

NEWS CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Steven Brown, Executive Director, American Civil Liberties Union of Rhode Island

James Rollins, ACLU of RI volunteer attorney and partner in the law firm of Nelson, Mullins, Riley & Scarborough, LLP

Amy Fettig, Deputy Director, ACLU National Prison Project

Morna Murray, Executive Director, Disability Rights Rhode Island

Charles Feldman, Deputy Executive Director of The Oasis Wellness & Recovery Centers of RI

INFORMATION ABOUT THE ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN THE LAWSUIT

DRRI, as the designated Protection and Advocacy (P&A) agency for the state of Rhode Island is both a plaintiff, on behalf of its constituents, and one of the counsel for plaintiffs in this action. P&A agencies are created pursuant to federal laws designed to protect individuals with mental health, developmental, and other disabilities.

The ACLU National Prison Project is dedicated to ensuring that the nation's prisons, jails, and other places of detention comply with the Constitution, domestic law, and international human rights principles, and to ending the policies that have given the United States the highest incarceration rate in the world. Beginning in 1976, the Project successfully litigated a 30-plus year lawsuit challenging unconstitutional conditions at the ACI.

The Boston law firm of Nelson, Mullins, Riley & Scarborough, LLP, whose lawyers are serving as volunteer attorneys for the ACLU of Rhode Island, has been involved in systematic challenges to other states' "solitary confinement" practices.

Over its six decades, the ACLU of Rhode Island has sponsored numerous lawsuits challenging violations of prisoners' rights and unconstitutional conditions at the ACI, including an emergency lawsuit filed this past winter over RIDOC's failure to provide adequate heat to some inmates for more than a month and a half.

Attorneys Anne Mulready and Brian Adae are representing DRRI. James Rollins is serving as the lead cooperating attorney for the ACLU of Rhode Island, and Amy Fettig, Deputy Director of the ACLU's National Prison Project, is representing the Project in the case.