

**Final Report to the Barbara McDowell and Gerald S. Hartman Foundation from the  
National Prison Project of the ACLU Foundation**

The National Prison Project of the ACLU Foundation is very grateful to the Barbara McDowell and Gerald S. Hartman Foundation for its support of our work to improve conditions of confinement in the Los Angeles County Jail, the country's largest. Below are highlights of our work since our April 2011 interim report.

As you know, last year a federal court presided over a series of meetings in chambers with the Sheriff's Department and the ACLU's classification expert, Dr. James Austin, to discuss a proposal for diversion of the great majority of the Men's Central Jail population to community alternatives to incarceration, while increasing public safety and saving taxpayers a quarter-billion dollars annually.

In December 2010, when the Sheriff rejected the Austin proposal, plaintiffs immediately moved the court to schedule an evidentiary hearing on deputy violence, excessive force, abuse of mentally ill prisoners, and overcrowding. We supported the motion with dozens of affidavits attesting to savage deputy-on-prisoner assaults, including an affidavit from the ACLU's jail monitor, who was an eyewitness in January 2011 to a brutal beating of a prisoner by two deputies. The ACLU asked the U.S. Attorney's office to launch an investigation, and the *Los Angeles Times* and other media began covering the story. The DOJ investigation is currently underway, and in the last few months many civilian witnesses to deputy violence in the Jail have begun to come forward, including prison chaplains from various denominations. At a hearing in April 2011, the court stated that plaintiffs would need to present a hundred witnesses to support a protective order, and we are now in the process of gathering hundreds of declarations on deputy abuse. We will be publicly filing a report attaching these declarations in early September and are expecting major media coverage.

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We are truly grateful to the Barbara McDowell and Gerald S. Hartman Foundation for its commitment to this case. We look forward to working with you in the future.