



Civil Rights Division Association NEWSLETTER Issue 13, December 2024

Happy Holidays! 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.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 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

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.

also 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; 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. The Newsletter is published bi-monthly. **The deadline for submissions to the next newsletter is January 15, 2025.***

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DIVISION ALUMNI REFLECTIONS

“Twas the Night Before Monday: A Working Mom’s Ode to the Civil Rights Division”

By Lisa Wilson Edwards*



Twas the night before Monday and all through the house
The pressure of the filing deadline scattered around me like a mouse
The kids were still scampering with no care at all
As I stared at them, then glanced at my laptop that continued to call

Taking a breath, I knew I had to control
The worry and anxiety that began to take toll
Into my psyche, I said to myself “calm down”
You can do all of this with a smile, and not with a frown

The Civil Rights Division always required my best self

But sometimes I had to pull that from the top shelf
What an honor it was to represent the Division
A Division appellate attorney for years, what a great decision

The opportunities in the Division for attorneys abound
So many substantive civil rights laws surround
You can enforce laws on voting, housing, employment or criminal
Every substantive law is significant, nothing is minimal

And as the years pass and more cases are brought
You see the importance of the Division's work with each passing thought
At the Division, you can make a difference in a world that can be kind of rough
For victims of discrimination and violence, whose lives can be tough

So as I look at my kids with love in my eyes
I need to get them to bed, so I use some sweet little white lies
So I say, "Hey sweeties, settle down and let's get you to bed"
"And in the morning there's candy for breakfast", I said

"Yay, candy for breakfast," as they ran to their rooms
Jumping into their beds and under the blankets they zoom
After a while I settle in my office in peace
For a full night of writing and editing with ease

Despite the challenges of my legal career and raising my family
I would change absolutely nothing, both I have managed quite handily
Over the years, I gained much satisfaction in enforcing civil rights laws for the Division
I've done it with careful research, attention to detail and precision

It's not easy being a Division litigating attorney and mom
I applaud my many cohorts who have taken this on
The satisfaction in vindicating the rights of others is unique and special
There is nothing like helping others in a way so substantial

**Lisa Wilson Edwards served as an attorney in the Division's Appellate Section for 19 years, and the Employment Litigation Section for five years. After serving as a Deputy Associate Counsel for Presidential Personnel at the White House, and an Administrative Appeals Judge at the Department of Labor, she is currently an Associate Bureau Chief in the Wireline Competition Bureau at the Federal Communications Commission. While her kids are now grown and working, she fondly remembers many nights feeding them dinner, helping them with homework and projects, getting them to bed, and then staying up late to finish edits to her appellate briefs before filing the next day.*

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 Settles and Enters Consent Decree with Chicago Cubs over Alleged Americans with Disabilities Act Violations at Wrigley Field



On October 31st, the Justice Department announced a settlement and proposed consent decree with the Chicago Cubs to resolve alleged violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) at Wrigley Field.

“The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that sports venues like Wrigley Field be accessible to people with disabilities,” said Assistant Attorney General of Civil Rights Kristen Clarke. “The Justice Department is committed to ensuring that people with disabilities have full and equal access to public accommodations, including our ballparks.”

The department filed a lawsuit in 2022 against the Cubs, alleging that the organization’s renovation and reconstruction of Wrigley Field — a multi-year undertaking known as “the 1060 Project” — discriminated against individuals with disabilities. The lawsuit alleged, among other things, that the Cubs failed to provide wheelchair users with adequate sightlines as compared to standing patrons and failed to incorporate wheelchair seating into premium clubs and group seating areas.

Under the settlement, the Cubs will make numerous remediations to ensure accessibility for people with disabilities, including by removing non-compliant wheelchair spaces and companion seats and replacing them with wheelchair spaces that have significantly improved views of the field and fully compliant sightlines. The remediations will take place in every area of the stadium, including incorporating wheelchair spaces and companion seats into premium club areas at the front of the grandstand that will, for the first time, provide some front-row access for fans in wheelchairs. The Cubs have also agreed to modify protruding objects along circulation paths within Wrigley Field and ensure that certain parking and shuttle services outside the stadium are

compliant. All Cubs employees and contractors whose job responsibilities involve contact with patrons with disabilities will receive training on the settlement before each of the next three baseball seasons.

The settlement and proposed consent decree have been submitted to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois for final approval. The claims resolved by the consent decree are allegations only. There has been no determination of liability.

Justice Department Finds Civil Rights Violations By The Trenton Police Department and the City of Trenton, New Jersey



On November 21, 2024, the Justice Department announced findings that the Trenton Police Department (TPD) and the City of Trenton, New Jersey, engage in a pattern or practice of conduct that violates the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. The city and TPD have stated that they will work with the department to implement the reform recommendations included in the report.

Specifically, the Justice Department [finds](#) that TPD unlawfully uses excessive force, including unreasonable forms of physical force and pepper spray in the absence of any significant resistance or danger. TPD also conducts stops, searches and arrests without reasonable suspicion or probable cause. In addition, the department identified deficiencies in training, supervision, policy and accountability that contribute to TPD and the city's unlawful conduct.

"Police officers must respect people's civil and constitutional rights and treat people with dignity," said Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke. "After an extensive review, we found that police officers in Trenton routinely failed to respect the Fourth Amendment rights of those who call Trenton home. Trenton police stop and search pedestrians and motorists without a legal basis, make illegal arrests and use excessive force without basis. We are committed to the hard work necessary to achieve constitutional policing across the country. By bringing city officials, the police department and the community together, we are confident that we can institute meaningful reforms that remedy the violations uncovered."

The Justice Department found that TPD engaged in a pattern or practice of using excessive force, with police officers often escalating encounters when facing little resistance or threat. For example, in one incident from 2023, after initially using reasonable force to arrest a man, an officer stomped on the man's hand multiple times once he was on the ground, knelt on his head and kicked him in the shoulder.

The Justice Department conducted this investigation under 34 U.S.C. § 12601, which prohibits law enforcement officers from engaging in a pattern or practice of conduct that deprives people of rights protected by the Constitution or federal law. Section 12601 authorizes the Attorney General to file a lawsuit in federal court seeking court-ordered remedies to eliminate a pattern or practice of unlawful conduct.

DIVISION ALUMNI NEWS AND UPDATES

Here are news and updates on our former Division colleagues:



Marty Glick

Martin (Marty) Glick has been awarded the 2024 George V. Voinovich Humanitarian Award by the Ohio State University College of Law. The award is given annually to a College of Law alum or friend of the College who has “devoted significant time and energy to causes and projects that benefit the greater community and the welfare of humanity.”

Marty joined the Division in 1964 where his first assignment was to travel to Philadelphia, Mississippi, and aid in Grand Jury investigations into the welfare and whereabouts of the then missing and later found murdered three civil rights workers -- Michael Schwerner, James Chaney, and Andrew Goodman. During his three years with the Southwest Section of the Division working with and for his mentor, former-Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights John Doar, Marty worked on cases such as the desegregation of a major Jackson, Mississippi restaurant, the Constitutionality of the Voting Rights Act, the assassination of Vernon Dahmer in Hattiesburg and the securing of an injunction against the Ku Klux Klan operating in Bogalusa, Louisiana.

After leaving the Division around 1967, Marty worked for eight years representing rural California farm workers with California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA), ultimately serving as CRLA Director. He is author of [*The Soledad Children*](#), a book chronicling his work with the Division and with CRLA. The book centers on a celebrated successful class action that ended the assignment of Mexican-American farmworker children to “classes for the Mentally Retarded” based on English language only, culturally biased IQ tests. Later, Marty taught at Stanford Law School, was Director of the California Employment Department, and was a partner in the Howard, Rice and Arnold & Porter law firms. He has handled numerous pro bono cases during his law firm tenure and, in addition, for his public interest firm Public Advocates. Cases include a class action challenging the adequacy of

California public education for low-income and students of color, and the Phillip Becker case establishing the right of a Downs Syndrome child to have lifesaving and preserving surgery.

Marty has been listed as a Northern California Super Lawyer from 2004 through 2020, and in 2005 was recognized as a “Top 100” Super Lawyer. In 2014, Marty received the annual American Bar Association Litigation Section’s “John Minor Wisdom Public Service and Professionalism Award,” for his career pro bono and public service achievements. Marty continues the practice of law as a trial strategy and jury selection consultant.



Samuel Bagenstos

Samuel Bagenstos serves as General Counsel to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). He recently announced that on December 13, 2024, he will leave his position and return to the faculty at the University of Michigan.

Sam was an attorney in the Division’s Appellate Section from 1994 to 1997 and as the Division’s Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General from 2009 to 2011. He was appointed General Counsel of HHS by President Biden and confirmed by the Senate in June 2022. Prior to that, he had served as General Counsel to the Office of Management and Budget since January 2021.

Sam clerked for Judge Stephen Reinhardt on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and for Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg of the U.S. Supreme Court in the 1997-1998 term. He has been a member of the faculty of Harvard Law School, a visiting professor at UCLA School of Law and University of Michigan Law School. From 2004 to 2009, he was a professor at Washington University School of Law. Sam authored [Law and the Contradictions of the Disability Rights Movement](#) (Yale University Press 2009).

He received his B.A. from the University of North Carolina, and J.D. from Harvard Law School *magna cum laude*. Sam was Articles Office Co-Chair for the Harvard Law Review.

IN MEMORIAM

The CRDA is saddened to share news of the passing of this Division alum:

J. Stanley Pottinger
Feb. 13, 1940 – Nov. 27, 2024



J. Stanley Pottinger served as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights from 1973 to 1977. He was appointed by President Richard Nixon.

In an interview published in the [New York Times in 1974](#), Stanley described how soon after his appointment to head the DOJ's Civil Rights Division, he began getting letters from people asking him to reopen the Kent State investigation. Kent State University was the scene of massive student protests over the U.S. military expansion into Cambodia as part of the Vietnam War, the National Guard presence on student campuses, and the institution of the draft. On May 4, 1970, during a student rally at Kent State, 28 National Guard soldiers fired 67 rounds killing 4 students and wounding nine others. The Kent State massacre triggered massive outrage on college campuses nationwide, and 4 million students engaged in organized walk-outs at hundreds of universities, colleges, and high schools. After numerous staff briefings and reviewing the 8,000 page FBI Report on Kent State, Stanley determined that there were key questions never investigated, including: "Were the lives of the National Guardsmen really in danger? Was there a conspiracy among the Guardsmen to shoot? Why had no federal grand jury been called to answer these questions?" After an extensive presentation to then-Attorney General Elliot Richardson, the Department reopened the case and convened a federal grand jury.

Stanley was born in Dayton, Ohio. His mother was a homemaker, and his father founded one of the few insurance companies in Ohio that took on Black clients. He has said that his father's commitment to clients influenced his interest in civil rights law. After graduating from Harvard College in 1962 and Harvard Law School in 1965, Stanley moved to San Francisco to work for a law firm and became involved in politics. He worked on the unsuccessful campaign of Robert Finch, a republican candidate for state lieutenant governor. But after Richard Nixon was elected President, he appointed Finch as his Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW), and Stanley was appointed to head HEW's Civil Rights Office.

As head of the HEW Civil Rights Office from 1970 to 1973, Stanley was, among other things, responsible for evaluating an HEW special program to educate children of migrant workers. In order to fully understand the educational opportunities for these children, Stanley packed his wife

and children in their station wagon and went to live in a migrant labor camp for a few weeks. He [told a New York Times reporter in 1974](#) that he enjoys being out in the field and “is convinced that most officials in Washington are out of touch with what is going on in the country – a key reason, he believes, for the failure of many Federal programs.”

Stanley was later appointed head of DOJ’s Civil Rights Division, a position he held from 1973 to 1977. During his tenure, he oversaw issues that included implementation of affirmative action requirements for federal contractors and school integration in the South. Stanley was steeped in the Watergate scandal. He served as AAG under Attorney General Elliot Richardson. He was with Richardson on October 20, 1973, when President Nixon ordered Richardson to fire Special Counsel Archibald Cox who was investigating the Watergate break-in. Richardson refused and resigned; then-Deputy Attorney General Ruckelshaus also refused to fire Cox and resigned. Stanley was in the line of succession at DOJ and was preparing to face the same Presidential order to fire Cox. Ultimately, Solicitor General Robert Bork agreed to fire Cox. Washington Post journalist Bob Woodward reported that Stanley discovered that the true identity of Watergate source Deep Throat was Mark Felt. Stanley kept that secret until 2005, when Felt publicly disclosed himself to be Deep Throat in an article published in Vanity Fair.

After his government service, Stanley continued to take on legal cases to vindicate the rights of individuals. In 2019, he represented more than 20 survivors of abuse by Jeffrey Epstein, and earlier in 2013 he joined 130 Republican signatories on an *amicus* brief in support of same-sex marriage, *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, 570 U.S. 693 (2013). In addition, Stanley became a novelist with a New York Times bestseller, [“The Fourth Procedure”](#). His other works of fiction include: “A Slow Burning” (2000), “The Last Nazi” (2003), and “the Boss” (2005). “A successful writing life has just got to be the best, he told the Washington Post in 1995. “It’s more mobile than painting. Easier than photography, less equipment! I think it’s a great life. I hope I’m able to sustain it; if not, I’ll have to consider alternatives.”