



CRDA Newsletter, Issue 1, February 2023

Welcome to the Inaugural Issue of the Civil Rights Division Association Newsletter!

The Civil Rights Division Association (CRDA) is a non-partisan organization composed primarily of former employees of the Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, with current employees also welcomed and encouraged to join. The CRDA Board recently announced the development of a newsletter to share information about our activities and that of our members, and to provide some information about the work of the Civil Rights Division.¹ We are very excited to be able to stay connected with CRDA members, and encourage member networking. Still need to join the CRDA? Just click to the [CRDA website!](#)

We hope that you enjoy this inaugural issue of the CRDA Newsletter!

Table of Contents

Newsletter Submissions	p. 2
Collaborative Activity Between Civil Rights Division and CRDA	p. 2
Civil Rights Division News and Updates.	p. 3
Division Alumni News and Updates.	p. 5
In Memoriam	p. 7

¹ The CRDA is a membership organization and is not affiliated with the U.S. Department of Justice or any other government agency. Any views expressed in the CRDA Newsletter are those of the author or organization.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

We invite you to share any news or personal updates for the CRDA Newsletter! This includes news about family and/or personal activities, job changes, interesting career posts, publications and retirements. We also invite creative submissions, too! Creative submissions and/or reflections should be no longer than 500 words, and can be:

- Insights on interesting experiences during your tenure with the Division;
- Photos of memorable events with a brief summary of the event;
- Thoughts on, with links to, recommended books, articles, and other publications pertaining to civil rights; and
- Reviews of books, movies or other media content focused on civil rights history and policy.

*Please send your information to CRDA Newsletter Editor Lisa Wilson Edwards at CRDANewsletter@gmail.com. The deadline for submissions to this monthly Newsletter is the 15th day of each month. **Submissions for the next newsletter is Feb. 15, 2023.***

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COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITY BETWEEN CRDA AND THE CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

Civil Rights Division 65th Anniversary Celebration

The Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice was created with the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1957 by President Dwight Eisenhower. The 1957 Act empowered federal prosecutors to obtain court injunctions against interference with the right to vote. The Department celebrated the Division's 65th Anniversary on December 6, 2022, with an event in the Great Hall that was planned jointly with representatives of the CRDA and marked a return of many Division alumni. Attorney General Merrick Garland, Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco, Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta, Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Kristen Clarke, and former Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Deval Patrick spoke at the celebration. Attorney General Garland's remarks are available here: [Attorney General Merrick B. Garland Delivers Remarks at the Civil Rights Division's 65th Anniversary | OPA | Department of Justice](#). CRT alum Thelton Henderson, Senior Judge, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, gave intriguing remarks about his experiences working to advance civil rights as a Division attorney in the early 1960s. There were, in addition, two great panel discussions. One featuring former Assistant Attorneys General for Civil Rights: Thomas Perez, Bill Lann Lee, J. Stanley Pottinger, and Eric Dreiband, moderated by AAG Clarke. This was followed with a great panel featuring prominent Division alumni, and CRDA members, Gerry Hebert, Loretta King, John Wodatch and Jon Greenbaum.



Division alum panel discussion with Gerry Hebert, Loretta King, and John Wodatch, moderated by Jon Greenbaum

The event was followed by a casual get-together at Hotel Monaco by a few Division alums! The Division circulated a Report on the [Civil Rights Division at 65](#). Many thanks to CRDA members Jon Greenbaum and Richard Jerome for coordinating this event for the CRDA.

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION NEWS AND UPDATES

Here are summary updates of recent Civil Rights Division news. More details can be found on the Division's **website**.

Division Settles With Broadway Ticket Services Company To Resolve Immigration-Related Discrimination Claims



On January 18, 2023, the Division announced a settlement with Nederlander Marketing, Inc., dba Broadway Direct, a ticket services company based in New York. Following an investigation, the Division determined that Broadway Direct violated the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) by discriminating against non-U.S. citizen workers based on citizenship status when it advertised and hired for a position in New York. Under the settlement, parent-company Nederlander will pay a civil penalty, train staff on the INA's anti-discrimination provision, review and revise their employment policies, and be subject to monitoring for a two-year period.

***Division Secures \$31 Million From City National Bank
To Settle Lending Discrimination Allegations***



On January 12, 2023, the Civil Rights Division announced a settlement with City National Bank to resolve allegations that the Bank engaged in a pattern or practice of lending discrimination by redlining in Los Angeles County. City National is the largest bank headquartered in Los Angeles and among the 50 largest banks in the United States. The settlement includes over \$31 million in relief to impacted individuals and communities. The agreement, which is part of the Department's nationwide [Combating Redlining Initiative](#) that Attorney General Merrick B. Garland launched in October 2021, represents the largest redlining settlement in its history.

***Division And Meta Platforms Reach Agreement In Implementing
Groundbreaking Resolution To Address Discriminatory
Delivery Of Housing Advertisements***



On January 9, 2023, the Division announced a key milestone in its settlement with Meta Platforms, Inc (Meta), formerly known as Facebook Inc., requiring a change in Meta's advertisement delivery system to prevent discriminatory advertising in violation of the Fair Housing Act. In accordance with the settlement entered in June 2022, resolving a lawsuit filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, Meta has built a new system to address algorithmic discrimination. The Division's complaint alleged, among other things, that Meta uses algorithms in determining which Meta users receive advertisements, including housing advertisements, and that those algorithms rely, in part, on characteristics protected under the FHA. Under the settlement, Meta developed a new system to reduce the variances between the eligible audiences and the actual audiences.

DIVISION ALUMNI NEWS AND UPDATES

Alumni pursue exciting opportunities and have fun times after leaving the Division! Here are updates from some of your former Division colleagues:

Gilbert Paul Carrasco was an attorney at the Division from 1980-1984, first as John Huerta's Special Assistant as a member of Drew Days' management team (which included James P. Turner, Lani Guinier, and the Hon. Enrique Romero), then as a Trial Attorney in what was then the General Litigation Section (under then-Chief Thomas M. Keeling). His claim to fame at the Division is as the man who brought down Cicero, orchestrating the complaint under Title VIII and Title VII, the first of its kind. He has continued his involvement in Constitutional and civil rights litigation. Last summer, August 2022, Gil went on *emeritus* status as a tenured Professor of Law after teaching Constitutional Law and Civil Rights Litigation for two decades at Willamette University College of Law in Salem, Oregon, and previously for a decade at Villanova University School of Law. He and his wife, Iryna (from Ukraine), are now living on the beach in southern California. Gil can be reached at carrasco@willamette.edu.

Michelle Coles was an attorney in the Division from 2010 to 2022, in the Special Litigation Section (2010-2014) and the Policy and Strategy Section (2014-2022). Her debut novel, *Black Was The Ink*, was recently published in the fall of 2021, and is the first young-adult historical fiction about the Reconstruction Era (Lee and Low Books, Nov. 2021). *Black Was The Ink* tells the story of 16 year-old Malcolm who, with the help of a ghostly ancestor, is sent on a journey through Reconstruction-era America to find his place in modern-day Black progress. There, Malcolm witnesses the historic contributions of Black legislators who worked alongside white allies to bring justice, education, and landownership to America's newest citizens. *Black Was The Ink* has won numerous awards, including the [2022 Great American Book Prize](#) which recognizes the top middle school book about U.S. History, a [Skipping Stones Honor Award](#) which recognizes books that increase multicultural understanding, and the [2019 New Vision Honor Award](#) for unpublished authors of color. The Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture hosted a [webinar](#) highlighting how *Black Was The Ink* can be used to investigate the Reconstruction Era, and Planet Word Museum will feature *Black Was The Ink* in a Spring 2023 exhibit. Michelle is a [public speaker](#) and frequently presents on the importance of understanding and contextualizing America's legacy of racial injustice. Michelle's novel is available at most bookstores online and on [Amazon](#). An audiobook of her novel is expected soon! You can find out more about Michelle at www.michellecoles.com.

Brian K. Landsberg began his extensive career in the Division in 1964 as a trial and supervisory attorney. He worked on the Division's earliest voting rights and school desegregation cases, the first cases to desegregate public accommodations, and on employment and fair housing cases. He was the Division's first Chief of the Education Section in 1969, and an early Chief of the Appellate Section in 1974. He left the Division in 1986 but returned for a brief stint at the beginning of the Clinton Administration to serve as Acting Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. After the Division, Brian began

a distinguished teaching career at University of the Pacific's McGeorge School of Law, where he is currently Professor of Law Emeritus. Brian's teaching has covered a wide range of public law and advocacy topics, including constitutional law, First Amendment, federal courts, federal anti-discrimination law, civil rights, critical race theory, appellate advocacy, and courses for students in advanced degree programs. Brian is the author of several books on constitutional law, civil rights, and employment discrimination. His most recent publication is *Revolution By Law: The Federal Government and the Desegregation of Alabama Schools* (Univ. Press of Kansas: 2022) which traces the growth of *Lee v. Macon County* from a case to desegregate a single school district in rural Alabama to a decision that paved the way for ending state-imposed racial segregation of the schools in the Deep South. Brian's book is based on his first-hand experience as he played a lead role in the litigation of the *Lee* lawsuit, as well as the separate cases that were spun off to focus on the desegregation of the almost 100 school districts that were at issue. Many members of the CRDA also worked on these cases and will have memories revived by Brian's writing. CRDA co-president Margo Schlanger reviewed the book and said, in part: "[T]he book is essential reading for anyone interested in the nitty-gritty of school desegregation, the Justice Department and its civil rights activities, or southern civil rights history." The book is available from the [University Press of Kansas](#) and also from [Amazon](#). Brian received his B.A. (1959) and LLB (1962) from the University of California Berkeley, and a Certificate in African Law (1963) from the University of London,

Sonya L. Sacks was an attorney in the Division from 2006 to 2020, in the Voting Section (2006 to 2011) safeguarding the right to vote, and in the Employment Litigation Section (2011-2020) enforcing federal employment discrimination laws. She also served as the Division's Alternate Ethics Officer for several years. Prior to joining the Division, she served from 1989 to 2006 as an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney at the Commonwealth Attorney's Office for the City of Alexandria, Virginia, as a criminal prosecutor. From 1997 to 2004, she served on a detail as a Special Assistant United States Attorney at the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia in the Criminal Division Narcotics Unit. In 2020, she left the Division when she was appointed as a state court judge in the 18th Judicial District, City of Alexandria, Virginia, where she hears civil, felony, misdemeanor, and traffic cases. Judge Sacks earned her J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center and resides in Alexandria, Virginia.

Lisa Wilson Edwards began her career at the Division in 1992. She worked for 19 years as an attorney in the Appellate Section representing the United States in scores of civil rights cases in the federal courts of appeal and assisting the Solicitor General in civil rights cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, and nearly five years as a Senior Trial Attorney in the Employment Litigation Section enforcing federal employment discrimination laws. She also served as the Division's Alternate Ethics Officer for many years. She left the Division for four years, from 2011 to 2015, to serve two 2-year terms as an Administrative Appeals Judge at the U.S. Department of Labor, and for almost a year in 2010 to serve as Deputy Associate Counsel for Presidential Personnel at the White House. In 2020, she left the Division to join the Department's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services as Associate General Counsel for Employment and Ethics where she worked for two years. In November 2022, she left the Department to become Special Advisor for Digital Equity &

Inclusion at the Federal Communications Commission and work with leadership in developing agency rules addressing digital discrimination. She is happy to report that during her time in the Division, she raised two kids who are now college graduates, raised two puppies who are now grown doggies living at home, and has been lucky to take some awesome “girls trips” to Paris, Rome, Sorrento, Juneau/Ketchikan, Alaska, and Beijing and Shanghai China! In her spare time, she works on podcasts and blogs that can be found on her website, [2 Black Moms & A Mic](#). Lisa’s podcast guest last month was Division alum Michelle Coles discussing her debut novel [Black Was The Ink \(podcast\)](#)! Lisa still lives with her husband in Potomac, MD.

IN MEMORIAM

The CRDA is saddened to share news of the passing of these Division alumni in recent months.

Stewart (“Stew”) Oneglia
Feb. 10, 1936 – Dec. 9, 2022



Stewart (“Stew”) Oneglia joined the Division in 1977 as the Director of the Task Force on Sex Discrimination which reviewed all federal statutes, regulations, programs, policies, and procedures to identify sex discrimination. She continued this work in 1979 when she became the first Chief of the Coordination and Review Section (see [CRT History of FCS](#)). Later, Stew was a key collaborator on the development and implementation of the Americans With Disabilities Act, which was enacted in 1990. After 18 years of service to the Division, Stew retired in 1995. Stew grew up in Kensington and Chevy Chase, Maryland, receiving her B.A. in 1959 and J.D. in 1974 from the University of Maryland. Stew volunteered extensively in her community. She was elected to the Orphan’s Court of Prince George’s County in 1973 while still in law school and was a founding member of the Prince George’s County Women’s Bar Association. The Governor of Maryland appointed her to the State’s Task Force on Family Law and on the Advisory Panel on Sexual Harassment. She was also appointed to the Governor’s Commission to Implement the Equal Rights Amendment. She became an EMT in her late 50’s and volunteered with the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad. She loved the excitement of running calls and helping

those in need. Stew is survived by her children, Larkin Preston Cohan (Richard), Richard K. Preston, II (Judy) and Bannon E. Preston (John Ruppenthal), and a stepson, Nelson M. Oneglia, Jr.

Dennis J. Dimsey
March 10, 1943 – Nov. 14, 2022



Dennis J. Dimsey served the Division for over 40 years, principally as an attorney in the Appellate Section where he was Deputy Chief and managed highly impactful appellate litigation. His work included representing the United States in Supreme Court litigation that included *Staub v. Proctor Hospital* (2009), *Lewis v. City of Chicago* (2009), and the disparate impact case *Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs v. Inclusive Communities* (2014). Dennis proudly served his country in the Vietnam War, achieving the rank of Army Captain and awarded several medals of commendation including the prestigious Bronze Star Medal for Meritorious Achievement. He graduated from St. John's College High School in Washington, D.C., received his B.A. from University of Pennsylvania, and J.D. from the University of Maryland. Dennis is survived by his wife, Mary, and children Michael and Laura.

Alexander "Sandy" Clinton Ross
Sept. 27, 1937 – Nov. 1, 2022



Sandy Ross began his career in the Division in 1962 and worked in various leadership roles until his retirement in 2001. As a young attorney, he litigated the Division's school desegregation cases throughout Mississippi and Louisiana in the early 1960s. In 1967, he

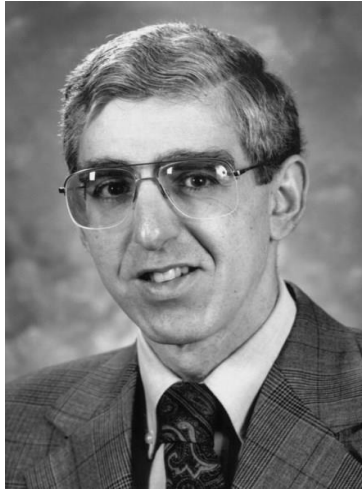
was appointed Deputy Chief of the Division's then-Eastern Section. He was selected Deputy Chief of the Division's Housing Section in 1969, then promoted to Chief of the Education Section in 1975. He later served as Special Litigation Counsel on varied civil rights cases including defending Title IX and heading teams that sought to end redlining. He received his B.A. in 1959 and J.D. in 1962 from the University of Miami. In retirement, Sandy remained an enduring fan and player of many sports throughout his life, and with his wife Mary became an avid golfer. Sandy was also a diehard Red Sox fan! He is survived by his wife Mary, daughter Amy [Alex] Squitieri, his grandchildren and other family members.

Stephen Eilperin
Oct. 25, 1937 – June 9, 2022



Stephen Francis Eilperin worked at the Justice Department from 1964 to 1966, and during that time crafted congressional speeches advocating for the Voting Rights Act of 1965. He was present at the signing of the Act and was gifted one of the pens used by President Lyndon B. Johnson to sign the landmark civil rights legislation! After working in private practice, Stephen joined the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in 1975 as an assistant general counsel and later solicitor and administrative judge. In 1983, Stephen was nominated by President Ronald Reagan to the D.C. Superior Court, the trial court overseeing the city's civil, criminal, family, probate, tax, landlord and tenant, and traffic cases. Stephen served as an Associate Superior Court Judge before being elevated to senior status in 1998. He retired from the bench in 2019. He received his undergraduate degree in 1959 from Columbia University, and law degree in 1963 from Columbia Law School. Stephen is survived by his wife, Michelle Hester, and his children Juliet, Michael, Laurel and Megan, and his grandchildren.

Joel Selig
April 12, 1944 – May 30, 2022



Joel Selig served in the Division's Employment Section from 1969 to 1973, litigating federal employment law cases, and from 1977 to 1983 as an attorney, deputy section chief, and senior trial attorney in the Division's Appellate Section, Housing and Credit Section, General Litigation Section, and Federal Enforcement Section, litigating or supervising litigation to enforce federal laws regarding school desegregation, housing, employment and voting discrimination. Between these tours of duty, he was Attorney-Director of the Government Employment Discrimination Project of the national office of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. Joel left the Division after becoming disillusioned with the government's handling of desegregation and discrimination cases under the Reagan administration. See [Changing the Justice Department's Position in Pending Litigation \(uwyo.edu\)](#). He joined the faculty of the University of Wyoming College of Law in 1983, and became the first Centennial Distinguished Professor of Law, a three-year endowed professorship which he held from 1992 to 1995. He excelled in law teaching, receiving the Potter Law Club - Student Bar Association Outstanding Faculty Award six times, the U S West Excellence in Education Award, and the University of Wyoming's John P. Ellbogen Meritorious Classroom Teaching Award. He has been widely published in various law reviews, and his writings span topics that include fair housing, selection of Supreme Court justices, affirmative action in employment and in college and law school admissions. Joel received his B.A. *cum laude* in 1965 from Harvard College, and J.D. *cum laude* in 1968 from Harvard Law School. Joel is survived by his son William Osterweis Selig, and daughter Deborah Selig Zavracky, his grandchildren.

Larry Gene Ward
Nov. 16, 1946 - Nov. 4, 2021



Larry Gene Ward served the Division for over 30 years as a Senior Trial Attorney in the Employment Litigation Section and the Voting Section. Raised in the midst of the civil rights movement, Larry long intended to become a civil rights attorney. He achieved this goal after getting a job in the Division shortly after graduating from law school. Larry's work with the Division had great impact, and his strategic acumen was apparent in his handling of employment discrimination and voting rights cases. After a distinguished and dedicated career at the Division, he went on to serve as an attorney with the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia, and in retirement he took on civil rights employment cases under his own firm. He valued community service and was a member of his neighborhood's citizens association and President of the Parent Teacher Association at his children's school. Larry received his B.A. from Roosevelt University and J.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is survived by his wife Earlene, and his daughters Miya and Adia.

James ("Jim") P. Turner
Oct. 27, 1930 - June 13, 2021



Jim Turner joined the Division in 1965 and became a career Deputy Assistant Attorney General in 1969. He served in that position until 1994, working as the Division's senior career lawyer in seven Presidential administrations. He served as Acting Assistant Attorney

General numerous times. He coordinated the Division's support at the unsuccessful Alabama state murder trials of the klansmen who killed civil rights worker Viola Liuzzo in 1965, and later assisted John Doar in the federal conspiracy prosecution, which resulted in the first conviction of klansmen in a death case in modern Southern history. Jim played leadership roles in decades of civil rights enforcement including grand jury investigations of the 1969 Chicago police shootings of Black Panther leaders Fred Hampton and Mark Clark, and of the 1970 deaths of four Kent State students who were shot by National Guardsmen in 1970. He also supervised police misconduct prosecutions, including the federal trial of Los Angeles officers who beat Rodney King, and many voting rights cases. Jim successfully argued the landmark employment discrimination case, *Moody v. Albemarle Paper Co.* And he played a key role in many voting rights cases and preclearance determinations, including the Section 5 objection and resulting litigation that led to the creation of the congressional district that elected John Lewis. After retiring in 1994, Jim wrote on civil rights issues that appeared in the New York Times, the Washington Post, The Los Angeles Times and other publications. He published two books: an autobiography entitled *The Other Side of the Mountain* (Chronicle Press: 2008) and *Selma and the Liuzzo Murder Trials: The First Modern Civil Rights Convictions* (University of Michigan Press: 2018). Jim is survived by his wife, Anita Stephens, and his brother Charles Turner, his children, James C. Turner, R. Curtis Turner, Barbara Westbrook and Amy Phillips, a stepson Kevin McCarthy, and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.