

NAME OF EVENT: ACS Bay Area: 12th Annual Gala - Voting Rights Under Attack

DATE | TIME | LOCATION: July 15, 2021 | 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. PT | Online

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

America's democracy is under attack. In the wake of the Supreme Court's decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*, states across the country have made it harder for citizens--particularly people of color, students, the elderly, and people with disabilities--to exercise their fundamental right to vote. Since the 2020 election, that assault has intensified: state legislators have introduced hundreds more bills across the country that would restrict access at the polls and change the rules of democracy. More restrictions may be on their way, especially in light of the Supreme Court's decision just days ago in *Brnovich v. Democratic National Committee*, which undermines a key enforcement provision of the Voting Rights Act. Join the ACS Bay Area Lawyer Chapter for our Twelfth Annual Gala, in which we will discuss these threats and the actions that activists, litigators, and elected officials are taking to safeguard access to the ballot box.

This year's gala will feature a dialogue between Allison Riggs, Co-Executive Director and Chief Counsel for Voting Rights at the Southern Coalition for Social Justice, and Professor Franita Tolson, Vice Dean for Faculty and Academic Affairs and Professor of Law at the USC Gould School of Law. Riggs' voting rights work has focused on fighting for fair redistricting plans, fighting against voter suppression, and advocating for electoral reforms that would expand access to voting. Professor Tolson is a leading election law scholar who has written on a wide range of topics including partisan gerrymandering, the Elections Clause, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments.

Featuring:

Russ Feingold, President, ACS

Allison Riggs, Co-Executive Director/ Chief Counsel, Voting Rights, Southern Coalition for Social Justice

Franita Tolson, Vice Dean for Faculty and Academic Affairs, and Professor of Law, USC Gould School of Law

AGENDA OF PROGRAM:

- Opening & Welcome from Russ Feingold and Van Swearingen (12 minutes)
- Remarks from Franita Tolson and Allison Riggs (40 minutes)
- Audience questions (5 minutes)
- Closing Remarks (3 minutes)

MATERIALS FOR CALL:

Nick Corasaniti and Reid J. Epstein, [Democrats Brace for a Narrower Path to Challenge New Voting Laws](#), New York Times (July 1, 2021)

[Brnovich v. Democratic National Committee](#), No. 19–1257 (Sup. Court 2021)

David Gans, [Selective Originalism and Selective Textualism: How the Roberts Court Decimated the Voting Rights Act](#), SCOTUSBlog (July 7, 2021)

Ciara Torres-Spelliscy, [One of the Oldest Problems in America Persists: How to Protect the Voting Rights of Non-White Citizens](#), SCOTUSBlog (July 6, 2021)

Franita Tolson, [The Constitutional Structure of Voting Rights Enforcement](#), Washington Law Review (2014)

Franita Tolson, [The Elections Clause and the Underenforcement of Federal Law](#), The Yale Law Journal (Nov. 18, 2019)

Franita Tolson, [The Spectrum of Congressional Authority Over Elections](#), Boston Law Review (2019)

Franita Tolson, [Statement Before U.S. House Committee on House Administration Hearing on “The Elections Clause: Constitutional Interpretation and Congressional Exercise](#), U.S. House of Representatives (July 12, 2021)

Allison Riggs, [Statement Before U.S. House Subcommittee Hearing on “Voting in America: Ensuring Free and Fair Access to the Ballot”](#), U.S. House of Representatives (March 30, 2021)

Allison Riggs, [Q&A Responses for U.S. House Subcommittee Hearing on “Voting in America: Ensuring Free and Fair Access to the Ballot”](#), U.S. House of Representatives (April 1, 2021)

[Shelby County v. Holder](#), No 12-96 (Sup. Court 2013)