



ACLU of Georgia Greatest Hits



Free Speech



Smith v. Wal-Mart (2008)

- A Wal-Mart critic created merchandise with the phrase “Wal-ocaust”
- Wal-Mart argued it was a violation of its trademark rights and the ACLU defended Smith’s right to free speech
- Court ruled that successful parodies were protected from trademark infringements



International Keystone Knights v. GA (2016)



- GDOT rejected a KKK application to participate in an Adopt-A-Highway program
- Though the ACLU, a non-partisan organization, does not agree with the values of the KKK, it defended their right to freedom of speech

Racial Justice



Whitus v. Georgia (1967)

- A group of Black prisoners accused of murder filed a complaint that they had been racially discriminated against due to an all-white jury deciding their convictions
- ACLU defended the prisoners and won

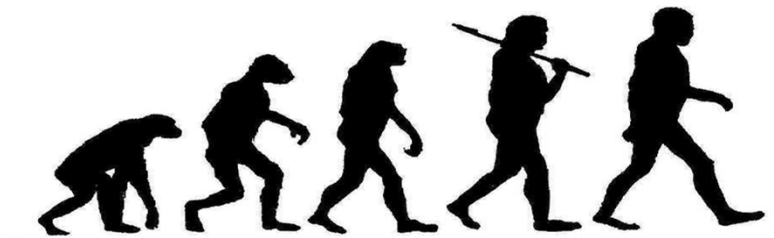


Freedom of Religion and Belief



Selman v. Cobb County School District (2004)

- Jeffrey Selman and other Cobb County school-student parents represented by the ACLU filed suit against the school district for putting a “Evolution is a theory, not a fact” sticker on textbooks
- The Judge ruled that while the school had secular intentions with the sticker, they were endorsing a religion
- Stickers were removed from books



Budlong v. Graham (2006)

- Budlong had to pay an extra sales tax on Zen and Hindu publications that other religious publications were exempt from



- The ACLU sued Georgia Department of Revenue, as this tax violated Georgia's First and Fourteenth Amendments
- The ACLU won the case and the tax exemption was declared unconstitutional

Valentine v. City of Douglasville (2008)

- Lisa Valentine was barred from a Douglasville courthouse for wearing a headscarf
- She was arrested for refusing to remove her headscarf
- ACLU sued the city and helped create a policy stating the permission of head coverings in Georgia courthouses for religious reasons



Disability Rights



Photo: Take Photo / Shutterstock

Goodman v. Georgia (2005)

- Goodman was a paraplegic inmate denied basic accommodations
- The ACLU alleged a violation of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act
- The Supreme Court ruled in ACLU's favor
- American prisoners with disabilities can now sue states for ADA violations without fear of sovereign immunity



Women's and Reproductive Rights



Feminist Women's Health Center v. Burgess (2003)

- ACLU sued several healthcare facilities for not paying for certain medically necessary abortions under Medicaid
- The suit challenged GA policy that abortions only be covered if the pregnancy was life-threatening or resulting from incest or rape
- ACLU successfully appealed to the Supreme Court



Voting Rights



Georgia v. Holder (2010)

- GA imposed new requirements in voter registration:
 - Required full social security number
 - Later revised to just the last 4 digits
- ACLU sued and the Department of Justice determined that requirement violated Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 because this requirement targeted minorities



Criminal Justice



Furman V. Georgia (1972)

- William Furman received the death penalty for an accidental homicide and claimed that his sentence violated his 14th amendment rights
- ACLU took the case to the Supreme Court which overturned the execution, stating the death penalty will be regarded as “cruel and unusual punishment” unless a uniform policy for capital punishment eligibility existed



LGBTQ+ Rights



Photo: Rena Schild / Shutterstock

In re Feldhaus (2017)



- Two transgender students at Augusta University were denied legal name change
- ACLU filed an amicus curiae brief
- The judge ruled that the trial court abused its discretion and that transgender people have the right to change their name

Student and Juvenile Rights



Henry County Board of Education v. S.G.(2017)

- ACLU defended a Black high school student in a fight who was expelled from school despite citing self-defense
- The state and local boards decision was reversed by the Superior Court, which stated that the student was justified in using force



The Future...

