Barriers at the Ballot Box: Protecting or Limiting the Core of the American Identity?

Volume 49 The University of Memphis Law Review

Hans von Spakovsky

Mr. Hans von Spakovsky is the current Manager of the Heritage Foundation Election Law Reform Initiative and Senior Legal Fellow of the Meese Center for Legal and Judicial Studies. A graduate of Vanderbilt University School of Law, Mr. von Spakovsky studies and writes about a number of relevant voting rights issues, such as voter fraud and voter identification laws, enforcement of federal voting rights laws, administration of elections, and voting equipment standards. Prior to joining the Heritage Foundation, Mr. von Spakovsky served as a Commissioner on the Federal Election Commission. Mr. von Spakovsky previously worked at the Justice Department, providing expertise in enforcing the Voting Rights Act and the Help America Vote Act of 2002, and he has served on the Board of Advisors of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission. Mr. von Spakovsky currently serves on the Policy Board of the American Civil Rights Union.

Tracey Carter

Dr. Tracey Carter is an Associate Professor and the Director of Academic Success at Belmont University College of Law. A graduate of the University of Tennessee College of Law, Dr. Carter continued her education when she received her Master of Public Administration degree and her Doctor of Education degree in Administration and Supervision at Tennessee State University. Before becoming a law professor, Dr. Carter was the Director of Tennessee State University’s Office of Equity, Diversity, and Compliance. In this role, she served as the Chief Diversity Officer, Affirmative Action Officer, Diversity Contact to the Tennessee Board of Regents, Title VI and Title IX Coordinator, and Section 504 Co-Coordinator. Dr. Carter also clerked for the Honorable Marietta Shipley of the Davidson County Second Circuit Court. Later, she served as an Assistant Attorney General in the Consumer Protection Division of the Tennessee Attorney General’s Office. Her research and academic interests include Torts, Negotiations, and Constitutional Law.

Eugene Mazo

Professor Eugene Mazo is an Associate Professor of Law at Rutgers University. A graduate from Columbia College, Professor Mazo also holds a master’s degree from Harvard University, a doctorate degree in politics from Oxford University, and a law degree from Stanford. Professor Mazo is a specialist in the law of democracy, as he writes about American election law, legislation, the regulation of the political process, democratic development, and constitutional design. A published author, Professor Mazo’s works include Democracy by the People: Reforming Campaign in America and
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Election Law Stories. Professor Mazo was a post-doctoral scholar and research fellow at the Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law, and an affiliated scholar at the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies at Stanford University. Professor Mazo is currently the Treasurer of the Section on Election Law at the Association of American Law Schools.

Naila Awan
Ms. Naila Awan is the Senior Counsel to Demos. Demos is a public policy organization working to achieve pro-democratic solutions by reducing the role of money in politics, guaranteeing the freedom to vote, creating pathways to ensure a diverse, expanded middle class in a new, sustainable economy, and transforming the public narrative to elevate the values of community and racial equity. A graduate of Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, Ms. Awan is a civil rights lawyer. Ms. Awan works to help address practices and policies that restrict individuals’ ability to engage in the democratic process and repress voters in traditionally marginalized communities. Prior to joining Demos, Ms. Awan worked on civil rights litigation and policy reform efforts, such as challenging Ohio’s elimination of same-day registration and cuts to early voting.

Danielle Lang
Ms. Danielle Lang is the Senior Legal Counsel for the Campaign Legal Center, Voting Rights and Redistricting Group. A graduate of Yale Law School, Ms. Lang litigates a wide range of voting rights and redistricting matters in federal courts, including the United States Supreme Court. Ms. Lang’s professional work brought her into litigation revolving around challenging Texas’s strict voter identification law in Veasey v. Abbott, Wisconsin’s partisan gerrymandering challenge in Whitford v. Gill, and challenging Alabama’s felon disenfranchisement law in Thompson v. Merrill. Ms. Lang has an active amicus practice, presents at conferences nationwide, and conducts training on federal voting rights through the Voting Rights Institution, a project of the Campaign Legal Center, the American Constitution Society, and Georgetown Law.

The Honorable Lynn Adelman
Judge Adelman is a Federal Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin. A graduate of Columbia Law School, the United States Senate confirmed Judge Adelman’s appointment to the bench in 1997. Judge Adelman has presided over a number of noteworthy cases. Specifically, in 2014, Judge Adelman issued a ruling in Frank et al. v. Walker finding Wisconsin’s voter identification law unconstitutional because it violated the Fourteenth Amendment and Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. Judge Adelman published The Supreme Court’s Quiet Assault on Civil Rights, where he argued that the Supreme Court has been chipping away at 42 U.S.C. §
1983. Additionally, Judge Adelman published *How Big Money Ruined Public Life in Wisconsin*, arguing that many of Wisconsin’s progressive laws have been undermined by the increased importance of special interest money.

**Audrey Calkins**

Ms. Audrey Calkins is a local attorney who lobbied her local congressmen and senator to write a new law regarding provisional ballots and an appellate process at the state level. A graduate of the University of Tennessee College of Law, Ms. Calkins practiced complex commercial civil litigation in Houston, Texas, before returning to Memphis to focus on labor and employment law. Ms. Calkins regularly litigates employment cases in both federal and state court including defending administrative charges for her clients before both the EEOC and the NLRB. Ms. Calkins has also led onsite training for supervisors, management, and employees regarding compliance with employment laws.

**Steve Mulroy**

Professor Steve Mulroy is a member of the University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law faculty, where he teaches Constitutional Law, Criminal Law, and Criminal Procedure. A graduate of William and Mary Law School, Professor Mulroy has participated in a number of cutting-edge cases addressing voting rights. Specifically, Professor Mulroy aided in the successful challenge to the Palm Beach County, Florida “butterfly ballot” in the 2000 presidential election. This was the first federal court injunction against a state senate’s ongoing internal election recount proceedings, and the first federal case imposing “cumulative voting” as a non-district remedy for minority vote dilution under the Voting Rights Act. Professor Mulroy served as an elected Shelby County Commissioner from 2006 through 2014.

**Nora Demleitner**

Professor Nora Demleitner serves as a faculty member at Washington and Lee School of Law. A graduate of Yale Law School, Professor Demleitner has written in the areas of criminal, comparative, and immigration law. Professor Demleitner has special expertise in sentencing and collateral sentencing consequences. She regularly speaks at conferences on sentencing matters, often in a comparative context, and on issues related to legal education. Professor Demleitner is the lead author of *Sentencing Law and Policy*, which is a major casebook on sentencing law. Professor Demleitner serves on the executive editorial board of the American Journal of Comparative Law. Professor Demleitner has lectured across Europe, served as visiting professor at the University of Michigan Law School; The University of Freiburg, Germany; St. Thomas University Law School in Miami; and the Sant’Anna Institute of Advanced
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Research in Pisa, Italy; and has been a visiting researcher at the Max-Planck-Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law in Germany.

Ann Ravel
Ms. Ann Ravel is currently a guest lecturer at the University of California, Berkeley Law School. She also is currently a declared candidate for District 15 in the California State Senate. Before running for office and guest lecturing, President Barack Obama nominated Ms. Ravel to the Federal Election Commission where she served as Vice Chair in 2014 and Chairwoman in 2015. A graduate of the University of California, Hastings College of Law, Ms. Ravel served as the Chair of the California Fair Political Practices Commission. As Chairwoman of the FPPC, Ms. Ravel oversaw regulation of campaign finance, lobbyist registration and reporting, and ethics and conflicts of interest related to officeholders and public employees. Additionally, during her time at FPPC, Ms. Ravel was instrumental in creating the States’ Unified Network Center, which is a web-based center for sharing information on campaign finance.

Kimberly Breedon
Professor Kim Breedon is a Visiting Professor of Law at the University of Cincinnati College of Law. Ms. Breedon is an independent legal scholar, working on the constitutional dimensions of government corruption. Professor Breedon has taught a number of courses in constitutional law, legislation and statutory interpretation, and the law of wills and trusts. Prior to serving as a professor, Professor Breedon served as a judicial clerk in federal court, both at the district and circuit court level. Professor Breedon received a L.L.M. from Columbia University Law School and her J.D. from the University of Cincinnati College of Law.

Bruce Ledewitz
Professor Bruce Ledewitz serves as a faculty member at the Duquesne University School of Law, where he teaches state and federal constitutional law and jurisprudence. A graduate of Yale Law School, Professor Ledewitz serves as the co-director of the Duquesne University School of Law’s Pennsylvania Constitution website. Professor Ledewitz has advocated against the death penalty throughout his career. He founded the Allegheny County Death Penalty Project, where he served as director for 13 years, co-founded the Western Pennsylvania Coalition Against the Death Penalty, and served as secretary of the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty.