



THE VOTER

FEBRUARY 2012

A Publication of the League of Women Voters of Johnson County

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

We study, educate and advocate



From the president

February marks the ½ way point in our LWVJC calendar year. Looking forward, there are many opportunities to make democracy work.

National (LWVUS) has published readings to support the study to identify policies and parameters that should be considered when any governmental entity is planning to undertake some type of privatization process. These can be found on the LWVUS website at www.lwv.org/member-resources/privatization. So far I have only heard from one local member interested in participating on a local study committee.

Our educational series of programs on the Constitution features special guest Lawrence Goldstone to Old Brick on **Thursday, February 9, 2012 at 7 pm**. Mr. Goldstone, author of *Inherently Unequal, The Betrayal of Civil Rights by the Supreme Court, 1865-1903*, will be interviewed and in conversation with LWVJC member Professor Angela Onwuachi-Willig, from the university of Iowa College of Law.

League members from across the state will go to the Capitol February 15, 2012 to personally lobby legislators in Des Moines on issues based on LWVIA Legislative Priorities. If you are interested in joining our carpool to the Capitol contact me (pollyshorton@aol.com or 621-1685). The status of bills before the legislature can be found at the LWV Iowa Lobbyist's website www.ialobby.com.

The League of Women Voters of Johnson County (Iowa) Legislative Forums are being held in 2012. The next forum is **on Saturday, February 25th** at the Coralville Public Library, beginning at 9:30 a.m. These forums provide an opportunity for dialogue between the local legislators and their constituents in Johnson County,

There are numerous opportunities for you to be involved in making democracy work. Our LWVJC Finance Campaign will be sending letters in February 2012 asking for your financial support. The Nominating Committee will be seeking candidates to serve on Board of Directors and off- Board positions. I urge you to contribute and/or volunteer.

Polly

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Program Planning for U.S., Johnson County

A group of League members met on January 18 to discuss what governmental or political issues might be studied in the upcoming year or two. The discussion was lively, ideas were flowing, and they decided, with board concurrence, to send the following recommendation to the LWVUS for consideration:

"An update/study of Congressional rules (including the filibuster), codes of conduct (including lobbying), and member benefits (pay, retirement, insurance, etc.)."

Program planning for the national League is done every other year (in even years) by local and state Leagues to make recommendations for program -- a three-part process that is the core component of the League's mission (program planning, study and consensus, and advocacy). Leagues send their ideas to the LWVUS Board, which evaluates all of the recommendations and may -- or may not -- make recommendations for future study of national and international issues to the convention delegates.

The LWVUS already has a long-held position on the U.S. Congress, under which some of these issues might be, or have been, addressed but there may be interest in on focusing in on some specific, and current, issues. The present position reads: *"The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that structures and practices of the U.S. Congress must be characterized by openness, accountability, representativeness, decision making capability and effective performance."*

Those who participated also dealt with Johnson County issues and decided not to recommend any new local study, but to keep all of our current positions and plan to advocate under the regional governance position.

Pat Jensen

Legislative Lobby Day at Capitol in Des Moines February 15

League members from across the state will go to the Capitol Wednesday, February 15, 2012 to personally lobby legislators in Des Moines on our LWVIA Legislative priority issues.

The day will begin at 9:30 a.m. with coffee and rolls at the Calvary Baptist Church at 609 East 9th St. Iowa League Lobbyist Amy Campbell will begin the program. Participants then will make the short walk to the Capitol to talk with legislators and/or have lunch with them in the Capitol cafeteria as they are available. The primary goal of the day is to advocate on issues based on the Iowa League's consensus positions (published in January 2012 VOTER). The status of bills before the legislature can be found at the LWV Iowa Lobbyist's website www.ialobby.com.

The governor's office proposed education reforms was the "hot topic" at our LWVJC January 24 forum. State President Myrna Loehrlein says that the state league currently does not have a consensus position on this issue and the national's (LWVUS) position speaks generally to "equal access" to quality. Since February 15 is LWVIA Lobby Day it is not possible for league members to lobby on education on behalf of the league for anything other than "equal access" ... to quality education.

However, President Loehrlein explains that within league principles, if members want to lobby on the governor's proposal, they can do so by "removing LWV name tag and introducing you as an informed and concerned citizen, NOT as a representative of LWVIA."

If you are interested in going to Des Moines for the day, contact Polly Horton, who is coordinating carpooling. E-mail Polly at pollyshorton@aol.com or call her cell phone 319-621-1685

LEGISLATIVE FORUMS

The League of Women Voters of Johnson County will be sponsoring a legislative forum on Saturday, February 25th from 9:30 until 11:30. The forum will be held at the Coralville Public Library in Schwab Auditorium. Senators Joe Bolckom, Robert Dvorsky, James Hahn, and Sandra Greiner, and Representatives Jarad Klein, Nate Willems, David Jacoby, Jeff Kaufmann, Vicki Lensing, and Mary Mascher have been invited.

The forums provide an opportunity for dialogue between the legislators and their constituents in Johnson County. The legislators will present three-minute summaries of critical issues before their respective houses, particularly those of interest to them. The remainder of the forum will be devoted to public comment and questions, beginning with the questions from the cosponsors. The microphone will then be open to members of the audience.

Cosponsors of the February forum are the Hawkeye Area Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union and the Iowa Federation of Labor.

The United States Constitution & Supreme Court is at Old Brick Feb. 9 @ 7:00 pm

LWV Upcoming events in the LWVJC's Education Fund Series
The United States Constitution & Supreme Court

Women's rights

March 10, Old Brick, 7-9 PM

Professor Linda Kerber, University of Iowa History Department
Professor Ann Laquer Estin, University of Iowa College of Law
Alice Dahle, Co-Chair, Amnesty International USA's Women's Human Rights Coordination Group.
Introduction: Dayna Ballantyne, Executive Director, Iowa Women's Foundation

Immigration

April

Date, Venue and Panel TBD

The Affordable Care Act. Is it Constitutional?

May 10th, Iowa City Public Library, Room A

Sheldon Kurtz, Professor of Law, University of Iowa
Dr. Peter Damiano, Director, Public Policy Center, University of Iowa
Andrew Cannon, Research Associate, Iowa Policy Project

The LWVJC is a proud co-sponsor of the following events:

The Public Policy Center (PPC) University of Iowa, Forckenbrock Series on Public Policy
February 29th. Making the case for Women Judges (Shambaugh Auditorium)
Tulane Professor Sally Kenney will speak on her forthcoming book, *Gender and Justice: Why Women Judges Really Matter*.
March 7th. Robert Edgar, President and CEO, Common Cause (Shambaugh)
Mr. Edgar will give a lecture on the influence of campaign financing, the Citizens United case and the rise of SuperPACs on our political discourse.
More information at <http://ppc.uiowa.edu/forckenbrock/policy-matters-2012>

Iowa United Nations Association Annual Night of 1000 Dinners
March 8th. Old Brick. 5:30-8:30 PM Tickets: \$15 at door. \$12 in advance
Fundraiser for the UN Trust Fund to support Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls Around the World. International buffet-style dinner with a speaker, music and fun. More information at: unauiowa@unauiowa.org or 319-337-7290.

THE
**United States
Constitution & the Supreme Court**

Their Impact on your daily life

LWV
The fourth in a series of Community Conversations
The League of Women Voters of Johnson County Education Fund

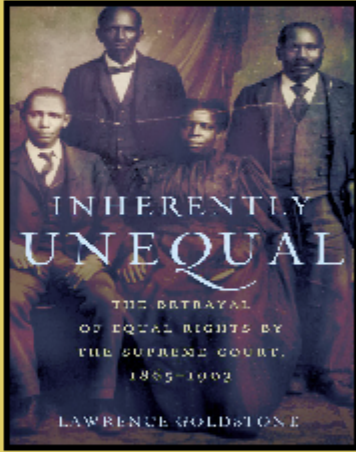
"INHERENTLY EQUAL,
THE BETRAYAL OF EQUAL RIGHTS BY THE SUPREME COURT, 1865-1903"

Speakers:
Lawrence Goldstone, PhD
Author of:
INHERENTLY UNEQUAL

Interviewed & in Conversation with:
Angela Onwuachi-Willig
Professor of Law
University of Iowa

February 9, 2012
Old Brick
26 E. Market St, Iowa City
Free & Open to the PUBLIC

Event Co-Sponsor
African American Museum of Iowa



The views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the supporters or financial supporters

Financial Support: Humanities Iowa and the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Hawkeye Chapter of the ACLU of Iowa, Hills Bank and Trust Company, Hotel Vetro, Iowa City Human Rights Commission, Johnson County Bar Association, West Bank Technographics & University of Iowa Community Credit Union

Supporters: AAUW, ACLU of Iowa, The African American Museum of Iowa, The Hawkeye Chapter of the ACLU, Iowa Citizens Action Network, Iowa City Human Rights Commission, Iowa City Public Library, Iowa City UNESCO City of Literature, Iowa Women's Foundation, Johnson County Bar Association, Kirkwood Community College, Labor Center, University of Iowa, League of Women Voters of Cedar Rapids/Mason,

THANK YOU!



Lawrence Goldstone, PhD
author
**INHERENTLY UNEQUAL,
THE BETRAYAL OF EQUAL
RIGHTS BY THE SUPREME COURT,
1865-1903**

Lawrence Goldstone is the author or co-author of fourteen books of fiction and non-fiction. In addition to *Inherently Unequal*, he has published two books on Constitutional history: *Dark Betrayal: Slavery Profits, and the Struggle for the Constitution*; and *The Activist: John Marshall, Marbury v Madison, and the Myth of Judicial Review*. His first novel, *Rights*, won a New American Writing Award and his third, *Anatomy of Deception*, was a *New York Times* notable mystery in 2008. Dr. Goldstone's articles, reviews, and opinion pieces have appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, *Boston Globe*, *Chicago Tribune*, and other major periodicals.

Goldstone has been widely interviewed on both radio and television, with appearances on "Fresh Air" (NPR), "To the Best of Our Knowledge" (NPR), "The Faith Middleton Show" (NPR), "The Takeaway" (PRD), "Make it Plain with Mark Thompson" (SiriusXM), "Tavis Smiley" (PBS), and BookTV (CSPAN). His work has been profiled in *The New York Times*, *The Toronto Star*, numerous regional newspapers, *Salon*, and *Slate*.

Goldstone holds a PhD in American Government from the New School. A passionate advocate of teaching critical reading skills to children, he and his wife founded and ran an innovative and highly praised series of parent-child book groups, which they detailed in *Deconstructing Penguins: Parents, Kids, and the Bond of Reading*. He has also been a teacher, lecturer, senior member of a Wall Street trading firm, taxi driver, actor, quiz show contestant, and policy analyst at the Hudson Institute.

"In the years following the Civil War, a series of extraordinary laws remade America's social landscape. The Thirteenth Amendment Abolished Slavery, the Fourteenth Amendment conferred citizenship and equal protection under the law to all Americans, white or black, and the Fifteenth gave black Americans the right to vote. In 1875, the most comprehensive civil rights legislation in the nation's history granted all Americans, regardless of color, "the full and equal enjoyment of public accommodations, new taverns and places of amusement. Yet, just 8 years later, the Supreme Court, by an 8-1 vote, overturned the Civil Rights Act as unconstitutional and, in a series of subsequent rulings, disemboweled the equal protection provision of the Fourteenth Amendment." 1

INHERENTLY UNEQUAL chronicles how "by the dawn of the 20th Century the United States had become a nation of Jim Crow laws, quasi-slavery and precisely the same two-tiered system of justice that had existed in the slave era." 2

Angela Onwuachi-Willig is Charles M. and Marion J. Kierscht Professor of Law at the University of Iowa. She joined the Iowa Law faculty in 2006 after three years on the tenure track at the University of California, Davis School of Law. She graduated from Grinnell College, where she majored in American Studies and was elected *Phi Beta Kappa*. She received her law degree from the University of Michigan Law School, where she was a Clarence Darrow Scholar, a Note Editor on the *Michigan Law Review*, and an Associate Editor of the founding issue of the *Michigan Journal of Race and Law*. After law school, she clerked for the Honorable Solomon Oliver, U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio, and the Honorable Karen Nelson Moore, U.S. Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.



Angela Onwuachi-Willig
Charles M. and Marion J. Kierscht
Professor of Law
University of Iowa

Professor Onwuachi-Willig researches and writes in Employment Discrimination, Family Law, Feminist Legal Theory, and Race and the Law. Her recent articles have appeared in many of the most prestigious law journals, including the *Michigan Law Review*, *California Law Review*, *Georgetown Law Journal*, *Vanderbilt Law Review*, *Wisconsin Law Review*, *Minnesota Law Review*, and *Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review*, to name a few. Professor Onwuachi-Willig also has published numerous opinion-editorials in newspapers such as the *Chicago Tribune*, *Sacramento Bee*, *Des Moines Register*, and *Iowa City Press Citizen*. Currently, she is writing a book entitled *According to Our Hearts: Rhineland v. Rhineland and the Law of the Multiracial Family*. Professor Onwuachi-Willig is a past Chair of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Minority Groups Section and Law and Humanities Section. She currently serves as the Chair of the AALS Committee for the Recruitment and Retention of Minorities.

In 2006, Professor Onwuachi-Willig was honored for her service by the Minority Groups Section of the AALS with the Derrick A. Bell Award, which is given to a junior faculty member who has made an extraordinary contribution to legal education, the legal system, or social justice. In 2010, she was elected to the American Law Institute, and in January of 2011, she was selected as one of nine finalists for three openings on the Iowa Supreme Court. She recently was invited to be a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation in 2011.

1 Goldstone, *INHERENTLY UNEQUAL, THE BETRAYAL OF EQUAL RIGHTS BY THE SUPREME COURT, 1865-1903*, New York: Walker and Company, 2008.
2 Goldstone, *Id.*

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF JOHNSON COUNTY IOWA

FEBRUARY 2012

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

6 VOTER DEADLINE

CONSTITUTION SERIES PROGRAM [LAWRENCE GOLDSTONE] 7-9 PM OLD BRICK

LOBBY DAY AT CAPITOL [DES MOINES]

LEGISLATIVE FORUM 9:30 AM @CORALVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

MARCH 2012

CONSTITUTION SERIES PROGRAM "WOMEN'S RIGHTS"

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING ICPL 2:00 PM

6 VOTER DEADLINE

31 LEGISLATIVE FORUM 9:30 AM @ IOWA CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

APRIL 2012

5 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING ICPL 2:00PM

VOTER DEADLINE

LEGISLATIVE FORUM 9;30 AM NORTH LIBERTY CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MAY 2012

3 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING ICPL 2:00 PM

VOTER DEADLINE

TBA LWVJC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING