

Richard Caudillo



Richard Caudillo was the first president of the Gay Rights Chapter of the ACLU of Southern California. The chapter was formed in 1976. Below is an excerpt from the President's Message in the premiere issue of its newsletter:

"As several of the other articles in this Newsletter indicate, much of the efforts in the months since we formed as the first Gay Rights Chapter of the ACLU have been devoted to organizational needs...The need has been to assess this chapter's most productive potential in a movement that is already peopled by bright and dedicated activists who have long been concerning themselves with civil liberties issues...

"We are initiating our own actions in addition to joining in those others. The most major of these to date is the bringing of a suit against L.A. Police Chief Ed. Davis and others within the department for egregious violations of the civil liberties of Christopher Street West and the entire gay community at this year's Gay Pride Parade. It is thought that this suit is the first ever brought on behalf of the gay community in Southern California under Federal Civil Rights legislation...

"We have a special mandate here to see that this chapter leads the way for the formation of similar chapters in each and every affiliate organization and we can only do this by the example we, ourselves, set. The response in terms of membership has been phenomenal and we could not ask for any more support from our brothers and sisters, both gay and non-gay, in the other chapters and in the ACLU headquarters. The future is in our hands and it will be one of gay pride!"

Dick was a prominent figure in LGBTQ+ media and journalism during the 1970s. He is best known for his roles as an editor and writer in early gay publications, including:

Editor-in-Chief of ALTERNATE: He served as the Editor-in-Chief of ALTERNATE, a notable gay magazine published during the late 1970s. His work included sharp cultural and political commentary, such as writing about Anita Bryant's anti-gay campaigns.

Editorial work for Drummer Magazine: He collaborated with influential figures of the era like art director Jack Fritscher for prominent leather and gay subculture publications.

San Francisco Sentinel: Historical archives track his contributions and editorial comments regarding the gay liberation movement in prominent local news outlets like the San Francisco Sentinel.