



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



The effort to promote and protect the vote has begun - and it needs volunteers.

Earlier than ever before, in a more comprehensive fashion than ever before, building on three years of base work and an extensive primary season, we're making sure that **every eligible citizen who wants to vote can, and that the vote will count.**

And, as Bob Bauer's e-mail below says, we need your help, at my.barackobama.com/counselforchange.

If you're a lawyer, or law student, or just want to help protect the vote this year, we want to know.

We'll connect you to trouble spots in the summer and fall, making sure that you're equipped and able to resolve problems before they happen. And on Election Day, we'll have broader coverage than ever, using your talent and energy across the country to safeguard every vote that's cast.

Please sign up, at my.barackobama.com/counselforchange. The information on that form will feed directly into our voter protection efforts in the states.

We look forward to engaging your talents in the months ahead. You are what makes the voter protection program possible.



Real change only happens when new people enter the political process and make their voices heard.

That's why this campaign is launching an unprecedented Voter Protection Program that will fight to promote and defend the voting rights of every American.

Attorneys, law students, and those with legal expertise will be essential in making sure every eligible citizen who wants to vote can vote -- and that their vote is counted.

Find out how you can lend your skills to make sure every voice is heard in this election:

<http://my.barackobama.com/counselforchange>

In 2004, those with legal expertise -- people like you -- were critical to the voter protection effort.

Lawyers and legal professionals made sure that registered voters made it on the rolls and were able to vote. They made sure that ballots were available and polls stayed open. And they helped reassure voters that they would not be intimidated.

Despite our stepped-up efforts, problems persisted -- including deceptive flyers, unnecessary lines, inadequate ballot supplies, and problems with voting machines.

In a year that will likely see unprecedented turnout, we can't afford to let our guard down. The stakes could not be higher. This election has to be different.

That's why the Obama Voter Protection Program has already launched, earlier than ever before, and will be the most comprehensive voter protection program in our nation's history, with counsel in 50 states and a vote protection team on the ground now.

But it won't work without you. Put your legal skills into action and become a vital part of this historic effort:

<http://my.barackobama.com/counselforchange>

Bringing about the change America needs will require all of us doing our part. Your professional expertise makes you indispensable to this effort.

I hope you will join the Obama Voter Protection program and encourage your friends and colleagues to do the same.

Thank you,

Bob

Bob Bauer
General Counsel
Obama for America

VOTING RIGHTS NEWS

ELECTION FRAUD TASK FORCE

Nevada - State and federal authorities on Thursday announced the formation of a task force that will aggressively pursue allegations of election fraud. The secretary of state, attorney general, U.S. attorney's office, and Federal Bureau of Investigation plan to work together as the election approaches and on Election Day to ensure a free and fair election in Nevada, where record turnout is anticipated.

<http://www.lvrj.com/news/26172074.html>

ON-LINE VOTER REGISTRATION

California- Californians may soon be able to use their computers to register to vote and they can thank the state Department of Motor Vehicles for the chance. The bill to allow online registration, SB381, co-authored by state Sen. Ron Calderon, D-Montebello, has rolled through the state Senate with few complaints and awaits final approval by the Assembly before going to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/07/30/BA1A121GMG.DTL>

VOTER REGISTRATION

Massachusetts - It took state Sen. Edward M. Augustus Jr. four years as chairman of the Senate Elections Committee to get the Senate to pass a bill that would allow new voters and those whose registrations have lapsed to register and vote on Election Day starting this fall.

<http://www.telegram.com/article/20080730/NEWS/807300418/1116>

VOTER SUPPRESSION

Virginia - In an editorial, the *Washington Post* describes the latest GOP voter suppression tactics as used in Virginia. First discussed is “the use of the baseless charge of “coordinated and widespread voter fraud . . . throughout Virginia.” Of course the charge of widespread voter fraud is an old friend of the GOP. The editorial goes on to describe a warning of identity theft through registration fraud. Read the editorial here:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/03/AR2008080301430.html?hpid=opinionsbox1>

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

NEW LEGISLATION

H.R.6625

Title: To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to permit facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs to be designated as voter registration agencies, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: *Rep Brady, Robert A.* [PA-1] (introduced 7/29/2008) *Cosponsors (37)*

Latest Major Action: 7/30/2008 House committee/subcommittee actions. Status: Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Voice Vote.

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

Leslie Lynch King, Jr., was the birth name of which President?

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Who was the sole recanter of his signature on the Declaration of Independence?

ANSWER

Richard Stockton of New Jersey was captured in the middle of the night and taken prisoner specifically because he was a signer of the Declaration. Stockton also had the singular misfortune of being the only recanter of the oath to support the Declaration of Independence with "our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor." Under duress of harsh British confinement, Stockton recanted his signature on the Declaration and declared his allegiance to the King George III before he was released. Stockton's ordeal didn't end there: his estate was taken by the British army during his absence, and all of his household belongings were taken or destroyed. The imprisonment not only broke Stockton's mind and spirit, but also ruined his health - it took him years to fully recuperate. Before he died, Stockton re-affirmed his oath of allegiance to the United States. We did not have any correct answers last week. Good luck this week.

JOBS

Office: Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute

Position: General Counsel

Contact: Accepting submissions and proposals for this position between August 1 and September 15, 2008. Interested firms and individuals should contact CHCI COO Carmen Joge at 202-548-5868 or cjoge@chci.org for more details.

Description: The Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI) seeks proposals from firms and individuals to serve on our Board of Directors in the position of General Counsel. Summary of Major Requirements: · Full service legal firm, with strong nonprofit practice, to assign lawyer to serve on our board on a pro-bono basis. · Firm with individuals experienced in house/senate ethics, Sarbanes-Oxley, board governance, non-profit, tax, employment, and political law. · Strong familiarity with parliamentary procedures and rules · Pro-bono services and reasonable fee schedule for services above and beyond board service and basic requirements.

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.

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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