

## Alvin J. Bronstein A Biographical Sketch

Alvin J. Bronstein became the founding Executive Director of the National Prison Project of the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation in June 1972. He has argued numerous prisoners' rights cases in federal trial and appellate courts as well as the Supreme Court of the United States. He has been a consultant to state and federal correctional agencies, has appeared as an expert witness on numerous occasions and has edited or authored books and articles on human rights and corrections. He was awarded a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship in 1989 for his contributions in the development of prisoners' rights and correctional case law. In 1985, 1988, 1991, and 1994, he was listed as one of the one hundred most influential lawyers in America by the *National Law Journal* in their triennial publication, Profiles in Power. In recent years he has been honored by various law schools and organizations including the National Council on Crime and Delinquency, the Fortune Society, the Pennsylvania Prison Society, Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR), the Southern Center for Human Rights, New York Law School, University of Maine Law School, and the Prison Reform Trust (London, England).

Mr. Bronstein began his career in private law practice in New York before becoming the Chief Staff Counsel of the Lawyers' Constitutional Defense Committee from 1964 to 1968 in Jackson, Mississippi. He litigated civil rights cases during that time in Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana, and represented the major civil rights organizations in the South. In 1968 he became a Fellow at the Institute of Politics, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, and from 1969 to 1971 he was the Associate Director of the Institute of Politics. In 1971 he became a partner in the New Orleans public interest law firm of Elie, Bronstein, Strickler, and Dennis, leaving in 1972 to found the National Prison Project in Washington, D.C.

He directed the National Prison Project until December 1995. In January of 1996 he became Director Emeritus of the Project and a consultant to the National ACLU. He increased his recent activity in international human rights and criminal justice issues primarily as a Board member of Penal Reform International (London) and as a member of the Assembly of Delegates, World Organization Against Torture (Geneva).