



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

OBAMA VOTER PROTECTION PROGRAM - JOIN TODAY!

A special thank you and welcome to the HUNDREDS of volunteers from DC who have already signed up to help out in DC, Virginia, and the battleground states!



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.**

If you haven't already done so, please sign up at my.barackobama.com/counselforchange and encourage every Democratic lawyer that

you know to sign up too. The information on that form will feed directly into our voter protection efforts in the states.

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.

VOTING RIGHTS NEWS

VOTER IDENTIFICATION

Arizona - A federal judge Wednesday upheld the legality of Arizona's law requiring that residents show proof of citizenship in registering to vote and ID at the polls. U.S. District Judge Roslyn Silver rejected claims by Latino and Native American advocacy groups that the law - known as Proposition 200 and passed by state voters in 2004 - constitutes a poll tax and disproportionately impacts minority voting. Read the ruling here:

<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/local/articles/2008/08/21/20080821B1-talker0821.html>

VOTING RIGHTS FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL

New Jersey - Governor Jon S. Corzine signed legislation to expand voting rights for military personnel and New Jersey citizens overseas to include state and local elections. Previously overseas voters, including military personnel, could only vote by overseas absentee ballot in federal elections. This new legislation corrects a fundamental flaw in the law and will now allow for greater participation in the electoral process. Details can be found here:

http://www.southjerseylocalnews.com/WebApp/appmanager/JRC/Weekly;!-1170456366?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=pg_wk_article&r21.pgpath=%2FSJL%2FNews%2FHaddon+Herald&r21.content=%2FSJL%2FNews%2FHaddon+Herald%2FTopStoryList_Story_2405771

U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS- NEW HIRE

Washington, DC -Democratic critics say Hans A. von Spakovsky is an odd fit for his new job at the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Von Spakovsky, a former Justice Department official who pushed for the approval of a Georgia voter identification law that critics claimed made it difficult for poor people and the elderly to vote, was hired in July as a special assistant for the commission. Read more here:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/21/AR2008082103607.html>

NON-CITIZEN VOTING

In a recent segment, CNN anchor Lou Dobbs told viewers that substantial evidence suggests that large numbers of non-citizens, including undocumented immigrants, are voting in federal elections and could be the deciding factor in November's elections. The story primarily cites a recent report published by the Heritage Foundation. Read the rebuttal here:

<http://www.truthinimmigration.org/CompleteStory.aspx?sid=85>

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

Which President won a Pulitzer Prize?

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Who was the first President to visit Canada while in office?

ANSWER

Harding was the first president to visit Canada. He stopped in Vancouver on his way to Alaska. He was also the first president to visit Alaska. We did not have any correct answers last week. Good Luck this week.

JOBS

Office: WellPoint Health Policy Director

Position: Health Policy Director

Contact: Apply on line at

<http://www.careersatwellpoint.com/JobDescription.aspx?Identifier=36107>

Description: The Health Policy Director is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the impact of proposed state and federal legislation and regulations on all business aspects of the company.

Requires a BA/BS degree in public policy, public health, economics, statistics, or a related field; 8 years of experience including 3 years of work in health policy development and advocating for policy change in a complex environment; or any combination of education and experience that would provide an equivalent background. Master's degree preferred. Demonstrated leadership skills and knowledge of current policy issues in one or more of the following areas strongly preferred: managed care, public health infrastructure, state health policy, health care reimbursement issues, mental health/substance abuse, maternal and child health, disability, long-term care, or other relevant areas.

Office: The American Prospect

Position: President and Publisher

Contact: To Apply: Send resume and cover letter (including salary expectations) to jobs@prospect.org, or to The American Prospect, Attn. Joby Gelbspan, 1710 Rhode Island Ave NW, 12th floor, Washington DC 20036. Serious candidates will be asked to provide three references.

Description: The American Prospect is seeking a dynamic and ambitious President & Publisher for our magazine, web site and blog. The President & Publisher provides overall vision and leadership for the organization, overseeing the senior members of both our editorial and business operations, and reporting directly to the Board of Directors. The President & Publisher will be joining us at a unique period of growth, as we approach our twentieth anniversary of publication and chart our course for the coming decades. Key aspects of the role will include:

- Providing the leadership and vision to drive our momentum.
- Communicating the strategic vision of the organization effectively, both internally and externally.
- Driving our Development efforts, with support from staff and allies, to ensure continued contributions and operating funds.
- Building a business team to drive the growth of earned revenue (subscriptions, ads, royalties, etc.) in the coming years.
- Promoting an open, inclusive environment that emphasizes results while encouraging cooperation and teamwork.

This is a full-time position with competitive pay and benefits package, based in downtown Washington, DC with limited travel.

If you know of a legal or other position of interest 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 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 LeGeys (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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