



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.

Due to travel schedules, Democratic Law Briefs will not be published next week

EVENTS

NDLSC LAW AND POLITICS FUNDRAISING RECEPTION

Who: National Democratic Law Students Council

Where: Local 16 on the roof-deck lounge
1602 U Street NW (U Street NW near the corner of 16th St. NW)

When: Wednesday, June 25, 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

How: Contribute at the door or www.ActBlue.com/page/NDLSCinDC

Hosts \$250/Friends \$50/Summer Associates and Recent Grads/\$25 Public Interest \$15

Come join us for an evening of networking on the beautiful rooftop lounge. NDLSC will provide light appetizers. Cash bar will offer happy hour drink specials.

All proceeds to benefit NDLSC's 2008 "Building to Win" Campaign. NDLSC works with Lawyers Councils and local Democratic parties to fund programs engaging lawyers, students and activists in protecting the vote. Learn more at www.lawschooldems.org.

CAPITOL HILL NETWORKING RECEPTION WITH REP. ARTUR DAVIS

Who: ACS
Special Guests at this reception will be Congressional staffers from

House and Senate Leadership offices, the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, and other Congressional committees and offices.

Where: Jones Day LLP, 25 Louisiana Avenue, N.W., Rooftop Terrace

When: Wednesday, June 25, 2008, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

How: There is no charge for this event. This will be a widely attended event, and ACS will provide refreshments but no meal. Please RSVP using our *convenient on-line registration*.

If you have any questions regarding the event, please contact Emily Chatterjee at echatterjee@acslaw.org.

VOTING RIGHTS NEWS

VOTER IDENTIFICATION

Washington, D.C. - ACS has distributed an issue brief by Carrie Apfel, Associate at Jenner & Block, entitled "The Pitfalls of Voter Identification Laws in a Post-Crawford World." In this issue brief, Apfel analyzes the Supreme Court's fractured decision in *Crawford v. Marion County Election Board*, which upheld Indiana's voter photo identification law against a facial challenge, and the merits of such laws in the case's aftermath. Apfel notes that the decision does not insulate voter photo identification laws from legal challenge; indeed, "Crawford practically invites voter to attack these laws as they are applied in upcoming elections." Apfel cautions that these laws continue to disenfranchise many people, and disproportionately those who are poor or elderly or have disabilities. Read the issue brief here:

<http://www.acslaw.org/node/6715>

YOUTH VOTING BILL

Rhode Island - Youth voting bill passes legislature. Read the bill here:

<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us//BillText08/SenateText08/S2081.pdf>

VOTING BY MAIL

Pennsylvania - All Pennsylvanians will be able to vote by mail someday if a ranking lawmaker has her way. http://www.eveningsun.com/ci_9593851

ENGLISH-ONLY BALLOTS

Indiana - Federal election ballots would only be printed in English if a bill co-sponsored by a northern Indiana congressman becomes law. But critics say even though immigrants need to know basic English to become a citizen and get the right to vote, the language on a ballot is more complicated, making the law unreasonable to a large number of people.

<http://www.southbendtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080612/News01/806120320/1052/News01>

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

NEW BILLS

H.R. 6240 : To change the date for regularly scheduled Federal elections and establish polling place hours.

Sponsor: *Rep Israel, Steve* [NY-2] (introduced 6/11/2008) **Cosponsors** (None)

Committees: House Administration

Latest Major Action: 6/11/2008 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on House Administration

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 first African American to be elected to the U.S. Senate?

Extra credit: When was he elected and from what state? Bonus Points: What senator did he replace?

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Who were the last two Presidents to be combat veterans?

ANSWER

Harry S. Truman and John F. Kennedy were the last two Presidents that were combat veterans. We did not have any correct responses last week. Good Luck this week.

JOBS

Office: House Appropriations Committee Democrat

Position: Legislative Director

Contact: Please email cover letter, resume, salary history, references, and writing sample to house.ldjob@mail.house.gov. No calls, drop-ins, or faxes please.

Description: Appropriations Committee Democrat looking for an experienced individual to serve as Legislative Director to manage the legislative agenda.

Candidates must have at least 3 years of legislative experience, expertise in a variety of issue areas, in-depth knowledge of legislative and appropriations processes, excellent writing, editing and interpersonal skills, and the ability to effectively manage other staff. Professional degree (JD, MBA, et cetera) preferred.

Office: First Focus

Position: Assistant Director of Policy Research

Contact: To apply for this opportunity, please submit a cover letter outlining your interest in the position and a recent copy of your resume. Submit to Kim Huckabone, Sr. VP Human Resources at careers@americaspromise.org EOE

Description: The Assistant Director Policy Research will be responsible for analytic support and research; tracking, preparation of written materials and briefings; and other substantive monitoring of specific issues as assigned. The Director will Monitor trends and issues affecting children and families; assist in providing analysis in preparing reports; fact sheets; position papers; testimony; and other materials. As well as assisting in the production and dissemination of tool kits; background information; resource guides; and other materials developed by the team. Provide overall support; resources; information and guidance to federal government relations and advocacy groups; allied organizations and individuals, the public and internal staff. ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS: researches and analyzes a variety of policy issues regarding children and families (e.g. health, education, and federal budgetary issues). Advocates First Focus positions in meetings with key Congressional staff and leadership. Responds to phone and e-mail inquiries about the policy work of the organization. Interacts with the staff of America's Promise and First Focus, community leaders, elected officials (and members of their staff) in person, by telephone or

through correspondence. Prepares briefing materials, fact sheets, reports and other documents. Attends and report to leadership team on congressional hearings, briefings, meetings, and other events related to the work of the organization. Provides assistance to the policy staff in all areas Helps keep First Focus website updated with latest policy resources and materials

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 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.

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