

Steven R. Allen, Task Force Member

In January 2012, Steven Robert Allen joined the ACLU of New Mexico as the Director of Public Policy. Since then, he has successfully advocated for legislation to abolish civil asset forfeiture, require fair pay for women, create an independent public defenders commission, and expand the rights of pregnant and parenting students. He also played a lead role in the effort to defeat a 20-week abortion ban in the city of Albuquerque in 2013. He is a licensed attorney and the former editor of the *Weekly Alibi*, Albuquerque's alternative newsweekly. During his time at the *Alibi*, he won numerous regional and national awards for his writing. Before joining the ACLU, Allen served four years as the Executive Director of Common Cause New Mexico, a nonprofit advocacy organization dedicated to holding elected leaders accountable to the public interest. One of his biggest accomplishments during his tenure with Common Cause was creating Count Every Vote New Mexico, a statewide nonpartisan voter protection program. He also successfully advocated for several statewide campaign finance, election and open government reforms, including the passage of New Mexico's first campaign contribution limits law.