



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.

HELP WANTED

ELECTION PROTECTION 2008

Democratic General Election plans are in full swing at headquarters and in the states. The DNC is finalizing its national online lawyers intake form, where Democratic lawyers will have the opportunity to let us know what your interests are for the longer-term and any assignments in the field. We will circulate that link as soon as it's available. In the meantime, we have volunteer opportunities available **now** with respect to:

- Legal Research
- Virginia Voter Promotion and Protection
- Washington D.C. Voter Promotion and Protection
- National Task Forces focused on historically disenfranchised communities
- National Working Groups focused on cross-cutting operational and strategic issues

If you have some time and want to pitch in, please e-mail Erika Moritsugu at erika@democraticlawyers.org and with "2008 General Election" in the subject line and indicate your preferred activity.

EVENTS

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, visit <http://www.democraticgovernors.org/page/s/dgadnclawyers>.

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.

VOTING RIGHTS NEWS

VOTING ON THE WEEKEND

National - Rep. Israel submitted legislation in June that would switch voting for federal elections from Tuesday to Saturday and Sunday - an update to a law that has not been changed in 163 years. If passed, weekend voting could begin as soon as the 2010 midterm elections.

<http://www.newsday.com/services/newspaper/printedition/friday/nation/ny-usvote185767922jul18,0,2266015.story>

PAPER BALLOTS

National -The House defeated a bill Tuesday to authorize up to \$75 million to pay for backup paper ballots in the November elections. The bill (HR 5803), sponsored by Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), was brought up under suspension of the rules, which requires a two-

thirds vote for passage. The vote of 248-170 fell short of that.

<http://www.cqpolitics.com/wmspage.cfm?parm1=2&docID=news-000002917900>

POLLING LOCATION

California - CA 2007-08 S 1235: This bill would require notices to be placed at a former polling place location informing voters of the new location even when there is time to mail out a notice of the change of location.

Status: Read a second time in Assembly and put on Consent Calendar on July 15, 2008. http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/07-08/bill/sen/sb_1201-1250/sb_1235_bill_20080214_introduced.html

ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION

Massachusetts - A scaled back version of a bill allowing unregistered voters to both register and vote on Election Day is expected to appear before Senate Debate.

<http://www.metrobostonnews.com/us/article/2008/07/17/03/5732-72/index.xml>

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 last person to sign the Declaration of Independence?

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

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

ANSWER

The first signatures were affixed on August 2, 1776. We did not have any correct answers last week. Good luck this week!!!

JOBS

Office: Microsoft

Position: Policy Counsel

Contact: *Apply Online:*

<http://members.microsoft.com/careers/search/details.aspx?JobID=A0C20EF7-F805-4448-A4AE-2E5E7C7F344A&start=1&interval=10&SortCol=DatePosted&SortOrder=DESC>

Description: The Policy Counsel leads the Washington, D.C. government affairs public policy engagement with United States officials on critical infrastructure protection, cyber, homeland and national security matters, working in concert with legislative, sales and Trustworthy Computing teams. This includes coordinating senior executives' engagement with Congress, the Departments of Homeland Security, Commerce and Justice, and the White House.

The Policy Counsel also leads Washington D.C. efforts around interoperability, open source and standards issues, including procurement preference challenges at the federal level. These efforts include raising awareness about the importance of interoperability as a matter of policy, supporting the concept of technology neutrality in procurement legislation and policies, and addressing standards-related issues and promoting understanding of these issues among government officials and other policy makers, procurement officers, academics and other thought leaders. The Policy Counsel undertakes these efforts in close coordination with internal teams and experts, including the company's National Standards Officer.

External outreach in furtherance of these policy responsibilities includes direct engagement with representatives from other companies and industry associations; relevant U.S. Government and state officials; academics, think tanks and standards and open source community representatives. Direct representation of the company takes place in many fora, including government meetings, conferences, presentations, and industry association meetings.

A full description of responsibilities is available at

<http://members.microsoft.com/careers/search/details.aspx?JobID=A0C20EF7-F805-4448-A4AE-2E5E7C7F344A&start=1&interval=10&SortCol=DatePosted&SortOrder=DESC>.

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

Position: Legal Internship

Contact: Successful candidates will be enrolled in law school, will be hard-working, mature and possess strong writing and communication skills. To apply, please email a cover letter, resume and a writing sample to Teresa_Gutierrez@Judiciary-dem.senate.gov. Please include your availability in your application. Start and end dates are flexible.

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.

Office: Office of Police Complaints (OPC)

Position: Deputy Director

Contact: Please fax a cover letter and resume to (202) 727-7638 or mail to: Deputy Director Vacancy; Office of Police Complaints; 1400 I Street, NW, Suite 700; Washington, DC 20005

Description: Duties include: Supervising the work of agency's investigative unit and reviewing and approving investigative reports. Overseeing OPC's mediation and adjudication programs. Preparing agency annual reports. Supervising and preparing recommendations for police reform for Mayor, District Council, and police department. Serving as a liaison to MPD, other District Government agencies, and the U.S. Attorney's Office. Overseeing finance, budget, personnel, contracting, and facilities work for the agency. Supervising and participating in community outreach and public affairs work. Advising the executive director

Office: University of the District of Columbia (UDC)

Position: Public Interest Program Officer

Contact: Please submit UDC application and résumé to: Ms. Isabelle McMillian; University to the District of Columbia; Office of Human Resources; Building 38, Suite 301; 4200 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20008

Description: Serves as a member of the Dean's senior management team; develops and maintains effective, strong working relationships with faculty and administration. Manages, coordinates and develops the law school's clinical program, internship and summer public interest fellowships, and community service programs.

Facilitates the decision-making process by participating actively in strategic planning implementation (development of new programs, and managing and sustaining continued growth); oversees day-to-day operations and develops operational systems for public interest programs.

Prepares and analyzes reports and projections regarding the impact of strategic plans and other issues for use by the faculty and administration; evaluates effectiveness of the legal service mission of the School of Law.

Develops mission-driven conferences, workshops, symposia, speaker series and other events designed to enhance the school's mission and to enhance the school's

Office: Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs

Position: Attorney

Contact: Interested persons should send a cover letter, resume and writing sample to: Susan E. Huhta, EEO Project Director; Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs; 11 Dupont Circle, N.W., Suite 400; Washington, DC 200036; sue_huhta@washlaw.org

Description: The EEO Project currently is comprised of three attorneys and a legal assistant. The EEO staff attorney has direct responsibility for litigating all aspects of

individual and class action cases, from investigation through settlement or trial. The staff attorney position requires outstanding litigation skills, including strong analytical skills and writing ability. The position requires a minimum of three years of litigation experience. Civil rights/employment law/public interest background preferred. Salary is commensurate with experience.

Office: Advancement Project

Position: temporary, full-time Staff Attorney

Contact: Applicants should submit their resume, a writing sample, and a list of three references to Glendale Clarkson (gclarkson@advancementproject.org or fax 202/728-9558) or mail to: Operations Manager; Advancement Project; 1730 M Street, NW, Suite 910 Washington, DC 20036

Description: The Staff Attorney will be expected to use law, community problem-solving and strategic communications to remove barriers to voter participation and foster structural change toward a racially just democracy. More specifically, the Staff Attorney will: Design and conduct investigations of various voter protection issues, including those related to voter registration; the use of provisional ballots; ID requirements; and polling place staffing and preparation; Litigate, with pro-bono counsel, voting rights lawsuits on behalf of voters and voter registration groups to challenge state laws, practices, or procedures that disenfranchise voters of color; Conduct legal and policy research; Troubleshoot and provide advice on voter registration and participation barriers; Assist with voter registration verification efforts; Attend coalition meetings and meetings with election officials; Train lawyers, voter registration campaigns and advocates on voter protection requirements; Perform Election Day monitoring; Draft voter protection publications, toolkits and other materials for public dissemination to racial justice advocates and for Advancement Project's website; Draft opinion editorials or letters to the editor.

Office: Advancement Project (DC)

Position: Local Voter Protection Advocate for Pennsylvania

Contact: Applicants should send their resume with a list of references and the phrase "PA Local Voter Protection Advocate" in the subject line, to Glendale Clarkson at: gclarkson@advancementproject.org or fax to: (202) 728-9557

Description: The duties of the LVPA include: (1) identifying and organizing community groups and stakeholders into a "Local Voter Protection Coalition;" (2) helping the coalition build relationships with local election officials in order to streamline the registration process and prevent problems; (3) anticipate issues and work to resolve them; (4) working with local groups to encourage adoption of Advancement Project's voter protection model into their voter registration and community voter education activities, including providing technical support to local allies, as needed; and (5) working closely with Advancement Project's legal staff to address and remedy barriers to voter participation.

Office: D.C. Employment Justice Center (EJC)

Position: Managing Attorney

Contact: The application should be sent to Karen Minatelli at the D.C. Employment Justice Center, 727 15th Street, NW, 2nd Floor, Washington, DC 20005. Applications

may be sent by mail, fax or email (information below). No phone calls, please. Email is preferred, but all forms of application will be accepted. kminatelli@dcejc.org.

Description: Responsibilities include managing and training full time staff (including attorney staff), law clerks and an extensive volunteer corps; arranging for and overseeing pro bono referral and representation; litigating employment law cases; conducting and coordinating legal education programming; directing other aspects of the EJC's legal services program; and working in conjunction with the other EJC programs as needed. Limited evening hours are required in order to supervise the Workers' Rights Clinics and to occasionally attend work-related meetings. A J.D. is required, as is at least three years of litigation experience, which must include the practice of employment law. A high level of proficiency or fluency in Spanish is required for the position. Some prior supervisory experience and experience representing low income populations is preferred but not required. Membership in the D.C. bar is required.

Office: Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia

Position: Attorney

Contact: Interested persons should send a letter of interest and resume to khays@legalaiddc.org or by regular mail to: Director, Consumer Law Search; Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia; 1331 H Street, N.W.; Suite 350; Washington, D.C. 20005

Description: The selected attorney will work with the Legal Director and the Executive Director to create a consumer practice. We contemplate that the project will be initially staffed by an experienced and a junior lawyer. These attorneys will focus on a broad range of issues, including consumer credit, preservation of homeownership (foreclosure, deed theft, "rescue" loans, etc.) and other business practices that take assets out of low income communities and families. They will engage in individual representation as well as structural advocacy and impact litigation.

Office: National Senior Citizens Law Center (NSCLC)

Position: PUBLIC POLICY STAFF ATTORNEY

Contact: Send cover letter, résumé, original writing samples, and three professional references to Kuku Smith, ksmith@nsclc.org or send to: NSCLC; 1444 Eye St., NW, Suite 1100; Washington, D.C. 20005.

Description: NSCLC is expanding its Federal Rights Project and seeks an attorney to assist with public policy advocacy. The position, located in Washington, D.C., involves research, analysis, preparation of briefing materials for varied audiences, drafting of articles for electronic or print distribution, participation in policy and legislative advocacy coalitions, and liaison with Congressional staff. The attorney may also assist with the Project's legal advocacy and technical assistance to legal services providers. The position is full-time, but part-time scheduling may be considered.

Office: Office of Career & Professional Development at the American University
Washington College of Law

Position: Career Counselor

Contact: Please submit a resume and cover letter via email to careers@american.edu.; Applicants may address their cover letters to: Traci Mundy Jenkins, Director; Office of Career & Professional Development American University Washington College of Law; 4801 Massachusetts Avenue, NW ;Suite 122 ;Washington, DC 20016

Description: The Career Counselor will provide general career guidance by consulting with students about various practice sectors within the legal profession and law-related careers. This position serves as a liaison to and has extensive interaction with minority law student groups and the Office of Diversity Services. The counselor will also present general workshops and programs on relevant issues and oversee the coordination of a career program for first-year students and an annual mock interview program. In addition, the Career Counselor may develop a specialty in a predetermined practice sector and generate and maintain an extensive network of employers in the specialty sector to aid in the development of internships and post-graduate opportunities.

Office: Kids In Need of Defense (KIND)

Position: Executive Director

Contact: Nominations or applications, including a cover letter, resume, writing sample and 3 references, should be sent to Jodie Zerega (941) 925-0707at jodiezerega@zeregaconsulting.com.

Description: The Executive Director will be based in Washington, D.C., and will have the following responsibilities: Hire, in tandem with the Board of Directors, and oversee a staff of approximately 6 employees at headquarters (HQ) and approximately 12 pro bono coordinators] in the field in their respective functions; Report to the Board of Directors on a quarterly basis; Enhance and help lead KIND's core fundraising, advocacy, communications and pro bono development activities; Oversee all accounting functions consistent with board policies and procedures, and all other applicable rules and guidelines; and Promote KIND's mission and vision in public, policy-making and philanthropic forays.

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

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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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