



*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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

### [DC TO VA: VIRTUAL PHONE BANK](#)

[Please see note below from the ED of the DC Democratic Party]

Dear DC Democrats,

I have always believed that one person can make positive change and together we can change the world. That is why I am writing about the urgency for you to assist our neighbors in Virginia's crucial November 3rd election by canvassing door to door, volunteering at a campaign headquarters or by placing calls to VA voters from the comforts of your home.

The Virginia Coordinated Campaign, VAVictory09 has created a virtual online phone bank operation where you can support the Democratic ticket. By identifying supporters, we can guarantee a strong Democratic turnout.

<http://portal.vavictory09.org/>

Your participation can help "keep Virginia Blue" and ensure that President Barack Obama will continue to have partners to advance his plans to bring change to our Nation.

Each person interested in making calls must first have a user name and password assigned to them to access the website. Please contact me for this information.

Contact: David Meadows

Phone: 202-714-3368

Email: [dcdemocrats@verizon.net](mailto:dcdemocrats@verizon.net)

## VOTING RIGHTS NEWS

### [NEW JERSEY VOTE BY MAIL](#)

Trenton, NJ - New Jersey voters are marking ballots for the Nov. 3 election now in the comfort of their homes. Under the state's new "vote-by-mail" law, registered voters can request a mail-in ballot for next month's gubernatorial election - and for

November elections in years to come, if they choose. Ballots have been available since late September, state officials said, but mail-in votes won't be counted until the morning of Election Day - by hand or electronic scanner, depending on the county. Because there is a paper trail, voting by mail is more secure, in some ways, than voting by machine, state Public Advocate Ron Chen said. The new law restricts who can transport completed ballots and how the transporting can be done, which has been an issue in the past with absentee ballots. Read the details here:  
[http://www.philly.com/inquirer/local/nj/20091014\\_N\\_J\\_\\_touts\\_new\\_\\_quot\\_vote-by-mail\\_\\_quot\\_\\_law.html](http://www.philly.com/inquirer/local/nj/20091014_N_J__touts_new__quot_vote-by-mail__quot__law.html)

### VOTING MACHINES

**Washington, DC** - A U.S. Senate committee plans to review potential problems in the sale of an Ohio company's voting-machine unit to its market-leading rival. The review of the Diebold Inc. sale of Premier Election Solutions was announced Friday by Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., head of the Senate Rules and Administration Committee. Read more here:  
<http://www.mansfieldnewsjournal.com/article/20091010/UPDATES01/91010007>

### MILITARY VOTING

**New York**- The U.S. Senate expects to vote on S.1390 on Tuesday, October 20. This is the Defense Authorization Bill, and it includes the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act. The bill, if enacted and signed into law, will require states to mail absentee ballots (in federal elections) to overseas absentee voters no later than 45 days before the general election. Read more here:  
<http://www.ballot-access.org/2009/10/16/u-s-senate-will-vote-on-overseas-voter-empowerment-act-on-October-20/>

## 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

Who is the only person to win two undivided Nobel prizes?  
Bonus: What were the Prizes?

## LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

The Nobel Peace Prize is generally awarded to someone or some group that "*during the preceding year ... shall have done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses*".

What famous American General was award the Nobel Peace Prize?

Bonus: What year did he receive the award?

## ANSWER

General George C. Marshall America's foremost soldier during World War II, served as chief of staff from 1939 to 1945, building and directing the largest army in history. A diplomat, he acted as secretary of state from 1947 to 1949, formulating the "Marshall Plan", an unprecedented program of economic and military aid to foreign nations was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1953. Kevin Kingston correctly identified General Marshall as receiving the Peace Prize in 1953.

## 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).

### READING SOMEONE ELSE'S COPY???

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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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