LAS VEGAS REGIONAL HEARING
(Nevada and Utah)

Clark County Government Center
Las Vegas, Nevada
April 26, 2014

GUEST COMMISSIONERS
Hon. Karen Bennett-Haron, Chief Judge, Las Vegas Township Justice Court
Carmen Berkley, Director, AFL-CIO Civil Rights Division

Gregory Cendana, Executive Director, Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance
Jeanetta Williams, President, ID-NV-UT NAACP

PANELISTS
Rachel Anderson, Professor of Law, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
William S. Boyd, President, Las Vegas National Bar Association Professor of Law, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Morgan Lyon Cotti, Program Manager, Hinckley Institute of Politics, University of Utah
Lonnie Feemster, NV State Director, NAACP National Voter Fund
Jenn Gonnolly, Co-President, League of Women Voters of Utah

Kevin E. Hooks, President & CEO, Las Vegas, Clark County Urban League
Mark Maryboy, Former San Juan County Commissioner (Utah)
Dan McCool, Professor, University of Utah
Ross Miller, Nevada Secretary of State
Andres Ramirez, Consultant, Mi Familia Vota
Donald Rust, President, League of Women Voters of Nevada

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
ACLU of Utah
Eric Swenson, Attorney

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS (NOT EXHAUSTIVE)
ACLU of Utah
Las Vegas Urban League
League of Women Voters of Nevada
Mi Familia Vota

NACCP
NAACP National Voter Fund
Utah League of Women Voters

LAS VEGAS REGIONAL HEARING HIGHLIGHTS
I. Felony Disenfranchisement

Rachel Anderson, a professor of law at the William S. Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada, highlighted the continuing problem of disenfranchisement for thousands of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals in Nevada, many of whom are African American and Latino. 2010 data from the Sentencing Project shows that 21,000 African Americans, or 12.5 percent of the State’s African-American population, were disenfranchised in Nevada.1 Although Nevada does have laws that allow individuals to have their voting rights reinstated, Anderson pointed to research she conducted showing the difficulty of accessing the information needed to apply for reinstatement.2 “It took me a week to get the information, and I’m a law professor with a lot of resources at my disposal and have spent time working on these issues,” Anderson testified.

II. Language Assistance for Latino Voters in Clark County, Nevada

Andres Ramirez, representing Mi Familia Vota, pointed to the marked gains that have been made by Clark County’s Latino voters in both voter registration and turnout in the past decade, which he attributed to the county’s additional investment in language assistance.

“[Clark County] has actively recruited bilingual poll workers. They’ve provided ample information in Spanish and other languages and work with Hispanic and other community service organizations on identifying the best locations to conduct early voting.”

Andres did add, however, that the increase in the number of Latino voters has led to a need for more bilingual poll workers and registrars.

1 See: “State Data: Louisiana” by: The Sentencing Project (http://sentencingproject.org/map/statedata.cfm?abbrev=NV&mapdata=true)

2 Nev. Rev. Stat. § 213.090