



Fighting for Voting Rights and a Democratic United States

DEMOCRATIC LAW BRIEFS

A Publication of the DC Chapter of the National Lawyers Council

Volume 4 Issue 21 June 3, 2008

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

NATIONAL WEBINAR ON STATE VOTER PROTECTION OPERATIONS

Who: DNC National Lawyers Council

What: A national webinar to assess the current organization and structure of state lawyers councils.

Where: Via Webinar/call

When: Tuesday, June 3, 7:00 p.m. EDT

To register for the Webinar: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/385393772>

In preparation for the election, we want to emphasize early recruitment of lawyers and resolution of issues. We have invited State Leaders and State Party Executive Directors to this call. Please feel free to pass on to those who you feel would be appropriate for this call

AMERICAN CONSTITUTION SOCIETY NATIONAL CONVENTION

Who: ACS

Where: Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill

When: June 12-14, 2008

Program is available at:

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

Program includes panel on election law.

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

2008 NATIONAL YOUNG LAWYERS ACADEMY

Who: The Democratic National Committee and
The Democratic Governors Association
with special guest SENATOR TOM DASCHLE

What: A two-day, comprehensive training on how to put your legal skills to use in federal and state elections. Lawyers and law students are invited to join the party effort to protect the right to vote and ensure every vote is counted.

Where: National Education Association, 1201 16th Street, NW, Washington, Dc

When: Saturday, August 2 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, August 3, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

To register, click [here](#).

Participants are responsible for travel and lodging. Meals will be provided.

If you have any questions, please contact Anna Martinez (DNC) at martineza@dnc.org or Brinkley Serkedakis (DGA) at serkedakis@dga.net.

HELP WANTED

NATIONAL LAWYERS COUNCIL TASK FORCES

We are creating constituency-based Task Forces to study specific election administration issues and create tailored voter education materials. Task Forces are intended to identify and assess particular issues that affect their demographic, develop best practices for handling these issues, and organize practical ways for reaching out to and messaging towards these communities.

Task Forces will cover African-Americans, Latinos/Hispanics, Asian Pacific Islander Americans, People with Disabilities and Native American voters.

Please let us know if you would like to participate in these Task Forces as we are looking to have first meetings soon!

YOUNG LAWYERS TRAINING

Do you know of any 3L's or young associates who will be able to work for a few months before this November's election on in-state Voter Protection operations? DGA and DNC are co-sponsoring a training for young lawyers who are new to voter protection on August 2-3 in DC. The goal of this training is to send these new recruits back into your states to help organize voter protection operations.

Please forward names of folks you think might want to get involved.

VOTING RIGHTS NEWS

VOTER IDENTIFICATION

Arizona -State officials say a challenge to Arizona requirements for voter identification and proof of citizenship should be thrown out in the wake of a U.S. Supreme Court decision upholding Indiana's voter ID law.

<http://www.svherald.com/articles/2008/05/27/news/doc483bc51f9b243954957155.txt>

Oklahoma -Republican state senators expressed their disappointment that Senate Democrats voted along party lines to kill a bill designed to stamp out election fraud by requiring voters to show a form of identification at the polls.

<http://www.tulsabeacon.com/?p=412>

KANSAS - Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius has protected the voters of her state by vetoing a GOPer sponsored voter ID bill. The Governor stated when she vetoed bill "HB 2019 seeks to solve a problem of voter fraud which does not exist in our state due to the tireless efforts of our local election officials" No override vote is expected. Read the story here:

http://www.kansascity.com/news/breaking_news/story/626218.html

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. - The nominations of three new FEC commissioners was voted out of committee last week. The Senate Committee on Rules and Administration reported out the nominations without recommendation. These three, together with a previously reported nomination, will now go to the full Senate for

approval. If approved, the FEC would then have a full compliment of six Commissioners. Presently they have only two, and four votes are required for any FEC action. Read the details here:

http://feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=NewsRoom.PressReleases&ContentRecord_id=11d7e4e8-9c97-340d-8c32-ecbf93e930b4&IsTextOnly=False

VOTER REGISTRATION

NEW HAMPSHIRE - The NH Supreme Court has declared a bill providing for 17 year olds to vote violative of the State's constitution. The bill would have allowed 17 year olds who would turn 18 by the time of the general election to vote in the primaries. Read the opinion here:

<http://www.courts.state.nh.us/supreme/opinions/2008/oj052.pdf>

Maine - More than 200 inmates from the Maine State Prison in Warren applied Wednesday to register to vote during a voter education and registration drive sponsored by the NAACP. Maine is one of only two states that allow prisoners to cast ballots. <http://news.maintoday.com/updates/027476.html>

MILITARY VOTING

Tallahassee, FL - A small Panhandle county that is home to one of the world's largest air bases is embarking on a sweeping experiment in Internet voting that could transform elections in the 21st century. But the push by Okaloosa County Supervisor of Elections Pat Hollarn to use the Internet to make it easier for U.S. soldiers overseas to vote is drawing fire from voting activists who call her project "unsafe" and contrary to a new law that requires the state to use paper ballots. Read the details here:

<http://www.miamiherald.com/458/story/546799.html>

REPORT ON VOTING IRREGULARITIES

Maryland: Read the Maryland Attorney General's Taskforce Report on Voting Irregularities. Details can be found here:

<http://newsletters.brookings.edu/t/215669/421197/3831/0/31/?u=aHR0cDovL3d3dy5vYWwuc3RhdGUubWQudXMvUmVwb3J0cy9Wb3RpbmclMjBUYXNrJTlwRm9yY2UIMjBSZXBvcjRfMjgucGRmP2VtYz1sbSZtPTIxNTY2OSZsPTMxJnY9NDIxMTk3&x=8138098b>

ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION

Massachusetts - The Massachusetts General Court, which meets year round, is considering SB.2514 which would permit EDR. The bill was reported favorably by the Committee on Election Laws to the Senate Ways and Means Committee in February. If approved, EDR would begin in Massachusetts in 2011. Read the bill here:
<http://www.mass.gov/legis/bills/senate/185/st02/st02514.htm>

NORTH CAROLINA - Demos has released a new study "How Same Day Registration Became Law in North Carolina." The success of SDR legislation in 2007 was in large part a function of new political leadership in the North Carolina General Assembly. Same Day Registration proponents were also able to overcome incumbents' fears about primary challengers and electoral gains by the opposition party. With SDR, the electorate is not fixed when the voter registration deadline passes. New voters can be mobilized to participate in North Carolina elections almost until the last moment, potentially opening up the process to new constituencies whose political preferences might differ from those voters who had returned incumbent legislators to office. Read the full report here:
<http://demos.org/pubs/SDRnc.pdf>

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

Who was the only President to have been held as a prisoner of war?

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

How many Presidents were lawyers before becoming President?

ANSWER

Twenty-six Presidents were lawyers before becoming president (with one more on the way!). We did not have any correct responses last week. Good Luck this week.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

NEW BILLS

H.CON. RES.357: Encouraging all States to enact laws requiring photo identification to vote in elections.

Sponsor: *Rep Feeney, Tom* [FL-24] (introduced 5/20/2008) Cosponsors (None)

Committees: House Administration

Latest Major Action: 5/20/2008 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on House Administration.

JOBS

*** 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.

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.

Office: Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

Position: Voting Rights Intern

Contact: Whitney Norton at wnorton@lawyerscommittee.org or Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, 1401 New York Avenue NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20005-2124.

Description: The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, a private nonprofit, nonpartisan civil rights legal organization, is seeking to fill an unpaid intern position in its Voting Rights Project with a creative, bright, down to earth, and hardworking college student.

The intern will primarily work with [National Campaign for Fair Elections](#) (NCFE) staff. NCFE - a program of the [Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law's](#) Voting Rights Project - is leading the effort to develop a sustainable election reform movement. The campaign coordinates a comprehensive strategy of litigation, legislative advocacy, coalition building, communications and citizen education to ensure every eligible American citizen has the opportunity to cast a meaningful ballot. The intern will assist with our ambitious election reform agenda and on the

Election Protection Program - the nation's largest, non-partisan voter protection program. Primary responsibilities include research, assisting the project with organizing volunteers, providing support for coalition building, light administrative work, and other organizing tasks as assigned. This internship will provide an exciting opportunity for students to gain campaign organizing and legal experience.

Ideal candidates will be able to commit at least 20 hours a week for the summer, be hardworking and willing to do some grunt work, knowing that they will be working for an exciting campaign that does great work in protecting the voting rights of Americans across the country. Prior experience volunteering or interning with a political campaign or non-profit preferred, but not required.

Email or mail a cover letter and resume to: Whitney Norton at wnorton@lawyerscommittee.org or Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, 1401 New York Avenue NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20005-2124. We will review applications upon their receipt.

Office: Rep. Travis Childers (MS-01)

Position: Multiple

Contact: Qualified candidates are encouraged to send resumes

Description: Representative Travis Childers (MS-01) is looking to hire several positions in his Washington Congressional office. Open positions include Press Secretary, Legislative Assistant, Legislative Correspondent, and Staff Assistant (preferably from Mississippi). Qualified candidates are encouraged to send resumes and cover letters to incoming Chief of Staff Brad Morris at brad.k.morris@gmail.com. No phone calls please. Salaries for each position are commensurate with experience. Please feel free to forward this notice to interested parties

Office: Government Relations firm

Position: International Trade and Government Relations Professional

Contact: 202-872-8696 (fax)

Description: Government relations firm seeks professional to work on trade and investment policy matters. The individual will be primarily focus on Congressional relations, with responsibilities including but not limited to:

- Establishing working relationships with Members of Congress and their staff
- Attending or monitoring Congressional briefings, hearings, and votes on legislation that may affect clients.
- Preparing reports and briefings regarding upcoming Congressional activities and legislation.
- Ensuring compliance with lobbying registration
- Performing political and policy research for clients, as needed.
- Responsibility for administration of industry group that advocates for specific tariff-related legislation

This position requires a highly motivated, detail oriented, proactive individual who has the ability to work well in a team environment. Candidate must possess strong writing and communication skills, and must be creative and resourceful. Candidate must also exercise a substantial degree of individual initiative and demonstrate good judgment.

College degree required; and Master's degree and/or 3 years Congressional or related experience preferred.

Fax resume and requirements to 202-872-8696; no calls please.
We are an Equal Opportunity Employer, M/F/D/V

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 LeGeyt (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???](#)

To get your own copy of Democratic Law Briefs, please visit

<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.

* * *

Democratic Law Briefs, E-Mail Edition, Volume 4 Number 21

Copyright 2008 DC DLC, Paul Roath, Ph.D., Esq., Arielle Harry-Bess, Esq. and Erika Moritsugu, Esq.

This material is intended for personal use only. For other than personal use, it is illegal to make copies or faxes of the information or to store it in a database without permission. All material herein is copyrighted and is intended for the sole personal use of members of the Democratic Lawyers Council. While copies for personal use are permitted, the information otherwise may not be reproduced, republished or downloaded to a local area network without written permission. Violators risk penalties and \$100,000 in damages per offense.