Voting rights under attack

This month, our Voting Rights Project has been busy in the effort to pass Automatic Voter Registration (AVR), advocate against intrusive requests from the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity, and hear from community members most directly affected by disenfranchisement.
Responding to the Pence-Kobach Commission

On June 30, we sent a letter to the Illinois State Board of Elections (ISBE) asking them not to comply with an overly broad request for sensitive voter information from Kris Kobach, vice chairman of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity. ISBE then denied the Commission’s request.

The Commission meets today at

The Commission is poised to suppress and intimidate voters, even though it purports to address voter fraud, an extremely rare occurrence that should be addressed in collaboration with voters, community organizations, and local election administrators. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell explicitly stated that we should not “spend any federal money investigating” voter fraud, and an increasing number of
11:00am ET. Follow #RespectMyVote online for live reactions from election experts.

officials from both parties have criticized the Commission.

Civic Engagement Panel

This Wednesday, July 19, Director of Voting Rights & Civic Empowerment Ami Gandhi will join a panel discussion with South Asian Bar Association-Chicago on civic engagement and the voting rights landscape in Illinois from 12pm - 1:30pm downtown. Includes free lunch and CLE. Register to attend.

Automatic Voter Registration

Chicago Lawyers’ Committee and other members of the steering committee of Just Democracy Illinois successfully advocated for SB 1933/HB 3695, the automatic voter registration (AVR) bill that passed both houses of the Illinois legislature with unanimous, bipartisan support. Governor Rauner is expected to sign the bill into law this month, which could make Illinois the first state to provide AVR services at social service and public benefits agencies and not
only driver’s license bureaus, bringing a diversity of community members into our voting system.

Sign SB 1933 into Law and Make #AVRinIL a Reality!

Automatic Voter Registration

Voting Rights Project in the Media

Check out our voting rights work featured recently in Chicago Daily Law Bulletin, Chicago Reporter, and Black Youth Project.
A Fond Farewell to Ryan Cortazar

This month, Chicago Lawyers' Committee is saying goodbye to an exceptional lawyer. Our Legal Fellow Ryan Cortazar has completed the prestigious
Redstone Fellowship for Harvard Law School students pursuing post-graduate public service, and he will soon be moving to Bloomington, Indiana to begin a clerkship with Judge David Hamilton of the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals.