



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.

LAWYERS NEEDED IN VIRGINIA!!!



Are you interested in helping to get Creigh Deeds, Jody Wagner and Steve Shannon elected, as well as local candidates in the 2009 Election in Virginia? Promote & Protect the Vote 2009 (P2TV) is recruiting volunteer attorneys and law students to monitor targeted precinct polling places across the Commonwealth on Election Day, November 3, 2009, and to canvass the vote the day after Election Day, November 4, 2009.

P2TV is a program aimed at promoting fair elections and protecting voters from election law violations in Virginia. Experience has shown that an effective voter protection program and vote canvass can change the outcome of an election.

As a member of the D.C. Democratic Lawyers Council, you can help protect the votes of Virginians and make a meaningful impact in communities around Virginia by volunteering with P2TV on one or both days. Virginia Bar membership is not required to volunteer but it is a plus.

If you are interested in helping, please go to <http://www.vademocrats.org/page/s/promotethevote09> and sign up to volunteer.

If you have questions about the program or volunteer, opportunities please contact Kristina Perry, Promote & Protect the Vote Coordinator, by email at kperry@vavictory09.org or by phone at (804) 644-1966 ext. 241.

P2TV began in Virginia in 2001 and has continued to expand and grow each year. This program is only effective because of the participation of passionate members of the legal community.

Thank you for your support in helping to keep Virginia moving forward.

EVENTS

DEMOCRATIC LAWYERS' HAPPY HOUR - WEDNESDAY OCT. 7

Please join your fellow Democratic lawyers for a cocktails and camaraderie on **Wednesday, October 7**. The DNC voter protection team and Virginia's Promote and Protect the Vote Coordinator will join us to discuss national and local activities and ways we can stay involved... **This is especially important in advance of the critical Governors race across the River!**

- Who:** Democratic lawyers in the DC-metro area committed to the expansion and protection of voting rights and the election of Democratic candidates
- What:** No-host happy hours with friends (old and new) plus the opportunity to meet with DNC and Virginia campaign officials to learn about volunteer opportunities to promote and protect the vote
- Where:** *Lounge 201*, 201 Massachusetts Avenue, NE
(nearest metro: Union Station)
- When:** Wednesday, October 7, 6:00 p.m.
- RSVP:** Please let us know if you can join us by sending an e-mail to erika@democraticlawyers.org.

I AM DC ADVOCACY DAY

Join DC Vote Coalition and members of the DC Democratic Party on Monday, October 5 from 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM at the Cannon Caucus Room, Cannon House Office Building 345, for I Am DC Advocacy Day. We will be dropping off post cards from DC residents demanding the vote while urging Congress to pass the DC Voting Rights Act (H.R.157) without harmful amendments. We need your support! Please bring a group to the event, post the event information on your Web site or sign up to lead a team of volunteers at the event.

SIGN UP HERE: <http://dcvote.org/iamdc/index.cfm> or

Download the printable flyer here:

http://www.dcvote.org/pdfs/IAmDCFullPageFlyer_FINAL.pdf

If you have any questions or would like to commit to take a specific action for this event, please contact Jennifer Matson, Public Affairs Associate at jmatson@dcvote.org or 202.462.6000 x18

MAKING DC ELECTIONS ACCESSIBLE AND ACCOUNTABLE

Who: District of Columbia Affairs Section

What: Making DC Elections Accessible and Accountable:
Bill 18-345, the "The Omnibus Elections Reform Act of 2009"

Where: Wiley Rein, 1776 K Street, NW (Farragut North Metro Station)

When: Friday, October 16, 2009 from 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM

Speakers: Mary Cheh (D-Ward 3), Chair, Committee on Government Operations and
Eric Marshall, Campaign Manager, National Campaign for Fair Elections,
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law's Voting Rights Project

Cost : Free; Please bring a bag lunch.

RSVP: Sally Kram at skram@consortium.org

VOTING RIGHTS NEWS

BACK TO 60

Massachusetts - With the Appointment of Paul G. Kirk, Jr., Senate Democrats are back to sixty votes. New Senator Paul Kirk has spent most of his life in politics, rising from Senate aide to Democratic National Committee chairman and later co-chairing the Commission on Presidential Debates. But he has kept himself outside the spotlight and is known as a calm and cautious strategist. An associate of Kirk's told The New York Times in 1985: "Behind that quiet exterior is a quiet interior." Read more here: <http://www.cqpolitics.com/wmspage.cfm?docID=news-000003210002>

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

Washington, DC – In a recent *New York Times* article, deadlocked decisions by the FEC were discussed. In particular, a study by the Congressional Research Service published last month found that the commission deadlocked on roughly 13 percent of contested enforcement cases closed from July 2008 to June 2009. Read the article here:

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/27/us/politics/27elect.html?_r=3

VOTER IDENTIFICATION

Jackson, MS - An election that would allow Mississippi voters to decide whether they should show identification at the polls appears unlikely for at least another two years. Republicans pushing the voter ID initiative must beat an Oct. 7 deadline to gather and verify around 90,000 signatures for it to be put on the 2010 ballot. Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann told lawmakers Tuesday that his office has verified almost 19,000 signatures, and said it's more likely that the issue would be on the 2011 ballot. Read the details here:

<http://www.clarionledger.com/article/20090923/NEWS/909230355/1001/news>

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](mailto: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 spent the shortest time in retirement?

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Which President as a boy visited another President only to be told [he] should never become the president?

ANSWER

As a boy, Franklin Roosevelt visited President Grover Cleveland and Cleveland told him never to become the president. We did not have any correct answers last week. Good luck this week!

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](mailto:erika@democraticlawyers.org).

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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](mailto:editors@democraticlawyers.org). We reserve the right to use, not use, edit, paraphrase, or otherwise play with your submissions.

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