



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.

WEDNESDAY: JOIN THE DC DLC & DNC

ONE YEAR 'TIL VICTORY VOTER PROTECTION KICK-OFF TRAINING

**Sponsored by the DC Democratic Lawyers Council,
joined by the Democratic National Committee**

**Wednesday, November 16, 2011
@ 6:30 – 9:00 pm**

**Jenner & Block LLP
1099 New York Ave., NW
Washington, DC**

Click [here](#) to RSVP

Or cut and paste:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/embeddedform?formkey=dGNYd2JadjcyWXVrQVc2bU1UOFpUd2c6MQ>

VETERAN'S DAY 11-11-11

World War I - known at the time as "The Great War" - officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice -- or temporary cessation of hostilities - between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of "the war to end all wars."

Last American Doughboy Passes

Frank Buckles was born on February 1, 1901. At the age of 16, he witnessed the European theatre of World War I, serving in the United States Army as an ambulance driver. In World War II, he became a Prisoner of War in the Philippines and was imprisoned for 39 months. After his return, Frank settled down in West Virginia on his humble farm, where he lived until his death on February 27, 2011, at the age of 110.

Thank you to all those who have served and are serving.

VOTING RIGHTS NEWS

VOTING RIGHTS CHALLENGES

Washington, DC – Senator Bill Nelson is seeking a congressional investigation into whether restrictive new voting laws in more than a dozen states – including Florida – are part of an “orchestrated effort to disenfranchise voters,” according to a letter released Tuesday. The request by the Florida Democrat follows a Brennan Center for Justice report, a watchdog group based in New York City, that found new regulations in 14 states could make it harder for 5 million voters to cast ballots nationwide. Read more here:

http://blogs.orlandosentinel.com/news_politics/2011/11/nelson-calls-for-inquiry-into-voter-law-changes.html

ELECTION MONITORING

Washington, DC - DOJ’s Civil Rights Division monitored elections this November in Alameda County, Calif.; Springfield, Mass.; Humphreys, Leflore, Panola and Wilkinson Counties, Miss.; Lorain County, Ohio; and Jasper, Texas. The monitoring is intended to ensure compliance with the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The Voting Rights Act prohibits discrimination in the election process on the basis of race, color or membership in a minority language group. Read the announcement here:

<http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2011/November/11-crt-1464.html>

EX-FELONS’ VOTING RIGHTS

New York, NY - A *New York Times* editorial discusses the restoration of voting rights after a felony conviction. Read the editorial here:

<http://campaignstops.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/11/07/who-gets-to-vote/?emc=eta1>

MANDATORY VOTING

New York, NY - A *New York Times* editorial discusses mandatory voting. Read the editorial here

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/06/opinion/sunday/telling-americans-to-vote-or-else.html?emc=eta1>

VOTER FRAUD

New York, NY - In a pair of *New York Times* editorials, voter fraud is examined and some alleged examples of voter fraud are explored. Read the editorials here:

<http://loyalopposition.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/11/07/the-voter-fraud-fraud/?emc=eta1>

And here:

<http://loyalopposition.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/11/07/voter-fraud-does-it-happen/?emc=eta1>

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

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Which Presidential nominee carried New York by
1,149 votes to win the election?

ANSWER

Grover Cleveland carried New York by 1,149 in the 1884 election. Esther D. Coleman correctly answered the question. 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).

[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.

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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. We reserve the right to use, not use, edit, paraphrase, or otherwise play with your submissions.

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