



ACLU
Puerto Rico

Our actions in June 2026

The ACLU of Puerto Rico is the local chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), a nonprofit organization founded in the United States in 1920. Our mission is to fight violations of the civil liberties guaranteed by the legal systems of the United States and Puerto Rico, wherever and whenever necessary.

We work to ensure that the constitutional guarantees and statutes that protect human rights and civil liberties are upheld and enforced in the Puerto Rican archipelago. We confront oppression, authoritarianism, and injustices against people.

ACTIONS IN JUNE 2026

- **Historic victory** at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit in Boston! The Court ruled that the Financial Oversight and Management Board (FOMB) cannot use Puerto Rico’s debt adjustment plan to block civil rights lawsuits against public officials sued in their personal capacity. ACLU of Puerto Rico represents Jonathan Hernández and Yadira Carrasquillo, whose rights were violated during a protest against PROMESA on May 1, 2018, in San Juan.



We celebrated the PRIDE Month! Our defense of LGBTQ+ rights is year-round, but in June we raised our voices to remind everyone that PRIDE is also a protest. That is why we marched in San Juan and were present at Orgullo Boquerón and Orgullo Vieques. We will not back down in the face of attacks from the federal and local governments.

- People deprived of liberty have rights! We opposed House Bill 1278, which sought to eliminate the right to vote for persons deprived of liberty — an anti-democratic and unconstitutional attempt. The measure was rejected by a voice vote.
- We were present with legal observers at the protest against the Financial Control Board, in the context of the 10th anniversary of the PROMESA Act.



¿QUÉ ESCONDE EL SECRETARIO DEL DTOP?

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Final stage in the access-to-information case against Puerto Rico’s Department of Transportation! Secretary Edwin González Montalvo filed a second motion for reconsideration, before the Puerto Rico Supreme Court, in a last attempt to deny our public records request. The Court had already denied his first request for reconsideration.



As part of the “Migrar es un derecho” campaign, we memorialized the life of two immigrants who died off the coast of Quebradillas when the vessel they were traveling in capsized after being intercepted by FURA maritime and aerial units. These immigrants were identified thanks to an analysis conducted by Kilómetro Cero — one of the organizations in the campaign — using information from the Puerto Rico Demographic Registry’s death records database. José Alberto Castillo Camilo and Bélgica Verónica Valentín Heredia had families and friends. Their lives mattered, and their deaths should not be another number on a list. We recognize their humanity in an act of solidarity to preserve their memory and reclaim our collective right to know.

- In the area of immigrants’ rights, during the month of June we filed our ninth habeas corpus petition to prevent the immediate transfer of an immigrant and demand access to a bond hearing.

JOIN THE FIGHT

Defending rights does not happen on its own, but through a united and active community. We invite you to stay informed, share our analysis, support our cases, and defend the civil and constitutional rights of all people in the streets, in the Legislature, and in the courts.

- Visit our website and subscribe to our updates: www.aclu-pr.org
- Follow us on social media [in](#) [f](#) [@](#) [v](#)
- Write to us at acluofpr@aclu.org

DEFEND AND PROTECT OUR COAST!

Your voice is essential to protecting the immigrant community in Puerto Rico!

Puerto Rico needs more protection for its coasts, not less. **House Bill 25** weakens maritime land protection and favors private interests over the public good. This bill facilitates private claims on coastal land and jeopardizes public access to natural resources that belong to the people.



Scan the QR code and urge your legislator to vote against House Bill 25.



Summer Internship at the ACLU of Puerto Rico!

This summer, we welcomed four interns to our office. We are glad to be part of the legal training of Claudia A. Medina Luna and Valeria Cardona Ruiz as ACLU summer interns. We also welcomed Ana I. Torres Pérez and Melody J. Santiago Hernández from the Legal Clinic Tutoring Program at the Interamerican University of Puerto Rico. Congratulations!

In the photo, from left to right, interns Claudia, Ana Isabel, Melody, and Valeria.

“The way we choose to practice the legal profession will also define who we are.”

Attorney Annette Martínez Orabona, executive director of the ACLU of Puerto Rico, addressed the graduating students of the Interamerican University of Puerto Rico School of Law during the Awards Ceremony as keynote speaker.

In her remarks, Martínez Orabona urged them to reflect on the impact that their decisions as lawyers have on other people, on their community, and on our country. She also invited them to practice the legal profession with empathy, sensibility, and compassion.

“Wherever we are, we always, always have the possibility to decide whether we act with indifference or whether we dare to promote changes in our profession that generate hope.”

From the ACLU of Puerto Rico, we congratulate all new lawyers graduating this summer from the universities in our country and wish them success in their legal careers.



Annette Martínez Orabona
Directora Ejecutiva
ACLU de Puerto Rico