

HOUSING NOT HANDCUFFS

e-news update

February 2019

Dear Supporters and Endorsers of the Housing Not Handcuffs Campaign,

This has been a busy time for the Housing Not Handcuffs Campaign, with multiple communities stopping enforcement of and even repealing their criminalization laws and beginning to explore shelter, housing, and other alternatives! See stories below. Also, the Campaign continues to grow, with over 800 endorsements so far! [Keep encouraging your friends, colleagues, and elected officials to endorse.](#)

Follow on social media

#HNH  

If you have submissions for the next newsletter, please fill out [this Google form](#) by **March 18th**.

Campaign Updates

Alone Without A Home Report Release and Webinar

On February 13th, the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty (Law Center) and National Network for Youth (NN4Y) released the report, *Alone Without a Home*, which discusses the state laws impacting an estimated 700,000 minors in the U.S. experiencing homelessness alone each year. These at-risk youth face high probability of physical assault, dropping out of school, food insecurity, and health problems. The rights of unaccompanied youth vary widely from state to state, and it is often difficult for service providers to keep abreast of eligibility rules for housing, health care, education, and other services. *Alone Without a Home* serves as a resource to youth advocates and service providers by clarifying the rights of youth in twelve distinct issue areas. In an effort to enlighten and engage audiences of the negative effects experienced by at-risk youth, the Law Center and NN4Y also hosted a webinar to present the report's findings and recommendations. Presenters included Eric Tars and Marta Beresin of the Law Center, Amy Louttit of NN4Y, and Sharday Hamilton of the National Youth Advisory Council. Read the full report [here](#) and watch the recorded webinar [here](#).

Florida Panhandling Lawsuit Filed

A collection of advocacy organizations and pro bono attorneys, in conjunction with Southern Legal Counsel and the Law Center, have filed litigation

naming St. Johns County Sheriff David B. Shoar and Florida Highway Patrol Director Gene Spaulding as defendants. Litigation was filed on behalf of Peter Vigue, a St. Augustine resident who has been arrested by both law enforcement agencies for standing on the public right of way and holding a sign soliciting donations. Prior court rulings have found the statutes these arrests were made under are unconstitutional. However, they remain in effect and unfortunately law enforcement officials continue to use them. Read the [press release here](#).

San Diego Repeals Vehicle Habitation Ordinance

In response to ongoing litigation filed by the Law Center, on the 5th of February the city of San Diego [repealed an ordinance](#) prohibiting individuals from sleeping in their vehicles. For many people experiencing homelessness, their personal vehicle can be the only reliable shelter they have access to, therefore defending their right to lawfully access it is an important step in providing personal security and ability to exit homelessness. An injunction against ticketing such vehicles was ordered last year, but the full repeal of the law only occurred recently.

Landmark Settlement Reached in the Denver Homeless Sweeps Class Action

After almost three years of litigation, the parties in the Denver Homeless Sweeps Class Action have forged an innovative agreement that will be an impactful step forward in protecting the rights and dignity of people living homeless in Denver. This class action lawsuit regards the 4th and 14th amendment constitutional rights to one's property violated in sweeps where homeless people's property has been seized.

The settlement in this case creates policy to defend basic property rights of people living without housing. It gives every homeless person the right to have their property in public space without being subject to seizure by the City without due process and adequate notice. The settlement spells out detailed policy for how notice must be given, how property can be retrieved, and how the city will be held accountable to these policies. In addition to protecting property rights of homeless people, this settlement creates a number of resources for homeless people in Denver including but not limited to lockers, trash cans and increase trash servicing, porta-potties, mobile health unit, better access to Recreation Centers for showers, and more. The settlement also requires the City get input from homeless people at periodic meetings before making changes to the resources in this settlement.

[Excerpted from Denver Homeless Out Loud's [Press Release](#)]

Panhandling Campaign Updates

The HNH Panhandling Campaign, which was launched this past August, continues to make progress! This month, Centerville, Ohio and Elgin, Illinois repealed their panhandling ordinances. Thank you to the [ACLU of Ohio](#), the

[ACLU of Illinois](#), and the [Chicago Coalition for the Homeless](#) for their hard work on this campaign.

Reflecting on the Past to Help Shape the Future

As February is Black History Month, we have placed emphasis on reflecting on the connection between homelessness and race. This is always an important topic, but it bears some additional attention as we examine the path that led the country to its current state of racial inequity. Current studies show that more than one in five African-Americans live in poverty — approximately 2.5 times more than their white counterparts. What's more, homeless black men and women account for approximately 40 percent of the total homeless population. As the month comes to a close, it is important to prioritize racial equity in all of our work as we continue on through the year.

This year, the Law Center honored Black History Month by collectively participating in a 21 day racial equity challenge. If you or your organization is interested in participating in the challenge, you can find information and ideas at activist [Debby Irving's website](#).

Announcements



SAVE THE DATE:
JUNE 5-6, 2019

NATIONAL
FORUM ON THE
HUMAN RIGHT
TO HOUSING

Hosted by Hogan Lovells LLP, Washington, D.C.
June 5-6, 2019

NATIONAL LAW CENTER
ON HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY

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Save the date for the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty's annual **National Forum on the Human Right to Housing!** People who are currently or formerly homeless, attorneys, government officials, and advocates from across the country will gather in Washington, D.C., to organize and strategize on ways we can work to end the criminalization of people experiencing homelessness. Registration information coming soon.

Become a sponsor of the National Forum and help students, individuals with limited income, and currently and formerly homeless people attend this important event. For more information about law firm and corporate sponsorship opportunities, contact Development & Communications Director Cassidy Waskowicz at cwaskowicz@nlchp.org.

Limited travel scholarships are available for low-income and homeless persons. To apply, contact Networks and Events VISTA Rachel Lee at rlee@nlchp.org with the subject line 'Forum Scholarship Request'. In your e-mail, please state your need, where you will be traveling from, and describe your involvement in advocacy on behalf of homeless individuals.

New HNH One Pager

This [one pager](#) provides an overview of the HNH Campaign and outlines concrete ways for people to get involved. It also includes a fact sheet on the criminalization of homelessness. This tool is useful to share with people who are already familiar with homelessness issues and are looking for more information about the HNH Campaign.

Campaign Branding

We encourage campaign endorsers to link relevant events to the national Housing Not Handcuffs campaign. Please see the guidelines for branding your materials [here](#).

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In the News

[Homelessness Becomes a Reality for Federal Workers, as Shutdown Drags On](#)
January 24, 2019

[As Shutdown Puts Families at Risk of Homelessness, Federal Law Protects Children's School Rights](#)
January 25, 2019

['I'm Cold and I'm Afraid': Across Midwest, Homeless Await Deep Freeze](#)
January 29, 2019

[Alongside New Light Rail Stations, Seattle Plans Affordable Housing](#)

January 29, 2019

[Advocates Know 'Point in Time' Count of Homelessness is Flawed, but It's All They Have](#)

February 1, 2019

[Eviction Reforms in Olympia Get a Boost From Seattle Tech Execs](#)

February 5, 2019

[Joplin, ACLU settle Panhandling Lawsuit](#)

February 6, 2019

[Homeless Bill of Rights Sparks Debate](#)

February 6, 2019

[Lawmakers Seek Permanent Solution to the Homeless Crisis](#)

February 13, 2019

[Judge Invalidates Miami's Landmark Homeless Protection Order from 1998](#)

February 15, 2019

[Federal Suit Targets Shoar in Arrest of Panhandler](#)

February 15, 2019

[History of Ending Homelessness in Spokane Includes Setbacks and Successes](#)

February 18, 2019

[Santa Cruz Homeless Camp's Residents Respond to Planned Closure](#)

February 18, 2019

[City Council Gives First Approval to New Camping Rules](#)

February 19, 2019

**NATIONAL LAW CENTER
ON HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY**

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housingnohandcuffs.org