



Fighting for Voting Rights and a Democratic United States

DEMOCRATIC LAW BRIEFS

A Publication of the DC Chapter of the National Lawyers Council
Volume 5 Issue 42 December 8, 2009

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.

EVENTS

HEALTH CARE RALLY WITH PROGRESSIVE DC GROUPS

Who: Health Care Rally with Progressive DC Groups- Tues. Dec. 8 Join the DC Democratic Party, DC for Obama, MoveOn, the NAACP, the National Physicians Alliance, and many other groups on Tuesday night to rally for health care reform

When: Tues, Dec. 8th, in the evening -- TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED

Where: Upper Senate Park
200 New Jersey Ave

Details: RSVP Today by Clicking here:

http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1102869755817&s=200&e=001wJ07zOXdxPN8zaaOk1tp3ssl445PXDYXKJprtkHdNdptbHuAEgBxr749THl2Gs35JP5oT2oaajTw7oa4Rac2jCtIBxKTJ8vHUajGlcF-j7CSmKnBrNo0WvUstOOLuCaLWZXJcN72c-Ej2zwvF0Da3hDGMGVnOiC9j7dF6LjOQRMtrdB9o_o75IQHD2fD0AToYKnboEobSEtz1SQ9gnhkWA==

GENERATION OBAMA-DC PROGRESSIVE CHARITY HOLIDAY PARTY

What: Low-Dollar Benefit for Children's National Medical Center

When: Tuesday, December 15, from 6-9 PM

Where: Skye Lounge, 1919 Pennsylvania Ave NW (on corner of 19th & I Sts.)

Please bring an unwrapped toy for the Children's National Medical Center's Dr. Bear's Closet or \$5 Suggested Donation

More Info about toy and donation guidelines and volunteering here:

http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1102869755817&s=200&e=001wJ07zOXdxPOihSwSTimglmzaw4jjJUbkzC_vH_oNGhdvX7zOkxqMFeHr7Zh7ClKWTVYxpOJ4IslxpzPn60r03ZzYd13hWJM_jXP6WS23u3HTXg5RnBctdvYH0eVQmo0tHt6egYKG-U9aT_BnVfwjn9VP8wudmeUqQPKl2fe3MMmK8TX9MhvCH5GtOt6PhtGH].

VOTING RIGHTS NEWS

INCREASING THE DIVERSITY OF THE ELECTORATE

National - Two new reports from AEI-Brookings Election Reform group were released last week. The reports discuss how improving representation and increasing access results in an increased diversity of the electorate. Read the reports here:

<http://surveypractice.org/2009/10/17/ca-mail-ballot/>

RNC BID REJECTED BY NJ JUDGE

New Jersey - A federal judge in New Jersey on Tuesday December 1, 2009 rejected an attempt by the Republican National Committee to end nearly three-decade-old restrictions on GOP "ballot security" programs that historically discriminated against minority voters. In a ruling that extended the restrictions for at least another eight years, but also slightly narrowed the consent decree containing them, U.S. District Court Judge Dickinson Debevoise of Newark asserted that "voter intimidation presents an ongoing threat to the participation of minority individuals in the political process." The consent decree stems from a lawsuit brought in the early 1980s in New Jersey by the Democratic National Committee, which accused the Republican National Committee of suppressing minority voters under the guise of guarding against voter fraud, partly by challenging their registrations if mail sent to their residences was returned as undeliverable, and by stationing off-duty police around polling places in minority neighborhoods. Read more here:

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/1209/30082.html>

read the ruling here:

http://www.politico.com/static/PPM116_opinion.html

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

Sixty-eight years ago on December 7, 1941 Japan Attacked the US Naval base in Pearl Harbor, HI. Which of the following is true?

- a. All Hawai'i based battleships were sunk in the attack as they lay at anchor around Ford island.
- b. The US declared war on the Axis Powers on December 8, 1941.
- c. The December 8, 1941 vote in Congress was unanimous.
- d. The official ship of the state of Utah, the USS Utah, rests Ford Island, in Pearl Harbor.
- e. Chief Watertender Peter Tomich from the USS Utah received the *Medal of Honor* posthumously for his selfless act in ensuring the safety of others.

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Who was the one defeated V.P. candidate (i.e. was on a losing Presidential ticket) who later was elected President?

ANSWER

Political parties rarely invite a losing VP to become the Presidential nominee. In fact since the ticket became a dual ticket only Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) who lost the 1920 election as the vice-presidential nominee with James N. Cox to Warren G. Harding, was ever elected to the presidency. He won in a landslide election 12 years later, in 1932, defeating incumbent Herbert Hoover. Thus, if history teaches any lesson, we have nothing to fear from Sarah Palin and her hoard of brain dead followers. We had correct answers from Richard Wilkof, Jeff Wice, James Gibson and Chris Sautter. Congratulations to all of you. 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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Democratic Law Briefs, E-Mail Edition, Volume 5 Number 42

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