



**Civil Rights Division Association
NEWSLETTER
Issue 5, August 2023**

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 Newsletter is intended to provide members with information on CRDA activities, member updates, and 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](#)!

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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, interesting trips you have taken, job changes, career posts, publications and retirements. We invite creative submissions and reflections, too! Creative submissions and 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; and
- Thoughts on or reviews of books, articles, movies or other publications pertaining to civil rights history and policy.

*Please send your information to CRDA Newsletter Editor Lisa Wilson Edwards at CRDANewsletter@gmail.com. The Newsletter is published bi-monthly. **The deadline for submissions to the next newsletter is September 15, 2023.***

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CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION NEWS

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

Division Announces Pattern Or Practice Investigation Of The City Of Memphis And Memphis Police Department



On July 27, the Division announced that it has opened a civil pattern or practice investigation into the City of Memphis and the Memphis Police Department (MPD). The investigation will seek to determine whether there are systemic violations of the Constitution or federal law by MPD. The investigation will focus on MPD's use of force and its stops, searches and arrests, as well as whether it engages in discriminatory policing.

The announcement follows the January 29 fatal injury of Tyre Nichols, a 29 year old black man, by police officers in Memphis.

“Every person is entitled to constitutional and non-discriminatory policing in our country,” said Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke. “Based on an extensive review of publicly available information and information provided to us, there are grounds to open this investigation now. We have reviewed information that indicates that the Memphis Police Department may be using an approach to street enforcement that can result in violations of federal law, including racially discriminatory stops of Black people for minor violations. The Justice Department will conduct a thorough and objective investigation into allegations of unlawful discrimination and Fourth Amendment violations. Unlawful policing undermines community trust, which is essential to public safety.”

This is the ninth pattern or practice investigation into law enforcement misconduct opened by the Department under Attorney General Merrick Garland and Assistant Attorney General Clarke. The Division has ongoing investigations into the Phoenix Police Department; the Mount Vernon (NY) Police Department; the Louisiana State Police; the New York City Police Department’s Special Victim’s Division; the Worcester (MA) Police Department; and the Oklahoma City Police Department. The Division recently completed investigations in Louisville and Minneapolis, and secured agreement in principle with both jurisdictions to negotiate consent decrees to address the violations found.

Division Celebrates The 33rd Anniversary Of The Americans With Disabilities Act



On July 26, the Division celebrated the 33rd anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The Division’s program highlighted the need to address unnecessary interactions between people with disabilities and the criminal justice system. The ADA, enacted in 1990, prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in everyday activities, including in workplaces, businesses, and in state and local government services, including law enforcement and corrections.

The Division’s ADA program called attention to the need for more community-based services to address behavioral health needs, rather than deploying the criminal justice system. Assistant Attorney General Clarke opened the program with remarks detailing the interactions of millions of people with disabilities with the criminal justice system and the Department’s efforts to fight for greater access and greater equity for people with disabilities. The program also featured recorded remarks from Attorney General Merrick Garland who acknowledged the progress that has been made toward fulfilling the promise

of equal justice and opportunity for people with disabilities, but that much more work remains.

“The anniversary of the ADA gives us the opportunity to recognize and celebrate the enormous impact the law has had on the lives of people with disabilities – and on our entire country. It also gives us an important opportunity to recognize the many barriers that remain, and to recommit ourselves to breaking them down,” said Attorney General Garland. “We know that far too often, law enforcement officers are forced to respond to individuals experiencing challenges that do not have a law enforcement solution. This can contribute to significant harm to people experiencing mental health crises, as well as to needless incarceration or institutionalization of such people. At the same time, it puts a great strain on the law enforcement officers who are forced to fill in the gap where community services have failed. The Justice Department is working to address these challenges through our enforcement of the ADA.”

Equal Justice Initiative Executive Director Bryan Stevenson provided the keynote speech regarding the continued systemic work that must be done to address the criminalization of people with disabilities. “When you look at the landscape now where we have one of the largest prison populations in the world, there is no community that has been more severely impacted than people with disabilities,” said Mr. Stevenson. “Our jails and prisons are filled with people with behavioral health disabilities that we have not addressed and it is an urgent and necessary issue to take on. While we can accept and acknowledge that much has been gained, there is tremendous work that needs to happen with regard to this topic of criminalizing people with disabilities.”

A panel discussion featured Former Pennsylvania Secretary of Public Welfare Estelle Richman, NYC Justice Peer Initiative Executive Director Helen Skipper and Division attorneys.

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NEW OPPORTUNITIES

The **Civil Rights Division** is seeking an experienced attorney to serve as **Chief, Voting Section**. The Voting Section enforces the federal civil rights laws that safeguard citizens’ right to vote; brings lawsuits against states, counties, cities and other jurisdictions; submits statements of interest in litigation brought by private parties; and monitors elections. **Applications are due Aug. 4**. The position announcement is available here: [Chief Voting Section | LEGAL-CAREERS | Department of Justice](#).

The **Maryland Attorney General’s Office** has announced an opening for **Deputy Chief of Prosecution** in the **Independent Investigations Division**. The details are below:
Closing Date: **as late as Aug. 4**
Job Title: Deputy Chief of Prosecution
Salary: \$108,986 - \$175,928
Location: 200 St. Paul Place, Baltimore, Maryland

DESCRIPTION: The Attorney General is the chief legal officer of the State of Maryland. This position will serve as the senior trial counsel for the Division, working with a team of dedicated lawyers, investigators, and other professionals to investigate, evaluate, and—where appropriate—prosecute cases arising from police-involved fatalities.

EXPERIENCE: The ideal candidate will have at least seven years of litigation experience, with a focus on areas relevant to this position, such as law-enforcement investigations, public corruption, homicide, complex litigation, or white-collar crime. The successful candidate will have strong writing skills and be experienced in leading trial teams. Current or pending admission to the Maryland Bar, or the ability to waive in without delay, is required.

SUBMISSION: Send a cover letter and resume via email to: Dana Mulhauser, Chief, Independent Investigations Division, via rkreh@oag.state.md.us. Applications may be accepted as late as August 4. ***Please also reach out to Ms. Mulhauser for a full description of this position.***

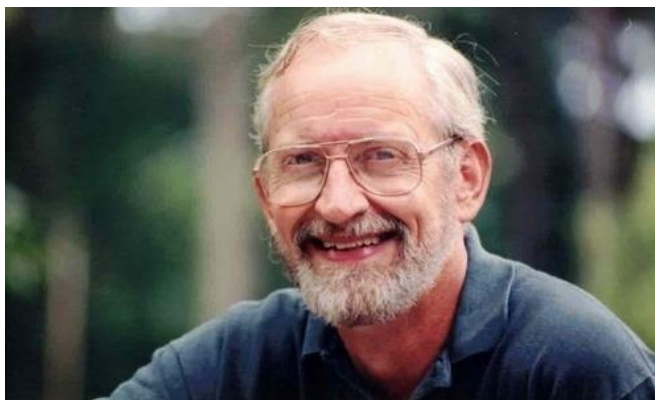
Please write “Dep. Chief of Prosecution- IID” in the subject of the email.

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IN MEMORIAM

The CRDA is saddened to share news of the passing of these Division alums:

Grady Jerome (Jerry) Norris
February 16, 1949 – April 23, 2023



Jerry Norris was one of the early attorneys in the Division, serving as a trial attorney in the Division from 1965 to 1969. Jerry was a true attorney in the trenches, and an early enforcement officer of our nation’s civil rights law. He was part of a cadre of young lawyers who investigated and went to federal courts throughout the south to enforce the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to combat illegal impediments to voting. Along with his co-workers, Jerry oversaw the voter registration of black residents in Selma after the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Jerry’s crowning achievement was drafting the Fair Housing law under the Civil Rights Act of 1969, for which colleagues named him the “father of the Fair Housing Law.” His co-workers at the Department remember him as a talented writer with

strong values about how people should treat each other, and who worked hard to translate those values into action.



Jerry shaking hands with President Lyndon B. Johnson just after the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1968

Jerry was born in Birmingham on July 3, 1937. He graduated from Birmingham Southern College in 1962, while also working as a news reporter for the Birmingham Post-Herald. Following college, Jerry served in the U.S. Army. After his discharge, he pursued the law and graduated from the University of Chicago Law School.

After Jerry left the Division, he began a managerial role at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in the Atlanta regional office. Jerry and his wife Mary Anne lived in Decatur, Georgia during Jerry's career at HUD. After retiring in 1993, Jerry and Mary Anne moved to Norris Pond in New Bern, NC. Jerry was an avid writer and was the first Division alum to submit a series of "Division Alumni Reflections" for this CRDA Newsletter. He wrote "My Photo in a National Magazine" (March 2023 edition), "The FBI In Peace And War" (April 2023 edition), and most recently "A Long Wait" (June 2023). In these essays, Jerry captures with great clarity his early experiences as an attorney in the Division.

Jerry was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 61 years, Mary. Jerry is survived by his daughter, Christine Norris Bamberger (Rob) of Arlington, VA; and son, Timothy Jerome Norris (Rachel Reed) of Warrenton, VA. He is also survived by his sister Jane Harless, his brothers-in-law Jesse Truman Price (Jeanne), and Stephen Taylor Price (Patty), and his sister-in-law Sue Weaver Price (widow of John Price). He also leaves behind many loving nieces, nephews, cousins, and long-time friends.

ROBERT BATTLE HOCUTT
April 27, 1942 – July 20, 2023



Robert worked as an attorney at the Division in 1967. He worked on the prosecutions arising out of the Orangeburg shootings and investigated the shootings at Kent State.

Robert was born in Raleigh, North Carolina and graduated from Needham Broughton High School. He attended Wake Forest University where he played baseball and spent a year studying in Germany. He continued on to Wake Forest Law School, graduating in 1967.

Robert met his wife Martha, when they were both working at the Department, and they married in 1968. Robert left the Department in the early 1970's, moving to Atlanta to work for the law firm Nall and Miller. He worked at the firm for over 30 years. Through the years, Robert became an avid fly-fisherman and fly tyer, even tying flies for Trout Unlimited. He enjoyed fishing in North Georgia and especially loved taking fishing trips to Montana with his family and friends. Robert and Martha retired to Hilton Head, South Carolina.

Robert is predeceased by his wife Martha. He is survived by his children Sarah and John; father-in-law to Gareth and Jennifer; grandfather to Ellie, Jasper, Harper, Hallie and Lila; and brother of Anne Hocutt.