



Fighting for Voting Rights and a Democratic United States

DEMOCRATIC LAW BRIEFS

A Publication of the DC Chapter of the National Lawyers Council

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WELCOME TO DEMOCRATIC LAW BRIEFS, the official newsletter of the DC Chapter of the National Lawyers Council. If you would like to be on our mailing list, please sign up at <http://www.democraticlawyers.org/join.php> or e-mail your name, title, company, addresses, and phone numbers to signup@democraticlawyers.org. We'll happily add you to the list.

EVENTS



UNITE FOR VICTORY

Join DNC Chairman Gov. Howard Dean and young professional Democrats from across the area as we Unite for Victory. The event will take place on Thursday, May 22, from 6-8 PM at Josephine, located at 1008 Vermont Avenue, NW. There will be hors d'oeuvres and drink specials, and it costs \$50 to attend.

Who: Governor Howard Dean, M.D., Chairman, Democratic National Committee; African American Leadership Council; Asian Pacific Islander American Leadership Council; Gay Lesbian Leadership Council; Hispanic Leadership Council; Indo-American Leadership Council; Women's Leadership Forum; and Young Professionals of the Democratic Party

Where: Josephine, 1008 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20005
(between L and K Streets, near the McPherson Square Metro stop)

When: Thursday, May 22, 2008, 6:00 - 8:00 PM
(Hors D'oeuvres served from 6:00 - 7:00 PM)

Reception Ticket: \$50 per person; Host Committee: \$500 contribute/raise

For additional information or to R.S.V.P. please contact Shelly Horn at 202-863-7167 or horns@dnc.org or visit <http://www.democrats.org/unityDC>.

ELECTION FRAUD: DETECTING AND DETERRING ELECTORAL MANIPULATION

Drawing on social science research from the U.S. and abroad, *Election Fraud: Detecting and Deterring Electoral Manipulation* (Brookings, 2008), explores ways to define, measure and detect fraud, and makes recommendations for reform. On May 21, the AEI-Brookings Election Reform Project will host a discussion with the book's editors, R. Michael Alvarez of Caltech, Thad Hall of the University of Utah and Susan Hyde of Yale University. Thomas Mann, co-director of the AEI-Brookings Election Reform Project and senior fellow at Brookings, will moderate the panel.

Who: AEI-Brookings Election Reform Project

Where: The Brookings Institution - Falk Auditorium

When: Wednesday, May 21, 2008, 2-3:30 p.m.

To register for the event, please contact the Brookings Office of Communications at 202.797.6105; or register online at <http://onlinepressroom.net/brookings/new/>

AMERICAN CONSTITUTION SOCIETY NATIONAL CONVENTION

Program includes panel on election law.

Who: ACS

Where: Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill

When: June 12-14, 2008

Program is available at :

<http://aclaw.org/pdf/ACS%20National%20Convention%20Schedule.pdf>

Registration information: <https://secure.aclaw.org/convention/register.php>

VOTING RIGHTS NEWS

VOTER IDENTIFICATION

Illinois – An attempt to require Illinois voters to show identification before casting a ballot was rejected Thursday by Democratic lawmakers. The proposal would have required an official ID in order to get a ballot. Those who didn't comply could cast provisional votes that would be counted so long as the voter could produce an ID within 10 days. Details are found here:

<http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=191856&src=3>

Missouri - As debate winds down over a photo identification requirement for voters, the Republican handler of the bill hopes to allay fears the requirement would take effect this year. Republican lawmakers want the photo ID requirement because they say government-issued ID - such as a driver's license - would eliminate any potential questions of voter fraud. Democrats argue voter impersonation fraud has not occurred, nullifying the need for a constitutional amendment. Read about the debate here:

<http://www.columbiatribune.com/2008/May/20080514News004.asp>

Jefferson City MO - In a victory for all voters, Missouri lawmakers ended this year's legislative session without a final vote on legislation that could have prevented up to 240,000 Missourians from voting. The proposed change would have altered Missouri's constitution, allowing for strict citizenship and government-issued photo ID requirements that would make Missouri one of the toughest states in the country for eligible, law-abiding citizens to register to vote or cast a ballot. Read more here:

http://mofairelections.blogspot.com/2008_05_01_archive.html#8891791086739492203

FEC

National - Hans von Spakovsky has withdrawn his nomination for FEC Commissioner. Von Spakovsky was at the center of the controversial firing of Assistant US Attorneys and the Democratic Congress has refused to act on his nomination. The withdrawal may pave the way for filling the many vacancies on the FEC. Read the details here:

http://tpmmuckraker.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/05/breaking_spakovsky_withdraws_a.php

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

***** New Feature *****

As a service to our readers we have added a new feature to the newsletter: A federal legislative tracking feature - whereby we will begin a listing of voter rights/election-related bills (including DC voting rights) that have been introduced in the Congress as well as provide updates on any activity on old bills. The new bills that had been introduced will include a description and across reference to any news articles that have been written.

NEW BILLS

H.R.6077: To amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to permit local jurisdictions within a State to conduct early voting in elections for Federal office held in such jurisdictions, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep Norton, Eleanor Holmes [DC] Cosponsors (None)

Latest Major Action: 5/15/2008 Introduced; Referred to House committee.

Status: Referred to the House Committee on House Administration.

HEARINGS

"Protecting the Constitutional Right to Vote for All Americans"

The Senate Committee on the Judiciary has scheduled a hearing on "Protecting the Constitutional Right to Vote for All Americans" for Tuesday, May 20, 2008 at 2:30 p.m. in Room 226 of the Senate Dirksen Office Building.

For more information and witness list go to:

<http://judiciary.senate.gov/hearing.cfm?id=3368>

DC DLC BRAIN TEASERS

DC DLC BRAIN TEASERS - Each week we have a puzzle or a brain teaser or a trivia question for you to answer. You can e-mail your answers to editors@democraticlawyers.org. Please put "Brain Teaser" in the subject line. We

will run the names of all those who get the right/best answer in the following issue.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

How many Presidents were lawyers before becoming President?

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Who was the first President to be born in a hospital?

ANSWER

Jimmy Carter was the first President to be born in a hospital. We had correct answers from James Gibson, and Kevin Kingston. Congratulations to both of you!! Good Luck this week.

JOBS

*** New New Feature ***

As a service to our readers, we will begin to list various career development and opportunities (though not necessarily positions requiring legal training) which have come to our attention.

Office: Rep. Brian Baird (D-WA)

Position: Communications Director

Contact: Lisa Austin, Chief of Staff, BairdResume@mail.house.gov

Description: Congressman Brian Baird (D-WA) is seeking a Communications Director. Duties include developing and implementing a comprehensive communications strategy, including: writing press releases, floor statements and editorials; responding to press inquiries; producing newsletters and e-newsletters; proactively creating new media opportunities, fostering strong relationships with media contacts, and managing office website. A successful candidate will be an excellent writer with good interpersonal skills and a sense of humor. Minimum of 2-3 years experience required, this is not an entry level position. Salary commensurate with experience. E-mail cover letter, writing sample, and resume to Lisa Austin, Chief of Staff at: BairdResume@mail.house.gov. (listed May 15)

Office: Senate Rules and Administration Committee

Position: Counsel

Contact: counsel@rules.senate.gov

Description: The Senate Rules and Administration Committee (Majority Staff) is seeking a Counsel to focus on Senate Regulations, Rules, Ethics, Lobbying, Government Reform and Policy issues, monitoring and managing legislation, preparing for hearings, and overseeing Senate contract and procedural matters. Applicants should possess strong analytic skills, be able to meet tight deadlines and demonstrate excellent written and oral communication skills. Hill experience strongly preferred. J.D. is required. Familiarity with the Senate, its history and its parliamentary procedures, is extremely important. Please send cover letter and resume to counsel@rules.senate.gov. (listed May 1)

Office: Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA)

Position: Judiciary Legislative Assistant

Contact: dcstaffer@mail.house.gov or fax to (202) 225-8890

Description: Senior Bay Area Democrat seeks energetic, experienced Legislative Assistant to handle a broad portfolio of domestic issues including judiciary, financial services, taxation, education, labor, and housing. Qualified candidates should have Hill experience and strong writing, analytical and organizational skills. Pride in work product, attention to detail, and a willingness to work in a collaborative, team-oriented environment are essential. Salary is commensurate with experience. Send résumé and cover letter to dcstaffer@mail.house.gov or fax to (202) 225-8890. No phone calls or drop-bys please. (listed May 19)

Office: Not specified

Position: Communications Director

Contact: Chief of Staff at lee.resumes@mail.house.gov

Description: Progressive California member seeks experienced Communications Director to manage an active communications operation. Responsibilities include developing and implementing a strategic communications plan; writing press releases, op eds and serving as the primary speechwriter for the office; scheduling press events and managing relationships with reporters to secure local and national coverage of the member's work. CD will also be responsible for overseeing the website and regular e-newsletters as well as the annual newsletter. Ideal candidate will be an excellent writer with hill or equivalent experience working with the press and a commitment to progressive politics. The CD will work with district press staff on developing and implementing communications plan. Experience working with ethnic media is a plus. California or Bay Area ties are a plus. Please send cover letter, resume and one writing sample to Chief of Staff at lee.resumes@mail.house.gov. This is not an entry level position. No drop-bys or calls please. (listed May 19)

Office: Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)

Position: Appropriations/Judiciary Legislative Assistant

Contact: ctdemstaffposition@gmail.com

Description: Progressive Northeastern member of the Democratic Leadership and senior member of the Appropriations Committee seeks experienced legislative assistant to manage Commerce, Justice, Science appropriations subcommittee as well as non-appropriations health, housing, judiciary, environmental issues. Applicants must have at least two years of Hill experience as a legislative assistant, appropriations experience, strong writing and verbal communications skills, and the ability to work under pressure and meet tight deadlines. Sense of humor recommended, but not required. Applicants are asked to please email resume and two writing samples to ctdemstaffposition@gmail.com. (listed May 19)

If you know of a legal or other position of interest position that should be listed here (or corrections or updates to job openings that are listed), please contact your editors at editors@democraticlawyers.org.

Editors' Note: The above listed job(s) were gathered from various sources in an effort to collaborate, disseminate, and share information with members of the DC Democratic Lawyers Council regarding career development and professional opportunities. No guarantee is given concerning the accuracy of the job announcement, job descriptions, qualifications, availability, application process, deadlines, salaries, work hours, or other information. If you have questions about a job, please follow up directly with the designated contact listed. Thank you.

WHO ARE WE?

The DC Democratic Lawyers Council (DC DLC) is a group of Democratic lawyers, affiliated with the National Lawyers Council of the Democratic National Committee, volunteering their legal skills to strengthen the democratic process. We work to ensure that every eligible citizen is allowed to vote and that every vote cast in every election is counted. The DC DLC was formed out of a concern that voting rights are increasingly under attack in our country and an understanding that now is the time to put the skills of Democratic attorneys to work to ensure that every citizen's right to vote will be upheld in future elections. Our activities include advocating for better laws and regulations and initiating litigation when necessary to guarantee the fairness of and the widest participation in the U.S. electoral process.

The Democratic Lawyers Council was founded by attorneys who have served on the front line of election law for the Democratic Party in numerous elections, including most recently, the 2000 and 2004 presidential elections. The lesson learned from the recount debacle was that post-election day litigation will hardly ever fix any election injustice. Given that, many of the recount lawyers, particularly those based in Florida, engineered a comprehensive voter protection program to confront and deal with voter and election issues before Election Day. One aspect of this effort was the recruitment of 3200 lawyers who, after receiving specialized election law and

procedures training, worked inside the polls in key precincts in Florida on Election Day to assure that every citizen who showed up to vote, was able to do so.

Our mission statement is simple:

We are a coalition of lawyers and others dedicated to fostering universal participation and trust in the electoral process by ensuring that:

- All eligible persons can register to vote easily;
- All registered voters are able to vote simply, fairly, and without intimidation; and
- All votes are counted accurately and all voting systems are open and reliable.

We encourage you to send us an e-mail if you would like more information or are interested in becoming a part of our organization.

Please e-mail us at erika@democraticlawyers.org.

COMMITTEES

We are a volunteer-driven and volunteer-dependent organization. Please lend your time, talents, and effort to helping to solve important voting rights issues. Please click on <http://www.democraticlawyers.org/join.php> and sign up for our committees, which include:

DC Community Outreach Committee

Co-Chairs, David Goldblatt (david@democraticlawyers.org), Curtis LeGeyst (curtis@democraticlawyers.org) & Candice Jones (candice@democraticlawyers.org)

This committee is responsible for working with community leaders and Democratic elected officials in the District of Columbia on important voting rights initiatives.

Building the National Lawyers Council Committee

Chair, Rita Aguilar (rita@democraticlawyers.org)

This committee is responsible for working with the National Lawyers Council to build chapters throughout the country, as well as developing “model” chapter and voting rights materials.

State Legislative Watch Team

Chair, Molly Askin (molly@democraticlawyers.org)

This committee is responsible for monitoring state election law activity, e.g., voter-ID, voting systems and election administration legislation, and assisting with related state advocacy efforts.

Federal Legislation Committee

Chair, Dick Meltzer (dick@democraticlawyers.org)

This committee is responsible for monitoring federal election law activity, e.g., HAVA and UOCAVA, educating membership and helping push for voting rights reform at the federal level.

Redistricting & Voting Rights Act Committee

Chair, Jeff Wice (jmwice@democraticlawyers.org)

This committee is responsible for preparing Democrats for the next redistricting cycle (2010), e.g., reviewing case law from the 2000 cycle, and monitoring Voting Rights Act developments.

Ex-Felon Voting Rights Committee

Chair, John Shuman (john@democraticlawyers.org)

This committee is responsible for helping non-incarcerated ex-offenders secure a right to vote in federal elections, e.g., congressional outreach, to encourage successful re-entry of these citizens.

Events Committee

Chair, Jordan Usdan (jordan@democraticlawyers.org)

This committee is responsible for organizing year-round activities. These can include professional networking opportunities, guest speaker events, assisting with National Lawyers Council events, and other social and political activities.

In addition, please consider participating in leadership positions and organizational committees, which include:

- Steering Committee
- Event Planning
- Recruiting and Publicity
- Election/Campaign Finance Law Compliance
- Democratic Party/Candidate Outreach
- Fundraising

[READING SOMEONE ELSE'S COPY???](#)

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<http://www.democraticlawyers.org/join.php> or e-mail your name, title, company, addresses, and phone numbers to signup@democraticlawyers.org.

[GOT NEWS?](#)

If you have news for Democratic Law Briefs, we'd love to get it. E-mail your news, ideas, rumors and thoughts to Paul Roath and Arielle Harry-Bess at

editors@democraticlawyers.org. We reserve the right to use, not use, edit, paraphrase, or otherwise play with your submissions.

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