

**December 11, 2008**

## New Blood For Liberal Law Think Tank

There's been a changing of the guards at progressive legal think tank, The American Constitution Society for Law and Policy, with four new board members and a new board chair slated to take up seats in the new year.

Goodwin Liu, associate dean and professor at the University of California's Berkeley School of Law and a current board member, will be taking the helm as chair. He succeeds Paul Smith, a partner at Jenner & Block's Washington office, whose three-year term as chair has come to an end but who will remain on the board.

Joining the board are Peter Edelman, a professor at the Georgetown University Law Center; Dennis Herrera, city attorney of San Francisco; Judith Lichtman, senior adviser at the National Partnership for Women and Families; and Abner Mikva, former federal appeals court judge, member of Congress, and White House counsel.

They replace four board members whose terms have expired: Dawn Johnson, a professor at Indiana University's Maurer School of Law; Patricia Wald, a former judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit; Pamela Harris, of counsel at O'Melveny & Myers' Washington office; and Robert Post, a professor at Yale Law School.

As reported in Legal Times in November, the new board now faces the task of translating its influence in liberal legal circles into tangible policy outcomes and of mirroring the role of the conservative Federalist Society under the Bush administration.

Certainly the ACS won't lack access to the new administration. Ronald Klain has stepped down from the ACS board to serve as Vice President-elect Joseph Biden's chief of staff, while Attorney-General-designate Eric Holder remains on the board, at least for now. Meanwhile, ACS executive director Lisa Brown, former counsel to Vice President Al Gore, is leaving to take up the post of White House staff secretary.