

# HOUSING NOT HANDCUFFS

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## e-news update

November 2017

Dear Supporters and Endorsers of the Housing Not Handcuffs campaign,

Our campaign continues to grow, over 600 endorsements so far! [Keep encouraging your friends, colleagues, and elected officials to endorse.](#)

Follow on social media

#HNHNow  

If you have submissions for the next newsletter, send them to [skang@nlchp.org](mailto:skang@nlchp.org) by December 20.

## Happy Birthday, Housing Not Handcuffs!

In recognition of the Housing Not Handcuffs Campaign's first anniversary, we wanted to celebrate some of the accomplishments that have happened over the past year:

In June, [Delaware introduced a homeless bill of rights](#) after the advocacy of HerStory Ensemble and the Law Center.

In July, the New York City Council [made the historic decision to pass a law guaranteeing counsel](#) for low-income tenants in housing cases. The effort was led by National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel (NCCRC) and the Right to Counsel Coalition for NYC.

Also in July, D.C. Councilmember David Grosso (working together with NCH, the Law Center, SOME, and People for Fairness Coalition) introduced the Michael A. Stoops Amendment to [include homelessness as a protected class in the D.C. Human Rights Act](#).

In August, [a federal court issued a temporary restraining order \(TRO\)](#) against the City of Houston, allowing homeless people to seek shelter without fear of arrest or citation. The plaintiffs applied for the TRO, represented by the Law Center, ACLU of Texas, and Dechert LLP.



In October, [Dane County Supervisor Heidi Wegleitner actively opposed a proposed expansion of the county's jail.](#) She stated the focus should be on decreasing the jail population and increasing affordable, supportive housing.

In November, a group of people experiencing homelessness [filed a complaint against the City of San Diego](#) to protect the rights of homeless people camping for survival. The Law Center, Disability Rights CA, Fish & Richardson, Dreher Law Firm, and Bonnett Fairbourn & Balint are involved in the case.

**Keep up the momentum, HNH supporters!**

## Campaign Updates

### **West Virginia ACLU, Law Center: Charleston panhandling bill unconstitutional**

"No city in the country should be passing a new panhandling ordinance," said Eric Tars, a senior attorney for the center. "Every single case since 2015 that's been brought against a panhandling ordinance, including the ones similar to this one, has gone against the city." [Read more.](#)

### **San Francisco Right to Counsel**

Following the footsteps of the recent NYC right to counsel win, SF advocates and tenant groups have [filed a ballot initiative](#) that would guarantee a right to counsel for *all* tenants facing eviction. In addition, the city's Board of Supervisors introduced an [ordinance that would guarantee counsel](#) in housing cases.

### **Separate and unequal: Jury hears of disparate enforcement in trial of Sacramento's anti-camping law**

[Occupants of a previously-raided encampment are challenging](#) a city law that is applied only to people without shelter. "...thousands of homeless people are ticketed for having nowhere to go—while Boy Scouts, Black Friday shoppers and others are permitted to violate the city's camping prohibition without penalty."

### **Trials of Rod Adams Began This Month**

"A Eugene homeless man is [trying to convince a judge](#) to dismiss three trespassing charges he received after Eugene police arrested him late at night for sleeping on public property. Rod Adams, the 61-year-old defendant, and his lawyer, Joe Connelly, argued that his arrests violate the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution and involve the broader issue of criminalization of homelessness."

## Announcements

**UN expert on extreme poverty and**

## human rights to visit USA

The UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, Philip Alston, [will visit the United States from December 1-15, 2017](#), to examine government efforts to eradicate poverty in the country, and how they relate to US obligations under international human rights law. Schedule is as follows:

Dec 1 Washington, D.C.  
Dec 4-5 Los Angeles, California  
Dec 6 San Francisco, California  
Dec 7-8 Montgomery, Alabama  
Dec 9 Atlanta, Georgia  
Dec 10-11 Puerto Rico  
Dec 12 Washington, D.C.  
Dec 13 Charleston, West Virginia  
Dec 14-15 Washington, D.C.

Criminalization of homelessness and poverty are a priority issue for the Special Rapporteur. Any questions can be directed to Law Center Senior Attorney, Eric Tars, at [etars@nlchp.org](mailto:etars@nlchp.org).

## Homeless Youth Law Clinic teams with P:ear to offer legal clinics

On the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month, the Homeless Youth Law Clinic (HYLC) of Portland, OR, will have clinics for youth aged 14-25 at P:ear for any civil legal issue, which includes housing, consumer debt, benefits and family law, as well as help with expungements and navigating the criminal justice system.

On the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, HYLC will conduct expungement clinics at Transition Projects. These clinics will be exclusively to help expunge criminal records and/or eviction records so young families can access housing and employment.

Check out HYLC's new website [here](#).

## Use of 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](#).

**HOUSING**  
**NOT HANDCUFFS**

In the News

KQED, Nov. 1, San Mateo, CA

[San Mateo's Solution to Chronic Homelessness? Provide a Place to Live](#)

The Progressive, Nov. 1, Denver, CO

[Denver's Crackdown on Being Homeless](#)

Honolulu Civil Beat, Nov. 1, Honolulu, HI

[It's Hard To Say Where Homeless People Go After Sweeps](#)

The Sacramento Bee, Nov. 2, Sacramento, CA

[Jury sides with Sacramento in homeless camping case](#)

The Guardian, Nov. 6, Opinion Editorial by Peter Edelman

[How it became a crime to be poor in America](#)

City Lab, Nov. 7

[The Fight Over Fair Housing Goes to Court \(Again\)](#)

Capitol Hill Seattle Blog, Nov. 8, Seattle, WA

[Rather than more talk about Seattle's homeless sweeps, here's what one looks like](#)

WSAZ, Nov. 8, Charleston, WV

[ACLU of W.Va. has concerns about proposed panhandling ordinance](#)

Komo News, Nov. 11, Seattle, WA

[Two tent cities get ready to move as permits end](#)

KXLY, Nov. 13, Spokane, WA

[City of Spokane revamps how residents can call in homeless encampments](#)

Chicago Agent Magazine, Nov. 13

[Under GOP tax plan, hard-to-find affordable housing would be even more scarce](#)

KERA News, Nov. 14

[Being Homeless Isn't Against The Law, But Sleeping On The Streets Comes At A Cost](#)

Shadow Proof, Nov. 15, Chicago, IL

[Chicago's Attack On The Homeless: After Tent City Evictions, People Are In Hiding](#)

Monterey Herald, Nov. 16, Salinas, CA

[Crews conduct homeless sweep in Salinas, spray bleach on streets to fight hepatitis A](#)

KUSI News, Nov. 16, Sand Diego, CA

[Lawsuit filed against San Diego over violation of homeless rights](#)

Washington City Paper, Nov. 16, Washington, DC

[D.C. Moves to Subsidize Development and Limit Access to Shelters](#)

My Stateman, Nov. 16, Austin, TX

[Audit: Austin ordinances don't help the homeless and might not be legal](#)

WABE, Nov. 17, Atlanta, GA

[In Atlanta, Permits Now Required To Give Meals To Homeless Outdoors](#)

My Northwest, Nov. 18, Seattle, WA

[Tent City 3 moves onto SPU campus, despite last-minute attempt to stop it](#)

Eugene Weekly, Nov. 22, Eugene, OR

[The \(First\) Trial of Rod Adams](#)

Global News Wire, Nov. 24

[Canada responds to years of pressure from community advocates by recognizing housing as a human right](#)

Salon, Nov. 26

[An affordable housing movement is rising from the wreckage of the foreclosure crisis](#)

**NATIONAL LAW CENTER  
ON HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY**

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