

## **Things You Might Have Heard About the ACLU that Aren't True:**

### *1. The ACLU only works with the First Amendment.*

Not true. We work with the *entire* constitution—not just the First Amendment. Many of our cases involve the 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment (the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures) and the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment (a person's right to due process). We also take on Voting Rights cases—another Constitutional freedom.

### *2. The ACLU is anti-Christian.*

Again, not true. The First Amendment grants Americans the right to practice whatever faith they like or even none at all. Because of this, we've represented Christians and other faiths as well. Just last year, the ACLU protected multiple Christians, including a Baptist minister who's parole officer kept him from going to church.

### *3. Republicans and conservatives don't belong to the ACLU.*

The ACLU is nonpartisan, and works on constitutional issues. The ACLU doesn't endorse any particular party, either. Every American can belong to the ACLU.

### *4. The ACLU supports the rights of criminals, not victims.*

Prisoners in America are protected by the 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment (no excessive bails or cruel and unusual punishment), therefore, the ACLU protects the rights of those Americans.

### *5. The ACLU opposes prayer in school.*

The First Amendment prohibits the government from establishing religion. This means that public school-sponsored prayers are not protected by the constitution. However, a student's right to non-disruptive, voluntary prayer *is* protected. The ACLU has fought for student-led religious clubs to have the same rights as other clubs.