



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

VA-DC-MD LAWYERS AND LAW STUDENTS -
WE NEED YOU ON ELECTION DAY!!!



Change only happens when people enter the political process and make their voices heard. Senator Barack Obama's Campaign for Change in Virginia is assembling a legion of attorneys and law students to help promote and protect the rights of each and every voter in the Commonwealth on Election Day, November 4th. You are invited to be a part of this historic effort. Please put your legal skills to work for change on the front lines of a battleground state by clicking on <http://my.barackobama.com/counselforchange>.

DC TO VA VICTORY TEAMS

The Virginia Campaign for Change, D.C. for Obama, YLFO, and others are teaming up to get volunteers down to Virginia to canvass between now and Election Day. This race will be close, and we need to do all we can to turn Virginia blue. We have seven teams focusing on different areas in Northern Virginia. Teams will get to know a precinct and make repeat visits to one area. To join, please visit http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=001mq1M0U_4cwZalYOZXlJ2xOeMFiRRJFVcsf-CrqZDYm2I1knpvKC8HLv3pWWXTXwbgt7MM4jO3OsMi62Q7htBrEhy1SLMfJuA50BRTUiUJTw4ACnOZJwYXMfusjAW6AJ1jyK6MSC8rHpbO-zZEzT484ugsnFGSAye .

Also, if you would like to help fund this program through a pledge of an in-kind contribution to go towards buses or vans, please contact Adam Barr (albarr@gmail.com).

YLFO



POLL MONITOR CALLS

We will be assisting the campaign by calling attorneys in swing states to encourage them to volunteer to be poll monitors. This will involve a commitment of 2-3 hours of calls over the span of a week. Please contact Jamie at jamiemlong@gmail.com if interested.

BUS TRIP TO WINCHESTER - SAT. 9/20

DC for Obama is sponsoring a bus trip to register and identify Obama supporters in the heart of Virginia. We'll be headed to the Winchester area Saturday September 20th at 7:30 am at the corner of Mass Ave NW and 21st St NW, and return that evening. To register go to: <http://dc2va2.eventbrite.com/>. Please consider a minimum donation of \$10 to cover the bus and gas costs.

PHONE BANKING

We are starting a phone banking effort in D.C. and are looking for volunteers to help organize the effort and spaces to hold phone banks, such as offices. Please email Tree Martschink at treemartschink@gmail.com if interested.

EVENTS

ERIC HOLDER EVENT AT BLT STEAK - WED. SEPT. 17

- Who:** Young Lawyers for Obama
- What:** Event with Eric Holder, former Deputy Attorney General and Co-Chair of the Obama campaign's VP search committee and entertainment by the terrific band No Second Troy
- Where:** BLT Steak Rooftop Deck, 1625 I St NW
- When:** Wednesday, Sept. 17, 7:00 pm general reception; 6:00 pm VIP reception

RSVP and donate at

<https://donate.barackobama.com/page/contribute/YLFO?custom1=Sep+17+Holder+Event%20>.

Contribution: ticket: \$150; VIP session with Eric Holder: \$250; students: \$50

Hosts: Raise or write \$750; committee still in formation! Please contact Eric (ericharen@gmail.com) to host.

ANTITRUST EVENT - THURS. SEPT. 18

- Who:** Einer Elhauge, Robert Pitofsky, and Jodie Bernstein
- What:** Come for an enlightening seminar on what antitrust and consumer protection enforcement might look in an Obama administration.
- Where:** Jones Day, 51 Louisiana Avenue, NW
- When:** Wednesday, September 25 at 7 pm.

Contribution: 500 for partners/principals/VPs/SVPs/of counsel; \$250 for young lawyers and economists; \$150 for government/academic lawyers and economists.

Contribute here:

<https://donate.barackobama.com/page/contribute/DCSept18?custom1>

VALERIE JARRETT EVENT - FRI. SEPT. 19

Who: Young Professionals mingling with Obama Campaign advisors, including senior advisor Valerie Jarrett.

Where: 3303 Water Street in Georgetown, roof top deck with a Potomac view

When: Friday, September 19 from 7-9:00 p.m.

Contribution: \$1,000; Contact David Tafuri (dtafari@pattonboggs.com) to RSVP.

JUDGE PATRICIA WALD - THURS. SEPT. 25

Who: Join esteemed jurist and Obama supporter Judge Patricia Wald, former chief judge of the D.C. Circuit, for a cocktail reception to benefit the campaign.

Where: Jones Day, 51 Louisiana Avenue, NW

When: Wednesday, September 25 at 7 pm.

Contribution: Ticket: \$150; Hosts: raise or write \$750. Please contact Neena (obama08neena@gmail.com) if you are interested in hosting or to RSVP

VOTING RIGHTS NEWS

STUDENT VOTING GUIDE

National - The Brennan Center's Legal Guide to Student Voting is up and running. This clickable map is designed to help college students navigate confusing and misleading registration and voting laws. Details can be found here:

<http://www.brennancenter.org/studentvoting>

NO MATCH-NO VOTE

Florida - Today, voting rights advocates expressed alarm over the Secretary of State's September 8th decision to enforce the state's "no-match, no-vote" law, a voter registration law that previously blocked more than 16,000 eligible Florida citizens

from registering to vote, through no fault of their own, and could disenfranchise tens of thousands more voters in November. Read the story here:

http://www.brennancenter.org/content/resource/florida_to_enforce_restrictive_no_match_no_vote/

BALLOT TRICKS

Mississippi - Mississippi's governor, Haley Barbour (R), and secretary of state have come up with a particularly cynical dirty trick for the November election. Let's call it: "Where's the Senate race?" Defying state law, they have decided to hide a hard-fought race for the United States Senate at the bottom of the ballot, where they clearly are hoping some voters will overlook it. Their proposed design is not only illegal. It shows a deep contempt for Mississippi's voters. Read more here:

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/11/opinion/11thu1.html?_r=1&ref=opinion&oref=

VA'S ABOUT FACE

Washington, DC - U.S. Senators Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), and John Kerry (D-MA), co-sponsors of the Veterans Voter Support Act (S. 3308), today called the latest directive handed down by the Veterans Health Administration an important step forward in providing voter registration access to veterans in the Department's care.. The new directive, the third handed down by the VA in four months, stops short of designating appropriate VA facilities as voter registration agencies. However, the directive reverses a ban on voter registration drives at VA facilities, and allows election officials and nonpartisan groups to provide voter registration services and nonpartisan voter information - all of which Senators Feinstein and Kerry had requested. Read about the about face here:

http://feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=NewsRoom.PressReleases&ContentRecord_id=47474fa3-ac1e-ed4f-789a-4c414e8fae5c&Region_id=&Issue_id=

ELECTION LAW PROJECT

National - A major new election law project has been published by the OSU Moritz College of Law. The project features an interactive web chart and database that allows the user to perform side-by-side comparisons of 44 critical legal questions across 17 key states. The project also allows the user to access the same information in a more visual way by viewing 44 interactive US maps that are color coded to facilitate analysis and discussion. Finally, the project includes an interactive map that allows the user to see our analysis of the states most likely to experience election-related litigation prior to November. All of these maps and charts allow the user to see more detailed factual and legal research, including citations, by clicking through to the heart of their database:

<http://moritzlaw.osu.edu/electionlaw/maps/maps.php?ID=63>

The executive summary of the project may be found at:

<http://moritzlaw.osu.edu/electionlaw/maps/documents/50QsforExecutiveSummarywithlinks.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

William Jefferson Clinton's name contains the last names of two vice presidents. Under which Presidents did they serve?

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

As we all know regardless of who wins the Presidential Election this year, a sitting Senator will be elected. Who was the first sitting Senator to be elected President? For an extra Attagirl or Attaboy: why is it necessary to add "sitting Senator" to the question?

ANSWER

Warren Harding was the first “sitting” Senator to be elected President. It is necessary to add “sitting” for the following reason: On January 13, 1880, the Ohio legislature appointed James A. Garfield, who was then a Congressman from Ohio, to the U.S. Senate beginning March 4, 1881 (at that time, Senators were elected by state legislatures rather than directly by the citizens). He won the Presidential election on November 2, so on that date he was at once Congressman, Senator, and President-elect. Garfield accepted the Presidential election and soon relinquished the other offices. He never actually sat in the Senate seat. We had a correct answer from Gabriel Acevedo. Congratulations Gabriel! Good Luck this week.

JOBS

Office: Democratic Member of the Senate Finance Committee

Position: Legislative Fellow for Trade

Contact: Please e-mail resume and cover letter to senate_employment@saa.senate.gov indicating job referral number 091604 in the subject line.

Description: Democratic Member of the Senate Finance Committee seeks highly motivated individual for an unpaid Legislative Fellow position to cover Trade Issues. Responsibilities include managing and completing legislative work in assigned issue areas, preparing materials for meetings, briefings, and hearings, advising the Senator on substantive and political information related to legislation, representing the Senator at events and in constituent meetings, and working with Chief of Staff and Legislative Director to strategically accomplish the Senator’s goals. Qualified candidates must be knowledgeable in trade, be well organized, resourceful, and able to meet deadlines in a fast-paced, changing environment.

Office: The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom

Position: General Counsel

Contact: Candidates are encouraged to send or fax a cover letter, a resume, a writing sample and three references to: administration@uscirf.gov or to Jacqueline Mitchell, United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, 800 North Capitol St., NW, Suite 790, Washington, DC20002. Fax: 202-523-5020. For more information, please visit www.uscirf.gov

Description: The General Counsel position requires excellent interpersonal skills, the ability to produce polished written product, management ability, high level analytical thinking, and the ability to work effectively in a balanced, bipartisan manner. Further, the position requires outstanding legal skills and an interest and knowledge of international human rights institutions and instruments.

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 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.

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???

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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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