

## Hastings Constitutional Law Quarterly 2018 Symposium

### Voting in 2018 and Beyond:

### Ensuring Access and Accountability of the Ballot in America

Friday, January 26, 2018

University of California, Hastings College of the Law

@HastingsCLQ

### Keynote Speakers



**Alex Padilla**

@AlexPadilla4CA

Alex Padilla was sworn in as California Secretary of State on January 5, 2015. He is committed to modernizing the office, increasing voter registration and participation, and strengthening voting rights. Mr. Padilla previously served in the California State Senate (2006-2014).

Mr. Padilla's parents emigrated from Mexico and raised their family in the working-class community of Pacoima, California. Mr. Padilla attended local public schools and went on to graduate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering. He recently completed a five-year term as a member of the

MIT Corporation (Board of Trustees).

In 1999, at the age of 26, Mr. Padilla was elected to the Los Angeles City Council to represent the same east San Fernando Valley community where he grew up. In 2001, his colleagues elected him to the first of three terms as Council President, becoming the youngest member and the first Latino to serve in this capacity.

The Secretary led the effort to move California's presidential primary to March in an effort to allow California voters to have a more influential voice in national politics. Governor Brown signed the bill moving the state's primary elections on September 27, 2017. The next presidential primary will be held on March 3, 2020.

### Ann Ravel

@AnnMRavel

Ann M. Ravel was nominated to the Federal Election Commission by President Barack Obama and joined the Commission on October 25, 2013. She served as the Vice Chair for 2014 and as the Chair of the Commission for 2015 before leaving in 2017.

Previously, Ms. Ravel served as Chair of the California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC), to which Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. appointed her. Before joining the FPPC, Ms. Ravel served as Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Torts and Consumer Litigation in the Civil Division of the United States Department of Justice. Ms. Ravel also worked as an attorney in the Santa Clara County Counsel's Office, ultimately serving as the appointed County Counsel from 1998 until 2009.



Ms. Ravel received her J.D. from UC Hastings. Ms. Ravel is the daughter of a Latin American immigrant mother and an American father. She was raised in Latin America before her family settled in the San Francisco Bay area, which she considers home.

## **Panelists**

### **Panel 1: Voting Access**

#### **Joel Paul (Moderator)**

Professor Paul teaches and writes about constitutional law, international business and trade, and foreign relations and national security law. Professor Paul was the first openly gay man hired on a U.S. law faculty. He has drafted federal trade legislation, advised the Clinton presidential campaign on trade policy, challenged the military's exclusion of gay service members and brought other first amendment cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, testified before Congress, managed political campaigns, and worked on affordable housing policies. In 1991, Professor Paul corroborated the testimony of Professor Anita Hill before the Senate Judiciary Committee Hearings on the nomination of Clarence Thomas.

#### **Christopher Elmendorf**

**@CSElmendorf**

Mr. Elmendorf is the Martin Luther King, Jr. Professor of Law at the University of California, Davis. A former clerk for Hon. Guido Calabresi on the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, he has published widely on numerous aspects of election law, including the Voting Rights Act, sociology and voting behavior, and the judicial oversight of elections. His writings have appeared in the *Yale Law Journal*, *Election Law Journal*, and *The New Republic*, among many others.

#### **Richard Hasen**

**@RickHasen**

Mr. Hasen is the Chancellor's Professor of Law and Political Science at the University of California, Irvine, and is the founder and former editor of the *Election Law Journal*. He is also the founder and editor of the popular *Election Law Blog*. A member of the American Law Institute, Mr. Hasen is frequently published in both scholarly and popular periodicals, including the *Harvard Law Review*, *Supreme Court Review*, and *New York Times*. Mr. Hasen has published several books, including "The Voting Wars: From Florida 2000 to the Next Election Meltdown," "Plutocrats United: Campaign Money, the Supreme Court, and the Distortion of American Elections," and (with co-authors) the casebook "Election Law—Cases and Materials." His newest book, "The Justice of Contradictions: Antonin Scalia and the Politics of Disruption," is forthcoming from Yale University Press.

#### **Kimi Lee**

**@KimiByTheBay**

Ms. Lee is the Director of Bay Rising, a regional alliance of community-led organizations working to address the crisis of inequality by strengthening the voice and impact of low-income communities and communities of color in the civic and public policy arenas. Ms. Lee has over two decades of experience organizing and working with social justice organizations. Ms. Lee has organized students with the University of California Student Association, served as the Field Director for the ACLU of Southern California, Executive Director of the Garment Worker Center, Lead Organizer of the United Workers Congress, among many other leadership roles. Her first-generation family immigrated from Burma in 1971.

#### **Gail Pellerin**

**@VotesCount**

Ms. Pellerin has been the County Clerk and Registrar of Voters of Santa Cruz County since 2004. Previously, she served as the Elections Manager of Santa Cruz County since 1993. Ms. Pellerin is a co-chair of the California Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee, a member of the Future of California Elections collaborative, and past president of the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials. She has published election guidebooks used widely throughout the state and co-authored "Implementing Risk-Limiting Post-Election Audits in California."

## **Panel 2: Voting Districts**

**Veena Dubal** (Moderator)

**@VeenaDubal**

Professor Dubal’s research focuses on the intersection of law and social change in the work context. Professor Dubal joined the Hastings Faculty in 2015, after a post-doctoral fellowship at Stanford University. Professor Dubal received her J.D. and Ph.D. from UC Berkeley, where she used historical and ethnographic methodologies to study workers and worker collectivities in the San Francisco taxi industry. Her legal commentary is regularly featured in the local and national media.

**Michael Latner**

**@MLatner**

Mr. Latner is the Kendall Voting Rights Fellow at the Union of Concerned Scientists and an Associate Professor of Political Science at the California Polytechnic State University, where he is the director of the Masters in Public Policy program. Mr. Latner has conducted research in areas such as gerrymandering, evolutionary theory and politics, and comparative election law. He has also written about the Supreme Court’s attitude toward the use of quantitative methods in election law in *Gill v. Whitford*. In 2016, Mr. Latner and his co-authors published the book “Gerrymandering in America: The House of Representatives, the Supreme Court, and the Future of Popular Sovereignty.”

**Derek Muller**

**@DerekTMuller**

Mr. Muller is an Associate Professor of Law at Pepperdine University. A former clerk for Hon. Raymond Gruedner of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, Mr. Muller has also practiced as a litigation associate at Kirkland & Ellis, LLP in Chicago. He has published articles about the intersection of the First Amendment and election law, the Compact Clause and the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, and federalism in election law. He has also published popular articles in the *Wall Street Journal* and *New York Times*. Mr. Muller is a member of the Federalist Society.

**Mindy Romero**

**@MindySRomero**

Ms. Romero is the founder and director of the California Civic Engagement Project (CCEP) at the University of California, Davis Center for Regional Change. Ms. Romero is a political sociologist and holds a B.A. in Political Science and Sociology, as well as an M.A. and Ph.D. in Sociology from UC Davis. Her research focuses on political behavior and race/ethnicity, and seeks to explain patterns of political underrepresentation. Ms. Romero has been invited to speak about civic engagement and political rights in numerous venues, testifying before the National Commission on Voting Rights and the California Legislature, among others. Her research has been cited in major news outlets, including *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Sacramento Bee*, *Politico* and the *Huffington Post*.

### **Panel 3: Election Integrity**

#### **Matthew Coles (Moderator)**

Prior to joining the UC Hastings faculty, Professor Coles was Deputy National Legal Director at the ACLU, responsible for the organization's work on race, voting, disability, and immigration. In 1995-2010, Professor Coles was Director of the ACLU's national LGBT Project. A 1977 alum of Hastings, he taught constitutional law on campus for one year as a teaching fellow after graduation. While in private practice, he wrote San Francisco's law against LGBT discrimination for Harvey Milk, and the City's law protecting people with HIV. He also wrote the nation's first domestic partnership laws (in San Francisco and Berkeley).

#### **Kim Alexander**

**@kimalex3**

Ms. Alexander is the Founder and President of the California Voter Foundation, a non-profit, nonpartisan organization working to improve the voting process to better serve voters, online at [www.calvoter.org](http://www.calvoter.org). CVF is a longtime leader in advancing the responsible use of technology in the democratic process, by pioneering online voter education, online campaign finance disclosure, and voter-verified paper ballot records and auditing requirements for computerized voting systems. Current priorities include supporting California voters' right to equal treatment and protection, increasing funding for election administration, and improving voting system security. Ms. Alexander and CVF have produced the widely-used California Online Voter Guide, and Ms. Alexander is the recipient of numerous honors for her efforts to improve the transparency, security, and accessibility of the ballot in California and other states.

#### **Christopher Jerdonek**

**@CJerdonek**

Mr. Jerdonek is the President of the San Francisco Elections Commission and Chair of San Francisco's Open Source Voting System Technical Advisory Committee. A software developer by profession, Mr. Jerdonek received his Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of California, Davis. He has been active in election reform for over fifteen years, including drafting Oakland, California's ranked-choice voting charter amendment that passed in 2006. As a Commissioner, one of his current focuses is advocating for open source voting technologies.

#### **Marian K. Schneider**

**@MarianSchneider**

Ms. Schneider is the President of Verified Voting, a nonprofit organization that promotes measures to enhance the accuracy, transparency, and verifiability of elections. Verified Voting has helped numerous states conduct post-election audits and set up new voting systems with vote verification measures. Before joining Verified Voting, Ms. Schneider served as Pennsylvania's Deputy Secretary of Elections and Administration, where she led initiatives for secure online voter registration and other reforms. As an attorney, Ms. Schneider served as counsel in cases successfully challenging Pennsylvania's voter ID law and moving a polling place to a more spacious location to create shorter lines.

