



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.

VOTING RIGHTS NEWS

A DAY IN INFAMY

On December 7, 1941 the forces of Japan attacked the US Pacific Fleet anchored in Pearl Harbor in the Hawaiian Territories. The attack caused the deaths of 2,402 and precipitated the entry of the United States into WWII.

VOTER ID LAW

The Brennan Center and other civil rights groups urged the Justice Department to block implementation of Texas's new voter ID law. Data shows that the new law, which imposes a government-issued photo ID requirement for voting, will disproportionately burden minority voters and produce discriminatory effects. Read more here:

http://www.brennancenter.org/content/resource/civil_rights_groups_press_department_of_justice_to_block_new_texas_voter_id/

VOTER DISENFRANCHISEMENT

National - In a *New York Times* editorial, the preclearance section of the Voting Rights Act is discussed. Read the editorial here:

<http://campaignstops.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/11/17/disenfranchise-no-more/?emc=eta1>

National - Last week, the DNC's Voting Rights Institute released a comprehensive report that examines this past year's Republican effort to pass laws that restrict voting rights, these laws' implications for real people, and what Democrats are doing to protect the vote. Read more here:

<http://www.protectingthevote.org/>

VOTING RIGHTS ACT

National – In a *New York Times* Editorial how the Voting Rights Act is now being used to segregate voters by skin color and by what country their ancestors came from is discussed. Read the editorial here:

<http://campaignstops.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/12/01/voting-rights-and-responsibilities/?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

Besides the Battleship Arizona what other battleship remains where she was sank on December 7, 1941?

Bonus how many men remain entombed on the ship?

LAST WEEK’S QUESTION

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

ANSWER

Andrew Jackson opponents tried to label him a “jackass” for his populist views and his slogan “Let the people rule”. Jackson turned it to his advantage by using the donkey on his campaign posters. The donkey has remained the symbol of the Democratic Party since. 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. 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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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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