

About Shahid Buttar

Shahid Buttar, executive director, leads the Bill of Rights Defense Committee in its efforts to restore civil liberties, constitutional rights, and rule of law principles undermined by law enforcement and intelligence agencies within the United States. He is a constitutional lawyer, grassroots organizer, independent columnist, electronic musician, and poet.

Before joining BORDC in 2009, Shahid directed a national program to combat racial and religious profiling, after serving for three years as associate director of the American Constitution Society for Law & Policy. He previously pursued public interest litigation (advancing marriage equality for same sex couples and campaign finance reform) in private practice at Heller Ehrman LLP, after receiving his J.D. from Stanford Law School in 2003, where he served as executive editor of the Stanford Environmental Law Journal and a teaching assistant for Constitutional Law. He graduated *summa cum laude* from Loyola University Chicago with a BA in political science and creative writing in 2000, ten years after beginning college at the University of Chicago and after a six-year career in financial services to pay for school.

Shahid's comments have been featured by news outlets including *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, *The Guardian*, *The Intercept*, *CNN*, *al-Jazeera*, *FOX News*, *Agence-France Presse*, *Huffington Post*, *Truthout*, *Democracy Now!*, and many others, including dozens of radio stations around the country. He frequently addresses public audiences, such as elected bodies, colleges, and law schools, including Stanford, UC-Berkeley, UCLA, the University of Chicago, the University of Texas at Austin, and Georgetown.

In addition to his work leading BORDC, Shahid also serves on the advisory bodies of the [Rights Working Group](#), the National Coalition to Protect Civil Freedoms, the [National Campaign to Restore Civil Rights](#), and [South Asian Americans Leading Together](#).

Shahid also supports populist constitutionalism as a independent columnist (writing for outlets including [Huffington Post](#) and [Truthout](#), as well as the [People's Blog](#) for the Constitution), community organizer, and [hip-hop and electronica MC and DJ](#). In his creative capacities as a poet and musician, Shahid has performed around the world for audiences as large as 30,000, co-founded several grassroots art and culture groups around the country, facilitated workshops for young people and emerging artists, and released his debut CD, [Get Outta Your Chair](#), in 2008. More information about Shahid, his music, and his projects beyond BORDC is available at [his personal website](#).

Website: www.bordc.org