

**Citizens Redistricting Commission**  
**University of California, Los Angeles Voting Rights Project**  
**Statement of Qualifications**

**January 29, 2021**

Dear Commissioners:

The University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Voting Rights Project (VRP) is honored to present its qualifications to the California Citizens Redistricting Commission.

The UCLA Voting Rights Project is a flagship project at UCLA and is in partnership with the Luskin School of Public Affairs and its Latino Policy and Politics Initiative, the UCLA School of Social Sciences, and the UCLA School of Law. The UCLA VRP was founded in August 2018 by Dr. Matt Barreto, PhD. and Mr. Chad Dunn, J.D., both experts in their fields. Dr. Barreto is a respected voting rights expert witness, best known for his work researching voter behavior and other redistricting issues. Mr. Dunn is an accomplished voting rights attorney with 18 years of trial and appellate experience in a variety of matters, including voting rights work in multiple states. Mr. Dunn has served and continues to serve as counsel of record before the United States Supreme Court on several voting rights cases. He has argued before federal courts of appeals on more than two dozen occasions, many of which focused on voting and civil rights. He has tried many more voting rights and election cases before trial courts around the country. The UCLA Voting Rights Project is a leading voting rights organization that combines a world-class academic voting rights research center, litigation experience in California and nationally, and clinical teaching. As the attached materials will demonstrate, the combined experience of Dr. Barreto and Mr. Dunn, coupled with the UCLA VRP staff, is unparalleled.

**Scope of Work**

The UCLA Voting Rights Project understands the mission and legal requirements that the California Citizens Redistricting Commission is responsible for drawing the districts for the possible 52 U.S. Congressional Districts, 40 California Senate Districts, 80 California Assembly Districts, and 4 Board of Equalization Districts.

In order to accomplish this task, we that the scope of work encompasses, but is not limited to:

- Reviewing all legal documents pertaining to districting, apportionment, and voting rights;
- Considering legal issues pertaining to inaccurate census count of the California population;
- Evaluating and providing legal analysis for proposed maps;
- Working collaboratively with other experts and advisors employed by the Commission;

- Developing and analyzing Racially Polarized Voting data to advise the Commission for all proposed maps;
- Preparing legal memoranda related to applicable legal issues;
- Consulting on legal issues that may arise due to changes in federal law or legal precedent during the redistricting cycle;
- Developing and implementing a redistricting process that is fair, legal, and should withstand a challenge in court;
- Providing legal advice to the Commission and Commission staff;
- Hiring data experts; and
- Putting forth legal considerations to the Commission prior to proposed map drawing.

The UCLA Voting Rights Project envisions that our experts will be present at Commission meetings, public hearings prior to map drawing, and public hearings to consider and adopt proposed maps.

We believe that due to the concerns over the 2020 decennial census, including the possible loss of Congressional seats in the California delegation and the possible undercounting of immigrant and non-immigrant populations in California, the Commission will need to balance many moving parts. The Commission will likely need to consider how to fairly redraw districting boundaries in areas in which Congressional seats may be lost and how to determine a method of drawing districts in areas of the State where racial minorities live in large numbers. The Commission's task will require the services of voting rights experts who have been involved in multiple aspects of the redistricting process, including the representation of both voters and government actors. The UCLA Voting Rights Project currently excels at combining data science with legal knowledge to provide expert advice to jurisdictions that may be in violation of the Federal Voting Rights Act. The UCLA Voting Rights Project has the necessary experience to guide and serve the Commission as it requires.

The Project understands the scope of work needed and is happy to be of service to the Commission in whatever capacity will best serve the State of California and Californians. We know that the work that the California Redistricting Commission engages in is in-depth and comprehensive and may require the work of multiple voting rights experts. We are accustomed to working with outside organizations and added team members who provide additional expertise. In this particular case, providing redistricting assistance to the largest, most diverse State in the country may involve multiple teams depending on what the California Redistricting Commission concludes is necessary to accomplish the scope of work. We are open to this possibility.

## **1. Personnel**

The UCLA VRP team will be led by Chad W. Dunn and supported by Sonni Waknin, Sonja Diaz, Alana Friedman, as well as the other attorneys and fellows employed by the Project. Additionally, as appropriate, we may rely on our affiliated faculty and experts for social science analyses.

### **Chad Dunn—Project Lead**

Chad Dunn is a national figure in voting rights litigation and has received national attention for his trial and appellate work on voting rights and redistricting. Dunn has represented government units, legislators and executive officers in every step of the redistricting process, litigation and appeals. He was one of the trial attorneys in the three-judge federal court cases in Washington D.C. and San Antonio concerning Texas’s 2011 State House, Senate, and Congressional redistricting plans. He was a lead trial lawyer in the three-judge federal case in Washington D.C. concerning Texas’s voter photo identification law, in which the court enjoined Texas from implementing the law under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. Dunn was later a lead trial lawyer in case against that same voter I.D. law under Section 2 of the VRA; he argued the case three times at the circuit court level, including one en banc argument, and was counsel of record in the three Supreme Court appeals. Dunn has also litigated multiple Section 2 Voting Rights Act cases on behalf of racial minority plaintiffs and defending governmental units. He leads the UCLA School of Law Voting Rights Policy and Practice legal clinic, which teaches students the law behind voting rights cases, as well as the necessary litigation methods and practices.

Dunn is the Legal Director for the UCLA VRP and will be responsible for directing the work related to the Citizens Redistricting Commission, managing the Project’s lawyers, and will be responsible for all legal research, analyses, and opinions coming from the Voting Rights Project. The anticipated percentage of time that Dunn will be spending on Commission work is 25 percent.

Dunn is admitted to the bars of the U.S. Supreme Court and the United States Courts of Appeals for Fifth, Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh and D.C. circuits. He is licensed in multiple states.

### **Sonja Diaz**

Sonja Diaz is the Founding Executive Director of the Latino Policy and Politics Initiative and counsel with the UCLA Voting Rights Project. Diaz served as policy counsel to U.S. Sen. Kamala D. Harris during her first and second terms as California’s Attorney General, managing legal and policy issues of statewide and national importance, including civil rights, consumer protection, criminal justice, immigration, and privacy and technology policy. During her tenure, Diaz was lead counsel on a voting rights investigative package and directed all aspects of the Attorney General’s 21st Century Policing, Immigrant Rights, and Cyber Exploitation working groups.

In 2016, Diaz directed a robust voter protection program to support Democratic candidates in Virginia as part of the Clinton-Kaine presidential campaign's battleground state apparatus, including a commonwealth-wide election monitoring program for language minorities. The anticipated percentage of time Diaz will spend on Commission work is 10 percent.

Diaz is licensed to practice law in the State of California.

### **Sonni Waknin**

Sonni Waknin is the UCLA Managing Attorney and Voting Rights Counsel. In her position, she is responsible for project managing all litigation and research projects within the Voting Rights Project. Waknin has experience working on voting rights litigation on the State court and Federal level, including Section 2 Voting Rights Act cases.

Waknin will be responsible for managing projects related to the Citizens Redistricting Commission and will be responsible for assigning Commission work to UCLA VRP staff and research fellows. The anticipated percentage of time Waknin will spend on Commission work is 25 percent.

Waknin is licensed to practice law in the State of California.

### **Alana Friedman**

Alana Friedman is the UCLA Voting Rights Project's Voting Rights Counsel. Friedman assists with legal research and legal work conducted by the Project. She has experience with civil rights litigation and civil rights policy. Friedman will be responsible for conducting legal research and drafting memos pertaining to the Citizens Redistricting Commission. The anticipated percentage of time Friedman will spend on Commission work is 25 percent.

Friedman is licensed to practice law in the State of California.

### **Additional Personnel**

The project may hire or contract with additional counsel, fellows and/or subject matter experts as necessary to complete this important work.

## **2. General Organization Description**

The UCLA Voting Rights Project is a flagship project at UCLA and represents a partnership between the Luskin School of Public Affairs and its Latino Policy and Politics Initiative, the UCLA School of Social Sciences, and the UCLA School of Law. The VRP is unique in its position as an academic and clinical operation, not a for-profit law firm, that operates out of UCLA to provide

voting rights legal research and counsel to clients, as appropriate, alongside offering clinical education to the University's law students, graduate students, and select group of undergraduates.

The UCLA Voting Rights was founded in August 2018 by Dr. Matt Barreto, PhD. and Chad Dunn, J.D., both experts in their fields. The Project was founded to address the monumental and overlooked gaps in the field: training of new lawyers, expert witnesses and voting behavior researchers; supporting the development of new legal and social science theories for voting rights cases; and advancing policy development and analysis for government actors. The central focus of the UCLA VRP is to ensure that there is a new generation of well-trained leaders who effectively pursue efforts to guarantee all citizens have equal and fair access to the Right to Vote.

As a research center, clinical program, and legal services provider, the UCLA VRP not just has practical experience in the field of work the Commission engages in, but it also is well-versed in teaching legal practice as well as research, writing, and social science. This broad skill set enables the VRP to advise the Commission, Commission staff, and consultants regarding the legal requirements and procedures, policy concerns, and the legal and policy implications concerning all redistricting activities.

The Project's approach to districting, redistricting, and voting rights issues under the Federal Voting Rights Act is multi-pronged. With respect to drawing new districts after the issuance of a new decennial census, the VRP generally proceeds as follows:

1. Analyze the benchmark map, process, and propose a procedure for the adoption of a benchmark map, litigation history, and relevant court decisions concerning the benchmark map.
2. Analyze the election history of the benchmark map and categorize districts drawn to protect minority voting rights. Whether or not they are drawn to protect minority voting rights, we categorize districts as performing minority rights districts and coalition districts versus districts drawn to protect minority voting rights that are not performing.
3. Review the released census data and, working with appropriate social science experts, develop a descriptive analysis of the data by looking at relevant population changes.
4. Consider appropriate agency advocacy and/or litigation to address any observed deficiencies in the census data. Assist with identifying areas where a racially polarized voting analysis would be helpful.
5. Compile expert analysis into reports that weigh evidence and other factors a court would consider if a challenge were brought against the new maps under Federal voting rights laws.
6. Review community input and commission debates, including in legal analysis as relevant.
7. Review proposed and adopted maps for compliance with Federal and State voting rights laws.
8. Provide legal research and analysis as requested.

9. Prepare the entire redistricting process to position the Commission's work to have the best chance of surviving court scrutiny in the event the Commission's work is challenged.

### 3. Experience

Our team has the experience, training, and education to advise the Commission on the procedures, policy concerns, and legal implications surrounding the upcoming redistricting process.

**Chad Dunn's** experience in voting rights litigation and expertise regarding the Federal Voting Rights Act and California Voting Rights Act. The following are some examples:

- *Harding v. County of Dallas*, 948 F.3d 302, 309 (5th Cir. 2020)
  - Dunn represented Dallas County, Texas, in a challenge by Anglo voters under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, alleging that Dallas County's redistricting plan discriminated against Anglo voters for providing one Anglo-majority district. Dunn successfully defended Dallas County; the Fifth Circuit found that there was no Section 2 violation and that the plaintiffs failed to satisfy the *Gingles* factors.
- *Higginson v. Poway*, 948 Fed. Appx. 705 (9th Cir. 2019)
  - Dunn and the UCLA VRP filed an important amicus brief in opposition to a case arguing that the California Voting Rights Act violates the Federal Constitution. The brief Dunn filed was heavily discussed by the Ninth Circuit Court at oral argument.
- *Veasey v. Abbott*, 830 F. 3d 216 (5th Cir. 2016)
  - Dunn represented the lead name plaintiff, Congressman Marc Veasey, in a challenge to Texas's voter identification law under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act and the Fourteenth, Fifteenth, and Twenty-Fourth Amendments to the United States Constitution. Dunn argued before both the district court and Fifth Circuit, showing that the voter identification law had a disparate impact and discriminatory effect on Black and Latino voters in Texas. The district court ruled in favor of Dunn and the plaintiffs. On appeal, the Fifth Circuit *en banc* ruled in favor of Dunn and the plaintiffs, finding that Texas's voter identification law violated Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act through its discriminatory effects. Dunn served as one of the lead trial counsel, argued the case three times before the Fifth Circuit, and served as Counsel of Record in the multiple U.S. Supreme Court appeals.
- *Texas v. United States*, 887 F. Supp. 2d 133 (D.D.C. 2012)
  - Dunn served as counsel for intervenor-defendants before a three-judge panel in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. Dunn represented challengers to Texas's U.S. Congressional and State House districting plans under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. The court ruled in favor of Dunn and intervenor-defendants, finding that Texas did not meet its burden to show that the maps in question would not have a retrogressive effect and were not enacted with a discriminatory purpose.

- *Gonzalez v. Harris County*, 601 Fed. Appx 255 (5th Cir. 2015)
  - Dunn served as the lead plaintiff trial counsel and appeal counsel, representing Latino citizens in a suit alleging a Section 2 Voting Rights Act violation against Harris County.
- *Perry v. Perez*, 565 U.S. 388 (2012)
  - Dunn served as trial counsel and counsel of record in multiple appeals to the United States Supreme Court. During the lower court trial, *Perez v. Perry*, 2014 WL 3359324 (W.D.T.X. 2014), the court determined that Texas's statewide redistricting plans violated the U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights Act.
- *Cisneros v. Pasadena Independent School District*, 2014 WL 1668500 (S.D.T.X. 2014)
  - Dunn served as lead plaintiff's counsel in a challenge to single member districts of the public school district board under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.
- In addition to the cases above, Dunn has also been counsel in *Davis v. Perry*, challenging the Texas state senate district maps, *Pettaway v. Henry*, representing voters bringing a Section 5 Voting Rights Act case against Galveston County's redistricting plan, and *Rodriguez v. Harris County, Texas*.

In addition to Dunn's work on redistricting, Dunn has a plethora of experience in voting rights litigation and the teaching of voting rights jurisprudence:

- During 2020, Dunn served as the lead attorney representing LULAC as intervenors in *RNC v. Newsom*, to protect the expansion of mail voting during the COVID-19 pandemic, which was dismissed by the federal judge.
- In 2019, Dunn represented LULAC and minority voters in a challenge to Texas's plan to purge immigrant naturalized citizens from the voter roll. The district court enjoined the plan, and Texas was forced to abandon the effort.
- Dunn is also the lead attorney in *Garcia v. Abbott*, in which he represents Texas voters challenging the Texas mail voting laws that permit no-excuse mail voting for those over the age of 65 but require an excuse for those under the age of 65. Dunn won a preliminary injunction at the district court level, but the injunction was stayed by the Fifth Circuit. The case is currently pending before the U.S. Supreme Court.
- Dunn represented the Raysor Plaintiffs, former convicted felons, who sought restoration of their voting rights by Proposition 4 in Florida in *Gruver v. Barton* (consolidated with *Jones v. DeSantis*). In *Gruver*, the plaintiffs won a preliminary injunction at the district court level, which was affirmed by the Eleventh Circuit. The *en banc* Eleventh Circuit issued an order reversing and vacating the district court's ruling. The case is pending on a petition for writ of certiorari at the U.S. Supreme Court.
- Through Dunn's experience as counsel in voting rights cases on behalf of voters and political subdivisions, Dunn has performed all customary duties required of districting counsel including advising line drawers to the procedures, legality of documents, policy concerns, and legal implications of redistricting activities. Dunn has worked closely with leading voting rights expert witnesses in California and nationally, and has immense

experience analyzing racially polarized voting, districting maps, historical evidence and statistical voting patterns of minority communities.

- Dunn also has tremendous litigation and trial experience in jurisdictions around the country, including California. Dunn has tried as lead counsel, approximately two dozen disputed cases to juries and more than twice that many to judges. Dunn’s appearances include numerous trials before special three-judge federal courts, which are typical in cases challenging statewide apportionment and redistricting plans.
- As a lecturer of Voting Rights Law and Policy at the Luskin School of Public Affairs and the UCLA School of Law, Dunn has extensive experience in teaching Federal and State Voting Rights law, how to conduct preliminary racially polarized voting analysis, and trial and practice skills.
- Dunn is frequently invited to speak to lawyers, elected officials, and the public on the topic of voting rights. Organizations that have asked Dunn to speak include the American Bar Association, American Constitutional Society, and the Politics of Race, Immigration, and Ethnicity Consortium (PRIEC).
- Dunn has co-authored legal scholarship on voting rights, including: *Ensuring Equal Access to the Mail-In Ballot Box*, UCLA L. REV. DISCOURSE, (August 31, 2020); *Legal Theories to Compel Vote-by-mail in Federal Court*, CAL. L. REV. CIRCUIT, (May 13, 2020); and *Vote-by-Mail Can Save Our Democracy, but Reforms are Needed*, NW. UNIV. L. REV. OF NOTE, (March 23, 2020). Dunn, along with Dr. Barreto and others, has submitted for publication a law review article describing recently developed methods of observing racially polarized voting and consideration of the effect of this new method on voting rights legal issues.

Dunn will be leading a team featuring Sonja Diaz, Sonni Waknin, Alana Friedman, and additional added counsel if necessary.

**Sonja Diaz’s** experience is wide ranging. Diaz has the following voting rights experience:

- During her time as a Special Deputy Attorney General, Diaz was the lead counsel on voting rights legal investigative package and was responsible for Federal Voting Rights Act and California Voting Rights Act briefings to then-Attorney General Kamala D. Harris.
- As a Law Clerk for the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Voting Section, Diaz produced essential legal research and case briefs for pre-litigation Section 2 Voting Rights Act vote dilution claims, ongoing Section 5 pre-clearance issues, and trial preparation for *South Carolina v. U.S.* voter identification trial.
- Diaz served as the Regional Director of Voter Protection in Virginia for the 2016 Clinton Presidential Campaign.
  - As Regional Director, Diaz provided legal guidance with respect to the Federal Voting Rights Act, the First Amendment, and both Federal and State-level election law to senior campaign staff. Diaz also designed a language minority voter protection program throughout the Commonwealth.
- Diaz has experience with the requirements of California state law and redistricting statistical methods. As Associate of the California Voting Rights Act Roundtable, Diaz performed complex legal research for voting rights docket. She supported senior partners in negotiations in *Moreno v. Anaheim* and provided research, writing, and strategy for the appeals



team in *Jaregui v. Palmdale*, both involving the California Voting Rights Act. In that role, she synthesized demographic and electoral data for over 1,000 at-large election districts in California.

Additionally, Diaz is currently the Executive Director and Co-Founder of the UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Initiative. As Executive Director, she is responsible for all aspects of the organization, including designing applied research across five core issues and working on voting rights matters with the UCLA Voting Rights Project.

**Sonni Waknin** has the following relevant experience:

- Waknin has experience in drafting legal briefs, memoranda, and notice letters pursuant to the Federal Voting Rights Act, California Voting Rights Act, and the U.S. Constitution on various voting violations. Waknin has authored multiple notice letters to jurisdictions under Section 203 of the Federal Voting Rights Act to ensure language access for minority language groups. These notice letters have led to increased scrutiny on language access.
- *Garcia v. Abbott*
  - Waknin drafted briefs on the district and circuit court level submitted in Federal court in support of the plaintiffs, including Texas voters. Plaintiffs won a preliminary injunction in the federal district court, but the injunction was stayed by the Fifth Circuit. The case is currently pending before the U.S. Supreme Court.
- *Higginson v. Becerra (Poway)*, 786 Fed. Appx. 705 (9th Cir. 2019)
  - Waknin co-authored an amicus brief to the Ninth Circuit representing the UCLA Voting Rights Project's stance defending the constitutionality of the California Voting Rights Act. This brief was relied upon by the court during oral arguments.
- Waknin co-authored legal scholarship on voting rights, including: *Ensuring Equal Access to the Mail-In Ballot Box*, UCLA L. REV. DISCOURSE, (August 31, 2020); *Can President Trump Withhold Funds When States Expand Vote-by-Mail* NW. UNIV. L. REV. OF NOTE, (Aug. 5, 2020); *Legal Theories to Compel Vote-by-mail in Federal Court*, CAL. L. REV. CIRCUIT, (May 13, 2020); and *Vote-by-Mail Can Save Our Democracy, but Reforms are Needed*, NW. UNIV. L. REV. OF NOTE, (March 23, 2020).
- Waknin is a graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles School of Law and assists Dr. Barreto and Mr. Dunn in teaching the Voting Rights Policy and Practice legal clinic. During law school, Waknin was an Associate Editor for the UCLA Law Review.

**Alana Friedman's** relevant experience:

- In her position with the UCLA Voting Rights Project, Friedman conducts legal research and writing on the Federal Voting Rights Act for target jurisdictions, tracks voting rights litigation, and writes policy papers on voting rights.
- Friedman has experience in civil rights litigation; she has drafted legal documents, including a motion to intervene in *Klein dba Sweetcakes by Melissa v. Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries*.
- Friedman is licensed in California and is a graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles Law School.

### **Summary of Experience**

As noted, the UCLA Voting Rights Project staff has a wealth of experience with the Federal and State voting laws, including significant experience in litigation and trial practice. Combined with their teaching and clinical education experience, as well their background of legal research and publishing history on voting rights, the UCLA VRP's expertise, education, and training is unmatched. Mr. Dunn's experience in voting rights, redistricting, and experience with Section 2 and Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act spans almost two decades. Dunn has been successful in representing parties in litigation on behalf of both voters and political subdivisions. He is also uniquely positioned to understand the constraints and considerations of those drawing lines and possibly defending themselves from suit as well as the considerations of voters who would be poised to challenge said maps.

Furthermore, expertise and experience with the Federal Voting Rights Act requires counsel to be able to understand the technical and statistical methodologies required of the law, which Dunn, Waknin and Diaz do. Both Waknin and Diaz's experience supporting voting rights litigation and Diaz's responsibility for briefing then-Attorney General Harris on the Federal Voting Rights Act enable the UCLA VRP to produce high-level briefings and writing for the Commission. The UCLA VRP team's experience with expert witnesses in over a dozen voting rights cases, coupled with its experience using and analyzing racially polarized voting data developed by consultants, allows the VRP to serve the Commission's needs.

### **4. Conflicts of Interest**

Mr. Dunn, Ms. Waknin, Ms. Diaz, and Ms. Friedman have not undertaken lobbying work in California in the past 10 years, nor have they made political contributions to candidates as described in California Government Code Section 8252. Ms. Diaz has met with members of the Legislature and Executive branch officials with respect to funding issues related to the UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Initiative.

### **Compliance with Government Code Section 8252**

As stated in the California Government Code Section 8252, the UCLA attorney's financial business, professional, lobbying or other relationships that present a potential conflict of interest are as follows:

- Chad W. Dunn currently represents the Texas Democratic Party as the party's attorney in several legal matters including cases to enforce the right to vote.

As to work relating to redistricting or other work during the past 10 years that could present the appearance of a conflict in connection with representation of the Commission:

- The UCLA Voting Rights Project attorneys have represented and continue to represent minority voters, African American, Latino and Asian-American citizens, in the past years in connection to redistricting.

## Fee Arrangement

The UCLA Voting Rights Project understands the public service nature of the work the Commission is proposing and is open to working on a fixed fee rather than hourly basis. The way that the UCLA VRP would structure such a fixed fee would be dependent on how long the assignment will continue. If the scope of the assignment is larger than originally anticipated, the Project would expect adequate compensation, and if the scope is smaller, less compensation.

We anticipate that the work for the Commission would fall under two broad categories. First, the Commission will develop and implement a fair and legal redistricting process. Voting Rights Counsel should provide research and advice to assist the Commission in developing, from the first to the last step, a redistricting process that truly serves all California citizens and places the Commission in the best position to defend its work from potential legal challenges. As part of this work, Voting Rights Counsel shall carefully assist the commission retain and coordinate social science and historical research, develop a robust and comprehensive public input process, assist with responses to public inquiries and guide the entire process with a focus of ensuring compliance with all applicable laws, and engage with other qualified counsel with diverse but applicable legal expertise. For this work, the UCLA VRP would propose a flat fee of \$175,000.00 to \$225,000.00.

Second, the Commission will likely require written legal memoranda and opinions from qualified voting rights legal expert(s) regarding specific geographic regions of the State. These memoranda and opinions would require careful analysis of the local electoral and historical conditions that might implicate Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. Therefore, the map adopted by the Commission should be drawn to address this critical federal law. This expert or counsel would give written opinions concerning these legal issues, provide public and private advice to the commission, and could potentially be called to testify in any filed court challenges. For this work, the UCLA VRP would propose a flat fee of \$100,000.00 to \$150,000.00.

Any litigation during or after the redistricting process are excluded. If the Commission would like the assistance of UCLA Voting Rights Project counsel in litigation matters, a separate fee arrangement would be established.

If the Commission envisions a different type of work or arrangement, the UCLA Voting Rights Project will work with the Commission to negotiate a fixed fee for the anticipated timeline that is acceptable to the Commission.

**Please see the information requested attached to this proposal, including resumes.**

Thank you for your consideration.

# Chad W. Dunn

| 337 Charles E. Young Dr. E | Los Angeles, California 90095 | (310) 206-8431 |  
[chad@uclavrp.org](mailto:chad@uclavrp.org)

---

## **Employment:**

**Lecturer**, UCLA School of Law (2020-present)  
**Lecturer**, UCLA Luskin School of Public Policy (2018-present)  
**Co-Founder and Legal Director**, UCLA Voting Rights Project (2018-present)  
**Trial and Appellate Attorney**, Brazil & Dunn (2006-present)  
**Trial and Appellate Attorney**, Riddle & Brazil (2002-2006)  
**Trial Attorney**, O'Quinn, Laminack and Pirtle (2001-2002)  
**Policy Advisor**, State Senator Rodney Ellis (2001-77th Legislature)  
**Legislative Assistant**, State Representative Dawnna Dukes (1999-76<sup>th</sup> Legislature)  
**Policy Intern**, U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (1997)

## **Education:**

**PhD Candidate (requirements not completed), Political Science (2002-2004)**  
University of Houston | Houston, Texas

**Juris Doctor (2002)**  
South Texas College of Law | Houston, Texas

**Bachelor of Arts, Government (1999)**  
University of Texas at Austin | Austin, Texas

## **Personal:**

Born: Spring, Texas  
Highschool: Klein Oak High School, Spring, Texas

## **Publication Record:**

- *Ensuring Equal Access to the Mail-in Ballot Box*, UCLA L. REV. DISCOURSE (Aug. 31, 2020)
- *New Mexico Vote-by-Mail: Matters of the Primary and State Election Laws*, UCLA VOTING RIGHTS PROJECT (June 18, 2020)
- *Legal Theories to Compel Vote-by-Mail in Federal Court*, 202 CAL. L. REV. CIR. 166 (May 13, 2020)
- *Vote-By-Mail Can Save Our Democracy, But Reforms are Needed*, NW. UNIV. L. REV. OF NOTE, (Apr. 30, 2020)
- *Debunking the Myth of Voter Fraud in Mail Ballots*, UCLA VOTING RIGHTS PROJECT (Apr. 14, 2020)
- *Protecting Democracy: Implementing Equal and Safe Access to the Ballot Box During a Global Pandemic*, UCLA VOTING RIGHTS PROJECT (March 23, 2020)
- *Don't Fall for the Misinformation Campaign Against Title IX Reforms*, WASH. POST, (Aug. 24, 2017)
- *It is Time for A Nonpartisan Elections Official*, HOUSTON CHRON., (Sept. 21, 2012)
- *Courthouse Steps*, HOUSTON/HEIGHTS TRIB., (2002-2004, monthly)

- *Playing by the Rules: The Need for Constitutions to Define the Boundaries of the Legislative Game with a One- Subject Rule*, 35 U.W.L.A. L. REV. 129 (2002)
- Val D. Ricks, *The Sophisticated Doctrine of Consideration*, 9 GEO. MASON L. REV. 99 (2000) [footnote acknowledgment]

### **Teaching & Speaking Experience:**

#### *Courses:*

- University of California, Los Angeles, Voting Rights Practice (2020-present)
- University of California, Los Angeles, Voting Rights Policy & Law (2018-present)

#### *Select Speaking Engagements:*

- UCLA Voting Rights Project, Organizer and Discussant, *21<sup>st</sup> Century Voting Rights Act*, Los Angeles, CA (Dec. 8-9, 2020)
- Anti-Defamation League, *Access to the Ballot & The Struggle Against Voter Suppression*, Austin, TX (Aug. 24, 2020)
- American Constitution Society, *Voting Rights, COVID-19, and Texas*, Houston, TX (June 25, 2020)
- UCLA Latino Policy & Politics Initiative, *Protecting Democracy: Implementing Equal and Safe Access to the Ballot Box During a Global Pandemic*, Los Angeles, CA (Apr. 7, 2020)
- American Bar Association, *Voting Rights and Redistricting* (Feb. 14, 2020)
- Southern Political Science Association, *Standing up for Equal Access to the Ballot* (Jan. 9-10, 2020)
- Legislative and Campaign Law Annual CLE, *Redistricting Overview*, Austin, TX, (Dec. 3, 2019)
- Politics of Race, Immigration, and Ethnicity Consortium (PRIEC). Keynote Speaker: "Filling a Void – Doing Expert Witness Research, University of New Mexico, October 3, 2019
- Congressional Committee on House Administration Field Hearing, *Voting Rights and Elections*, Brownsville, TX, (Feb. 4, 2019)
- 13th Annual Advanced Texas Administrative Law Seminar, Keynote Speaker: *Title X: Lessons From an Emerging Area of Law*, Austin, TX (Aug. 2018)
- Voting Rights Institute Training hosted by American Constitution Society for Law and Policy, *Election Administration Law Training*, Houston, TX (Feb. 2018)
- Politics of Race, Immigration, and Ethnicity Consortium (PRIEC), Keynote Speaker: *On the Frontlines of Voting Rights Battles*, Arizona State University, Phoenix, AZ (Feb. 2018)
- Progressive Judiciary Seminar, *Progressive Issues in Criminal Justice Reform*, University of Houston College Democrats and Harris County Democratic Party, Houston, TX (Jan. 2018)
- American Constitution Society, *The Gill v. Whitford Case, the Efficiency Gap, and Challenges Associated with Bringing Gerrymandering Claims*, University of Houston Law Center, Houston, TX (Oct. 12, 2017)
- American Constitution Society, *A Conversation with Chad Dunn on Voting Rights and Voter Registration Laws*, Houston, TX (Oct. 5, 2017)
- Harris County Civil Judicial Education Conference, *Voting Rights Litigation Update*, Houston, TX (Aug. 7, 2017)

- Texas Chapter of American Board of Trial Advocates, Santa Fe Roundup, *Title IX: Sex Discrimination Claims Against Institutions of Higher Education and the Fallout at Baylor University*, Santa Fe, NM (June 2017)
- Harris County Democratic Lawyers, *The Efficiency Gap*, Houston, TX (Apr. 2017)
- *Get in the Way: The Journey of John Lewis*, Post-Screening Panelist, Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Houston, TX (Oct. 2016)
- Kirk Watson Campaign Academy, *Voting Rights Litigation Update*, Austin, TX (June 2016)
- Voting Rights Institute Training hosted by American Constitution Society for Law and Policy, *Voting Rights Act Litigation*, Houston, TX (May 2016)
- Latino Summit-Expanding the Latino/a Policy Agenda, *Pending Litigation Affecting our Community*, Austin, TX (Oct. 2015)
- Voting Rights Institute, *Voting Rights Litigation Training*, Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC (Sept. 2015)
- Voting Rights Institute, *Voting Rights Litigation Training*, American University, Washington, DC (Mar. 2015)
- Biennial Convention of the League of Women Voters – Texas Lobby Days, *Texas Voting Rights Act Litigation – Redistricting and Voter Photo ID*, Austin, TX (Feb. 2015)
- Harris County Democratic Lawyers Luncheon, *Texas Photo Voter ID Trial and Appeal*, Houston, TX (Jan. 2015)
- American Constitution Society and Campaign Legal Center, *Voting Rights Litigation Training*, Miami, FL (Oct. 2014)
- Texas Chapter of American Board of Trial Advocates, Santa Fe Roundup, *Texas Pending Voting Rights Act Litigation – Redistricting and Voter Photo ID*, Santa Fe, NM (June 2014)
- National Commission on Voting Rights, *Texas Hearing on Voting*, Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Houston, TX (Apr. 2014)
- Harris County Democratic Lawyers, *Shelby County and the Upcoming Statewide Redistricting and Voter ID Trial*, Houston, TX (Oct. 2013)
- University of Washington School of Law, *Latinos and the Voting Rights Act*, Seattle, WA (Sept. 2013)
- Voting Rights Institute, *Voting Rights Litigation Training*, American University, Washington, DC (June 2013)
- Houston Federal Bar Association, *Pending Redistricting and Voting Litigation*, Houston, TX (Mar. 2012)
- Texas Tribune Festival, *Does Texas Still Need the Voting Rights Act*, Austin, TX (Sept. 2012)

*Media Appearances:*

- Routine print, radio, and television media appearances including these outlets: MSNBC, FOX News, FOX Sports, CNN, ABC News, Good Morning America, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Chicago Tribune, Miami Herald, Houston Chronicle, Dallas Morning News, Los Angeles Times and many others.

**Research Awards & Fellowships:**

September 2020	Russel Sage Foundation	\$50,000 – Matthew A. Barreto and Chad W. Dunn
September 2019	Provost’s Grant for Clinical Instruction	\$120,000 – Matthew A. Barreto and Chad W. Dunn
September 2018	Provost’s Grant for Clinical Instruction	\$60,000 – Matthew A. Barreto and Chad W. Dunn

**Select Recognitions:**

- Member, American Board of Trial Advocates
- AVVO Top Rated Lawyer (2017, 2018, 2019, 2020)
- Nominee for Texas Attorney of the Year, *Texas Lawyer* (2016)
- Top 1% of Attorneys, *National Association of Distinguished Counsel* (2015)
- Texas Super Lawyer, *Texas Monthly* (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020)
- Texas Top Lawyer, *H-Texas Monthly* (2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020)
- Legal Leaders on the Rise, *Texas Lawyer* (2013)
- Top 25 Texas Lawyers Under the Age of 40, *Texas Lawyer* (2013)
- Rising Star Lawyer, *Texas Monthly* (2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013)
- Top Rated Professional, *H-Texas Monthly* (2008, 2009, 2010, 2011)
- Lawyer on the Fast Track, *H-Texas Monthly* (2004, 2005, 2006)

**Select Voting and Civil Rights Cases:**

***Texas Democratic Party v. Abbott***, 978 F.3d 168 (5th Cir. 2020) (Plaintiff counsel in Twenty-Sixth Amendment challenge to state mail ballot access law)

***Texas League of United Latin American Citizens v. Hughs***, 2020 WL 5995969 (W.D. Tex. 2020) (Plaintiff counsel challenging Texas Governor’s proclamation that mail-in ballots subject to extended timeframes could be delivered only to one designated location per county)

***Texas Democratic Party v. Hughs***, 974 F.3d 570 (5th Cir. 2020) (Plaintiff counsel in Voting Rights Act challenge to Texas voter registration requirement)

***Texas Democratic Party v. Hughs***, 2020 WL 4218227 (W.D. Tex. 2020) (Plaintiff counsel in Voting Rights Act challenge to Texas voter registration requirement)

***Stringer v. Hughs***, 2020 WL 6875182 (W.D. Tex. 2020) (Intervenor-plaintiff counsel challenging state’s failure to comply with NVRA requirement that voter registration be offered simultaneous with driver’s license transactions)

***Jones v. Governor of Florida***, 975 F.3d 1016 (11th Cir. 2020) (Plaintiff counsel challenging condition on restoration of felons’ voting rights on their payment of all legal financial obligations imposed as part of their sentences)

***In re Davis***, 607 S.W.3d 862 (Tex.App.—Austin 2020) (Counsel on case determining party placement on election ballot.)

***Texas Democratic Party v. Abbott***, 461 F.Supp.3d 406 (W.D. Tex. 2020) (Lead counsel in First, Fourteenth and Twenty-Sixth Amendment challenge to state mail ballot access law)

*Issa v. Newsom*, 2020 WL 6580452 (E.D. Cal. 2020) (Counsel for intervenor-defendant protecting California Governor's order that all voters receive a mail ballot for the 2020 general election)

*Republican National Committee v. Newsom*, 2020 WL 3430243 (E.D. Cal. 2020) (Counsel for intervenor-defendant protecting California Governor's order that all voters receive a mail ballot for the 2020 general election)

*Bruni v. Hughs*, 468 F.Supp.3d 817 (S.D. Tex. 2020) (Plaintiff counsel challenging Texas legislation which eliminated option for straight-ticket voting in partisan races)

*In re State*, 602 S.W.3d 549 (Tex. 2020) (Counsel on right of citizens to vote by mail during pandemic.)

*Jones v. DeSantis*, 462 F.Supp.3d 1196 (N.D. Fla. 2020) (Plaintiff counsel challenging condition on restoration of felons' voting rights on their payment of all legal financial obligations imposed as part of their sentences)

*Thompson v. Florida Department of Corrections*, 805 Fed.Appx. 893 (11th Cir. 2020) (Lead plaintiff counsel prevailing in First and Eight Amendment lawsuit and jury trial concerning prison conditions)

*Higginson v. Becerra*, 2019 WL 8222590 (9th Cir. 2019) (Counsel of Record for Amicus: UCLA Voting Rights Project supporting constitutionality of CVRA.)

*League of United Latin American Citizen v. Edwards Aquifer Authority*, 937 F.3d 457 (5th Cir. 2019) (Plaintiff counsel in Fourteenth Amendment challenge to a utility district's apportionment plan for diluting minority votes)

*Thompson v. Florida Department of Corrections*, 2018 WL 10847502 (N.D. Fla. 2018) (Lead plaintiff counsel seeking damages after prevailing on jury trial concerning prison conditions)

*Romano v. City of San Marcos*, 2017 WL 3996427 (W.D. Tex. 2017) (Lead counsel in Fourth Amendment challenge to unwarranted police search)

*Veasey v. Abbott*, 870 F.3d 387 (5th Cir. 2017) (Lead plaintiff counsel in Voting Rights Act intentional discrimination challenge to statewide voter identification law)

*Veasey v. Abbott*, 265 F.Supp.3d 684 (S.D. Tex. 2017) (Lead plaintiff counsel in Voting Rights Act intentional discrimination challenge to statewide voter identification law)

*Doe 1 v. Baylor University*, 320 F.R.D. 430 (W.D. Tex. 2017) (Lead counsel in Title IX post-reporting and heightened risk of sexual assault claim on behalf of fifteen plaintiffs)

*King Street Patriots v. Texas Democratic Party*, 521 S.W.3d 729 (Tex. 2017) (Arguing and lead briefing counsel defending First Amendment challenge to state campaign finance laws)

*Doe 1 v. Baylor University*, 2017 WL 1628994 (W.D. Tex. 2017) (Lead counsel in Title IX post-reporting and heightened risk of sexual assault claim on behalf of fifteen plaintiffs)

*Veasey v. Abbott*, 249 F.Supp.3d 868 (S.D. Tex. 2017) (Lead plaintiff counsel in Voting Rights Act intentional discrimination challenge to statewide voter identification law)

*Veasey v. Abbott*, 248 F.Supp.3d 833 (S.D. Tex. 2017) (Lead plaintiff counsel in Voting Rights Act intentional discrimination challenge to statewide voter identification law)

*Texas v. United States*, 247 F.Supp.3d 44 (D.C. 2017) (Attorney fee award challenge in preclearance Voting Rights Act case against Texas regarding statewide redistricting plans)

*Veasey v. Abbott*, 2017 WL 1092307 (S.D. Tex. 2017) (Lead plaintiff counsel in Voting Rights Act intentional discrimination challenge to statewide voter identification law)

*Doe 1 v. Baylor University*, 240 F.Supp.3d 646 (W.D. Tex. 2017) (Lead counsel in Title IX post-reporting and heightened risk of sexual assault claim on behalf of fifteen plaintiffs)

*Abbott v. Veasey*, 137 S.Ct. 612 (January 23, 2017) (Counsel of record in appeal of en banc decision)



in Voting Rights Act intentional discrimination challenge to statewide voter identification law)

**Harding v. County of Dallas**, 2016 WL 7426127 (N.D. Tex. 2017) (Lead counsel for Dallas County in Voting Rights Act challenge by Anglo voters against county redistricting plan)

**Evenwel v. Abbott**, 136 S.Ct. 1120 (2016) (Counsel of Record for members of Texas Senate arguing that use of CVAP in redistricting is discriminatory.)

**Veasey v. Abbott**, 2016 830 F.3d 216 (5th Cir. 2016) (Arguing counsel in Voting Rights Act intentional discrimination challenge to statewide voter identification law)

**Veasey v. Abbott**, 2016 815 F.3d 958 (5th Cir. 2016) (Arguing counsel in Voting Rights Act intentional discrimination challenge to statewide voter identification law)

**Texas v. Davis**, 136 S.Ct. 981 (2016) (Counsel of Record in petition for writ of certiorari of attorney fee dispute cornering districts for Texas Senate)

**Cass v. City of Abilene**, 814 F.3d 721 (5th Cir. 2016) (Arguing counsel in excessive force and First Amendment retaliation claim against police officer who shot and killed citizen)

**In re Reed**, 2016 WL 233400 (Tex.App.—Austin 2016) (Lead counsel in case challenging eligibility of candidate for election to office of district attorney)

**Cascos v. Tarrant County Democratic Party**, 473 S.W.3d 780 (Tex. 2017) (Lead counsel in suit for attorneys fees under state law reimbursement lawsuit)

**Texas v. United States**, 798 F.3d 1108 (D.C. Cir. 2015) (Attorney fee award challenge in preclearance Voting Rights Act case against Texas regarding statewide redistricting plans)

**Veasey v. Abbott**, 15A999 (U.S. 2015) (Counsel of Record for Veasey, et al. successfully defending against state's effort to stay circuit en banc ruling)

**Veasey v. Abbott**, 796 F.3d 487 (5th Cir. 2015) (Arguing counsel in Voting Rights Act intentional discrimination challenge to statewide voter identification law)

**Harding v. County of Dallas**, 2015 WL 11121002 (N.D. Tex. 2015) (Lead counsel for Dallas County in Voting Rights Act challenge by Anglo voters against county redistricting plan)

**Perry v. Perez**, 565 U.S. 388 (2012) (Counsel of Record in merits appeal of statewide redistricting challenge)

**Gonzalez v. Harris County**, 2015 601 Fed.Appx. 255 (5th Cir. 2015) (Lead plaintiff trial counsel and appeal arguing counsel in Voting Rights Act challenge against county redistricting plan)

**King Street Patriots v. Texas Democratic Party**, 459 S.W.3d 631 (Tex.App.—Austin 2014) (Arguing and lead briefing counsel defending First Amendment challenge to state campaign finance laws)

**Veasey v. Perry**, 769 F.3d 890 (5th Cir. 2014) (Arguing counsel in Voting Rights Act intentional discrimination challenge to statewide voter identification law)

**Veasey v. Perry**, 71 F.Supp.3d 627 (S.D. Tex. 2014) (Lead plaintiff counsel in Voting Rights Act intentional discrimination challenge to statewide voter identification law)

**Cass v. City of Abilene**, 2014 WL 12642540 (N.D. Tex. 2014) (Arguing counsel in excessive force and First Amendment retaliation claim against police officer who shot and killed citizen)

**Cisneros v. Pasadena Independent School District**, 2014 WL 1668500 (S.D. Tex. 2014) (Lead plaintiff counsel in challenge to single member districts of public school district board)

**Veasey v. Perry**, 2014 WL 1340077 (S.D. Tex. 2014) (Lead plaintiff counsel in Voting Rights Act intentional discrimination challenge to statewide voter identification law)

**Ficke v. Ratliff**, 2014 WL 857212 (Tex.App.—Austin 2014) (Lead plaintiff counsel in claim of wrongful discharge of police officer)

**Cass v. City of Abilene**, 2014 WL 12642539 (N.D. Tex. 2014) (Arguing counsel in excessive force and

First Amendment retaliation claim against police officer who shot and killed citizen)

***Davis v. Perry***, 991 F.Supp.2d 809 (N.D. Tex. 2014) (Lead counsel for party in challenge to statewide redistricting plans for state senate)

***Petteway v. Henry***, 738 F.3d 132 (5th Cir. 2013) (Lead plaintiff counsel in Section 5 Voting Rights Act case against county redistricting plan)

***Cargill v. Ballesteros***, 2013 WL 6002833 (Tex.App.—Austin 2013) (Lead counsel for party in election contest appeal)

***In re Rodriguez***, 2013 WL 5775494 (Tex.App.—Beaumont 2013) (Lead counsel for majority minority school board defending against challenge by Anglo community to take control of the board)

***Thornton v. Henkels & McCoy, Inc.***, 2013 WL 5676026 (Tex.App.—Corpus Christi—Edinburg 2013) (Lead counsel in appeal involving engineering malpractice)

***Rodriguez v. Beaumont Independent School District***, 413 S.W.3d 524 (Tex.App.—Beaumont 2013) (Lead counsel for majority minority school board defending against challenge by Anglo community to take control of the board)

***Voting for America, Inc. v. Steen***, 732 F.3d 382 (5th Cir. 2013) (Arguing counsel in appeal including First Amendment challenge to newly enacted voter registration procedures)

***In re Neil***, 2013 WL 3961206 (Tex.App.—Beaumont 2013) (Lead counsel for majority minority school board defending against challenge by Anglo community to take control of the board)

***In re Rodriguez***, 409 S.W.3d 178 (Tex.App.—Beaumont 2013) (Lead counsel for majority minority school board defending against challenge by Anglo community to take control of the board)

***Rodriguez v. Harris County, Tex.***, 964 F.Supp.2d 686 (S.D. Tex. 2013) (Arguing counsel in Voting Rights Act challenge to county redistricting map)

***Beaumont Independent School District v. United States***, 944 F.Supp.2d 23 (D.C. 2013) (Lead counsel for school district in Section 5 preclearance suit to avoid effort by Anglo community to take control of board)

***In re Judd***, 2013 WL 812057 (Tex.App.—Austin 2013) (Lead counsel in challenge by prison inmate to ballot access rules)

***In re Judd***, 2012 WL 6097294 (Tex.App.—Austin 2012) (Lead counsel in challenge by prison inmate to ballot access rules)

***Voting for America, Inc. v. Andrade***, 488 Fed.Appx. 890 (5th Cir. 2012) (Arguing counsel in appeal including First Amendment challenge to newly enacted voter registration procedures)

***In re Oliver***, 2012 WL 4033501 (Tex.App.—Houston 2012) (Lead counsel in challenge to the ballot application for candidate for Harris County district attorney)

***Harris County Department of Education v. Harris County***, 2012 WL 3886427 (S.D. Tex. 2012) (Lead counsel in challenge to election of school board member)

***Oliver v. Lewis***, 2012 WL 3779909 (S.D. Tex. 2012) (Lead counsel in challenge to the ballot application for candidate for Harris County District Attorney)

***Texas v. United States***, 887 F.Supp.2d 133 (D.C. 2012) (Counsel in preclearance Voting Rights Act case against Texas regarding statewide redistricting plans)

***Voting for America, Inc. Andrade***, 2012 WL 12888577 (S.D. Tex. 2012) (Lead counsel in First Amendment claim against new state procedures for voter registration)

***Voting for America, Inc. v. Andrade***, 888 F.Supp.2d 816 (S.D. Tex. 2012) (Lead counsel in First Amendment claim against new state procedures for voter registration)

***Petteway v. Galveston, County***, 2012 WL 12877651 (S.D. Tex. 2012) (Lead plaintiff counsel in Section 5 Voting Rights Act case against county redistricting plan)

***Texas v. United States***, 279 F.R.D. 176 (D.C. 2012) (Lead counsel in Preclearance Voting Rights Act case against Texas regarding statewide redistricting plans)

***Petteway v. Henry***, WL 6148674 (S.D. Tex. 2011) (Lead plaintiff counsel in Section 5 Voting Rights Act case against county redistricting plan)

***Dallas County v. Texas Democratic Party***, 565 U.S. 801 (2011) (Counsel of Record on direct appeal from three-judge court concerning challenge to electronic voting equipment)

***Perez v. Perry***, 835 F.Supp.2d 209 (W.D. Tex. 2011) (Lead counsel in Voting Rights Act challenge to statewide redistricting plans)

***In re Judd***, 2011 WL 5604717 (Tex.App.—Austin 2011) (Lead counsel in challenge by prison inmate to ballot access rules)

***Rodriguez v. Perry***, 2011 WL 3209075 (N.D. Tex. 2011) (Lead counsel in Voting Rights Act challenge to county redistricting plan)

***Dallas County v. Texas Democratic Party***, 565 U.S. 801 (2011) (Counsel of Record on attorney fee award)

***LULAC of Texas v. Texas Democratic Party***, 428 Fed.Appx. 460 (5th Cir. 2011) (Lead counsel in case defending presidential primary election procedures from federal claim challenge)

***Texas Democratic Party v. Dallas County***, WL 5141352 (N.D. Tex. 2010) (Lead counsel in preclearance challenge against county for voting technology equipment)

***In re Cullar***, 320 S.W.3d 560 (Tex.App.—Dallas 2010) (Lead counsel in challenge to eligibility of state senator to hold office after having voted in Virginia elections)

***Sachtleben v. Bennett***, 2010 WL 3168395 (Tex.App.—Houston 2010) (Lead counsel in challenge to ballot application of candidate)

***LULAC of Texas v. Texas***, 2010 WL 9435141 (N.D. Tex. 2010) (Lead counsel in case defending presidential primary election procedures from federal claim challenge)

***LULAC of Texas v. Texas Democratic Party***, 651 F.Supp.2d 700 (N.D. Tex. 2009) (Lead counsel in case defending presidential primary election procedures from federal claim challenge)

***Texas Democratic Party v. Andrade***, 555 U.S. 1100 (2009) (Counsel of Record challenging undervote caused by electronic voting system)

***Kucinich v. Texas Democratic Party***, 563 F.3d 161 (5th Cir. 2009) (Arguing counsel in challenge against loyalty oath as prerequisite to appearing on party primary ballot)

***LULAC of Texas v. Texas***, 318 Fed.Appx. 261 (5th Cir. 2009) (Lead counsel in case defending presidential primary election procedures from federal claim challenge)

***Atlin v. Mendes***, 2009 WL 306173 (N.D. Tex. 2009) (Lead counsel for plaintiff asserting sexual assault claims)

***Brimer v. Maxwell***, 265 S.W.3d 926 (Tex.App.—Dallas 2008) (Arguing counsel in challenge to eligibility of candidate for election to state senate)

***Coleman v. State***, 2008 WL 4092911 (Tex.App.—Texarkana 2008) (Lead counsel in challenge to ballot application of candidate)

***Texas Democratic Party v. Williams***, 285 Fed.Appx. 194 (5th Cir. 2008) (Arguing counsel in challenge to state voting equipment under Equal Protection clause)

***In re Brown***, 2008 WL 2725833 (Tex.App.—San Antonio 2008) (Lead counsel in claim against the ballot application for candidate for appellate court judge)

*Texas Democratic Party v. Benkiser*, 459 F.3d 582 (5th Cir. 2006) (Arguing counsel in challenge to Tom Delay's effort to illegally withdraw from primary election ballot)

*Texas Democratic Party v. Benkiser*, 2006 WL 1851295 (W.D. Tex. 2006) (Lead trial counsel in challenge to Tom Delay's effort to illegally withdraw from primary election ballot)

*In re Angelini*, 186 S.W.3d 558 (Tex. 2006) (Lead counsel in challenge to sufficiency of ballot application for candidate for election to appellate court)

*In re Sharp*, 186 S.W.3d 556 (Tex. 2006) (Lead counsel in challenge to sufficiency of ballot application for candidate for election to appellate court)

**Trial and Appellate Experience:**

- Routine jury trials, bench trials, three-judge court trials, state appeals, federal appeals and appeals before the U.S. Supreme Court. Approximately two dozen jury trials, three dozen bench trials, two dozen federal court of appeals arguments, two dozen state court of appeals arguments in multiple states and numerous appeals before state and U.S. Supreme Courts.

# SONJA FRANCINE MARIE DIAZ

| ██████████ | ██████████ | [linkedin.com/in/██████████](#) | ██████████

## EDUCATION

- J.D. University of California, Berkeley School of Law (Boalt Hall) – May 2013  
*Awards* American Jurisprudence Award, LatCrit Student Scholar, Francine Diaz Memorial Award, Berkeley Law Foundation Phoenix Fellow  
*Journals* Symposium Editor & Senior Articles Editor, *La Raza Law Journal*; Articles Editor, *Berkeley Journal of African-American Law & Policy*
- M.P.P. University of California, Los Angeles – June 2010  
*Awards* Departmental Leadership Award & Departmental Student Participation Award
- B.A. University of California, Santa Cruz – June 2007 | Politics (*Honors*), Latin American and Latino Studies  
*Awards* Oakes College Honors, Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program Scholar, Public Policy & International Affairs Fellow—University of Michigan, Ford School of Policy

## RECENT EXPERIENCE

### Executive Director & Co-Founder

March 2017-Present

*UCLA Latino Policy & Politics Initiative*—LPPI is a comprehensive think tank that addresses the most critical domestic policy challenges facing communities of color in states and localities across the U.S. through research, advocacy, mobilization, and leadership development. Responsible for all aspects of the organization, including: recruiting and managing almost four-dozen UCLA faculty to serve as policy experts, initiating external cross-sector partnerships, designing applied research across five core issue areas, managing a robust legislative strategy, and directing fundraising/development activities.

### Regional Director

August-November 2016

*Democratic Party of Virginia*—Directed robust voter protection program to support Democratic candidates in Virginia as part of the Clinton/Kaine presidential campaign's battleground state apparatus. Recruited, trained, and assigned over one-thousand attorneys to monitor the election and remedy election-related issues. Provided legal guidance and advice with respect to the First Amendment, Voting Rights Act of 1965, and state election law to campaign senior staff. Designed a language minority voter protection program for Asian Pacific Islander and Latino voters throughout the Commonwealth to ensure culturally and linguistically competent election monitoring.

### Deputy Attorney General

August 2014-August 2016

### Special Deputy Attorney General

May-August 2014

*Executive Office of Attorney General Kamala D. Harris* (Los Angeles, CA)—Served as a policy and legal advisor to the Attorney General on civil rights, consumer protection, criminal justice, immigration, and women's rights. Drafted and reviewed administrative guidance and information bulletins, conducted legal analysis and strategy for trial- and appellate-level matters, and served as counsel on legal matters. Managed the communications, legislative, and political strategy for external-facing partnerships and major affirmative agenda roll-outs. Responsible for the recruitment, hiring, and supervision of law clerks and member of the Executive Office's hiring committee.

- Civil Rights: Lead counsel on voting rights legal investigative package and responsible for VRA and CVRA-related briefings. Monitored and tracked discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, gender, and national origin in California's primary and secondary schools to inform Bureau of Children's Justice investigations.
- Women's Rights: Co-directed the Attorney General's Working Group on Cyber Exploitation, a private-public collaboration between technology companies, advocates, and law enforcement. Oversaw all aspects of roll-out, including

legislative strategy, law enforcement bulletin, and the development of an [online resource hub](#). Provided legal analysis, legislative strategy, and policy expertise in the crafting of a MOU between the University of California Office of the President and law enforcement to combat campus sexual assault and promote victim-centered policies.

- Consumer: Developed a repository of all California-based legal aid resources for students at for-profit colleges and co-developed an interactive triage tool to counsel students on debt relief. Co-counsel on an industry-wide investigation of for-profit online charter schools, resulting in a \$168.5 million settlement with K12 Inc.
- Criminal Justice: Managed the 21st Century Policing portfolio, including the coordination of a formal Working Group composed of police chiefs and county sheriffs, principal researcher for the 90-Day Review of the Division of Law Enforcement, and co-designer of the nation's first state-certified Procedural Justice and Implicit Bias training for law enforcement, with Stanford University. Provided legal guidance, quantitative research, and legislative strategy for [OpenJustice](#).
- Immigration: Managed portfolio, that included: coordinating a statewide response to the legal needs of unaccompanied minors fleeing Central America, the publication of legal guidance to law enforcement agencies regarding immigration enforcement, and educating immigrants about consumer fraud, public safety, and civil rights.

## LEGAL & POLICY PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Associate

October 2013-April 2014

*California Voting Rights Act Roundtable*—Performed complex legal research for voting rights docket. Supported senior partner in negotiations in *Moreno v. Anaheim* and provided research, writing, and strategy for the appeals team in *Jaregui v. Palmdale*, both involving the CVRA. Synthesized demographic and electoral data for over 1,000 at-large election districts in California to identify potential litigation targets and drafted two litigation memos.

### Researcher

Winter 2011

National Employment Law Project (NELP)—Completed a review of relevant sociological, political science, and legal scholarship on the incidences of retaliation against low-wage immigrant workers to supplement the organization's Workers' Rights on ICE: How Immigration Can Stop Retaliation and Advance Labor Rights policy report.

### Law Clerk

Fall 2012

*U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Voting Section*—Produced essential legal research memoranda and case briefs for robust Voting Rights Act docket, including pre-litigation Section 2 vote dilution claims, ongoing Section 5 pre-clearance issues, and trial preparation for the *South Carolina v. U.S.* voter identification trial.

### Law Clerk

Summer 2012

*Mexican American Legal Defense & Educational Fund*—Collaborated with attorneys on impact litigation cases involving: the unlawfulness of Arizona Revised Statutes §§ 13-2928(A), (B) (SB 1070) under the First Amendment, the legality of immigration status inquiries under California employment discrimination law, and potential vote dilution claims under the CVRA.

### Graduate Researcher

Fall 2011

*Warren Institute on Law & Social Policy*—Directed research on the constitutionality of direct democracy measures to support Richard Rothstein's book, *The Color of Law*, on housing discrimination and educational equity.

### Law Intern

Summer 2011

*The White House, Domestic Policy Council*—Performed in-depth legal research and analysis, drafted confidential internal policy memoranda and reviewed proposed agency rule-making proposals under the supervision of Steven Croley, Special Assistant to the President. Participated in policy discussions with Executive Office staff and staffed inter-agency working groups on: regulatory affairs, government transparency, civil rights, criminal justice, housing, and LGBT affairs.

### Counselor

August 2010-May 2011

*East Bay Workers' Rights Clinic*—Counseled low-income and unemployed workers on wage and hour disputes, unemployment benefits, and LGBT and race-based discrimination claims. Synthesized relevant labor and employment statutes to provide clients with culturally-competent advice.

## Summer Associate

Summer 2009

*The Greenlining Institute*—Provided policy research and strategy on: green jobs, health care expansion, public education, and the state budget crisis. Co-authored and co-edited a UC Berkeley School of Public Health-funded policy brief on the potential impact of telemedicine on underserved communities lacking access to health care and technology.

## Graduate Researcher

September 2008-August 2010

*Center X at UCLA Graduate School of Education & Information Studies*—Principal researcher for two longitudinal mixed-methods studies on school choice reforms within the Los Angeles Unified School District. Directed a quantitative inquiry documenting school choice pattern making in the Belmont Zone of Choice, a neighborhood school choice plan in Pico Union. Designed survey instruments, facilitated ethnographic interviews and site visits, and presented research at community meetings. Integrated qualitative data with a large-scale statistical dataset of unique student information. Advised LAUSD leadership on research findings and policy reforms for two years.

## OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Political Analyst, *KTLA 5 News*, August 2020

Environmental Justice Practicum Counselor, *California Rural Legal Assistance*, Central Valley, CA | Aug.-Dec. 2012

Special Projects Coordinator, *Hispanas Organized for Political Equality*, Los Angeles, CA | Oct. 2007-June 2008

Health Policy Fellow, *Latino Issues Forum*, San Francisco, CA | June-Oct. 2007

Congressional Intern, *Office of Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis*, Washington, DC | Fall 2005

## VOLUNTEER ADVOCACY & LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

**AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION NETWORK FOR JUSTICE**, Advisory Board Member | 2018-Present

Advise the ABA's Latino Futures' Network for Justice program on policy and external partnership strategy.

**PEOPLE FOR THE AMERICAN WAY FOUNDATION**, Front Line Leaders Academy Program Fellow | 2015

Participated in the foundation's premier leadership development program that trains participants on campaign management, civic participation, and political skills. Graduated the program with honors and as class valedictorian.

**OBAMA FOR AMERICA 2012**, Campaign Volunteer | November 2012

Volunteered as a canvasser for President Obama's 2012 presidential election in Columbus, Ohio.

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA STUDENT ASSOCIATION**, Member | 2003-2013

Organized statewide lobbying efforts to inform higher education policy proposals in the California State Legislature and U.S. Congress and provided testimony at UC Regents meetings and other administrative proceedings.

## OPINION PUBLICATIONS

Sonja Diaz & Laura Martinez, [Our Research Shows How to Right the Injustices of COVID-19](#), California Health Report, August 31, 2020.

Nicholas Espiritu & Sonja Diaz, [Trump's Attack on an Accurate Census Is Another Example of Contemporary Voter Suppression](#), Morning Consult, July 29, 2020.

Sonja Diaz, [Pool of finalists for California redistricting commission lacks adequate representation for Latinos](#), Cal Matters, May 6, 2020.

Sonja Diaz & Paul Ong, [Coronavirus checks aren't coming for many in America's Latino and Asian communities](#), NBC Thing, April 11, 2020.

Sonja Diaz, [Communities of color face unique challenges during this pandemic. California must mitigate harm](#), Sacramento Bee, March 28, 2020.

Sonja Diaz, [The 2020 election is a key test for Latinos. But so is the census and redistricting](#), Arizona Republic, March 1, 2020.

Sonja Diaz, Jeffrey Reynoso, and Anthony Galace, [California Must Address a Statewide Latino Physician Shortage](#),

## RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

The Latinx Data Gap in the Youth Justice System. **Sonja Diaz**, Adriana Bernal, Julie Aguilar, Maria Morales, and Michael Applegarth, Los Angeles: UCLA LPPI, August 24, 2020.

COVID-19 in Vulnerable Communities: An Examination by Race/Ethnicity in Los Angeles and New York City. Laura Martinez, Arturo Vargas Bustamante, Yohualli Balderas Medina Anaya, Rodrigo Dominguez Villegas, Seira Santizo Greenwood, **Sonja Diaz**, and David Hayes Bautista, Los Angeles: UCLA LPPI & Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture, July 27, 2020.

Jobless During A Global Pandemic: The Disparate Impact of COVID-19 on Workers of Color in the World's Fifth Largest Economy. Paul Ong, Silvia Gonzalez, **Sonja Diaz**, Jonathan Ong, Elena Ong, and Julie Aguilar, Los Angeles: UCLA LPPI & Center for Neighborhood Knowledge, June 11, 2020.

Struggling to Stay Home: How COVID-19 Shelter in Place Policies Affect Los Angeles County's Black and Latino Neighborhoods. Paul Ong, Silvia Gonzalez, Chhandara Pech, **Sonja Diaz**, Jonathan Ong, Elena Ong, and Julie Aguilar, Los Angeles: UCLA LPPI & Center for Neighborhood Knowledge, May 19, 2020.

Shaping California's Future: An Analysis of Latino Underrepresentation in the 2020 California Citizens Redistricting Commission Applicant Pool. **Sonja Diaz**, Nick Gonzalez, and Diana Garcia, Los Angeles: UCLA LPPI, May 11, 2020.

Left Behind During a Global Pandemic: An Analysis of Los Angeles County Neighborhoods at Risk of Not Receiving COVID-19 Individual Rebates Under the CARES Act. Paul Ong, Chhandara Pech, Silvia Gonzalez, **Sonja Diaz**, Jonathan Ong, and Elena Ong, Los Angeles: UCLA LPPI & Center for Neighborhood Knowledge, April 13, 2020.

Addressing the Shortage of Latino Residents in the Physician Workforce. Laura Martinez, Yohualli Balderas-Medina Anaya, Seira Santizo-Greenwood, **Sonja Diaz**, Cinna T. Wohlumuth, and David Hayes-Bautista, Journal of Graduate Medical Education (revise and resubmit), March 2020.

The Power of the New Majority: A 10 State Analysis of Voters of Color in the 2020 Election. Michael Herndon, **Sonja Diaz**, Bryanna Ruiz, and Natalie Masuoka, Los Angeles: UCLA LPPI February 27, 2020.

Iowa Caucus & the 2020 Latino Vote. Michael Herndon, Marcel Roman and **Sonja Diaz**, Los Angeles: UCLA LPPI, February 6, 2020.

California's Language Concordance Mismatch: An Analysis of Language Proficient Physicians and Limited English Proficient Individuals who speak Spanish, Tagalog, Thai, Lao or Vietnamese. Laura Martinez, Gabriela Solis, Vianney Gomez, Julio Mendez Vargas, **Sonja Diaz**, and David Hayes-Bautista, Los Angeles: UCLA LPPI, March 2018.

The Current State of the Latino Physician Workforce: California Faces a Severe Shortfall in Latino Resident Physicians. Laura Martinez, Gabriela Solis, Vianney Gomez, Julio Mendez Vargas, **Sonja Diaz**, and David Hayes-Bautista, Los Angeles: UCLA LPPI, March 2018.

2018 Midterm Elections & the Latino Vote. Bryan Wilcox-Archuleta, Angie Gutierrez, Matt Barreto, **Sonja Diaz**, and Ana Oaxaca, Los Angeles: UCLA LPPI, November 2018.

Disrupting the Black-White Paradigm: Latino Arrests in California. **Sonja Diaz** and Dora Armenta, Los Angeles: UCLA LPPI, October 2018.

Invisible No More, An Evaluation of the Smithsonian Institution and Latino Representation. Daisy Vera, Chon Noriega, **Sonja Diaz**, and Matt Barreto, Los Angeles: UCLA LPPI, September 2018.

California Primary 2018: Evaluation of AltaMed's Latino Voter Mobilization in Los Angeles County. Matt Barreto, Angie Gutierrez, Bryan Wilcox-Archuleta, and **Sonja Diaz**, Los Angeles: UCLA LPPI, September 2018.

Latino Vote Choice: Ventura County An Analysis of the June 2018 Primary. Matt Barreto, Angie Gutierrez, Bryan Wilcox-Archuleta, and **Sonja Diaz**, Los Angeles: UCLA LPPI, August 2018.

Latino Vote Choice: Orange County An Analysis of the June 2018 Primary. Matt Barreto, Angie Gutierrez, Bryan Wilcox-Archuleta, and **Sonja Diaz**, Los Angeles: UCLA LPPI, June 2018.

Latino Vote Choice: Los Angeles County An Analysis of the June 2018 Primary. Matt Barreto, Angie Gutierrez, Bryan Wilcox-



Archuleta, and **Sonja Diaz**, Los Angeles: UCLA LPPI, June 2018.

California Primary 2018: Comparison of Votes Cast by Political Party June 2014 v. June 1018 (By County). Matt Barreto, Angie Gutierrez, Bryan Wilcox-Archuleta, and **Sonja Diaz**, Los Angeles: UCLA LPPI, June 2018.

Should I Stay or Should I Go? How Effective Transit-Oriented Development Can Lead to Positive Economic Growth Without Displacing Latinos. Matt Barreto, Tyler Reny, and **Sonja Diaz**, Los Angeles: UCLA LPPI, March 2018.

History over Cartography: The Need for a Reassessment of Voting Rights Law in the Quest for a Second Latino Supervisorial District in Los Angeles County. **Sonja Diaz**, *LatCrit* 2012.

Inserting Equity into the Process of School Choice in Urban Communities: A Case Study in Central Los Angeles. **Sonja Diaz**, Los Angeles, UCLA Center X, June 2010.

A Community Zoned For Change: Lessons from the First Three Years of the Belmont Zone of Choice. Karen Hunter Quartz, Andrew Thomas, **Sonja Diaz**, et al. Los Angeles: University of California, Los Angeles Center X, December 2009.

Telemedicine for the New Majority of California. April Joy Damian, **Sonja Diaz**, and Hector Preciado. Berkeley, CA: The California Partnership for Access to Care, UC Berkeley School of Public Health, October 2009.

State of Latinas in California: The Presidential Election and Latina Advocacy, Leadership and Voting. **Sonja Diaz** and Helen Iris Torres. Los Angeles: HOPE, January 2008.

Healthy Investments: Promoting Health Access for Latino & Minority Small Businesses. **Sonja Diaz**, Sarah Olivia Mercer, and Nora E. Vargas. San Francisco: Latino Issues Forum, August 2007.

## ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

- UCLA Law Review, *Latinx Communities, Race, and the Criminal Justice System*, Moderator & Panel Creator, Law, Policy, & Community Organizing: Direct Democracy as a Vehicle for Criminal Justice Reform, February 2019, Los Angeles, CA.
- Human Rights First, *Crisis of Counsel: Redoubling Efforts to Address Representation Gaps Facing Immigrant Children and Adults*, Panel Presentation, September 2014, Los Angeles, CA.
- LatCrit Annual Meeting-*History over Cartography: The Need for A Reassessment of Voting Rights Law in the Quest for a Second Latino-Majority Seat in Los Angeles County*, Paper Presentation, October 2013, Chicago, IL.
- The Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, *Restorative Justice as a Racial Justice Tool*, Roundtable Discussant, June 2013, Boston, MA.
- American Education Research Association Annual Conference-*Inserting Equity into the Process of School Choice in Urban Communities: A Case Study in Central Los Angeles*, Paper Presentation Spring 2011, New Orleans, LA.

## NON- ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS (Recent)

- Investing in the Lives & Livelihoods of People of Color During Pandemics, ViacomCBS Inclusion Week, Featured Speaker, September 2020.
- Adopting a Racial Justice Framework for a Resilient Democracy, Philanthropy California, Plenary Speaker, April 2020.
- Latino Homelessness and Poverty, California Latino Legislative Caucus Policy Conference, Anaheim, California, March 2020.
- Implementing Evidence-Based Policy in Arizona, Arizona Latino Legislative Caucus NALEO Leadership Academy, Phoenix, Arizona, January 2020.
- Hispanics in Philanthropy, 2019 National Conference, Plenary Lunch Speaker, The 2018 Election and the Latino Vote, Washington, DC, June 2019.
- The Greenlining Institute, 2019 Economic Summit, Plenary Panelist, Health, Wealth & Power, Oakland, CA, April 2019.
- NALEO Educational Fund, 12<sup>th</sup> Biennial Newly Elected Officials Training, Workshop Presenter, Washington, DC, November 2018.
- Sea Mar Community Clinic, Latino Health Fair, Keynote Speaker, Seattle, Washington October 2018.

## INTERESTS

Contemporary art, street food, urban cities, local sports, and international travel.

# SONNI R. WAKNIN

---

## EDUCATION

**UCLA SCHOOL OF LAW**, Los Angeles, CA  
J.D., May 2020

*Bar Admissions:* California  
*Journals:* UCLA Law Review, *Associate Editor*

**RUTGERS UNIVERSITY**, New Brunswick, NJ  
B.A., *summa cum laude*, Political Science and History, May 2017

---

## EXPERIENCE

**UCLA VOTING RIGHTS PROJECT** Los Angeles, CA  
*Managing Attorney and Voting Rights Counsel* January 2021– Current  
*Managing Legal Fellow* April 2020 – January 2021

- Manages 8+ persons, including law students, undergraduates, and graduate students.
- Coordinates all research, social science projects, publications, and litigation and co-authors research and legal articles published by the UCLA VRP.
- Project manages all external work with government organizations, non-profit organizations, and grant organizations.
- Writes grant and funding proposals for submission to non-profit and government organizations.
- Drafts legal briefs, memoranda, and notice letters pursuant to the Federal Voting Rights Act, Washington State Voting Rights Act, Section 203 of the Federal Voting Rights Act, and the U.S. Constitution on various voting violations.
- Speaks with media on various legal issues concerning to voting.

*Law Fellow* September 2019-April 2020

- Drafted motion to intervene; edited other legal documents filed in federal court; drafted sections of an amicus curiae brief in support of the constitutionality of the California Voting Rights Act submitted to the Ninth Circuit.
- Researches information needed for legal complaints, amicus curiae briefs, and expert witness reports on local municipalities and governments for purposes of Section 2 Voting Rights Act litigation.

**AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION (ACLU)- VOTING RIGHTS PROJECT** New York NY  
*Legal Intern* May 2019- August 2019

- Complied legal research and created one-pagers for preliminary injunctions motions, 59(e) motions, and other filings.
- Wrote a legal memo on the permissibility of the use of citizenship and citizen voting age population data for the purpose of state and federal apportionment.
- Drafted outlines for cross examinations of expert witnesses for trial in state court; wrote line of questioning for deposition of opposing side’s expert witness, designated deposition, and assisted lead attorneys with preparation of expert witnesses for trial.

**CALIFORNIA COMMON CAUSE** Los Angeles, CA  
*Law Clerk* August 2018 – April 2019

- Created training materials—including FAQs, volunteer training guides, handbooks of California election code, and reports on 2018 election law changes in California— for Election Protection and assisted in the planning of Election Protection in California.
- Conducted legal research for an amicus brief for federal lawsuit regarding racial gerrymandering.

---

## SELECT PUBLICATIONS

- *Ensuring Equal Access to the Mail-In Ballot Box*, UCLA L. REV. DISCOURSE, (August 31, 2020).

- *Can President Trump Withhold Funds When States Expand Vote-by-Mail*, NW. UNIV. L. REV. OF NOTE, (Aug. 5, 2020).
- *Legal Theories to Compel Vote-by-mail in Federal Court*, CAL. L. REV. CIRCUIT, (May 13, 2020).
- *Vote- by- Mail Can Save Our Democracy, but Reforms are Needed*, NW. UNIV. L. REV. OF NOTE, (March 23, 2020).

# Alana Rae Friedman

## EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

### **Bar Admission**

#### **UCLA School of Law, Los Angeles CA**

Dukeminier Awards Journal, Senior Editor

Masin Family Academic Excellence Silver Award, Criminal Law

G.P.A.: 3.3/4.0

State of California, 2021

Juris Doctor, May 2020

Academic Year 2018-2019

Fall 2017

Relevant Coursework: Law & Sexuality; HIV Law & Public Policy; Administrative Law; LGBT Law & Policy; Critical Race Theory; Civil Rights; Employment Law

### **Pomona College, Claremont CA**

Bachelor of Arts in English, May 2016

Senior Thesis with Distinction; G.P.A.: 3.8/4.0, Within Major: 3.9/4.0

## EMPLOYMENT

### **Friedman & Associates, Inc., Associate**

October, 2020-Present

Conducting full-time pro-bono work for the UCLA Voting Rights Project, including: conducting research, writing, and editing policy papers; tracking voting rights litigation for potential intervention and amicus support; and planning a Voting Rights conference to take place in December, 2020.

### **Lambda Legal, Law & Policy Intern**

Summer 2019

Researched challenges to anti-LGBT and anti-HIV military policies for ongoing litigation, drafted motion of intervention in Klein dba Sweetcakes by Melissa v. Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries to formally join the affected couple to the case. Assisted LGBT and HIV+ callers with various legal issues via the Help Desk.

### **The Williams Institute, Intern**

Fall 2018

Researched: LGBT discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations in Kansas and Ohio; LGBT deaths due to gun violence, and compiled data to create database; LGBT Title IX topics, synthesized data into charts and tables, and created presentation.

### **UCLA Title IX Office, Intern**

Summer 2018

Researched impact of CA Gender Recognition Act (SB 179) on Title IX, specifically with regard to athletics. Developed handout explaining impact of SB 179 and related gender terminology. Researched LGBT under-reporting of sexual assault, sexual harassment, & sexual violence, and crafted responsive survey. Drafted and revised Title IX trainings for graduate students. Member of the LGBT working group; strategized and discussed LGBT issues on greater UCLA campus.

### **Pomona College Writing Center, Team Coordinator**

Fall 2016-Summer 2017

Supervisor in charge of reading and commenting on tutors' evaluations of student meetings. Responsible for planning and facilitating writing workshops for first year students; trained new tutors.

### **Pomona College Writing Center, Head Writing Fellow**

Fall 2013-Spring 2016

In charge of outreach, event planning, writing workshops, publicity, and training. Peer tutor assisting students with written assignments including theses, fellowship applications, essays, and personal statements for graduate and other applications.

## ACTIVITIES

### **LGBTQ Working Group, UCLA Law**

Academic Years 2018-19 & 2019-20

Member of student committee working with Dean of Students to address issues affecting LGBTQ law students including bathrooms, curriculum, and general campus environment.

### **UCLA OUTLaw, Mentor**

Fall 2018-Spring 2020

### **The Williams Institute, Moot Court Participant**

Spring 2018 & 2019



Latino Policy & Politics Initiative

**Voting Rights  
Project**

# **Voting Rights Project**

Latino Policy & Politics Initiative

# Table of Contents

UCLA Voting Rights Project- About Us.....	3
UCLA VRP's Recent Highlights.....	4
Professional Biographies.....	6

# About us

The UCLA VRP was founded in August 2018 by Dr. Matt Barreto, Ph.D. And Chad Dunn, J.D., both experts in their fields. Mr. Dunn is a civil rights attorney, with a particular voting rights focus, who, for the last 15 years, has handled critically important voting and civil rights cases around the country. Dr. Barreto is a respected voting rights expert witness, best known for his work on researching voter behavior and other redistricting related issues.

After years of acting as voting rights litigators and expert witnesses, Chad Dunn and Dr. Matt Barreto realized that there was a gaping hole in voting rights advocacy; a lack of training of young lawyers and social scientists to take up the mantle and advance voting rights. After this realization, Barreto and Dunn founded the UCLA Voting Rights Project with a threefold mission: train a new generation of lawyers, expert witnesses, and voting behavior researchers; advance voting rights public policy through innovating social science and data science used in voting rights cases; and actively participate in voting rights litigation and appeals on the local and state level.

The UCLA VRP also operates a high-level voting rights academic research center housed at the number one public university in the United States. The social science behind voting rights litigation has remained, in many ways, relatively constant for decades. The VRP strives to create a new model reflective of the current age and technology. Social scientists and students at the Project work to create innovative data-driven methods to show voting rights violations. One of our methods, termed Bayesian Improve Surname Geocoding (BISG), utilizes a new technique to more accurately observe the voting behavior of citizens in order to measure racial polarization in voting. This new method was recently accepted by a New York federal court in an important voting rights victory.

The VRP actively publishes in-depth policy papers, State-specific white papers, and legal scholarship. In just the first few years of our existence, our work has been published in the California Law Journal, Northwestern Law Journal Online, and the UCLA Law Journal Discourse. The central focus of the UCLA VRP is to ensure that there is a new generation of well-trained leaders who can protect the right to vote for all Americans.

# ***Recent Highlights***

The UCLA VRP has success during 2020 in litigation matters, providing expert witness testimony in state and federal court cases, and publishing social science, policy papers, and legal scholarship.

## ***Research Reports:***

- In partnership with the California Secretary of State Office, the UCLA VRP is publishing a report on language access in the Voter's Choice Act. This report designated counties during both the 2020 primary election and 2020 general election.
- The UCLA VRP received a grant from the Russell Sage Foundation to conduct survey research on the rapid transition to vote-by-mail during the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as on the effect the transition had on minority and immigrant populations in the United States.

## ***Litigation Matters:***

- The UCLA VRP represented voters in Texas League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) v. Abbott to fight against Governor Abbott's executive order limiting mail ballot drop boxes to one-ballot dropbox per county, regardless of population. The project also represented voters in Garcia v. Abbott to strike down Texas' discriminatory no-excuse vote-by-mail requirements.
- The Project intervened on behalf of Latino voters as defendants in California in RNC v. Newsom, to defend Governor Newsom's executive order to mail ballots to all voters in California during the Covid-19 crisis. The VRP, along with Columbia Legal Services and the ACLU of Washington, won a case against the Yakima City Council in Yakima, Washington. The Council had attempted to dilute Latino voting power and circumvent the spirit of a Voting Rights Act Section 2 court order.



# More Litigation...

- Defended California's Motor Voter law and protected automatic voter registration in California on behalf of Intervenor-Defendants in *Hoge v. Padilla*.
- Dr. Matt Barreto, the Project's Faculty Director, served as an expert witness on behalf of California in *California v. Ross*, challenging the Commerce Department's decision to add a citizenship question to the 2020 census. Barreto was also an expert witness in voting rights cases in Georgia, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Missouri challenging voting restrictions due to COVID-19.

## ***The Social Science and Policy***

### ***Publications:***

- The VRP was the first organization to write about the need to implement safe elections through vote-by-mail in March, publishing *Protecting Democracy: Implementing Equal and Safe Access to the Ballot Box During a Global Pandemic*. This report was widely circulated in Congress.

- The Project is the only voting rights organization that has published policy reports in partnership with medical experts from the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA on the topic of voting during a global pandemic: *Protecting Public Health In the 2020 Elections and Voting and Infection Prevention of Covid-19*.
- The VRP published *Debunking the Myth of Voter Fraud in Mail Ballots*, which demonstrated the safety and security of mail ballots at a time in which mail voting was in question during the 2020 election.



## ***Legal Scholarship***

- *Ensuring Equal Access to the Mail-in Ballot Box*, UCLA L. Rev. Discourse (Aug. 31, 2020)
- *Legal Theories to Compel Vote-by-Mail in Federal Court*, 202 Cal. L. Rev. Cir. 166 (May 13, 2020)
- *Vote-By-Mail Can Save Our Democracy, But Reforms are Needed*, Nw. Univ. L. Rev. Of Note, (Apr. 30, 2020).

# Personal Biographies

## *Chad Dunn*



Contact Information:  
3250 Public Affairs Building  
Los Angeles, CA 90065  
Email: Chad@uclavrp.org

**Chad Dunn**, a nationally known civil and voting rights attorney is the co-founder and co-director of the UCLA Voting Rights Project. He has received national attention for his trial and appellate work on voting rights, redistricting, sex discrimination under Title IX, prison conditions, police conduct, and government ethics. Dunn has an extensive history representing government entities and jurisdictions in redistricting and voting rights matters. Mr. Dunn was one of the trial attorneys in the three-judge federal court cases in Washington D.C. and San Antonio concerning Texas' 2011 state house, senate, and congressional redistricting plans. He was a lead trial lawyer in the three-judge federal case in Washington D.C. concerning Texas' voter photo identification law, in which the court enjoined Texas from implementing the law under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. After the Supreme Court effectively eliminated Section 5 with its opinion in *Shelby County v. Holder*, Mr. Dunn was a lead counsel in the second federal court challenge to Texas's ID law, which ultimately resulted in the law being struck down again. In 2019, he successfully challenged Texas's effort to purge naturalized citizens from its voting rolls. Most recently, Mr. Dunn has challenged Texas's denial of vote-by-mail to citizens under age 65 as being violative of the 26th Amendment, and Florida's efforts to charge fees and fines to former felons in order to register to vote in violation of the 14th Amendment. Chad publishes on Voting Rights and Constitutional Law. Recently his writing and research have focused on voting during the pandemic. See Chad W. Dunn et al., *Legal Theories to Compel Vote-by-Mail in Federal Court*, 11 *Calif. L. Rev. Online* 166 (May 2020) and UCLA Voting Rights Project, *Vote-By-Mail Can Save Our Democracy, But Reforms are Needed*, *Nw. Univ. L. Rev. Of Note*, (April 30, 2020). Mr. Dunn is licensed in several states to practice law.

# Sonja Diaz



## Contact Information:

3250 Public Affairs Building

Los Angeles, CA 90065

Email: [sonjadiaz@luskin.ucla.edu](mailto:sonjadiaz@luskin.ucla.edu)

**Sonja Diaz** is a practicing civil rights attorney and policy advisor. As Founding Director of UCLA Latino Policy & Politics Initiative (LPPI), Diaz co-founded the first multi-issue think tank focused on Latinos in the University of California. Prior to LPPI, Diaz served as policy counsel to

U.S. Sen. Kamala D. Harris during her first and second terms as California's attorney general, managing legal and policy issues of statewide and national importance, including civil rights, consumer protection, criminal justice, immigration, and privacy and technology policy. Diaz has also managed domestic policy portfolios at three California nonprofits, clerked in the White House's Domestic Policy Council under President Barack Obama, and supported litigation efforts at MALDEF, the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, and California's Bureau of Children's Justice. Diaz routinely briefs state legislators and local elected officials from across the U.S. on evidence-based governance and emerging trends in domestic policy. Her research and commentary have been mentioned in major news outlets, including The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Los Angeles Times, NBC, NPR, Politico, and Univision. She is a contributing political analyst to KTLA 5, a benchmark of Los Angeles news television. Diaz received her J.D. from UC Berkeley's School of Law, holds an M.P.P. from UCLA's Luskin School of Public Affairs, and a B.A. in politics from UC Santa Cruz. She is a University of Michigan Public Policy & International Affairs fellow, valedictorian of People for the American Way's Frontline Leaders Academy, and LatCrit's unanimous student scholar awardee for her paper on Latino voting rights. Ms. Diaz is licensed in California.

# Sonni Waknin



Contact Information:  
3250 Public Affairs Building  
Los Angeles, CA 90065  
Email: [swaknin@luskin.ucla.edu](mailto:swaknin@luskin.ucla.edu)

**Sonni Waknin** is the Managing Attorney and Voting Rights Counsel at the UCLA Voting Rights Project. Sonni believes that to ensure an equitable democracy, elections must be free, fair, and devoid of systemic racism. Voting is the right that preserves all other rights and must be defended. Waknin is responsible for managing all aspects of the Voting Rights Project, including the Project's litigation docket and legal scholarship. She recently worked on the Project's litigation in Texas and Washington and co-published the UCLA Voting Rights Project's: *Vote-By-Mail: Debunking the Myth of Voter Fraud in Mail Ballots*, a report aimed at addressing the concerns associated with vote-by-mail programs. Waknin has wanted to be a voting rights litigator since she was in high school.

Previously, Waknin interned with the ACLU Voting Rights Project and for Common Cause's National Redistricting Project. She holds her J.D. from UCLA School of Law, is an alumna of the David J. Epstein Program in Public Interest Law and Policy, and holds a B.A. from Rutgers University.

# *Alana Friedman*



Contact Information:  
3250 Public Affairs Building  
Los Angeles, CA 90065  
Email: [alana@uclavrp.org](mailto:alana@uclavrp.org)

**Alana Friedman** is a Legal Fellow at the UCLA Voting Rights Project. She is currently working on forthcoming publications for the Voting Rights Project, as well as assisting in litigation. Recently, she assisted in organizing the 21st Century Voting Rights Conference, a two-day virtual conference to discuss needed voting rights policy on the federal level.

As a law student, she focused on LGBT Rights and was part of the Critical Race Studies Program. She believes that all people deserve equal rights and representation and works to further this goal. Ensuring equal access to the ballot box is crucial to this pursuit. Alana previously interned at Lambda Legal, the Williams Institute, and the UCLA Title IX Office. She was also a Senior Editor for the Dukeminier Awards Journal.

Alana received her J.D. from the UCLA School of Law and B.A. from Pomona College. She is licensed to practice in the State of California.