



**NAME OF EVENT:** Pandem-ocracy: Voting Rights and Access During the COVID Crisis

**DATE | TIME | LOCATION** April 30, 2020 | 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. MT | Conference Call  
(This event has been approved for 1.0 hour of California MCLE credit.)

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:**

On Monday, April 6, the day before the Spring 2020 Wisconsin elections were to take place, SCOTUS released its decision in *Republican National Committee v. Democratic National Committee*. Following a ruling from Judge William Conley of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin that extended the timeline for the state to receive and process mail-in ballots in light of COVID-19, a ruling affirmed by the Seventh Circuit, the Supreme Court's 5-4 decision, along ideological lines, overturned the district and circuit court to conclude that the judiciary branch could not intervene and that, consequently, the deadline for mail-in ballot submission was not extended.

This eleventh-hour intervention by SCOTUS meant that voters who had previously expected to receive, complete, and send in their ballots in the week following the official election date, as they were allowed to do under the District Court's ruling, now had to either vote in-person or forgo their most fundamental democratic right. This sudden change in election policy, matched with wide-spread poll closure and the COVID-19 pandemic, resulted in incredibly long lines outside of some of the state's most populous polling location. As we continue to navigate a political landscape in the age of COVID-19, what does this decision say about the future?

Join the ACS University of Idaho College of Law Student Chapter, the ACS Madison Lawyer Chapter, and the ACS At-Large Chapter for a discussion with Wisconsin voting rights experts on the implications of *RNC v. DNC* for the WI elections and what the case might indicate about SCOTUS' role in the upcoming presidential elections.

**SPEAKERS' NAMES AND BIOS:**

- **Atiba Ellis**, Professor of Law and ACS Faculty Advisor, Marquette University Law School
- **Jeff Mandell**, Partner, Stafford Rosenbaum LLP; President, ACS Madison Lawyer Chapter
- **Franita Tolson**, Vice Dean for Faculty and Academic Affairs and Professor of Law, USC Gould School of Law; Member, ACS National Board of Directors & Board of Academic Advisors
- Moderated by **Benjamin Cover**, Associate Professor of Law, University of Idaho College of Law



#### AGENDA OF CONFERENCE CALL:

- 5 minutes introduction
- 50 minutes speakers' presentations
- 5 minutes Q&A

#### MATERIALS FOR CALL:

Joshua Geltzer , [\*The Lost 110 Words of Our Constitution\*](#), Politico (Feb. 23, 2020).

Adam Liptak, [\*Supreme Court Blocks Extended Voting in Wisconsin\*](#), New York Times (Apr. 6, 2020).

[\*Republican National Committee v. Democratic National Committee\*](#), 589 U. S. \_\_\_\_ (2020)

Mark Joseph Stern, [\*SCOTUS Won't Protect the 2020 Election From COVID-19\*](#), Slate (Apr. 24, 2020).

Nina Totenberg, [\*How Will Chief Justice And Supreme Court Conservative Majority Affect 2020 Election?\*](#), NPR (Apr. 23, 2020).

Kevin Townsend, [\*Voter Suppression by Pandemic\*](#), Atlantic (Apr. 11, 2020).

John W. Vaudreuil, [\*The Wisconsin Election Debacle\*](#), American Constitution Society (Apr. 13, 2020).

[\*Wisconsin Primary Recap: Voters Forced to Choose Between Their Health and Their Civic Duty\*](#), New York Times (Apr. 7, 2020)