

The Supreme Court of Ohio

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April 3, 2013

Christina Link, Executive Director
American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio
4506 Chester Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44103-3621

Dear Ms. Link,

Thank you for your letter of April 3 detailing the findings of the ACLU of Ohio's recent investigation into complaints regarding certain Ohio courts' practices concerning individuals who fail to pay fines and court costs.

While not able to discuss with specificity the cases you mention in your letter, you do cite a matter that can and must receive further attention.

As you reference in your letter, the Supreme Court has general superintendence authority regarding local courts. Under this authority and in my capacity as the Chief Justice, I will take a close look at the information you have presented in your letter.

I appreciate the work of the ACLU of Ohio, and it is clear that your organization has put a lot of care and effort into this investigation. In particular, I appreciate your offer to be available to meet in person to discuss the findings of your investigation. I would like to take you up on this offer at your earliest convenience. My administrative assistant will be contacting your office to arrange a meeting.

Thank you for sharing your concerns with me, and I look forward to meeting with you soon.

Sincerely,



Maureen O'Connor
Chief Justice