

## THE OAKLAND COUNTY ACLU COLLECTION

Papers, 1970-1984  
(Predominantly, 1978-1983)

4½ linear feet

Accession Number 1170  
L.C. Number

The papers of the Oakland County American Civil Liberties Union (OCACLU) were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in April of 1984 by James Lafferty and were opened for research in April of 1990.

James Lafferty began his work in the area of civil rights when he served as executive secretary for the National Lawyer's Guild in Detroit from 1964-67 and later as legal supervisor for a group of storefront lawyers operations. In his private practice he worked with other attorneys opposing American involvement in Vietnam, counseling young men of draft age. He also ran as a peace candidate in 1966 for Congress in the 17th District against Martha Griffiths.

In 1975 Lafferty moved his firm Lafferty & Van Dyke to Birmingham, MI. He became interested in the issue of senior housing (PRIDE) after the initial two ballot defeats. He was elected as a permanent co-chairman to PRIDE and organized its steering committee.

Eventually the activities of PRIDE (People Rallying in Defense of Equality) vs. the City of Birmingham lead to the city being sued by the United States government based on racially discriminatory practices.

The timing of the PRIDE activities coincided with the formation of the Oakland County ACLU, a process begun in 1970 and finally consummated in December of 1979, based on the recommendation of the Metropolitan Detroit Branch of the ACLU to the Michigan State ACLU Board.

The 1979 petition stated as some of the pressing civil liberty issues for the new organization to address as: over 1000 active Oakland County members of the ACLU, the Oakland County jail situation, the policy of giving lie detector tests to rape victims, housing rights of the elderly and retarded in Oakland County, the Oakland County prosecutor's attempts to reinstate the death penalty in Michigan.

The Petitioners also believed that an Oakland County ACLU branch would provide an organizational vehicle around which the county's currently progressive forces could rally and coordinate their efforts on behalf of civil liberties.

James Lafferty was elected as the first president of the Oakland County ACLU. Under his leadership a variety of significant civil liberty issues were investigated and handled by the Oakland County ACLU.

Some of the important subjects covered in this collection are:

Abortion  
Anti-draft activities  
Capital Punishment

Police Activities  
School Prayer  
Student Rights

Among the important correspondents are:

Stan Connelly  
John Conyers  
Paul Fealk  
Carl Levin

Michael Meyer  
Daniel Murphy  
Howard Simon

An index to subjects and correspondents

will be found on page 10.

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10 manuscript boxes

Series I, BASCC and PRIDE, 1976-1982, Boxes 1-2:

Correspondence, clippings and other materials relating to the Baldwin Site Proposal for Senior Housing in Birmingham, MI.

Series II, General Office Files, 1976-1983, Boxes 3-7:

Office files of James Lafferty as President of the Oakland County ACLU. Contains agendas, budgets, by-laws, correspondence, clippings, flyers & pamphlets, meeting notes, testimony and other financial and activity records relating to the organization's actions.

Series III, War Resistance Material, 1978-1984, Boxes 8-10:

Board minutes, correspondence, clippings, newsletters relating to the Vietnam War Protests, anti-draft actions and resistance activities.

Non-manuscript Material:

Approximately 20 photographs relating to PRIDE have been placed in the Archives Audio Visual Collection.

Series I  
PRIDE and BASCC, 1976-1982  
Boxes 1-2

Correspondence, clippings, and other materials concerning the Baldwin Site Proposal for Senior Housing in the City of Birmingham, MI. The material details the fight to pass the Senior Housing Proposal, the opposition, and the levels of the struggle, from grassroots up to the US Supreme Court. The files are arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material.

Box 1

1. Baldwin Site Proposals, Nov 1979
2. BASCC corres., quarterly report, May 1981-Jan 1982
3. BASCC meeting notes, Jan 1980-May 1981
4. BASCC quarterly report, Oct - Dec 1981
5. BASCC & steering committee agenda, May 1979
6. Clippings, Feb 1978 - Jul 1978
7. Clippings, Dec 1978 - Jan 1979
8. Clippings, Feb 1979
9. Clippings, Feb 1979 - Mar 1979
10. Clippings, Apr 1979 - Sep 1979
11. Clippings, Oct 1979 - Jan 1980
12. Clippings, Jan 1980 - Sep 1980
13. Clippings, Sep 1980 - Jun 1982
14. Corres. with Attorney General re: Bond Issue; mtg. notes, PRIDE  
Feb - Apr 1979
15. Corres. with Oak. Cty. & Birmingham; community dev. budget,  
May - Jul 1978
16. Corres. and Section \* notes, Jan 1979
17. Data on Senior's Housing; statements; questionnaire, May 1979
18. Enrolled House Bill 5250, Constitutionality of-- May 1979
19. Federal legislation; corres.; US lawsuit, Dec 1976 - May 1980
20. Focus:HOPE info; BCC memo, Mar - Nov 1979; HUD regulations Mar 1979
- 21-26. 1979 Housing Commission Study
27. Legislation and Oakland County corres., May - Jul 1978
28. Meeting notes, Jun - Aug 1979
29. " "; corres.; actio plan; steering com. agenda, Apr 1976 -  
May 1980

Box 2

1. MI & Federal legislation, 1977
2. MI Open Meetings Act Opinions, 1976
3. " ", 1978
4. PRIDE coalition agenda; Call to Action, Aug - Dec 1978
5. PRIDE corres., Jul 1978 - May 1980
6. " ", lawsuit information, Jul 1975 - Jul 1980
7. " ", Census Study, Jun 1978
8. " ", Jun - Dec 1978
9. " ", Jan 1979 - Feb 1980
10. " ", and notes, Sep 1979 - Feb 1980
11. " ", meeting agenda, Dec 1979 - Aug 1980
12. " ", Mar - May 1980
13. " ", survey map ca. 1980

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14. PRIDE corres., mtg. notes, Aug 1980 - Jan 1981
15. PRIDE flyers; corres.; mtg agenda; statement, Apr 1979
16. PRIDE flyers and newsletters, n.d.
17. PRIDE history; bond issue corres.; speech outline, draft,  
Jan - Feb 1979
18. PRIDE mtg. notes; corres.; Feb 1979 - Mar 1980
19. PRIDE mtg. notes, Jan 1980
20. PRIDE pamphlets, n.d.
21. PRIDE press releases, May 1978 - Jan 1982
22. PRIDE proposal, Jun 1979
23. PRIDE published materials, n.d.
24. PRIDE Senior Housing Federal Court Suit corres., Nov 1979 -  
Jun 1982
25. PRIDE, speech outline, comm. mtg. notes, Jan - Dec 1978
26. PRIDE steering committee notes & agenda, Jan 1979 - Apr 1980
27. PRIDE technical data, ca. 1978
28. PRIDE US Justice Dept. law suit, Apr - May 1980
29. Town Meeting outline; corres.; PRIDE rep; development proposal,  
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Series II  
General Office Files, 1976-1983  
Boxes 3-7

These are the office files of James Lafferty, president of the Oakland County ACLU. They contain financial records, by-laws, correspondence, clippings, flyers and pamphlets, press releases and other materials relating to handgun control, the death penalty, membership activities, the Michigan State ACLU and a myriad of other subjects. The files are arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material.

## Box 3

1. ACLU Bill of Rights Lobby, Mar - Sep 1982
2. " " , Oct 1982 - Jul 1983
3. " " , Aug - Sep 1983
4. " " , Nov 1983
5. " " , Dec 1983
6. ACLU by-laws, Apr - May 1982
7. ACLU literature
8. ACLU policies; memos, May 1980 - summer 1981
9. ACLU policy on union goods, Dec 1982 - Feb 1983
10. Atkins, Hannah D., 1982 Candidate
- 11-12. Bendix vs. Detroit Peace Community lawsuit, Apr 1982
13. Birmingham Red Guard files, Feb 1982
14. Clippings, Feb 1980 - Dec 1981
15. Clippings, Jan - Dec 1982
16. Clippings, Feb - Aug 1983
17. Correspondence, Aug 1978 - Dec 1980
18. " " , Jan - Jun 1981
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26. Correspondence, Sep - Oct 1982
27. " " , Oct - Nov 1982
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1. Correspondence, Jan - Mar 1983
2. " " , Feb - Apr 1983
3. " " , Apr - Jul 1983
4. " " , Aug - Nov 1983
5. " " , re: creches, Dec 1982
6. " " ; clippings; notes; fiscal plan, Feb 1982 -  
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7. Custody cases, Apr 1982
8. Death Penalty, Nov 1980
9. Detroit Metro minutes; agenda; elections, Jun 1973 - Jul 1981
10. Prof. Dorsen's testimony & ACLU memo, Nov 1981
11. Due Process in schools, Feb - Mar 1980
12. " " Bill, May - Jun 1980
13. " " , Apr - May 1981
14. Exec. Bd. mtg. agendas & rental info, Apr 1981 - Jun 1982
15. " " , Jul 1982 - Dec 1983
16. " " minutes, Apr - Aug 1981
17. " " , Oct 1981 - Jun 1982
18. " " , Jul - Dec 1982
19. " " , Jan - Aug 1983 (excluding Mar)
20. " " ; notes: proposal for reorganization, Dec 1983  
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21. Exec. Mtg. Mar - Apr 1983
22. Expenses & Bills, Oak City. NAACP Exec. Comm. agenda, Apr 1981  
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23. Farm. Hills Police; Jewish Idea; paving assessment, 1981 - 1983
24. Finances/Fund raising, Oct 1981 - Mar 1983
25. Flyers and corres., summer 1976 - Feb 1982

Box 5

1. Flyers; pamphlets, Feb 1982 - Feb 1983
2. Formation of OCACLU, Jan 1980 - Mar 1981
3. Gun control, May 1979
4. Handgun issues; debate; clippings; laws, Apr 1981 - Jul 1982
5. Learning disabled children, Nov 1981
6. Lie detector tests in Oakland County, Dec 1969 - Jan 1984
7. Membership; MI ACLU directory, Jun - Sep 1981
8. Membership committee, Jan 1982
9. Membership drive, ca. 1982
10. Membership & exec. mtg., May - Jun 1981
11. Membership meeting, Jun 1981 - Feb 1982
12. " " & El Salvador, Jun 1981 - Apr 1982
13. Membership reports, Sep 1981 - May 1983
14. MI ACLU, agendas for Bd. of Trustees & Bd of Dir., Mar 1981  
- Jan 1984
15. MI ACLU Board mtg. notes, Jun 1980
16. MI ACLU Board of Trustees mtg., May 1981 - Nov 1983

17. MI ACLU budgets, Mar 1980 - May 1982
18. " ", Aug 1982 - Dec 1983

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Box 5 cont'd

19. MI ACLU corres., Jul - Sep 1981
20. " ", Sep 1981 - Jan 1982
21. " ", Jan - Mar 1982
22. " ", 1982
23. " ", May - Jul 1982
24. " ", Jul - Aug 1982

Box 6

1. MI ACLU corres., Sep - Nov 1982
2. " ", Nov 1982 - Jun 1983
3. " ", Jun 1983 - Sep 1983
4. " ", Dec 1983 - Jan 1984
5. MI ACLU exec. comm. mtg., Jan 1980 - Dec 1983
6. MI ACLU Bd. of Directors mtg., Nov 1980 - Jan 1982
7. " ", Apr 1982 - Nov 1983
8. MI ACLU memos; corres.; ACLU policies, Sep 1978 - Apr 1982
9. Moral Majority, Sep 1981
10. National ACLU memos, May 1979 - Jan 1983
11. " " corres., Jul 1981
12. " ", Aug - Dec 1981
13. " ", Dec 1981 - Oct 1982
14. " ", Feb 1982 - Jan 1983
15. " ", Jan 1983 - Jan 1984
16. " " memos; newsletters; corres., 1981
17. Nominations committee, first board, Oct 1980 - 1982
18. Notes on exec. bd. mtg., Apr 1981 - Mar 1982
19. " ", Apr 1982 - Feb 1983
20. OCACLU membership mtg. & speech, 24 Jun 1981
21. OCACLU newsletter, fall 1981 - summer 1983
22. Oak Park Park Ordinances; ACLU & unions; surveillance, Mar 1982 - Jan 1983

Box 7

1. Oak Park regulations; unions, Jan 1983
2. Oakland County Rape Study, Sep 1982
3. OCACLU First Annual Dinner; corres.; notes, Apr 1982 - Feb 1983
4. Petition to form Oakland County ACLU, Jan 1970 - Dec 1979
5. Pontiac Silverdome Matter, Oct 1981
6. Proposed ad, Nov, no year
7. Religion and schools, n.d.
8. Requests for ACLU action, Feb - Apr 1981
9. " ", Apr - Jun 1981
10. Research pamphlets, Jan 1978 - Jun 1981
11. " ", 1978 - 1981
12. Schools and armed forces, May - Nov 1981
13. Sermon, Raymond
14. Solicitation of new members, Jun 1982
15. Speaker's committee, Oct - Nov 1981
16. Speaker's Night, Aug - Sep 1982
17. " ", misc. information, Sep 1982
18. " ", notes, Sep 1982

- 19-20. Street Law, Nov 1981 - Jan 1982
21. Students and the City of Roseville, Apr 1979 - Apr 1981
22. Tallahassee re: John Spenklelink, Jan or Feb 1983



## Box 7 cont'd

23. Treasurer's reports & budgets, Apr 1981 - Sep 1982
24. " ", Oct 1982 - Dec 1983
25. Woman's rights & abortion, Feb 1982

## Series III

## War Resistance Material, 1978-1984

## Boxes 8-10

Board minutes, correspondence, clippings, newsletters relating to war resistance, anti-draft activities and protests. Two of the major organizations involved in these activities are CARD (Committee Against Registration and Draft) and CCCO (Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors). The files are arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material.

## Box 8

1. ACLU newsletter
2. Anti-draft corres., n.d.
3. " ", May 1978- Nov 1979
4. " ", Jan 1979- Nov 1980
5. " ", May - Sep 1980
6. " ", Jan 1980- Dec 1981
7. " ", Nov 1980 - Oct 1981
8. " ", Jan - Feb 1981
9. " ", Feb 1981
10. Anti-draft literature, Apr 1981
11. Anti-draft corres., Feb - Oct 1981
12. " ", Apr - Winter 1981
13. " ", Nov 1981 - Jun 1982
14. " ", Jan - Feb 1982
15. " ", Sep 1980 - Mar 1982
16. " ", Oct 1981 - Jun 1983
17. " ", Sep 1983 - Jan 1984
18. Anti-draft Forum, May 1982
19. Anti-draft newsletters
- 20-24. Anti-draft pamphlets & flyers
25. " "; brochures; clippings

## Box 9

1. Anti-draft publications
2. CARD board minutes, May 1981
3. CARD leaflets, 1980 - Jul 1981
4. CARD proposals & resolutions
- 5-6. CCCO materials
- 7-9. CCCO News Notes
10. Central America corres.; flyers, Nov 1980 - Aug 1983
11. Clippings, Jan 1980 - Oct 1981
12. " ", Nov 1981 - Aug 1982
13. " ", Apr 1980 - Jan 1983
14. " ", on Central America, Feb 1981 - 1983
15. " ", Sep - Oct 1982
16. Committee to Resist Draft booklet
17. Contacts, misc. notes, n.d.

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- 18-20. John Conyers/US briefs, Jul 1982
21. Corres. & newsletters re: organizing Oakland County CARD
22. Crockett vs. Pres. Reagan--Brief of Amicus Curiae
23. Fifth Estate & Resistance News
24. Finances; contacts/ conference on draft program, Apr - Nov 1981
25. Flyers; newsletters, booklets
26. Fund raising, Jan 1981
27. Guild News, n.d.
28. Lawyers Guild draft committee corres., n.d.
29. L. Maguire Open Letter #1
30. " " #2, #3, #4

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1. Materials on organizing ant-draft groups, Mar 1981
2. Military Counselor's Network News, flyers, n.d.
3. Mid-East clippings
4. National CARD by-laws, May 1981
5. Notes on pre-conference consultations, Jan - Feb 1981
6. The Objector, n.d.
7. On Watch, n.d.
8. Peace & National Priorities of Oakland County newsletters,  
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9. Press releases & press contacts, n.d.
10. Racism & death threats against Elizabeth Ziers, n.d.
11. Resistance and Churches, n.d.
12. Resistance materials, n.d.
13. Resistance News, n.d.
14. The Rights of Anti-Draft Protestors Manual, n.d.
15. Veterans newsletters, n.d.



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