



Civil Rights Division Association NEWSLETTER Issue 9, April 2024

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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NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

We invite you to share any news or personal updates for the CRDA Newsletters Division Alumni Updates! This includes news about family and/or personal activities, interesting trips you have taken, job changes, career posts, publications and retirements. We also invite creative submissions

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.

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.

The CRDA is a nonpartisan organization, and the Newsletter will not publish any statements concerning any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office.

*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 May 15, 2024.***

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DIVISION ALUMNI REFLECTIONS

A MISSISSIPPI PHONE CALL

By Battle Rankin Robinson*



It was a beautiful Mississippi day, balmy and sunny. My assignment was to drive from Jackson over to the Delta, where FBI agents would be filming a County's voting records. As an attorney with the Civil Rights Division, I needed to be present in case any dispute arose, or there was resistance from the county's Circuit Clerk or the local County attorney. Normally, as a matter of safety, I would travel with the FBI agents, but on this day they had a later assignment upstate and I needed to be back in Jackson, so we drove separately.

Fortunately, all went expeditiously and peacefully. The clerk, while obviously not thrilled about having to produce the records, cooperated and had them ready to be photographed. The County attorney stopped by to see how things were going and to introduce himself. He was cordial. The agents installed their equipment, which I remember as bulky and requiring a large worktable on which to rest the heavy voter registration books. They worked quickly and by midday had completed their task. The photographs of the voter rolls would be delivered to Washington for analysis and potential litigation. We all wished each other safe travels and started on our separate ways.

But, instead of heading directly back to Jackson the way I had come, I decided that I would take some time to explore the Mississippi Delta. I had been on the Delta before, always with a group of Division attorneys. I had dined at Doe's in Greenville, seen Aaron Henry's drug store in Clarksdale, visited Willie Morris's Yazoo City and even met Hodding Carter. But this would give me a chance to explore some of the less traveled back roads and see the "real" Delta. And what a lovely day for exploring it was: bright blue skies, green fields stretching to the horizon, birds wheeling overhead, and, on the River Road, the high levee that kept the mighty River at bay and out of sight. Turning off the main highway, I was soon in what folks we dealt with in the South often referred to as "the rurals", passing groups of weathered houses, dilapidated agricultural buildings, and an occasional church or small store. The real thing, I thought!

As I drove, I suddenly remembered my obligation to call Washington to report my whereabouts. In those days, when attorneys were on the road – especially when we were in remote areas – we were to call in to the DC office every few hours to reassure everyone we were safe. Remember, this was not long after the gruesome murders of civil rights workers in that very state. And of course it was before cell phones and the widespread use of charge cards, so in order to contact Washington we often had to locate a pay phone and call collect.

I began searching for an establishment that might have a pay phone, but soon realized I was in real country, far from a pay phone - or any other kind of phone, for that matter. Eventually, and quite a while after my check-in time had passed, I spotted a ramshackle combination gas station-country store at a crossroads. And, miracle of miracles, there was a phone booth out front near the gas tanks. I pulled in, and parked near the booth. A man came out of the store to see if I wanted gas and I explained I just wanted to make a call. But when he opened the screen door, I could see a group of men seated in the store, all staring to see who this unknown customer was. Considering the isolation of the store, this in itself made me a bit apprehensive. But the man shrugged and went back inside and I closed myself in the phone booth, relieved to have located a phone.

In those days, there was no direct dial from that part of the world. I had to dial "0" and contact a local operator to place a collect call to DC. And the woman who helped me was clearly "local", with her broad Southern accent. I hurriedly explained that I needed to place a collect call to Washington DC and gave her the number. She set about making the call. But she seemed a bit confused – she had probably not handled many collect calls to the nation's capital! I was in a hurry, so I explained what was going on - that the number I gave her was the United States Department of Justice and it might take a while to get to the correct extension.

There was a long pause as she digested this information. Then she said to me, loud and clear, "Hon, if you are with the Justice Department, you best get out of that store you're in."

I immediately came to my senses. I thought of the isolation of the store, of the men inside, of the history of violence in that part of the world. "Thank you," I called out, quickly hanged up the phone, and took off in my car. As I drove across the Delta toward a main highway, I kept looking in the rear view mirror, but, thankfully, no one followed. Eventually, I was able to stop, find another phone, and make the call. I half expected to be told that since I had not called in, the FBI had been called out to look for me! But somehow the Department hadn't even missed me. I was, and have always been, grateful to that unknown telephone operator.

****Battle Rankin Robinson** joined the Division in 1963 through the Attorney General's Honors Program and served in the Division's Appeals and Research Section until 1970. Her career profile is in this Issue, at p. 8. The views expressed in this Reflection are solely those of the author.*

DISCOVER THE CIVIL RIGHTS LITIGATION CLEARINGHOUSE

The Civil Rights Litigation Clearinghouse (clearinghouse.net) is a collection of documents and information about large-scale civil rights lawsuits. Founded at the University of Michigan Law School in 2006 by CRDA Co-President [Margo Schlanger](#), the Clearinghouse has more than 10,000 cases in its collection, including case summaries and key documents. You can search for cases and documents in dozens of ways, including by subject matter, cause(s) of action, outcome, available documents, relevant issues, keywords, and more.

Here are some features that might be of particular interest:

- Find [Civil Rights Division cases](#) by selecting “U.S. Dept. of Justice Civil Rights Division” in the main search bar, in the “Plaintiffs’ Attorney Organization” tab under “Plaintiffs”. Or check out the special [Civil Rights Division Archival Collection](#), which presents cases litigated by the Division from the 1960s through the 1990s, including cases brought under the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (CRIPA). This special collection was made possible with the generous assistance of a number of lawyers who previously worked for the Division, the CRDA, and the Division's Special Litigation Section.
- Further refine a search for CRD cases by subject matter, by selecting, under “case type,” the subject area of interest. For example, this search for [CRD Voting Rights cases](#), or this one for [CRD Disability Rights cases](#).
- Have you worked on a Division case? Search for your name, using text search. And once you get to a case page for a case that you worked on, you can find all the other cases in our database that we’ve tagged as connected to you by clicking on your name (under “People”). If we’re missing any of your cases that you think the Clearinghouse should include, please [let them know!](#)
- And there are lots more in “[special collections](#)” that might be of particular interest. For example, the [Selma and Early Civil Rights Enforcement](#) collection brings together information about Division cases seeking to curb racial discrimination in Alabama that kept Black individuals from voting, including the injunction that allowed protesters to assemble in March 1965, and the DOJ's prosecution of the Klansmen who killed Viola Liuzzo.
- The Clearinghouse is building up a repository of [oral history interviews](#) with civil rights lawyers reflecting on their careers and some of the cases on which they worked. A couple of CRD alumni will be added soon, but the Clearinghouse is eager to include more. If you’re interested or have interviewee ideas, please [reach out!](#)

Finally, the Clearinghouse hosts virtual training sessions for civil rights lawyers and organizations to learn more about how the Clearinghouse can best support your work. Contact Margo and the Clearinghouse staff at info@clearinghouse.net if you want to attend a webinar.

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION NEWS

Here are summary updates of recent Civil Rights Division news. More details can be found on the Division's [website](#).

Department Secures \$4.14 Million Settlement For Student Athletes To Remedy Title IX Violations At University Of Maryland, Baltimore County



On April 3, 2024, the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division announced a [settlement agreement](#) with the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) to resolve the department's findings that UMBC allowed a former head coach of the swimming and diving team to sexually harass male student-athletes and discriminate against female student-athletes for years. The Division conducted the investigation under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX). Assistant Attorney General Kristin Clarke remarked:

"A school's responsibility is to protect its students, not abusers who seek to exploit their positions of power. The young student-athletes at UMBC experienced a double betrayal: their coach's prolonged abuse compounded by their university's utter failure to acknowledge, respond to or remedy this egregious conduct. UMBC has now taken full responsibility for its failures and has expressed its commitment to addressing them and rebuilding the trust of its community. The Justice Department recognizes the brave and resilient student-athletes who came forward and continue to come forward to share their stories with us. This settlement should send a resounding message to our nation's colleges and universities: sexual assaults and harassment of students will not be tolerated."

The Division found that in 2015, students reported that the head coach may have used a camera to film them while they showered in a UMBC locker room. Rather than investigate this report or take action to protect students, UMBC administrators warned the coach that campus police planned to search his locker, thwarting the criminal investigation. In 2019, a student reported unwanted sexual touching and harassment by the coach of male swimmers and again, UMBC failed to investigate or otherwise respond. The department also found that during this time, UMBC did not respond to female students' reports of sex discrimination, including dating violence, while on the team. As a result of these glaring failures by the university, student-athletes were subjected to ongoing sexual abuse, harassment and other sex discrimination by their coach for years.

UMBC has agreed to pay up to \$4.14 million in financial relief to student-athletes who were subjected to sex discrimination by the former head coach, and to other institutional improvements. The Division will monitor UMBC's implementation of the agreement, which will remain in place through the 2028-2029 academic year.

Department Secures Agreement With Florida School District to Protect the Civil Rights Of Students With Disabilities

On March 5, 2024, the Division announced a [settlement agreement](#) with the Pasco County School District in Florida to resolve the department's investigation into alleged discrimination against students with disabilities in school discipline, threat assessment practices and referrals of students to law enforcement. The department conducted its investigation under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The Division's investigation found that the district routinely suspended students or called police for disability-related behavior that could have been addressed through proper support and de-escalation. The investigation also found problems with how the district conducted threat assessments (a process to identify, evaluate and respond to potential school security concerns). When these assessments involved students with disabilities, the district systematically failed to consider the relationship between a student's disability and their behavior, and whether appropriate support for the student would address the behavior that prompted the assessment. Instead, the district often unnecessarily referred students to law enforcement to be arrested or to start the process for an involuntary admission into a mental health facility under Florida's Baker Act. The agreement requires the district to end discriminatory practices under which students lost hours of classroom time, were treated unfairly in the threat assessment process, and even faced the prospect of being arrested or sent to a mental health facility against their will. The district cooperated with the department throughout the investigation and has committed to improving its services for students with disabilities.

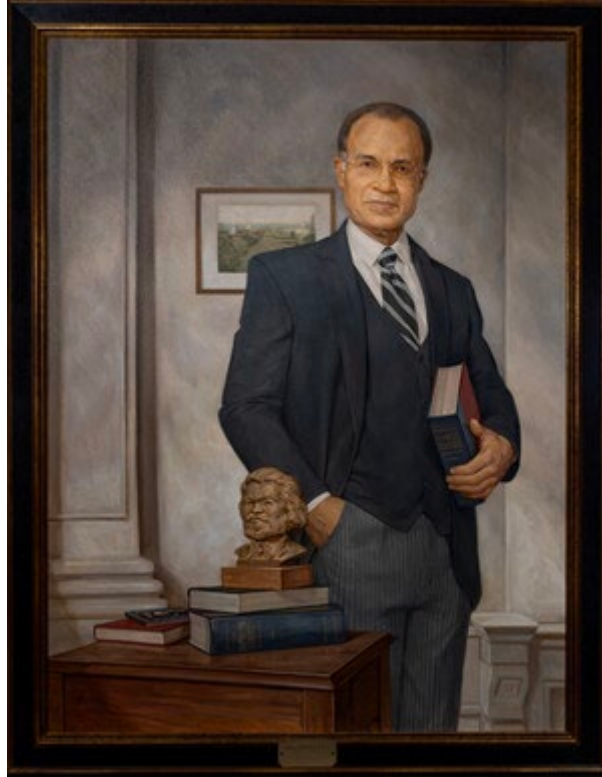
DIVISION ALUMNI NEWS AND UPDATES

Here are news and updates on our former Division colleagues:



Photo of Jerris Leonard, taken from Wikipedia

[**Jerris Leonard**](#) served as the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights from 1969 to 1971 under President Richard Nixon. In February 2024, his great grandson, Riley Leonard, was [interviewed by the Notre Dame Football organization](#) about his great-grandfather's legacy as head of the Division.



Portrait of Drew S. Days II hanging at Yale Law School

A portrait of Assistant Attorney General of Civil Rights **Drew S. Days III** was unveiled at Yale Law School in February 2024. Drew served as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights from 1977 to 1980. He was the first African American to serve in this role. Drew returned to the Department in 1993 when President Clinton nominated him to serve as Solicitor General of the United States, a position he held until 1996,

Drew joined the Yale Law faculty in 1981 where he taught and wrote on civil procedure, federal jurisdiction, Supreme Court practice, antidiscrimination law, comparative constitutional law (Canada and the United States), and international human rights. In 1991, he was named Alfred M. Rankin Professor of Law. From 1988 to 1993, he was also the founding director of the Orville H. Schell Jr. Center for International Human Rights at Yale Law School. He authored two volumes on United States Supreme Court jurisprudence, practice, and rules: *Moore's Federal Practice*, Third Edition (1997). In addition, he is the author of numerous journal articles, including "Feedback Loop": The Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Its Progeny," 49 *St. Louis U.L.J.* 981 (2005). Days was born in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1941.

Drew passed away on November 15, 2020, at the age of 79. He is survived by his wife of almost 54 years, Ann Langdon-Days; his two children, Dr. Alison L. Days (Sergio Rico) and Elizabeth J. Days (Donald Karr); granddaughters Frida and Georgia Rico; and sister Jacquelyn D. Serwer (Daniel Serwer). The portrait was commissioned by his wife, Ann, with friends and colleagues at Yale Law School, and was painted by artist Steven Brennan.



Christy Lopez

On April 6, 2024, **Christy Lopez** received the Distinguished Alumni Award from University of California, Riverside. Christy, a member of the UC Riverside class of 1990, served as Deputy Chief of the Division's Special Litigation Section from 2010 to 2017. There, she led the Section's group conducting pattern or practice investigations of police departments, including the investigation of the Ferguson Police Department following the death of Michael Brown. Christy received the Attorney General's Exceptional Service award for her work on the Ferguson Police Department investigation, and in 2013 she received the Attorney General's John Marshall Award for her work leading the New Orleans Police Department investigation and consent decree negotiation.

Christy teaches Criminal Justice at Georgetown Law School, and seminars and experiential courses related to policing, civil rights, and the criminal legal system. She is also the faculty co-director of Georgetown Law's Center for Innovations in Community Safety. Christy received her J.D. at Yale Law School.

Battle Rankin Robinson was one of the early women lawyers at the Civil Rights Division. Here, she provides insights into her journey with the Division, and her later career:

After graduating from Yale Law School in the spring of 1963 and passing the North Carolina Bar, I was selected for the Attorney General Honors Program. I joined the Civil Rights Division in November 1963, about two weeks before the assassination of President Kennedy. When news first came that the President had been shot, DOJ attorneys and staff alike raced up to the press room across from Attorney General Robert Kennedy's office, to follow the ticker tape from Dallas. The huge protective metal doors on the Attorney General's office had already clanged shut.

As I recall, I requested to be placed in the Civil Rights Division. At that time I envisioned myself walking side by side with John Doar across the South, quelling riots and bringing segregationists to justice. Instead, I was assigned to the Appeals and Research Section because it was deemed unsafe to send a young woman into the field – even one who, like me, had been “born and bred” in the South. But that assignment turned into a true blessing, as I worked with some incredibly skilled lawyers, who have remained friends for life. During the time I was with Appeals and Research, I worked on appellate briefs in voting and school desegregation cases. I also have not particularly fond memories of hours spent researching the murky legislative history of the 14th Amendment and the 19th Century Civil Rights Acts in connection with cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. I at least received a nice letter for my work, even if my work product was not particularly helpful to the Department or the Court! More enjoyable were the efforts of the Section in connection with the adoption of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. We provided memos to legislators about the background of, and need for, provisions of those monumental acts.

I did not argue many cases in court, mostly motions and some appearances in cases involving suits brought by federal prisoners. However, I will mention one case I handled which was quite unusual. It involved the desegregation of a Florida school district. The district had actually done pretty well with its desegregation plan, but two all black schools remained which we felt could readily be desegregated. We debated about whether to get involved. A memo from the Solicitor General's office approved the filing, but referred to the case as "insignificant" – which is probably why I got to argue it. Anyway, when I showed up in court in Florida who should appear at opposing counsel's table but the Governor of Florida, accompanied by a huge press entourage! He was granted leave to intervene as a party in the case. I guess he was trying to show constituents in northern Florida that he could stand up to the big, bad federal government. Only the big, bad federal government turned out to be a lone young woman attorney! I think his plot fell flat, although it did get him – and me – some press coverage. An interesting side light of that case is that the presiding judge was J. Harrold Carswell, who, only a few months later, was nominated by President Nixon for the U.S. Supreme Court. As apparently the only lawyer from Washington ever to appear before Judge Carswell, I was inundated by calls from the press seeking comment on the judge. I declined to get involved in that controversy.

The last couple of years I was with the Division I transferred to the Trial Section, as several other women attorneys had by that time been hired. Those years gave me a chance to do some traveling in the South and to meet a host of interesting people, black and white, lawyers and students, and others involved in the civil rights movement. Along with other Department lawyers I monitored a number of large-scale civil rights demonstrations. Toward the end of my service, the Vietnam War began to outweigh civil rights in the public's attention and the Department was a frequent target of the ire against the War. Once, while seated at my desk, I was almost hit by a brick with a draft card attached which came flying through the window. It was also a fraught time, with the assassinations of Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy, and I recall having to stay overnight in the Department building when the Washington riots took place; we could see and smell smoke rising from burning buildings along nearby 7th Street.

I left the Department in 1970 to be married and move to Southern Delaware. My husband, Robert, edited a small-town weekly newspaper. There was a print shop attached to the newspaper, which printed the daily journals of the Delaware legislature, requiring Robert to work closely with the Clerk of the Delaware House of Representatives. When the Clerk learned he had married a lawyer, she promptly hired me to work as a staff attorney to the House. I loved this work, which involved drafting legislation and giving legal advice to members of the House. It was also part time, which was helpful, since I soon embarked on another career as mother of two children, Rob and Dorothy.

When Pete DuPont was elected Governor of Delaware, he appointed me his assistant legal counsel, another great job. Once again, I was dealing with legislation, working with the Legislature and advising the Governor about whether to sign or veto bills. I also handled extraditions, pardons, and other matters that come within the ambit of a Governor's office. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn about state government and to encounter able people all across the state.

In 1984 I ran for Lieutenant Governor of Delaware but failed in that effort by a few hundred votes. In 1985, I was appointed Judge of the Delaware Family Court. I was honored to be sworn into office by federal judge Harold Green, who had been my boss in the Appeals and Research Section! My attention then turned from civil rights and state government to the expanding field of family law. While I was serving on the Court, U.S. Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole appointed me to the United States Interstate Child Support Commission, which was charged with taking a careful look at the system for establishing and enforcing child support obligations. Meanwhile, Governor DuPont

had appointed me to the national Uniform Law Commission (ULC) which develops model state legislation. Eventually, I became chairman of the ULC committee which drafted the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act which is now the law in every state. In this capacity, I accompanied the United States delegation to The Hague, in the Netherlands, where an international treaty was developed to enforce support obligations across national boundaries. I testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on behalf of the ULC. My work with the ULC to develop UIFSA was probably the highlight of my professional career.

During my career I published several articles: "Integrating an International Convention into State Law: The UIFSA Experience", Family Law Quarterly, Vol 43, No. 1, Spring 2009; "The Beginner's Guide to International Support", Delaware Lawyer, and, most recently, "Practicing Law in a New Nation: The Law Books of James Patriot Wilson", Delaware Lawyer, Vol 39, Number 2, Spring 2021. I also privately published a collection of remarks and speeches I gave during the course of my career, "A Few Words" (Universe, Inc. 2003).

Now in my old age I am, sadly, a widow and I use a cane when I walk. But I remain active with my church and several community groups and I continue to live in my historic home, The Judge's. The house, built around 1805, got its name from the number of judges who have resided there. Thank you for traveling with me on my long, varied and never boring career.

IN MEMORIAM

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

Stephen J. Pollak
March 22, 1928 – February 3, 2024



Stephen J. Pollak served twice in the Civil Rights Division in the 1960s: first as deputy to John Doar, and later as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Civil Rights Division Association (CRDA) as he wanted to preserve and advance the legacy of the Division's work.

There are preliminary plans for an event co-sponsored by the CRDA to honor Steve's contributions to the Department. The tentative date is May 24, 2024 in the Great Hall. Please "hold the date" and we will let you know when the details are confirmed. In addition, Steve's family extends an invitation to his friends and colleagues to attend a celebration of his life on Sat. May 25, 2024, from

11:00 am to 12:30 pm, at Sidwell Friends Meeting House, 3825 Wisconsin Ave. NW, Washington, D.C.

Steve was a vital contributor to three of the most consequential advances in Federal civil rights legislation of the 20th century: enforcing the Civil Rights Act of 1964; drafting and enactment of the Fair Housing Act of 1968; and, most notably, playing a central role in the drafting and enactment of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the defense of the Act in the United States Supreme Court. He would recall that on day one with the Division, he traveled to Alabama to secure the safety of civil rights marchers at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma. Steve spoke about how, at the end of the march that day, he heard Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. declare: "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." As Steve would later note, "I'll never forget the huge throng in front of the State Capitol to greet the marchers."

Among Steve's many responsibilities was to manage the progress of the Voting Rights Act on Capitol Hill. Steve worked on Capitol Hill with the Senate drafting committee that would approve a bipartisan version of the bill. Later, when the effectiveness of a key provision of the Voting Rights Act was threatened by narrow lower court interpretations. Steve argued the case, *Allen v. State Board of Elections*, in 1968, where the Department's position prevailed in the Supreme Court.

Under Steve's leadership, the Division's focus expanded beyond the deep South, intensifying its efforts in equal employment, law enforcement and school desegregation across the nation with new attention to the North and West. Steve was instrumental in advancing the Johnson Administration's efforts to promote fair housing legislation and was involved in securing the votes for passage of the Fair Housing Act of 1968. Importantly, Steve led the Division's coordinated Federal response and local community assistance following the tragic assassination of Dr. King in 1968.

Steve served Presidents Kennedy and Johnson in other capacities between 1961 and 1969, including as Presidential Advisor on National Capital Affairs (laying the foundation for an elected District of Columbia government), Assistant to the Solicitor General, Legal Counsel to the President's Task Force on the War Against Poverty, Deputy General Counsel for the Office of Economic Opportunity, Special Assistant to the Attorney General, and leader of President Johnson's Legislative Task Force on Civil Rights in 1966. Across his years in government and after, Steve argued twelve cases in the Supreme Court including *Griffin v. Breckenridge* where the Court held in 1971 that the Ku Klux Klan Act should be accorded a "sweep as broad as its language," meaning that the statute, as Steve had argued, prohibited not just conspiracies by public officials, but also conspiracies among private parties—in that case, two white men who, believing that two black men driving down the highway were civil rights workers, blocked their car, dragged them out, and beat them with clubs.

After leaving the Department in 1969, Steve joined the law firm of Shea & Gardner (later Goodwin Proctor, following a 2004 merger) as its youngest partner, serving on and chairing the firm's Executive Committee. In 1977, Steve served as outside counsel to President Carter's Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare. He drafted the regulations implementing Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Steve's contributions to the legal profession are numerous. He has been a member, and was Chair, of the Panel of Mediators for the U.S. Court of Appeals – D.C. Circuit, served as President of the DC Bar, the DC Bar Foundation, and Commissioner of the DC Access to Justice Commission. He chaired the DC Judicial Nominations Commission. He was Chair, President, and member of the Board of Directors of the Historical Society of the District of Columbia Circuit, serving for over 30 years and

leading the Society's Oral History Program. Steve is a longstanding member of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, serving on the Board from 1969 until 2022. He was awarded the Whitney North Seymour Award in 1994, and the Lloyd Cutler Lifetime Achievement Award in December 2023.

Steve was born and raised in Chicago, and attended Dartmouth College where he captained the swim team. Steve served in the Navy and was Officer of the Deck on ships that included the destroyer USS Borie in Korea during the Korean War. After his military discharge in 1953, he attended Yale Law School where he served as Managing Editor of the Law Review.

Steve was an avid outdoorsman and sportsman, and enjoyed weekend getaways with his wife, Ruth, to Rappahannock County, Virginia where he loved to pick wild berries and make jam. He enjoyed vacations and family get-aways to the beaches of Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, the lakes of Northern Wisconsin, and the mountains of Alta, Utah. He loved to ski and play tennis and did so well into his 90s.

Steve greatly valued public service and his Division colleagues. At the Civil Rights Division's 65th Anniversary in December 2022, Steve joined AAG Kristin Clark onstage and [reflected](#) on his tenure with the Division, stating:

"I did not do it alone. I served with great people in the Division, led by first Burke Marshall and then John Doar... There were outstanding people then and there are outstanding people now. It's a great honor to serve in the Department. I think it was the best of my career. All of you who are serving now or have served, I commend you and commend your tasks. These are great laws that you are enforcing, and they need everything that you can give them."

Steve is survived by his wife of 73 years, Ruth Scheinfeld Pollak, four children and their partners, eight grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Dagmar Hamilton
Jan. 10, 1932 – November 17, 2023



Dagmar ("Dag") Hamilton was an attorney in the Division from 1965 to 1966. She worked on poll tax cases across the Southern states.

Dag dedicated her career to government and public policy. She graduated from Swarthmore College and was awarded a full scholarship to the University of Chicago Law School. Prior to

graduating from UChicago Law, Dag and her husband, Robert (Bob) Hamilton, moved to Washington, D.C. for Bob's clerkship with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Tom Clark. Dag completed her final year of law school at American University in Washington, D.C. in 1961. In 1962, Dag worked for Justice William O. Douglas at the U.S. Supreme Court as a book researcher and editor, covering environment, the value of dissent, civil liberties, and civil rights.

Dag and her husband later left Washington, D.C. for the University of Texas, Austin. Bob was joining the UT Law School faculty. Dag was among a small group of women lawyers hired to teach in the Government Department at UT, Austin. Dag said that she would always be grateful to a senior administrator for "doing what I can't imagine any other official at his level doing ... he ignored the nepotism rules, and he hired not one, but three law school wives, including me, to teach American Government. Basic American government to freshmen at UT."

In 1973, she served as Staff Counsel for the House Judiciary Committee to work on the Nixon Impeachment Inquiry, and was one of three women hired along with 35 men. She later said: "For 1973 even that was radical". Dag's research team analyzed the U.S. founders' impeachment intentions and English legal precedents. Dag returned to UT Austin with her family in 1974, and began teaching at the LBJ School of Public Affairs, shortly after the school's founding. She had a joint appointment at the UT Law School, and taught classes with students from both the LBJ School and the Law School. Dag served as Associate Dean of the LBJ School from 1983-1987, and helped establish the dual degree program in law and public policy. She was a visiting professor at the Washington University Law School, St. Louis, 1982, Queen Mary's College of Law London, 1987-88, and the University of Maine Law School Portland, 1992 and 2002.

Dag was known for holding her students to high standards and for lacing her public policy classes with real-world anecdotes. She maintained connections to many of her students long after they graduated. Dag's office library consisted of almost 1,000 volumes of books that she frequently loaned out to students.

Dag is survived by three children, Eric Hamilton (Jan Jackson), Randy Hamilton (Jennie Caughran), and Meredith Hamilton, seven grandchildren, many nieces and nephews, and siblings-in-law Leslie and Douglas Hamilton. Her husband, Bob, died in 2018.

David Rubin
December 3, 1932 - October 30, 2023



David Rubin served as an appellate attorney in the Division during the Administrations of Presidents Kennedy and Johnson. He participated in many desegregation and voting rights cases,

including the landmark 1962 redistricting case, *Baker v. Carr*. He played a significant role in the drafting and passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. He later served as Deputy General Counsel and Acting General Counsel for the United States Commission on Civil Rights.

After leaving government, David was Deputy General Counsel for the National Education Association. In 1979, he argued in the Supreme Court for petitioner in *Ghivan v Western Line Consolidated School District*, winning a decision that a public-school teacher could not be fired for expressing concerns about the conduct of her employer. He authored, "The Rights of Teachers: The Basic ACLU Guide to a Teacher's Constitutional Rights."

David was born in the Bronx and grew up in Brooklyn. He graduated from Columbia College and Columbia Law School. He served in the U.S. Army in Europe. David married Betty Ann Levitas, a teacher, in 1962, and they lived in Silver Spring, Maryland, then moved to Reston, Virginia in 1971. . David's family writes that he was a gifted violinist, a voracious reader, an opera lover, and a first-rate letter writer. He had a deceptively twisty tennis serve and was an avid walker even into his 80's.

David is survived by his daughters, Suzie Rubin (Steve Kahl) of Norwich, VT and Emmy Rubin of Cambridge, MA, his younger brothers Alan Rubin and Jerry Rubin, his grandson Henry Kahl, and his granddaughter Hattie Kahl. David's wife, Betty Ann, died in 2019.