

## Prisoners' Rights

### Related Practices

- Civil Rights & Police Misconduct
- Excessive Force
- False Arrest
- Unreasonable Searches & Seizures
- Wrongful Convictions
- Wrongful Death

### **PRISONERS' RIGHTS: RB LAW**

The United States Constitution guarantees civil rights for all. Civil rights litigation stands up for and protects the rights the law guarantees all people, including freedom from 14th Amendment due process violations, unreasonable searches and seizures, cruel and unusual punishment, false imprisonment, malicious prosecution, excessive use of force, wrongful death or sexual assault, including for individuals in jail or prison.

Unfortunately, violations of the law and rights do occur during some encounters with law enforcement officers or institutions, and when they do, victims deserve justice. Romanucci & Blandin has significant experience with civil rights and prisoners' rights lawsuits and we have deep expertise and understanding of the challenges and issues involved for incarcerated persons in jails and prisons.

### **Your prisoners' rights claim**

With headquarters in Chicago, the national prisoners' rights attorneys at Romanucci & Blandin know the damage and devastation that can be caused when someone's constitutional rights are violated by those who are supposed to protect and serve. Our team has experience and success bringing justice to clients in some of the country's most prolific law enforcement cases, including being on the legal team representing the family of George Floyd. The attorneys at Romanucci & Blandin know how to navigate these sensitive and often high-profile cases bringing justice to those involved.

## National experience and results in prisoners' rights matters

At Romanucci & Blandin, we approach a prisoner's rights claim as a way to hold an individual or institution financially accountable for the physical or emotional damages that have occurred as result of their deliberate indifference toward the civil rights of our clients. Victims of rights violations in jails or prisons can move forward with civil litigation in an effort to receive financial compensation for what happened to them.

Our law firm has a team of attorneys and staff with years of experience with civil rights and prisoners' rights litigation. Our civil rights legal team includes partners who guide the process and share their deep knowledge of these lawsuits. Each client and each situation is different, and your claim is treated with great care and respect as the team investigates what happened and determines the best path to justice for you. We will obtain all necessary background information on the officer(s) or official(s) involved and, if appropriate, investigate the municipal or organizational history, training or patterns and practices that may have played a role. Holding government facilities and institutions, whether state or local, accountable for their officer(s)' and official(s)' conduct under a 42 U.S.C. §1983 *Monell* claim is an important part of civil rights law, and an area our team knows very well. We find the records, interview witnesses, utilize prison and medical experts and prepare thoroughly and meticulously for your case. Ultimately, our aim is to obtain the most equitable compensation possible.

## Managing media in prisoners' rights cases

In some cases, victims of prisoners' rights violations, or their families, are thrust into the media spotlight, during a very stressful and emotional time. The team at Romanucci & Blandin has deep experience navigating the media for clients, managing the process and making sure messaging is strategic and protective of the legal case. Our expert, in-house communications team includes former journalists and crisis strategists who work closely with the legal team, help prepare clients for media interviews when necessary and understand the complexities of the local, national and international press. Not all cases involve media activity and each client has a unique path to justice.

## Our results for prisoners' rights and civil rights cases

Our results in civil rights and prisoners' rights cases are a testament to our team's fierce dedication to clients.

From the abuse of incarcerated people violations to excessive force and retaliatory solitary confinement to prisoner suicide, our team knows how the system works, how jails, prisons and other correctional institutions, municipalities, local courts and federal courts operate, and what judges, juries or mediators need to see to understand your claim.

## Justice beyond a verdict or settlement: change in laws

At Romanucci & Blandin, we are committed to justice for our clients in and out of the courtrooms. We are active in creating legislative change to stem or stop the problems in our community that have impacted our clients. This means engaging with lawmakers and advocacy groups and potentially testifying in front of legislators to share our clients' stories and create change.

We have a history of being involved in criminal justice reform issues on state and national levels, including advocacy for the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, which would create greater transparency and accountability in police departments around the country.

Our civil rights attorneys are also actively involved in legislative reform in the correctional system, as well. We have also advocated for a bill to reform Illinois state law related to unconstitutional practices in solitary confinement. Further, we continue to work alongside Illinois Senator Richard Durbin for investigations into prisoner treatment and conditions at federal prisons following the death of our clients' son, Matt Phillips. Matt, who was Jewish, died after repeated attacks by inmates who were known to be antisemitic. It is our fervent hope that our advocacy efforts bring much-needed change to civil rights law for all citizens.

## Types of prisoners' rights claims

The following include, but are not limited to, the types of Section 1983 violations and other prisoners' rights claims we handle for our clients:

- Cruel and unusual punishment
- Negligence and willful and wonton conduct
- Discrimination on the basis of race, sex, gender, religion, disability or another personal identity
- Excessive force
- Failure to provide medical care
- Failure to provide mental health or psychiatric care
- Intentional infliction of emotional distress
- Wrongful death and survival
- Due process violations

## Free consultation on your case by Chicago-based prisoners' rights lawyers

The prisoners' rights attorneys at Romanucci & Blandin have proven success in these types of cases. Please get in touch with our office at [info@rblaw.net](mailto:info@rblaw.net), 312-458-1000 or [click here for a free evaluation of your prisoners' rights case](#). There is never a fee until you are compensated for your injuries at the end of the case.

*Disclaimer: The content found on this page is not legal assistance and contacting the prisoners' rights lawyers at Romanucci & Blandin's law office for a free consultation regarding personal injury cases and police misconduct claims does not constitute an attorney-client relationship.*

## In the News

After teen's in-custody death in Dalton, Whitfield County grand jury indicts 5 juvenile justice workers  
*WTVC NewsChannel 9*, September 5, 2023

Editorial: It's past time for Chicago's legacy of bad cops to end  
*Chicago Tribune*, August 10, 2023

Chicago Taxpayers Spent \$280M to Resolve Police Misconduct Lawsuits from 2019 to 2023: Analysis  
*WTTW*, July 31, 2023

7th Circuit revives suit over Winnebago detainee's death  
*Chicago Daily Law Bulletin*, July 25, 2023

Bureau of Prisons Is Closing Troubled, Violent Detention Unit in Illinois  
*New York Times*, February 14, 2023

Rev. Jackson, PUSH back bill to end prison solitary confinement.  
*Chicago Crusader*, June 29, 2021

Former prisoner on mission to change solitary confinement.  
*ABC News*, May 11, 2021

Rock Island man fights to end solitary confinement in Illinois prisons.  
*WQAD-TV*, March 19, 2021

Former IDOC inmate Anthony Gay talks solitary confinement at NPEP Transforming Criminal Justice roundtable  
*Daily Northwestern*, October 13, 2020

Bill would limit solitary confinement in Illinois prisons.  
*Chicago Daily Law Bulletin*, March 12, 2020

Anthony Gay's decades in solitary confinement led to self-mutilation. Now a proposed law to limit prisoner isolation in Illinois is named in his honor.  
*Chicago Tribune*, March 10, 2020

Proposed law named for ex-inmate from Rock Island limits isolation in prisons.  
*KWQC-TV Iowa*, March 10, 2020

Manafort, Vegas shooting lawsuit, Inside Out Columnists, The Prisoner Rights Project.

## Press Releases

Legal team for the family of Matt Phillips' statement on the closure of the special management unit at Illinois' Thomson federal penitentiary  
February 15, 2023

Class action lawsuit details numerous civil rights violations at jail in St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana  
March 23, 2020

New Proposal Will Reform Extreme and Devastating Solitary Confinement Practices in Illinois Prisons  
March 10, 2020