



## **Civil Rights Division Association NEWSLETTER Issue 12, October 2024**

The Civil Rights Division Association (CRDA) is a non-partisan organization comprised 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.<sup>1</sup> 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 Newsletter's Division Alumni News and Updates Section! This includes news about family or personal activities, interesting trips you have taken, job changes, career posts, publications, awards, recognitions and retirements. We also invite creative submissions and reflections, too! Creative submissions and reflections should be no longer than 500 words, and can be:

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

- Insights on interesting experiences during your tenure with the Division;
- Photos of memorable events with a brief summary of the event; or
- 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](mailto:CRDANewsletter@gmail.com). The Newsletter is published bi-monthly. **The deadline for submissions to the next newsletter is November 15, 2024.***

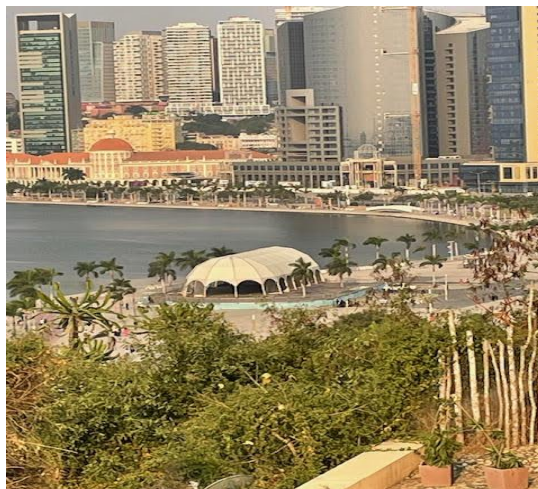
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## DIVISION ALUMNI REFLECTIONS

### JOURNEY TO ANGOLA

By Richard W. Roberts\*

Friends who traced their ancestry to Angola invited me to join them on their nine-day family trip there this year. On the connecting flight from Lisbon to Luanda, we flew 39,000 feet above the vast and unforgiving Sahara, Coltrane intoning in my headset, muscatel whetting my longing palate. Once in the capital, our guide started our tour in Independence Square where he led the gathered between twin granite walls in singing the etched Portuguese words of the Angolan national anthem.



On day three, we set out to the hinterlands to see a historic fort and visit an orphanage and provide school materials to its children. At the third hour, the last half of which was over bumpy, dusty roads, the bus was stopped by some armed men in military garb. A coterie of civilians surrounding a blue-shirted man emerging from an array of government marked Land Cruisers escorted him to the bus door. Our translator alighted and spoke to the man. In short order, the translator reboarded and commanded four people to get off of the bus: the Vice Mayor of Hampton, Virginia and his wife, and Wanda and Vincent Tucker, the descendants of a Tucker reported to have been among the first

Angolan captives to arrive in Virginia in the early 1600s. On one day's notice, those four had been summoned to meet with the President of Angola, João Lourenço. That meeting was pictured in the evening news journal and reported widely on the evening TV news. You see, the man in the blue shirt was the Governor of Cuanza Province, accompanied by his film crew and local news reporters. My metastasized skepticism of politicians and preachers led me to assume that the Governor refused to be one-upped by a mere President and seized his chance to get publicity, too. Alas, I lacked charity. Indeed, the President had sent word down for all to extend bounteous courtesy and protection to the welcomed American visitors, especially the officials of Luanda's sister city, Hampton. The police escort stayed with us for the rest of our stay there, and the Governor later hosted his own meeting with the Vice Mayor, Hampton officials, and Tucker Family representatives.

We made it to the fort complex where we were greeted by colorfully festooned local performers. The first of several remaining buildings built by the Portuguese human traffickers in 1582 was the Adjudication Building where captives were pronounced convicted and sentenced to the custody of the traffickers. They were then walked barefoot on the rocky path over to Fort Massangano. It was erected to protect against attacks by Queen Nzinga and her forces, but doubled as a pen holding the captives pending the arrival of the slave transport boats on the Kwanzaa River.



Pathway to Fort Massangano

In a grotesque exercise of hypocrisy and arrogance, the Church baptized the captives to begin their seasoning by assigning them Christian names. The captives who rebelled or seemed unfit for sale were dragged through tunnels to ovens where they were killed, a 17<sup>th</sup> century Holocaust. The remaining captives were never to be seen again. They ultimately were shipped 70 miles down the nearby Kwanzaa River (which holds the remains of countless captives who jumped or were thrown overboard; their existence was removed from the Portuguese maritime records resulting in a massive undercount of captives) where they were auctioned off in slave markets to transatlantic slavers whose ships awaited in the Luanda port.

In Luanda, we walked the streets where the wholesalers carted kidnapped humans into locked storage in the rears of buildings. The retailers sold them off in bondage to the transatlantic human trafficking ship owners. We doffed our shoes in homage and held our hands to the wall of the street bloodied by the bare feet of the captives forced to march to the port of no return.



Pedestrians remove shoes and touch the wall that leads to the Port of No Return

We saw on Luanda's highest ground the embassy of the British venerated for their abolitionist pronouncements but were reminded that Portugal's human trafficking cut into Britain's supply of cheap labor, exposing their motive of economics above altruism.

Our trip also included some touristy stuff. We stopped at a spot where the terrain evoked the image of a moonscape. We visited Calandula Falls, the second highest waterfall on the continent.



Calandula Falls

The view of the Petras Negras (Black Rocks) landscape in the province of Malanje was awe inspiring. We arrived to the warm welcome yet again of youthful troupes of local performers. The local official who greeted us explained that the power in Petras Negras is in women. That is surely engrained in Angolan iconography where no Aunt Jemima-like imagery is used.

We trekked upward to see the view from the top. Queen Nzinga posted her army atop the high points like the one we climbed to because they commanded wide views of any approaching attackers (rival kingdoms, Portuguese invaders, etc.). But halfway through our trek up, we were assembled for an audience with the current King of Ndongo, Luis Ngola Njungo, who descends directly from Queen Nzinga.



King of Ndongo, Luis Ngola Njungo

It was the first time the King had received visitors of this kind at this spot. The King carries the mortal ashen remains of his royal ancestor. He blessed each of us by having his courtier mark ashes onto our right forearm. King Njungo intoned “the fire never goes out. Our continued presence shows that the Portuguese did not succeed.” It was an altogether unforgettable journey.

*\*Richard W. Roberts is a retired United States District Judge with the Federal District Court of the District of Columbia. He served as Chief of the Division’s Criminal Section from 1995 to 1998, and a Trial Attorney in the Section from 1978 to 1982. The views expressed in this Reflection are solely those of the author.*

## **REMEMBERING EMPLOYMENT SECTION CHIEF DAVE ROSE**

**By Vicki Schultz\***

With the one-year anniversary of the death of long-time Civil Rights Division Employment Section Chief David L. Rose, I write to share my memories about his remarkable life and career. As a Trial Attorney in that Section in the 1980s, I was honored to serve under Dave and to call him my mentor and friend.

Dave was an early pioneer of the Civil Rights Division. After serving as Assistant Chief of the Civil Division’s Appellate Section, he was appointed Special Assistant to Attorney General Ramsey Clark where he coordinated Title VI efforts and filed the Division’s first employment discrimination cases. In 1969, he became the first Section Chief of the Employment Litigation Section, the unit with authority to enforce Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

A visionary leader, Dave hired and trained a diverse, cohesive team of lawyers and staff, including me, who worked tirelessly to desegregate the nation’s workforce and develop an expansive body of civil rights law through Title VII pattern or practice suits. Until 1974, the Section focused on private employers and trade unions. Lawyers sued and won cases in almost every major American industry, including construction, trucking, airlines, steel, paper, telecommunications, public utilities, and other areas of manufacturing. After that, when the Department obtained jurisdiction over public employers, the Section sued police and fire departments, state police forces, and entire state and local governments around the country.

Under Dave's leadership, the Division not only opened scores of jobs to people long denied them because of their race, ethnicity or sex. Section lawyers helped craft the foundations for modern civil rights law, winning landmark cases establishing: the concept of disparate impact discrimination; the validity of statistical proof to prove class-based disparate treatment; and the legality of affirmative action to remedy past discrimination and ensure future compliance. Dave co-authored the brief for the United States in *Griggs v. Duke Power Co.*, and helped write the Uniform Guidelines on Employee Selection (the authoritative guide to compliance with federal employment discrimination law). It is little wonder that in 1974, when Section employees gave Dave a book chronicling the Section's work, they dedicated the book "*TO DAVE ROSE, who has done more than any other person to develop the law of equal employment opportunity.*"

Dave socialized young lawyers into the Section's culture of professional excellence and personal camaraderie. He paired junior lawyers with senior lawyers, who helped train them in the Section's fact-intensive methods of investigation and trial preparation. Lawyers traveled extensively and worked tirelessly to dismantle the nation's occupational caste system. Dave pushed young Section lawyers to do the impossible and they tried hard not to disappoint him.

Former Section attorney Jerry Hartmann recalled that when he had only been in the Section for about a week, Rose told him that he was going to have to try a case in Cleveland the following week because the lead lawyers had been diverted to another matter. Hartmann remembers thinking, "*If I say no, I'll never get to do another thing in this job the rest of my life*"—so he said yes. Terry Connor recalled asking Rose, "What will happen if I lose (a 706 case)?" He would never forget Dave's reply: "We don't lose cases in the Section." Squire Padgett recalled Dave's assigning him to argue an *en banc* appeal before the Fifth Circuit, at a time when the court had twenty-five sitting judges. At the argument, when Padgett asked, "*What will happen if I pass out?*" Rose replied, "*I'll just crawl over your shoulders and continue the argument, and no one will notice.*" Don Pailen recalled that as a young attorney he was called to the office of the sitting Attorney General, who was outraged that Pailen had convinced a judge to withhold the City of Chicago's federal funding until the City complied. Dave went with him to the meeting and stood up to defend the the remedy and Pailen's judgment—leading the AG to back off.



Photo of Employment Litigation Section staff  
(date unknown)

Decades later, these and other former Employment Litigation Section attorneys spoke of Dave with deep affection—and awe. Many referred to him as a giant. With Dave at the helm, the Section achieved remarkable success, pursuing policies that eased longstanding disparities in employment and pay and created more equal job opportunities for everyone. The formative “Rose era” lasted from the late 1960s until the early 1980s, when the Reagan administration reversed course. In 1987, Dave left the Division and pursued plaintiff’s side employment and civil rights law in private practice.



Division alum Vicki Schultz standing with Dave Rose

Dave’s funeral service was attended by many former Section and Division lawyers and staff to celebrate and say goodbye to the beloved Chief. Former Deputy Employment Section Chief Richard Ugelow paid tribute to Dave on behalf of the Section. Attendees included Squire Padgett, Dick Ritter, Lorna Grenadier, Steve Rosenbaum, Barbara Thawley, George Henderson, Dave Allen, Loretta King, and me, Vicki Schultz. People spoke movingly about Dave’s life: Not only his pathbreaking career achievements and the sense of commitment and community he created in the Section, but also about his generous contributions as a father and family member, and the legacy of love and giving back he and Ann fostered in their large family. From the many tributes, it was clear that Dave was a great lawyer and leader whose civil rights work changed the law and the country for good. He was also a great family man and human being whose devotion to others changed the lives of everyone who knew him and of many who never met him.

*\*Vicki Schultz was a trial attorney in the Employment Litigation Section from 1983 to 1986, when she left to become an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin Law School. She is now the Ford Foundation Professor of Law and Social Science at Yale Law School, where she teaches employment discrimination law, constitutional law, family law, and workplace theory and policy. Vicki heads the [Living Civil Rights Law Project](#) which is working to chronicle and publicize the Section’s important role in desegregating the American workforce and creating the law of equal employment opportunity. The views expressed in this Reflection are solely those of the author.*

## CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION NEWS

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

### **Justice Department and Department of Housing and Urban Development Secure Over \$15M from OceanFirst Bank to Resolve Redlining Claims in New Jersey**



The Civil Rights Division, U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey and Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced on September 18, 2024, that OceanFirst Bank, N.A. agreed to pay over \$15 million to resolve allegations that it engaged in a pattern or practice of lending discrimination by redlining predominantly Black, Hispanic and Asian neighborhoods in Middlesex, Monmouth, and Ocean Counties in New Jersey. Redlining is an illegal practice in which lenders avoid providing credit services to individuals living in communities of color because of the race, color or national origin of residents in those communities.

The Division's [complaint](#), filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey, alleges that, from 2018 through at least 2022, OceanFirst Bank failed to provide mortgage lending services to predominantly Black, Hispanic, and Asian neighborhoods in Middlesex, Monmouth, and Ocean Counties and discouraged people seeking credit in those communities from obtaining home loans. Specifically, the complaint alleges that OceanFirst disproportionately focused its outreach and advertising on majority-white communities, placed its branches in majority-white neighborhoods, and closed its only branches in the majority-Black, Hispanic, and Asian neighborhoods in those counties.

The claims have been resolved via a [proposed consent order](#), which is subject to court approval. The Justice Department's Civil Rights Division and U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey opened their investigation into OceanFirst's lending practices after receiving a referral from the bank's regulator, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency.

**Maryland U.S. Attorney's Office And Justice Department's Civil Rights Division  
Secure Agreement With Johns Hopkins Health System To  
Provide People With Disabilities Equal Access To Medical Care**



On September 12, the Division announced the filing of a [complaint](#) and [proposed consent decree](#) in the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland resolving allegations that the Johns Hopkins Health System Corporation (Johns Hopkins) violated the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by denying people with disabilities equal access to medical care by excluding their necessary support persons.

“Patients with disabilities may need the assistance of a support person, like a family member or aide, to have equal access to health care, especially during emergencies,” said Civil Rights Division Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke. “Policies and training go hand in hand when it comes to ensuring that health care providers and their employees are protecting patient rights and not excluding support persons improperly. Ensuring equal access to medical care is a priority for the Justice Department.”

Some individuals with dementia, intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum disorder and other disabilities may require the assistance of a support person (such as a family member, personal assistant, or other individual knowledgeable about them) when accessing medical care. Support persons can help individuals with disabilities to communicate, such as providing their medical history and answering questions, and to understand what is happening, such as medical instructions they are given during their care and discharge. The complaint alleges that Johns Hopkins failed on numerous occasions to follow its own policies for visitors and support persons by not permitting patients with disabilities to be accompanied by their support persons. As a result, these patients were unable to receive equal care.

Under the proposed consent decree, which the court must approve, Johns Hopkins has agreed to pay \$150,000 to compensate multiple affected individuals. Johns Hopkins will also update its support person policies to ensure ADA compliance, train its employees on its support person policies and the ADA, and report any future complaints regarding support persons to the Justice Department.

## DIVISION ALUMNI NEWS AND UPDATES

Here are news and updates on our former Division colleagues:



Heather Moss

**Heather Moss** is a Division alum now, and is embarking on a writing, restoration, and realignment sabbatical after 15 years of government service, including over a decade of civil rights enforcement in the Division! Heather writes that “owing to more than a year of planning, including relocating from DC back to Northern California, I am excited about this chapter as I allow myself time to refuel and refocus on what embodying liberation truly means. Please reach out to me at [Heather Moss | LinkedIn](#) if you'd like to connect— especially if you're in the Bay Area, legal academia, or are still engaged in civil rights practice! I am currently formulating a vision for the second half of my career and would love to tap into the CRDA's wisdom. I will also be visiting DC in late October for my Georgetown University Law Center 15th reunion and would love to connect in person then too!”

Heather began at the Division as a Civil Rights Analyst in the Voting Section from 2002 to 2006. After graduating from Georgetown Law Center, she returned to the Division as Policy Counsel and most recently worked on Title VI enforcement in the Federal Coordination and Compliance Section.



Rebecca K. Troth

**Rebecca K. Troth** served the Division as a Senior Attorney in the Appellate Section for ten years, from 1991 to 2000. From 2000 to 2001, she was detailed to the Attorney General's office as Counsel to Attorney General Janet Reno.

As a Senior Appellate Attorney, Becky worked on significant voting, employment, disability rights, and education cases, including *Ensley Branch of NAACP v. Seibels* (11th Cir.), *United States v. Village of Palatin* (7th Cir.), *City of Edmonds v. Washington State Building Code Council* (9th Cir.), and *Larkin v. State of Michigan Department of Social Services* (6th Cir.). After leaving the Department in 2001, she taught legal writing at the Washington College of Law for two years. She then continued her public interest work, serving as Legal Director of the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, a legal organization dedicated to ending and preventing homelessness and expanding access to affordable housing. She left the National Law Center in 2006 to become the first Pro Bono Counsel for Sidley Austin LLP's D.C. office, helping to shape and promote the firm's pro bono work. In 2017, as her final stint before "retirement," she spent four years as the Executive Director of the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center.

Becky continues to serve the interests of poor and less advantaged individuals through her work on the Board of Directors of [Open City Advocates](#), an organization that represents youth in D.C.'s juvenile justice system. She also has helped establish and operate a scholarship program for UDC Law students committed to careers in public interest. Becky is a former board member of Legal Aid DC, the D.C. Access to Justice Commission, and the Edward Coke Appellate Inn of Court. She is a current member of the U.S. District Court's Indigent Civil Litigation Fund. Becky graduated from Macalester College and the University of Michigan School of Law.



Sabrina (second from left) with her sons and Madison

**Sabrina W. Jenkins** is a Division alum who has been quite busy keeping up with her kids, especially her dynamo daughter, Madison. Sabrina retired as an attorney from the Division in 2014, after 35 years of service in the Education, Special Litigation and Voting Sections, where she worked tirelessly enforcing civil rights laws and representing the Division in investigations, victim interviews, and discovery and court proceedings. She was involved in countless matters and investigations that took her across the country for the Division. She served as counsel for the United States in significant litigation that includes *Lee v. Randolph County Board of Education* (MD Ala.) and *United States v. Blaine County, Montana* (D. Mont).

Since retiring, she has been involved in community service through her sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha, and keeping up with the dynamic career of her daughter Madison. Madison Calley is a classically trained harpist whose performances have gained significant accolades in the contemporary R&B music space. Madison, a Carnegie Mellon University graduate, has played the harp since a child. She credits her mother, Sabrina, with encouraging her to continue playing the

harp despite so few other kids playing the beautiful instrument. Sabrina's encouragement has certainly benefited Madison!

After graduating from college, Madison moved to Los Angeles and her work as a professional musician has soared! Madison has been highlighted in top magazines as a pioneer in diversifying classical musicianship, including in *Vogue*, [Rolling Stone](#), the New York Times, and Business Insider. She has performed at many high-profile events and venues, such as the [94th Academy Awards with Beyonce](#), the [95th Academy Awards with Rihanna](#), the 2021 iHeartRadio music Awards with Usher, [the Greek Theater with Alicia Keys](#), the 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Grammy Awards and 2021 BET Awards with Roddy Ricch, the Latin Grammy Awards with Karol G, and [NPR's Tiny Desk with Neyo](#). Madison recently made her film debut in [Outlaw Posse](#), a western directed by and starring, Mario Van Peebles. She recently released an original 30-minute meditation piece titled "Just A Thought" for the CALM App's estimated 4.5 million monthly listeners, and announced a [paid partnership with XFINITI USA](#) to promote the Infiniti 2025 QX 80.

Keep soaring Madison!



Jon Seward

**Jon Seward** recently launched [Win-Win Solutions, LLC](#), a company that helps lenders understand redlining risk and take proactive steps to transform that risk into profitable lending opportunities to qualified borrowers in communities of color.

Jon joined the Division as a trial attorney in 1994 and became the department's first fair-lending deputy. He joined Fannie Mae in 2003, where he developed a compliance system to help to ensure minority borrowers are treated fairly in the secondary mortgage market. He later returned to the Division in 2008 where he developed an innovative law enforcement response to unfolding housing foreclosure crisis; he oversaw the Department's Combatting Redlining Initiative and led the Fair Lending Enforcement Program. Jon served as Deputy Chief of the Housing and Civil Enforcement Section from 2008 to 2016, and Principal Deputy from 2017 until his retirement from the Division in 2023. Jon is widely known as an expert in redlining and has received many awards for his public service.



Steven H. Rosenbaum

***Steven H. Rosenbaum*** recently became a Division alum after 46 years of service! During a retirement ceremony for Steve on September 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Great Hall, he advised Division colleagues to “have compassion and take risks.”

During his tenure at the Division, Steve embodied that advice having served in the Employment, Voting, Appellate, Special Litigation, and Housing and Civil Enforcement Sections, and was Chief of three of those sections. Steve also served in the Office of the Assistant Attorney General as Special Litigation Counsel. Throughout that time, he mentored countless Division staff and shepherded ground-breaking investigations through litigation or settlements. Relief from those cases improved the lives of voters, people living in institutions and prisons, restaurant patrons, credit applicants, job seekers, rental housing applicants, people sexually harassed by their landlords, and people coming into contact with law enforcement.

Thanks for the 16,809 days you gave to the Division, Steve!



U.S. District Judge Theodore Chuang

***Theodore (Ted) Chuang*** served as a trial attorney in the Housing and Civil Enforcement Section from 1995 to 1998. Last May, 2024, he was elected by Harvard alumni to the Harvard University Board of Overseers. The Board of Overseers at Harvard has broad influence over the University’s strategic directions, provides counsel to University leadership on priorities and plans, and has the power of consent to certain actions of the Harvard Corporation.

After leaving the Division in 1998, Judge Chuang served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the District of Massachusetts, then as Deputy Chief Investigative Counsel with the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. He also served as Deputy General Counsel at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. He was nominated by President Obama to serve as a federal judge with the United States District Court of Maryland. He was confirmed by the Senate in 2014. Judge Chuang graduated from Harvard College and Harvard Law School.



Criminal Section alums get-together

***Chris Tenorio, Bharathi Venkatraman, Danny Velez, Mark Blumberg, Barry Williams, Jessica Ginsburg, John Mott, Bill Ho-Gonzales and Roy Austin***, all alums of the Division's Criminal Section, got together this summer in D.C. to celebrate Chris and his wife. Great reunion of a group of outstanding criminal litigators!



Lisa with her family at the Duomo di Firenze

***Lisa Wilson Edwards*** says “Buongiorno” after visiting Positano and Florence, Italy this summer with her family. She shares that the Amalfi Coast region of Salerno is breathtaking, the food is delicious, and the Italians are all very friendly. There were many highlights, including the beautiful

vistas of Positano, a boat tour viewing of the Faraglioni Rocks of Capri, Michaelangelo's David at the Galleria dell'Accademia, and, interestingly, the Musée Salvatore Ferragamo in Florence! A real highlight was attending Mass at the Duomo di Firenze. Lisa is an alum of the Division's Appellate and the Employment Litigation Sections. After leaving the Department in 2022, she joined the Federal Communications Commission where she is serving as an Associate Bureau Chief of the Wireline Competition Bureau focused on the agency's digital discrimination of access rulemaking and implementation.

## IN MEMORIAM

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

**Joseph L. Russo**  
**March 21, 1965 – April 1, 2024**



**Joseph L. Russo** was one of the first attorneys hired by the Division to enforce the Americans with Disabilities Act. Joe joined the Division in 1992 where he served as a Senior Trial Attorney and Supervisory Attorney in the Division's Disability Rights Section. He was involved in several high-profile matters during the early enforcement of the ADA.

During his time in the Division, Joe was, very notably, involved in litigation successfully defending the constitutionality of the ADA. He negotiated several of the first groundbreaking settlements as well, including convincing the Empire State Building's owners to create cut-outs in its observation deck walls to make the view accessible to people with disabilities. When the 1996 Olympic Games came to Atlanta, he worked to establish the federal standard for accessible stadium seating, ensuring that not only the Summer Games and Paralympics, but all live stadium events throughout the country, could be enjoyed by fans everywhere. Later, he successfully challenged a nationwide chain of stadium-style movie theaters that had been designed with bottom-row-only wheelchair seating; a large metropolitan police department that denied reassignment to officers disabled in the line of duty; and one of the top hospitals in the country that had refused to perform heart surgery on people with HIV/AIDS.

Joe was born in 1965 in Queens, New York, with osteogenesis imperfecta (a condition which, among other things, makes bones fragile), and, for most of his life, used a wheelchair for mobility. He grew

up on Long Island and was an active kid who loved wheelchair sports. He played wheelchair basketball and hockey and especially excelled at wheelchair racing. After high school, Joe graduated from Georgetown University, and New York University Law School. In law school, he wrote for the NYU Review of Law & Social Change, organizing one of the first academic conferences to unite the physical and mental disability communities in one setting. Joe began his legal career at Hogan & Harton before serving as the founding staff attorney for the National Disability Action Center (NDAC). At NDAC, he, among other things, used cases from the 1800s to establish the constitutional right of people who are blind to serve on a jury.

After 13 years at the Division, he left Washington for Chicago, to serve first as Chief of the Disability Rights Bureau of the Illinois Attorney General's Office, and then as Deputy Commissioner of Compliance for the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities at the City of Chicago. In both roles, he advised elected leaders (the State Attorney General and the Mayor, respectively), and managed a team of people dedicated to ensuring the accessibility of all public and private facilities. He also taught disability rights law as an adjunct law professor with The University of Illinois Chicago School of Law, and served on the boards of several nonprofit organizations, including the Center for Disability & Elder Law, and Openlands, a conservation group.

More recently, he began writing and performing at the Goodman Theatre of Chicago. He wrote and performed several stories about his life, and was working on a screenplay, based on a story idea that had first come to him decades earlier, about a kid with a disability just trying to belong.

Joe is survived by his wife Bebe Novich; his mother, Marilyn Russo; his sister, L. Mary Russo; his uncle and aunt, Daniel and Margaret Caroleo; his sister-in-law Nina (Stephen) Smith, and nephews Justin Smith (Lauren Lesce) and Mitchell Smith (Lia Limauig); numerous cousins; devoted friends all over the country; and his beloved dog, Lucy, and, in Joe's words, his "obstreperous" cat, Auggie. He was predeceased by his father, Pat Russo.

**Gerald W. Jones**  
**June 27, 1931 – August 12, 2024**



Gerry Jones celebrating his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with his wife, Ann

**Gerald W. Jones** served the Division for many years and was a foremost expert in the Division's work in voting rights.

Gerry was recruited in 1960 to join the Civil Rights Division under the Department's program to hire honor law graduates. Among the first black attorneys employed by the Division, his initial trial period of 18 months was surpassed by 35 years of dedicated service to the Division and the enforcement of the nation's civil rights laws.

When the Division instituted a subject-matter organization in 1969, Gerry was selected to serve as the first Chief of the new Voting Section, which, at the time, also had responsibility for enforcing Title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Public Accommodations). He managed the section for twenty years, through a period of great growth in responsibilities under Section 5, litigation, and election coverage, along with dramatic increases in personnel that were necessary to meet the Section's mission. From 1989 until his retirement in 1995, Gerry served in various positions in the Division's front office, but never relinquished a role in the Division's enforcement of the Voting Rights Act.

Gerry was raised in Virginia and attended Virginia State College. After graduating in 1952, he entered the Army as an officer and was stationed in Japan for three years at the time of the Korean war. He later entered Howard Law School (working at the post office to support himself) and later graduated at the top of his law school class in 1960.

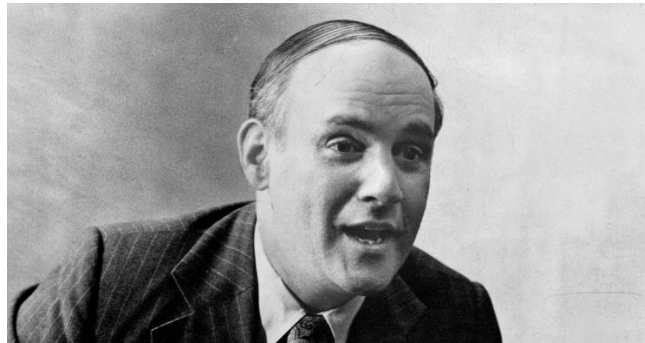
After his retirement from the Department, Gerry devoted his energy to the Kendall Baptist Church, serving as an officer of the church, and an educator of youth. He was a facilitator of many Christian organizations, including Cedine Ministries which he supported for years. He battled cancer in more recent years, and, although undergoing serious surgery, he remained active in church and family affairs.



Gerry Jones (second from left) with Paul Hancock, Barry Weinberg and Steve Rosenbaum fondly reminiscing about their experiences with the Division at Gerry's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party.

His 90<sup>th</sup> birthday was celebrated with a family picnic in a Maryland park which several of his former staff members attended; much of the afternoon was spent recalling Division activities of which Gerry was most proud.

**Harrison J. Goldin**  
**February 23, 1936 – Sept. 16, 2024**



Jay Goldin

**Harrison J. (Jay) Goldin** served as a staff lawyer with the Division after his law school graduation in 1961, and worked for two years investigating segregation in the South. In an [opinion essay for the New York Post](#), Jay reflected on his experiences working with John Doar, the then-Assistant U.S. Attorney under President Kennedy and trips they took into the Deep South to gather evidence and interview black citizens victimized by segregation. He wrote: “We ventured alone, unarmed and exposed, to brutally unreconstructed bastions of unforgiving segregation in the Deep South.” Jay left the Division in 1963 and entered private practice in New York for three years before becoming active in Democratic politics.

Jay was born in the Bronx in 1936. He graduated from the Bronx High School of Science, Princeton University and Yale Law School, where he was an articles editor for the Yale Law Review. After law school, he joined the Justice Department to work on civil rights cases. While he was at the Justice Department, Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy assigned Jay to room with James Meredith, the first black student to attend the University of Mississippi. Mr. Meredith’s admission to the University of Mississippi had provoked a harsh response from protesters and left a lasting impact both on the nation and on Jay.

Jay [recounted in a 2002 essay for Princeton, his alma mater, how](#) soon after college classes began at Ole Miss, Mr. Meredith told Jay about his plan to get a ticket to attend the opening season football game. Alarmed at the inevitable harm that would come to Meredith by rowdy white college students at an open-air stadium, Goldin reported Meredith’s plans to Department leadership. Deputy Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach, Attorney General Robert Kennedy, Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., and even President John F. Kennedy each called Mr. Meredith to strongly urge him against going to the game. Mr. Meredith rejected the warnings, indeed stating to President Kennedy, as he had to the others: “Mr. President . . . I appreciate your concern. I’m here only because a federal judge has said I have the right to be here. On Saturday the other students will all be at the football stadium, and so will I. Your job (the government’s job) is to protect me.” Goldin wrote that in order to avoid the chaos that would invariably come with Meredith’s attendance at the football game, “President Kennedy and [Mississippi] Governor Ross Barnett of Mississippi decided that the only solution was to move the game to another part of the state.”

Goldin wrote how that experience indelibly changed him: “People often have asked me why I spent nearly a quarter-century in elected public service. The events that Wednesday evening in 1962 were an epiphany: For all its failures and shortcomings, what an extraordinary country this is!

Where else do a constitution and judicial system allow a single individual to assert his rights so forcefully, confront a president, and invoke the full majesty of a nation to protect him?"

After leaving the Division, Jay continued working in public service in New York City, serving as a member of the New York State Senate from 1966 to 1973, then for 16 years in elected office as New York City Comptroller from 1974 to 1989. During his early years as New York City Comptroller, Goldin had to manage the City's near bankruptcy. In this role, he also oftentimes clashed with New York City Mayor Ed Koch which was frequently covered by New York media outlets. Goldin left politics in 1989 and formed Goldin Associates, a financial advisory business focused on aiding troubled companies. The firm was purchased in 2020 by Teneo.

He is survived by his wife, Diana Stern; sons Daniel, Matthew and Jonathan, sister Jessica Stern, and seven grandchildren.