



**NAME OF EVENT:** *Merrill v. Milligan*: The Latest Threat to the Voting Rights Act

**DATE | TIME | LOCATION:** September 29, 2022 | 12:00PM–1:15PM | Jenner & Block, 1099 New York Avenue, NW #900, Washington, DC 20001

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:**

The Alabama state legislature has consistently denied Black Alabamians the right to elect candidates of their choice. The state's only majority-Black district was only first created in 1992, following a successful legal challenge under Section 2 of the Voting Right Act. On October 4, the Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in *Merrill v. Milligan*, a redistricting case out of Alabama that will allow the Court, which has already substantially weakened the VRA over the past decade, to revisit and potentially further curtail the protections of Section 2 amid growing threats to our democracy.

How will the outcome of this case impact the future of political representation for marginalized communities, majority-minority districts, and litigation seeking redress of voting rights violations? What tools do courts have to rectify the dilution of Black voters' electoral power, and other marginalized groups' power, and what tools should they have to address this problem?

**SPEAKERS' NAMES AND BIOS:**

- **Pema Levy**, Reporter, *Mother Jones* (moderator)
- **Bradley E. Heard**, Deputy Legal Director for Voting, Southern Poverty Law Center
- **Evan Milligan**, Executive Director, Alabama Forward, and named respondent in *Merrill v. Milligan*
- **Samantha Kelty**, Attorney, Native American Rights Fund
- **Bertrall Ross**, Justice Thurgood Marshall Distinguished Professor of Law and Director of the Karsh Center for Law and Democracy, University of Virginia School of Law

**AGENDA OF PROGRAM:**

- Introduction (5 mins)
- Moderated Discussion/Presentations (60 mins)
- Q&A (10 min)

**READING MATERIALS:**

[Merrill v. Milligan](#), 142 S.Ct. 879 (2022) (Mem.).

[Brief for Appellants](#), *Merrill v. Milligan*, No.21-1086 & No.21-1087 (Apr. 25, 2022).

[Brief for Caster Respondents](#), *Merrill v. Milligan*, No.21-1086 & No.21-1087 (Apr. 25, 2022).



[Brief for Milligan Appellees](#), Merrill v. Milligan, No.21-1086 (Apr. 25, 2022).

[Brief for Amici Curiae the Southern Poverty Law Ctr. et al.](#), Merrill v. Milligan, No.21-1086 & No.21-1087 (July 18, 2022).

Dahlia Lithwick, [The Supreme Court Wants You to Believe Voting Rights Are Too Complicated. They're Not.](#), SLATE (Feb. 15, 2022).

Ian Millhiser, [The Supreme Court's Newest Attack on Voting Rights, Explained](#), VOX (Feb. 8, 2022).

Caleb Symons, [New Map Doesn't Violate Black Voters' Rights, Ala. Says](#), LAW360 (Aug. 25, 2022).

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