

Allison Riggs
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Chief Counsel for Voting Rights
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Vitae – Current as of March 2021

An accomplished civil rights litigator and community lawyer who has committed her entire career to partnering with historically excluded and disadvantaged communities as they work to advance their own social, economic and political rights; has argued voting rights cases twice before the United States Supreme Court, as well as before the Fourth Circuit, Fifth Circuit, Florida Supreme Court and numerous other judicial panels

Education

- 2003 B.S. University of Florida
- 2006 M.A. University of Florida (in History)
- 2009 J.D. University of Florida Levin College of Law

Admissions

- 2009 State of North Carolina
- 2011 United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina
- 2012 United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina
- 2014 United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- 2018 United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
- 2012 United States Supreme Court

Employment History

- 2009-2014 Staff Attorney
Southern Coalition for Social Justice
Durham, NC

- 2014 – present Senior Staff Attorney
Southern Coalition for Social Justice
Durham, NC
- 2019 – present Chief Counsel for Voting Rights
Southern Coalition for Social Justice
Durham, NC
- 2020 – 2021 Interim Co-Executive Director – Programs
Southern Coalition for Social Justice
Durham, NC
- 2021 – present Co-Executive Director – Programs
Southern Coalition for Social Justice
Durham, NC

Voting Rights Cases

- 2020 – present – *Democracy NC v. NC State Bd. of Elections*
-Case No. No. 20-cv-457 (M.D.N.C.)
-counsel for plaintiffs seeking modifications to 2020 election procedures to ensure the protection of the constitution right to vote during a global pandemic; also bringing claims under the Americans with Disabilities Act
- 2020 – present – *PILF v. North Carolina State Board of Elections*
-Case No. 19-2265 (4th Circuit Court of Appeals)
-counsel for amicus AMEXCAN, El Pueblo, and NCAAT, highlighting for appeals court the potential for abuse and harassment in disclosure of sensitive voter information data, potentially the subject of criminal investigation, by a group with a history of misusing such data
- 2018 – present – *Holmes v. Moore*
-Case No. 18 CVS 15292 (Wake County, NC, Superior Court)
-counsel for individual voters challenging North Carolina’s 2018 voter ID law as violating numerous provisions of the state constitution
- 2018 – 2019 – *LULAC v. Adams*
-Case No. 1:18-cv-00423 (E.D.Va.)
-counsel for plaintiffs in voter intimidation and defamation claims relating to publications accusing voters of being non-citizen voters
- 2018 – present – *LULAC v. Edwards Aquifer Authority*
-Case No. 18-50655 (5th Circuit Court of Appeals)
-counsel for LULAC and individual voters challenging the electoral system used to elect directors of the Edwards Aquifer Authority as violating the one-person, one-vote guarantee of the Fourteenth Amendment
-argued the case in the Fifth Circuit in 2019

- 2018 – 2019 – *NC NAACP v. Lewis*
 -Case No. 002322 (Wake County, NC, Superior Court)
 -counsel for plaintiffs in redistricting case challenging 2017 state legislative remedial districts as violating the state constitution
- 2017 – present—*Bouvier v. Porter*
 -Case No. 17-CVS-3273 (Guilford County, NC, Superior Court)
 -counsel for plaintiffs in defamation claims relating to 2016 general election
- 2017-2018 – *In the Matter of: Disposition of Requests for New Elections Following November 2017 Municipal Elections*
 -Case No. 15517 (Wake County, NC, Superior Court)
 -counsel for intervenor/candidate seeking a new election after municipal election irregularities
- 2017 – *Hines v. NC State Board of Elections & Ethics Enforcement*
 -Case No. 15437 (Wake County, NC, Superior Court)
 -counsel for successful candidate seeking a writ of mandamus ordering his installation on city council
- 2016-2017—*Voter Integrity Project v. Wake County Board of Elections et al.*
 -Case No. 5:16-CV-683 (E.D.N.C.)
 -counsel for intervening defendants, Wake County residents who engage in voter registration efforts, defending the Wake County Board of Elections’ NVRA-compliant policies for maintaining voter rolls
- 2016 – *Democracy North Carolina v. North Carolina State Board of Elections*
 -Case No. 16-cv-13733 (Wake County, NC, Superior Court)
 -counsel for plaintiff seeking extension of voting hours in precincts non-functioning during the day on Election Day
- 2016 – *DeLuca v. North Carolina State Board of Elections*
 -Case No. 5:16-cv-913 (E.D.N.C.)
 -counsel for intervenors defending North Carolina’s same day registration from attack under the NVRA
- 2016- 2019 – *League of Women Voters of NC v. Rucho*
 -Case No. 1:16-cv-1026 (M.D.N.C.) (consolidated cases)
 -counsel for plaintiffs in a federal partisan gerrymandering case challenging the constitutionality of North Carolina’s 2016 “remedial” congressional redistricting plan
 -argued case in United States Supreme Court in March 2019
- 2016 –*Howell v. McAuliffe*
 -Case No. 160784 (Virginia Supreme Court)

-counsel for Virginia NAACP as amicus in support of petitioner in mandamus action challenging Governor McAuliffe's authority to restore the right to vote to Virginians with past felony convictions.

2015 – 2019 – *Covington v. North Carolina*

-Case No. 1:15-cv-399 (M.D.N.C.)

-counsel for plaintiffs alleging North Carolina state legislative districts are unconstitutional racial gerrymanders

2015 – present – *Action NC v. Strach*

-Case No. 1:15-cv-01063 (M.D.N.C.)

-counsel for plaintiffs alleging violations by the North Carolina State Board of Elections, Department of Motor Vehicles, and Department of Health and Human Services of the National Voter Registration Act

2015 – 2016 – *Raleigh Wake Citizens Association v. Wake County Board of Elections*

-Case No. 5:15-cv-156 (E.D.N.C.)

-counsel for plaintiffs challenging a local bill restructuring the Wake County Board of County Commissioners, alleging violations of the Equal Protection Clause.

-argued successfully in the Fourth Circuit in 2016

2015 – 2017 – *City of Greensboro v. Guilford County Board of Elections*

-Case No. 1:15-CV-559 (M.D.N.C.)

-counsel for plaintiffs challenging a local bill restructuring the Greensboro City Council and removing from the city the ability to change its method of election via referendum, alleging violations of the Equal Protection Clause; injunction issued in July 2015.

-argued successful in the Fourth Circuit in 2018

2013 – 2017 – *League of Women Voters of NC v. North Carolina*

-Case No. 1:13-cv-660 (M.D.N.C.)

-counsel for plaintiffs challenging the state's omnibus voter suppression law, including the repeal of early voting, repeal of same day registration and out of precinct voting, alleging violations of the U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

-argued successfully in the Fourth Circuit in 2014 and 2016

2013 – 2016 – *Currie v. State of North Carolina*

-Case No. 13-CVS-1419 (Orange County Superior Court, North Carolina)

-counsel for plaintiffs challenging the state's voter ID law, alleging violations of the state constitution.

2013 – 2016 – *Wright v. North Carolina*

-Case No. 5:13-cv-607 (E.D.N.C.)

-counsel for plaintiffs challenging a local bill restructuring the Wake County Board of Education, alleging violations of the Equal Protection Clause.

2011- present - *Perez v. Perry*

- Case No. 5:11-cv-00360 (W.D. Tx)
- counsel for Plaintiffs Texas State Conference of NAACP Branches, arguing that the enacted 2011 plans for Congress and State House in Texas violated Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act and the equal protections of the Fourteenth Amendment.
- argued in the Supreme Court in 2018

2011- 2018 – *Dickson, et al. v. Rucho, et al./NC NAACP et al., v. North Carolina, et al.*

- Case Nos. 11-CVS-16896 and 11-CVS-16940
- counsel for plaintiffs, the North Carolina NAACP, other civil rights organizations, and numerous state residents challenging under the federal and state constitutions the 2011 enacted redistricting plans for North Carolina congressional, state house and state senate districts

2015 – 2016 – *Shapiro v. McManus*

- Case No. 14-990 (United States Supreme Court)
- counsel for Amicus Virginia State Conference of NAACP Branches, arguing that a single judge hearing a redistricting case improperly dismissed the case, without referring it to the three-judge panel required by law.

2015 – 2016 – *Personhuballah v. Alcorn*

- Case No. 3:13-cv-00678 (E.D. Va.)
- counsel for Virginia NAACP in submitting plan as a non-party to the special master developing a remedial plan following the invalidation of congressional district invalidated as a racial gerrymander; counsel for Virginia NAACP as amicus in the United States Supreme Court in support of the decision of the court below.

2015 – 2016 – *Harris v. Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission*

- Case No. 14-232 (United States Supreme Court)
- counsel for Amicus Southern Coalition for Social Justice arguing that partisanship should not be allowed to justify redistricting plan population deviations of up to 10%, and highlighting for the Court examples of problems that such an exception would engender.

2014 – *Morton v. State of North Carolina*

- Case No. 14-cv-013294 (Wake County Superior Court, North Carolina)
- counsel for plaintiffs seeking judicial review of an arbitrary and capricious early voting plan for Lincoln County, NC.

2011-2013 - *Texas v. United States*

- Case No. 5:11-cv-001303 (D.D.C.)
- counsel for Defendant-Intervenor Texas State Conference of NAACP Branches, successfully arguing that the enacted 2011 plans for Congress, State House and State Senate in Texas violated Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act.

2012-2013 - *Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder*

- 570 U.S. _____, 2013 U.S. LEXIS 4917 (United States Supreme Court, June 25, 2013)

-counsel for amicus political science and law professors, detailing for the court the vast amounts of empirical evidence that justify the Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act coverage formula reauthorized by Congress in 2006.

2010 – 2012 - *Nix v. Holder*

-133 S. Ct. 610 (United States Supreme Court, November 13, 2012)

-counsel for Defendant-Intervenor North Carolina State Conference of NAACP Branches, defending the constitutionality of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act in the D.D.C. and United States Supreme Court.

2012 – *NAACP v. Duplin County, NC*

-Case No. 88-cv-7 (E.D.N.C.)

-counsel for plaintiffs NC NAACP and Duplin County NAACP, successfully contesting dilutive modification of a consent decree that was put into place to provide black voters in the county with the opportunity to elect members to the Board of County Commission and Board of Education.

2012 – *Holmes v. Lenoir County, NC, Board of Education*

-Case No. 86-120-cv-4 (E.D.N.C.)

-counsel for plaintiffs, individual black voters in Lenoir County, NC, successfully contesting dilutive modification of a consent decree that was put into place to provide black voters in the county with the opportunity to elect members to the Board of Education.

2012 – *Porter, et al. v. Stewart, et al.*

-Case No. 5:88-cv-950 (E.D.N.C.)

-counsel for individual African-American voters in Harnett County, North Carolina, seeking modification of a voting rights consent decree (governing districts to elect members of the Board of County Commissioners and Board of Education) to allow for the continued protection of the voting rights of black voters in the county given population changes

2010 – *League of Women Voters v. Rokita*

-929 N.E.2d 758 (Indiana Supreme Court, June 30, 2010)

-counsel for amicus civil rights organizations, arguing that the Privileges and Immunities Clause of the Indiana constitution provides protections to voters in Indiana that exceed the protections provided by the federal constitution

2010 - 2011 – *Libertarian Party of NC v. North Carolina*

-365 N.C. 41 (North Carolina Supreme Court, March 11, 2011)

-counsel for amicus civil rights organizations, highlighting the policy reasons that justify open and easy ballot access for third-party candidates and parties

2012 - *Greensboro Branch of the NAACP v. Guilford County, NC, Board of Elections, et al.*

-Case No. 1:12-cv-111 (M.D.N.C.)

-counsel for plaintiffs Greensboro Branch of the NAACP and individual voters, successfully challenging on equal protection grounds a redistricting plan for the Guilford County Board of

County Commissioners that would have effectively deprived a swath of county citizens of any representation for two years

2012 – *In re: 2012 Joint Resolution of Legislative Apportionment*

-Case No. SC12-460, 89 So. 3d 872 (Florida Supreme Court, April 27, 2012)

-counsel for Florida State Conference of NAACP Branches, opposing on state constitutional grounds the state's enacted redistricting plan for the State Senate and arguing in front of the Florida Supreme Court

2012 – 2015 – *Romo, et al. v. Detzner, et al.*

-Case Nos. 2012-CA-000412 and 2012-CA-000490 (Leon County, FL, Circuit Court)

-counsel for Defendant-Intervenor Florida State Conference of NAACP Branches, defending against state constitutional challenge a district which enables black voters in north-central Florida to elect their candidate of choice to U.S. Congress

-argued in the Florida Supreme Court in 2015

2012 - 2014 - *Moore, et al. v. Haslam, et al.*,

-Tennessee Court of Appeals No. M2013-00811-COA-R3-CV

-counsel for plaintiffs, residents of Shelby County, TN, challenging under state constitution the Tennessee state senate redistricting plan enacted in 2011

Publications

Allison J. Riggs & Anita S. Earls, “*The Only Clear Limitation on Improper Districting Practices*”: *Using One-Person, One-Vote to Combat Partisan Gerrymandering*, 12 Duke J. Const. L. & Pub. Pol’y 23 (2017).

Allison J. Riggs, *Felony Disenfranchisement in Florida: Past, Present and Future*, 28 ST. JOHN’S J. C.R. & ECON. DEV. 111 (2015).

Allison J. Riggs & Jack E. Riggs, *Epilepsy’s Role in the Historical Differentiation of Religion, Magic, and Science*, 46 EPILEPSIA 452 (2005).

Allison J. Riggs & Jack E. Riggs, “*Guessing It Right*”, *John A. Simpson, and Myasthenia Gravis: the Role of Analogy in Science*. 62 NEUROLOGY 465 (2004).

Allison J. Riggs, RJ Millechia & Jack E. Riggs, *The Contributions of Lavoisier, Carnot, and Mayer to Understanding Heat Illness*, 75 AVIATION, SPACE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE 916 (2004).

Jack E. Riggs & Allison J. Riggs, *Prominent 59-year-old British neurosurgeon, Victor Horsley, succumbs to heatstroke while serving with allied troops in Iraq*, 18 BRITISH JOURNAL OF NEUROSURGERY 375 (2004).

National and/or Notable Invited Voting Rights Presentations

- 2020 – National Convention - League of Women Voters of the United States
 -virtual biannual convening of LWV members from entire country
 -panelist at “Expand the Vote
- 2020 – American Constitution Society Convention
 -virtual convening of ACS members
 -acceptance of 2020 David Carliner Public Interest Award
- 2020 – Fair Vote, Symposium, “A Congress for Everyone: The Impact of the Fair Representation Act”
 -presenter on the intersection of the Fair Representation Act and partisan gerrymandering
 -Washington, DC
 -February 4, 2020
- 2019 – American University Washington College of Law symposium
 -panelist at “A Global Lawyer: A Symposium Celebrating the Contributions of Herman Schwartz to the Rule of Law” (panel entitled: Perspectives on Voting Rights and Social Justice”
 -Washington, DC
 -September 27, 2019
- 2019 – Committee on States Annual Conference
 -panel discussing the documentary “Rigged: The Voter Suppression Playbook”
 -Boise, ID
 -June 4, 2019
- 2019 – University of Chicago Institute of Politics speaker
 -“Race, Redistricting and the Voting Rights Act”
 -Chicago, IL
 -May 13, 2019
- 2019 – Harvard University Center for Geographic Analysis conference “The Geography of Redistricting”
 -panelist: “Opportunities for Improving Transparency and Fairness in Redistricting”
 -Cambridge, MA
 -May 3, 2019
- 2019 - Constitutional Accountability Center’s Home Stretch at the Supreme Court
 -discussing the Common Cause v. Rucho/LWVNC v. Rucho case recently argued
 -Washington, DC
 -April 25, 2019
- 2019 – Common Cause and Duke University – Reason, Reform and Redistricting Conference
 -panelist at “An Overview of Pending and Upcoming Gerrymandering Litigation” and “Building the Evidence of Partisan Gerrymandering” sessions
 -Durham, NC
 -January 25-26, 2019

- 2018 – NAACP National Convention CLE
 -panelist on 2 different voting rights CLE programs
 -San Antonio, TX
- 2018 - South by Southwest (SXSW)
 -panelist: “How Gerrymandering is Reshaping Politics”
 -Austin, TX
 -March 11, 2018
- 2018 – Georgia Law Review Symposium: Walking the Line: Modern Gerrymandering & Partisanship
 -panelist: “The Voting Rights Act of 1965”
 -Athens, GA
 -February 2, 2018
- 2017 – Virginia State Bar Convention
 -panelist: “Post-Election Legal Firestorms - Gerrymandering, Obstacles to Voting, The Electoral College, Judicial Review, and Other Hot Topics”
 -Virginia Beach, Virginia
 -June 16, 2017
- 2017 – NAACP National Convention CLE
 -panelist: “Census and Redistricting”
 -Baltimore, MD
 -July 24, 2017
- 2017 – Duke Journal of Constitutional Law & Public Policy Symposium: Voting Rights in Polarized America
 -panelist: “Election Administration and Reform after 2016” and “The Role of Courts in Election Reform: Lessons from *NAACP v. McCrory*”
 -February 17, 2017
- 2017 – Congressional Voting Rights Caucus
 -panelist: “What Have We Learned: Intentional Voter Discrimination and Where Do We Go from Here.”
 -Washington, D.C.
 -May 4, 2017
- 2015 – NAACP Legal Defense & Education Fund, Inc., (LDF) Annual Civil Rights Training Institute
 -panelist, “A Change is Gonna Come: Advocating to Preserve and Advance the Right to Vote”
 -Airlie Conference Center, Warrenton, VA
 -October 23, 2015
- 2015 – Voto Latino Power Summit
 -panelist, “Battle of the Ballot: Latinos and the Fight for Voting Rights”
 -Charlotte, NC
 -September 29, 2015

- 2012 - Congressional Black Caucus Institute
 -panelist: “Post Reconstruction 2012: Voter Suppression/I.D. Laws”
 -Tunica, MS
 -August 11, 2012
- 2011 - Congressional Black Caucus Institute
 -panelist: “Redistricting: Reapportioning and other Barriers to Participation – Having a Seat at the Table”
 -Tunica, MS
 -August 13, 2011
- 2014 – NAACP National Convention CLE
 -panelist: “Voter Suppression after the Shelby Decision”
 -Las Vegas, NV
 -July 2014
- 2013 - NAACP National Convention CLE
 -panelist: “Voting Rights After the Shelby Decision”
 -Orlando, FL
 -July 14, 2013
- 2012 - Hispanic National Bar Association
 -panelist: “Voting Rights and Voter Suppression Efforts”
 -Seattle, WA
 -August 23, 2012
- 2013 - Federalist Society event (voter ID)
 -panelist: “Voter ID in North Carolina,” with Hans Von Spakovsky, John Fund and Bob Hall
 -Raleigh, NC
 -February 6, 2013
- 2013 - Federalist Society event (Shelby County)
 -debater: “The Voting Rights Act and the Shelby County Case” with Roger Clegg
 -Durham, NC
 -March 26, 2013
- 2013 – North Carolina State House of Representatives Elections Committee
 -invited testimony: Invited Views on House Bill 589 (Voter Photo ID Requirement)
 -Raleigh, NC
 -March 13, 2013
- 2011 - Young Elected Officials Network National Convening
 -panelist: “Voting Reform and Redistricting: Meeting the Needs of an Increasingly Mobile Electorate and Protecting Communities of Interest”
 -Washington, D.C.
 -June 4, 2011

2010- Young Elected Officials Network Policy Academy: Redistricting and Immigration
-panelist: “In-Depth Redistricting Overview”
-Los Angeles, CA
-September 10, 2010

2010- Young Elected Officials Network National Convening
-panelist: “Redistricting for Fair Representation”
-Washington, D.C.
-May 15, 2010

2012 - Paul C. Perkins Bar Association
-presenter: “Election Protection and Voting Rights”
-Orlando, FL
-October 4, 2012

Exemplar National Media Work - Voting Rights

July 3, 2013, The Alan Colmes Show, Fox News Radio

July 2013 – Tell Me More, NPR

July 29, 2013 – The Rachel Maddow Show, MSNBC

June 30, 2013 – “Changes Loom for N.C. Electorate,” L.A. Times interview

August 12, 2014 – The Ed Show, MSNBC

February 12, 2016 – To the Point, NPR

May 1, 2016 – Politics Nation, MSNBC

July 29, 2016 – CBS Evening News

August 10, 2017—All Things Considered, NPR

-frequently quoted in New York Times, Washington Post, Huffington Post, Nation, Mother Jones, and other prominent national media outlets

Other Leadership Positions

June 2020 – June 2022 – Board of Directors, League of Women Voters of the United States

2020-2021 – North Carolina Bar Association – Constitutional Rights and Responsibilities Council

2020 – present – Board of Directors, Southern Coalition for Social Justice

2018 – present – Board of Directors, Blueprint North Carolina (the state’s 501(c)(3) table)

2019 – present – appointed by Governor Roy Cooper to the North Carolina Complete Count Commission (state entity designed to encourage participation in the 2020 Census)

Awards and Recognitions

2020 – American Constitution Society’s David Carliner Public Interest Award

2019 – present - Council of Independent Colleges –Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellowship July 2013 –

2019 – League of Women Voters of North Carolina – Appreciation Award for Efforts Above and Beyond the Call

2013 - National NAACP Legal Department –Foot Soldier Award