on the Reintegration Process

- Kenneth Albritton, Lasting Improvements for Excellence (LIFE), Former Felon
- Tim MacDonald, League of Women Voters, Family Member
- Yolanda McFadgon, Second Chance, Ready 4 Work, Former Felon
- Denver Schimming, Civil Rights Advocate, Former Felon
- Janet Wolf, American Baptist College, Advocate

2:00 PM

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

1.) Topic: Developing public speaking skills to better tell your story and bring support to voter enfranchisement

Audience: Individuals with felony convictions

Moderator: Michele Flynn, ACLU-TN Right to Vote Campaign Coordinator

Panelists:

- Kenneth Albritton, LIFE, Clarksville
- Alex Friedmann, Prison Legal News, Nashville
- Denver Schimming, Civil Rights Activist, Nashville

2.) Topic: Understanding the impact of voter enfranchisement and helping former felons to register

Audience: Agencies Serving Former Felons, Churches Ministering to them, and Organizations Advocating on their behalf

Moderator: Jerry Lee, President, Tennessee AFL-CIO Labor Council

Panelists:

- Bobby Daniels, Project Return, Nashville
- Yolanda L. McFadgon, Second Chance/ Ready4Work, Memphis
- Lee Ragsdale, Public Safety Collaborative, Knoxville
- Reverend Richard W. Sibert, Missionary Baptist State Convention of TN, Murfreesboro
- Reverend Enoch Fuzz, NAACP-Nashville Chapter, Nashville
- Saadia Williams, The Race Relations Center of East Tennessee, Knoxville

3.) Topic: Knowing the law and Providing Voter Registration Assistance

Audience: Attorneys and Paralegals (**CLE credit provided**)

Moderator: Victoria Webb, Nashville Bar Association Pro Bono Program

Panelists:

- Kim Cox, Restoration Project, Memphis
- Allegra Montgomery, Napier-Looby Bar Association and Metro Nashville Public Defender Office
- Jonathan E. Richardson, Smith, Hirsch, Blackshear and Harris
- Brook Thompson, TN Election Commission

3:30 PM

NEXT STEPS

Hedy Weinberg, ACLU-TN Executive Director

THEMATIC STATEMENT

According to The Sentencing Project, our nation's prison population has soared by more than 600% since the 1970s, despite a drop in crime rates. As of 2005, over two million people were imprisoned in this country, the highest incarceration rate in the world. Almost one in every 136 U.S. residents is in prison today. Black men, who make up 6% of the U.S. population, comprise over 40% of our prison population. A black male born today has a 32% chance of spending time in prison.

The Breaking the Chains Conference will examine our criminal justice system and the role of punishment in our society. We will discuss how current disenfranchisement laws continue to bar former felons from full reintegration and their impact on the rate of recidivism. We will conduct workshops where former felons and their advocates can explore strategies to help former felons to register. We will also explore viable alternatives to current practices that further isolate former felons from their basic human rights, particularly the vote.

“Without the right to elect, the foundation of all other basic rights is undermined.”

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

This conference is designed for:

- Individuals working for organization and agencies providing services to former felons
- Religious communities concerned about the use of punishment and the power of reconciliation
- Labor leaders trying to link former felons to employment options
- Attorneys and paralegals interested in increasing their ability to help former felons regain their right to vote
- Former felons and their family members wanting to become more active in advocating for removing barriers to voting
- Advocates committed to protecting and promoting civil liberties and civil rights, particularly the right to vote.

CLE AND CEU CREDITS PROVIDED

The Tennessee Association for Criminal Defense Lawyers (TACDL) is providing 6 hours of CLE credits for lawyers attending the conference for a fee of \$12, payable at registration. Social workers, paralegals and other professionals can receive CEU credits at no charge. Please contact TACDL in advance (615-259-2105 or e-mail at: barbara.short@tacdl.com) to arrange for the necessary certificate. If your profession provides continuing education credits, and you would like to receive credit for this conference, please contact TACL in advance so this can be arranged.

CONFERENCE FEES AND REGISTRATION

The conference cost is \$25, which includes a box lunch. Scholarships are available. Please complete the registration form below and e-mail (rtv@aclu-tn.org) or send it to ACLU-TN at P.O. Box 120160, Nashville, TN 37212. The registration form is also available on the ACLU-TN website at aclu-tn.org.

DIRECTIONS

United Steelworkers Union Hall, 3340 Perimeter Hill Dr., Nashville, 37211

From downtown Nashville:

- Take I-24 East toward Chattanooga
 - Take exit 56, Harding Place (TN-255 N) for .5 miles
 - Turn right onto Antioch Pike for .1 mile
 - Turn right onto Perimeter Hill Dr.
- Total Est. Time: 16 minutes Total Est. Distance: 9.95 miles

From Knoxville

- Take I-40 West toward Nashville for 171 miles
 - Take exit 216, Donelson Pike/TN-255 toward the International Airport for .2 miles
 - Turn left onto Donelson Pike/TN 255 for 3.5 miles
 - Take a slight right onto Harding Place/TN 255 for .9 miles
 - Turn left onto Antioch Pike for .1 miles
 - Turn right onto Perimeter Hill Drive
- Total Est. Time: 2 hours, 44 min. Total Est. Distance: 176.83 miles

From Memphis

- Take I-40 East toward Nashville for 195 miles
 - Take exit I-440 East 206 onto I-440 toward Knoxville for 7.3 miles
 - Merge onto I-24 East toward Chattanooga for 3.2 miles
 - Take exit 56 and turn left onto Harding Place/TN 255 for .5 miles
 - Turn right onto Antioch Pike for .1 mile
 - Turn right onto Perimeter Hill Dr.
- Total Est. Time: 3 hours, 20 min Total Est. Distance: 220.20 miles

From Chattanooga

- Take I-24 West toward Nashville/Birmingham for 123.9 miles
 - Take exit 56 toward the International airport for .2 miles
 - Turn slight right onto Harding Place/TN-255 for .3 miles
 - Turn right onto Antioch Pike for .1 miles
 - Turn right onto Perimeter Hill Dr.
- Total Est. Time: 1 hour, 56 min. Total Est. Distance: 126.17 miles

PARKING

Park in the Steelworkers Parking lot or in the lot below the building labeled PIUMPF.

DO NOT PARK IN FRONT OF THE BUILDING- these spaces are reserved.

**THE ACLU-TN RIGHT TO VOTE CAMPAIGN
BREAKING THE CHAINS:
FROM PUNISHMENT TO VOTING**

REGISTRATION

Name _____

Organization/Agency _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: (Work) _____ (Cell) _____ (Home) _____

E-mail _____

Vegetarian Box Lunch?	Yes	No	CEU credits requested? (Social Workers, Paralegals)	Yes	No
CLE credits requested? (Lawyers)	Yes	No	Other continuing education credits re- quested?	Yes	No
			(Please specify _____)		

CLE and CEU credits provided by the Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

ACLU-TN Right to Vote Campaign Partners

Catholic Public Policy Conference, Tennessee	Save Our Democracy
The Race Relations Center of East Tennessee	Tennessee AFL-CIO Labor Council
Tennessee Assoc of Criminal Defense Lawyers	Tennessee Bar Association

ACLU-TN Right to Vote Campaign Advisors

Kenneth Alberitton, LIFE, Clarksville	Marilyn Robinson, NAACP-Nashville Chapter
Kim Cox, Restoration Project, Memphis	Denver Schimming, Nashville
Patrick Frogge, TACDL, Nashville	Valoria Shipman, NAACP- Chattanooga Chapter
Jerry Lee, TN AFL-CIO Labor Council, Nashville	Victoria Webb, Nashville Bar Assoc Pro Bono Program
Tim McDonald, League of Women Voters, Huntingdon	Reverend Tex Thomas, Jefferson St. Missionary Baptist Church, Nashville
Yalanda L. McFadgon, Second Chance, Memphis	Sadia Williams, The Race Relations Center of East TN
Terry McMoore, Urban Resource Center, Clarksville	
Allegra Montgomery, Napier-Looby and Metro Nash- ville Public Defenders Office	