



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

TONIGHT* STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING *TONIGHT

Please join us for our next steering committee at the DNC headquarters tonight. The agenda will focus on General Election plans, near-term projects, and **feature principals from the Obama for America/Democratic election protection operation.**

When: Tuesday, July 15, 2008, 7:00 p.m.

Where: Democratic National Committee Headquarters, 430 S. Capitol St., SE Capitol South Metro (blue and orange lines), limited street parking

All Democratic lawyers committed to voting rights are welcome!

If you haven't already done so, please let us know if you plan on attending by dropping a note to Erika Moritsugu at erika@democraticlawyers.org.

VOTING RIGHTS NEWS

VOTERS ABROAD

National - Millions of Americans abroad, including about 175,000 troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, face chronic timing and technological problems if they try to vote in this fall's presidential election. Troubles that caused low turnout in the past will be compounded by 11 late state-office primaries in September or October, which delays mailing absentee ballots. Efforts to expand electronic voting have slowed because of

privacy concerns. Details can be found here:.

http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-07-10-voters-abroad_N.htm?loc=interstitialskip

VOTER REGISTRATION

National - The Department of Veterans Affairs should lift its ban on voter registration drives at its hospitals, clinics and homes to allow nonpartisan groups to help vets sign up, three Democratic senators and 10 secretaries of state said Thursday. In a letter to VA Secretary James B. Peake, the senators said the agency should be proactive in helping nonpartisan groups register voters rather than hindering veterans from participating in the electoral process. Read more here:

http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2008-07-10-va-drives_N.htm

VOTING AND REGISTRATION

National - The Census Bureau released a report on who voted and who registered in the 2006 election. The report finds that 48% of voting age Americans voted. Bad as that sounds, it was the highest number since 1994. Almost 20% of voters voted prior to Election Day. Of the people who didn't register, 14% said that they missed the deadline. Dive into the statistical details here:

(<http://www.census.gov/prod/2008pubs/p20-557.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

On what date were the first signatures placed on the Declaration of Independence?

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

True or False? John Trumbull's painting "The Declaration of Independence" depicts the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4th, 1776?

ANSWER

False. John Trumbull's painting "The Declaration of Independence" is often incorrectly identified as a depiction of the signing of the Declaration, but it actually shows the drafting committee presenting its work to the Congress on July 2, 1776. We had a correct answer from Mac Campbell. Congrats Mac!

JOBS

Office: Fair Elections Legal Network

Position: Staff Attorney

Contact: Please send cover letter, salary requirements and resume to:

kneuman@fairelectionsnetwork.com

Description: The Fair Elections Legal Network, (FELN), a national nonpartisan network of experienced election lawyers who work to increase voter participation among traditionally under participating constituencies, seeks an experienced lawyer with organizing and/or campaign experience to serve as a staff attorney. The position is temporary through December 31, 2008 with the potential to be permanent depending on funding. Responsibilities will include 1) Outreach to and working with voter mobilization, registration and other progressive organizations to identify barriers to voter participation and identify and promote collaborative approaches to bring about reforms; 2) identifying and promoting collaborative appropriate approaches between FELN and FELN network lawyers to address restrictive laws and practices; 3) legal research, analysis and writing to support FELN legal work and administrative reform initiatives. This position requires someone who is a responsible self-starter with good time management skills and who is comfortable handling numerous ongoing tasks. Must also possess a demonstrated ability to handle significant responsibility, meet deadlines, achieve measurable results and enjoy working as part of a team in a fast-paced, collegial environment. Excellent interpersonal skills, strong legal skills required.

Office: The Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees and Border Security of the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary

Position: Legal intern, for the fall 2008 semester

Contact: To apply, please email a cover letter, resume and a writing sample to

Teresa_Gutierrez@Judiciary-dem.senate.gov

Description: The Legal intern will engage in a range of activities, including but not exclusive to: Attending hearings, meetings, briefings, and press conferences; Reporting to staff on topics discussed during hearings and briefings; Conducting legislative and policy research; Drafting constituent correspondence and staff memos; Other projects or assignments as needed; Occasional answering phones and addressing callers' concerns and questions; Occasional copying, filing, and delivering documents. Successful candidates will be enrolled in law school.

Office: The Congressional Research Service (CRS)

Position: Research Manager for the Middle East and Africa Section within the Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division

Contact: Interested applicants must apply online (preferred) at

<http://www.loc.gov/crsinfo> or call (202) 707-5627 to request an applicant job kit.

Please refer to vacancy number #008192 in all correspondence. Applications must be received by August 6, 2008

Description: Duties include ensuring that the work results in objective, authoritative analysis with which the Congress can assess the consequences of legislative/ policy options; monitoring congressional requests, concerns and needs in policy areas within the research management responsibility of the section; collaborating with other managers to ensure an integrative approach to the work by fully identifying significant policy problems facing the Congress, developing analytical approaches to address these problems and applying appropriate resources; and performing special assignments as directed by the Assistant/Deputy Assistant Director. Candidates with research and research management experience in issues covered by the Middle East and Africa Section, who have strong interpersonal skills, and are capable of leading a highly motivated and talented research staff committed to providing Congress the highest level of nonpartisan, authoritative, objective policy analysis are encouraged to apply. This position is being offered at the GS-15 level (\$115,317-\$149, 000) with an enhanced performance- based award system.

Office: Texas Civil Rights Project Economic Justice

Position: Attorney

Contact: Resume, references, writing sample and letter of introduction to Trish Kelly, Texas Civil Rights Project, 1405 Montopolis Drive, Austin, TX 78741 (fax: 512-474-0726)

Description: Primary Duties - Litigate cases; conduct discovery, including written discovery and depositions; handle settlement negotiations, mediations, motions, court hearings, trials and all other aspects of civil litigation; assist in supervision of law clerks; conduct weekly legal meetings to advise staff of status of cases and consult regarding intake of cases. Partner with community groups to educate workers regarding their rights and participate in organizing efforts to empower workers. Community lawyering with a focus on workers' rights. Qualifications - Licensed attorney. Legal experience. Salary \$36,000-\$45,000/year, depending on experience, etc., plus medical and retirement. Must be bilingual (proficient in writing, speaking,

and comprehending Spanish). Organizing experience a plus. Ability to do word processing. Casual work environment.

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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