

AALS Section on Legislation and Law of the Political Process 2014 Annual Meeting

Call for Papers

The Right to Vote: From *Reynolds v. Sims* to *Shelby County*, and Beyond

Voting rights are at crossroads in the United States. Fifty years after the Supreme Court's landmark decision in *Reynolds v. Sims* established the "one person, one vote" rule, there remains a fierce debate over the right to vote. Upon his reelection, President Obama called for us to "fix" the problems that many Americans still experience, subsequently creating a bipartisan commission to craft recommendations. And earlier this year, the Supreme Court decided *Shelby County v. Holder*, striking down the Voting Rights Act's coverage formula for preclearance.

The section's program at 2014 Annual meeting will focus on these issues. The program will take place on **Friday, January 3, 2014**, from **1:30 to 3:15 P.M.** in New York, New York. The panel will include Professors Derek Muller, Rick Pildes, and Franita Tolson. Two additional panelists will be chosen through a call for papers, to be published in *Election Law Journal*.

The panel will explore the past, present, and future of the fundamental right to vote, from the half-century old "one person, one vote" doctrine, to the Voting Rights Act, to contemporary calls for election reform. Panelists will discuss the impact and implications of the decision in *Shelby County*, as well as the appropriate role of the federal courts in protecting the right to vote and promoting electoral competition. It will also consider changes that Congress should consider to promote voting rights and the integrity of our democratic process. Should we continue to focus on race-conscious remedies like the Voting Rights Act? Or should we consider measures designed to improve participation and representation generally?

Those interested in submitting a paper should submit an abstract by **September 20, 2013**, to section chair Dan Tokaji at tokaji.1@osu.edu. Completed papers may also be submitted, though they are not required, by this date. Those selected to be panelists will be expected to submit completed papers by December 20, 2013. *Election Law Journal* prefers papers of 15,000 words or fewer, and will generally not publish articles over 20,000 words. Additional guidelines are available at: <http://www.liebertpub.com/manuscript/election-law-journal-rules-politics-and-policy/101/>.