



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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## **ACLU's Brooks Allen Updates Commission on *Williams***

SACRAMENTO – The Commission on Teacher Credentialing welcomes ACLU attorney Brooks Allen to its Thursday, January 29 meeting. Mr. Allen will discuss the impact of legislation stemming from the *Williams v. California (Williams)* settlement: its effects on California schools and the evolution of the *Williams* standards and accountability systems.

Mr. Allen has been with the ACLU Foundation of Southern California since shortly after the *Williams* settlement four years ago and serves as the ACLU's statewide *Williams* implementation attorney. Mr. Allen works closely with other *Williams* settlement plaintiffs, as well as students, parents, and school and district staff, to ensure appropriate and successful implementation of *Williams* requirements at all levels of the California public school system.

The *Williams* case was a class-action law suit filed in the San Francisco County Superior Court in 2000 by a group of California students. The students cited as the basis for their case the failure of California and its state education agencies to provide equal access for all students to qualified teachers, instructional materials, and safe, decent school facilities.

The case was settled in 2004 and provided a total settlement amount of nearly \$1 billion. This funding helps cover the costs of facilities repairs and improvements, recruitment and retention of qualified teachers, and new instructional materials that meet current California curriculum standards. Much of these funds are to be paid out over a number of years.