



The League of Women Voters of  
Connecticut Education Fund

And the

American Constitution Society at the  
University of Connecticut Law School

Present

Fall Conference 2015

# **Voting Fraud/Voting Suppression: Myths and Realities**

Starr Hall, UConn Law School

November 7, 2015

9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Is voting fraud wide-spread and rising? What is voting fraud? How are laws protecting election integrity challenging voters' accessibility? What is the end result for our democracy?

## Agenda

- 9:00 a.m. Registration and a continental breakfast
- 9:25 a.m. Welcome, Introductions
- 9:35 a.m. Panel Presentations
  - 9:35 Erin O'Brien
  - 10:00 Douglas Spencer
  - 10:25 Paul Herrnson
  - 10:50 Christopher Mattei
- 11:15 a.m. Break
- 11:25 a.m. Questions from the League
- 11:40 a.m. Questions from the audience
- 12:40 p.m. Wrap up and Departure

## Speakers

**Erin E. O'Brien**, Assoc. Professor and Chair of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts, UMass, Boston



Professor O'Brien's main areas of expertise are Public Policy; Politics of Poverty and U.S. Social Welfare Policy; Stratification, Politics, and Policy; Political Behavior; Urban Politics; Research Methods and Epistemology; American Politics.

Professor O'Brien's research and teaching interests focus on the politics of poverty and social welfare policy, voting access policymaking in the United States, and gender in political participation/representation. Her work employs a variety of methods and approaches to social science

in order to examine the connections among social policy, political thought and action, inequality, and patterns of stratification associated with social groups.

Professor O'Brien is the author of two books: *The Politics of Identity: Solidarity Building among America's Working Poor* (State University of New York Press, Helen Ingram and Anne Schneider's "Public Policy" series) and *Diversity in Contemporary American Politics and Government* (Pearson-Longman Press, co-edited). She has published numerous other book chapters, policy briefs, and commentaries for the popular press.

Professor O'Brien served as lead policy consultant in Marty Walsh's successful mayoral bid in Boston and is a regular political commentator. She is a frequent guest on "Boston Public Radio" and "Under the Radar with Callie Crossley," both on WGBH, NPR.

She received her PhD from American University.

**Douglas M. Spencer**, Associate Professor of Law and Public Policy and Roger S. Baldwin Scholar, UCONN School of Law



Douglas Spencer is an Associate Professor with appointments in both the law school and the department of public policy. His research interests include the empirical study of public law, campaign finance, voting rights, and election administration. He teaches Constitutional Law, Election Law, and the Introduction to Public Policy course in the Master of Public Administration program at UConn.

Professor Spencer's research has been published, or is forthcoming, in the *Columbia Law Review*, *California*

*Law Review*, *Indiana Law Journal*, *University of Illinois Law Review*,

*Journal of Law & Courts*, and the *Election Law Journal*. His work has also been featured in *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Slate* and other media outlets.

Professor Spencer was a clerk at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights in San Francisco, and worked at the U.S. Department of the Interior and the International Finance Corporation of the World Bank Group in Washington, DC. In 2005 he was an election monitor for the Thailand national parliamentary elections and later worked as a non-resident researcher for the Pew Center on the States' Military and Overseas Voting Reform Project.

Professor Spencer holds a Ph.D. in Jurisprudence and Social Policy from the University of California, Berkeley, a J.D. from Berkeley Law, an M.P.P. from UC Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy, and a B.A. degree in Philosophy from Columbia University.

**Paul S. Herrnson**, Professor of Political Science, UCONN Storrs



Professor Herrnson's main interests are political parties and elections; money and politics; and voting technology and election administration. He has published several books, including *Congressional Elections*; *Voting Technology: The Not-So-Simple Act of Casting a Ballot*, *The Financiers of Congressional Elections*, and *Interest Groups Unleashed*. His recent articles appear in the *American Journal of Political Science*, *Election Law Journal*, *Electoral Studies*, *Journal of Politics*, and *Legislative Studies Quarterly*.

He teaches courses on campaigns, elections and other aspects of U.S. politics.

Herrnson has served as President of the Southern Political Science Association, Chair of the Political Organizations and Parties section of the American Political Science Association, and as an American Political Science Association Congressional Fellow. He has advised the U.S. Congress, Connecticut General Assembly, Maryland General Assembly, Federal Election Commission, and other government agencies and nongovernmental organizations on matters pertaining to campaign finance, election administration, and political reform. He earned his PhD at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his BA at Binghamton University.

**Christopher M. Mattei**, Attorney in private practice

Attorney Christopher M. Mattei recently served as the Chief of the Financial Fraud and Public Corruption Unit of the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Connecticut and Director of its Public Corruption Task Force. In his positions at the U.S. Attorney's Office, Attorney Mattei oversaw white-collar, federal criminal investigations and prosecutions in the State



of Connecticut. He created and directed the Connecticut Public Corruption Task Force, a multi-agency investigative unit tasked with detecting and prosecuting corruption at all levels of government. As a public corruption prosecutor, Mattei prosecuted a variety of election and campaign finance offenses. In 2014, Mattei helped prosecute former Governor John G. Rowland. Prior to that, Mattei prosecuted a bribery ring, resulting in the conviction of seven individuals, including Robert Braddock Jr., the finance director for

a United States Congressional campaign. Most recently, Mattei prosecuted high-ranking public officials for accepting kickbacks and engaging in fraud.

Attorney Mattei is a graduate of Georgetown University, and received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Connecticut School of Law in 2005. Attorney Mattei recently joined the law firm of Koskoff, Koskoff & Bieder.

## Moderator



Carole Mulready is currently president of LWVGH and serves as Voter Service co-chair. She joined the West Hartford LWV (now the LWV Greater Hartford) around 1979. She served on the West Hartford Board of Education and Town Council during the 1980's and early 1990's. Upon retirement from employment in 2002, she became actively involved in League programs and particularly voter service, and currently serves as special events co-chair for LWVCT.

Carole worked for the Capitol Region Education Council as a specialist in diversity programs. She teaches basic English writing skills in classes for immigrants, refugees, and other English deficient adults through a community program at Jubilee House in Hartford where she also tutors in a volunteer program.

## Our Special Thanks to:

- The UCONN Law School and the American Constitution Society for providing this space and co-hosting this conference.
- Margaret and Al Wirtenberg for videotaping the event.
- The entire Fall Conference Committee: Gloria Bent, Susan Brome, Judy Dolphin, Gail Janensch, Enid Oresman, Gwen Mogenson, Anita Peters, Alison Rivard, Carlisle Spivey, Clara Sartori, and Wendy Skratt.
- The LWVCT office staff, Jean Rabinow and Shaundolyn Slaughter.

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