



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 by clicking [here](#) or sending an e-mail to erika @ democraticlawyers.org. We'll happily add you to the list.

N.B. **Thanks** to all who turned out to our event last week. If you couldn't make it but want to volunteer for a legal project in the near term, please let us know.

And Happy Birthday, Paul!

VOTING RIGHTS NEWS

JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY

JFK, the thirty-fifth President of the United States, was assassinated on November 22, 1963.

Kennedy called his domestic program the "New Frontier". It ambitiously promised federal funding for education, medical care for the elderly, economic aid to rural regions, and government intervention to halt the recession. Kennedy also promised an end to racial discrimination. Few of Kennedy's major programs passed Congress during his lifetime, although, under his successor Johnson, Congress did vote them through in 1964-65.

THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving or **Thanksgiving Day**, currently celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November in accordance with federal legislation in 1941, has been an annual tradition in the United States by presidential proclamation since 1863 and by state legislation since the Founding Fathers of the United States. Historically, Thanksgiving began as a tradition of celebrating the harvest of the year.

STUDENT VOTING

National – Robert M. Brandon, President of the Fair Elections Legal Network recently published a blog on the Huffington Post describing college and university roles in promoting student voting. FELN's Campus Vote Project, which will be formally launched around January, will work with students and campus administrators to help enact school policies, such as those recently announced by the University of Colorado that will make voting for students more accessible. Read the blog here:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-m-brandon/universities-can-play-a-r_b_1094830.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. 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

In 1828 when Andrew Jackson ran for President what did his opponents label him?

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

In 1872 Susan B. Anthony was arrested and fined for this act. What was her crime?

ANSWER

On November 18, 1872, Anthony was arrested by a U.S. Deputy Marshal for voting in the 1872 Presidential Election two weeks earlier. Lorelie S. Masters correctly answered the question. Congratulations Lorelie!! 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. The lesson learned from the recount debacle in 2000 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 in 2004. 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 to assure that every citizen who showed up to vote, was able to do so.

Since then, our members have been involved in priority federal and state and local elections across the nation. DC DLC members served in volunteer and leadership capacities in support of the election of President Obama and federal, state, and local Democratic candidates in 2008 and volunteered for the 2009 off-year elections and the 2010 midterms.

Please e-mail us at [erika @ democraticlawyers.org](mailto:erika@democraticlawyers.org).

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HELP?

Even if you've been with us since we've been in operation for nearly the past decade (don't do the math - you know what got us started circa 2000!) -- help us out and update your record (or let us know what you are interested in and how we can get in touch with you if you haven't been on our lists).

Please click [here](#). The form takes 20-55 seconds to complete.

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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