



Profile in Liberty: David Harris

As the former president of the Board of Trustees of the American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey (ACLU-NJ), I have seen this organization go through difficult periods, but always overcome them. Having presided during some of those troubled times, what I remember most profoundly, and am reminded of nearly everyday, is the ACLU's unwavering dedication to freedom.

When the First Amendment

is your client, it brings you the good, the bad and the ugly. It isn't easy to advocate for freedom of speech when the reprehensible and the despicable want to spew hate. Labels like "reprehensible" have been attached to many people throughout our history, including African Americans, women, socialists, libertarians, communists, Native Americans, various religious groups, gays and lesbians, white supremacists, black Muslims, and countless others.

The ACLU is True North. It remains constantly vigilant enduring ridicule and condemnation. No matter how violent the storms, it remains true to its mission. For that reason, I am proud of my affiliation with and my support of the ACLU. In my view, our nation needs the ACLU's vigilance in both good times and bad. [ACLU](#)

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(David Harris served as president of the ACLU-NJ from 1995-1998. He is currently a member of the firm Lowenstein Sandler where, among other distinctions, he chaired the firm's Pro Bono Committee from 1991-2001. He also chaired the Volunteer Lawyers for Justice of Essex County from 1999-2001. Most recently, Harris, along with several others, have started the ACLU-NJ Amicus Club to organize a cadre of attorneys to support ACLU initiatives and provide education about civil liberties issues and legal representation for important cases).