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1 UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS  
 2 -----  
 3 IN RE:  
 4 NEW BLACK PANTHER PARTY  
 5 -----  
 6 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
 7 Tuesday, January 12, 2010  
 8  
 9 TRANSCRIPT of testimony of ANGELA COUNTS,  
 10 as taken by and before Cherilyn M. McCollum, a  
 11 Registered Professional Reporter, at the HILTON  
 12 GARDEN HOTEL, 1100 Arch Street, commencing at 9:26  
 13 o'clock in the forenoon.  
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Page 2

1 B E F O R E:  
 2 (BY TELEPHONE)  
 3 MICHAEL YAKI, COMMISSIONER  
 4 ALEC DEULL, SPECIAL ASSISTANT  
 5 NICK COLTEN, SPECIAL ASSISTANT  
 6 JOHN MARTIN, SPECIAL ASSISTANT  
 7  
 8 A P P E A R A N C E S:  
 9 UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS  
 10 OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL  
 11 BY: DAVID P. BLACKWOOD, ESQ.  
 MAHA JWEIED, ESQ.  
 12 624 Ninth Street, N.W.  
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 13 Washington, D.C. 20424  
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 dblackwood@usccr.gov  
 Attorneys for The Commission  
 14  
 15 A L S O P R E S E N T:  
 16 KIMBERLY TOLHURST, ESQ. (BY TELEPHONE)  
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Page 3

1 I N D E X  
 2 WITNESS PAGE  
 3 ANGELA COUNTS  
 4 By Mr. Blackwood 4  
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Page 4

1 ANGELA COUNTS, after having been  
 2 first duly sworn, was examined and testified as  
 3 follows:  
 4 EXAMINATION  
 5 BY MR. BLACKWOOD:  
 6 Q. Mrs. Counts, would you please state  
 7 your full name and address for the record.  
 8 A. Angela Counts, 3413 North Lee  
 9 Street.  
 10 Q. And are you employed?  
 11 A. No.  
 12 Q. The questions I'm going to ask you  
 13 about are what occurred on Election Day in 2008.  
 14 You were working at 1221 Fairmount?  
 15 A. Yes.  
 16 Q. And as a poll watcher?  
 17 A. Yes.  
 18 Q. For what party were you working for?  
 19 A. Republican.  
 20 Q. Are you registered as a Republican?  
 21 A. No.  
 22 Q. Are you registered as a Democrat?  
 23 A. Yes.  
 24 Q. And had you ever worked as a poll

Page 5

1 watcher before?  
 2 A. Yes.  
 3 Q. How many times?  
 4 A. About three or four times.  
 5 Q. Is that usually with your husband?  
 6 A. Yes.  
 7 Q. Always with your husband or --  
 8 A. Well, no. Sometimes -- we both are  
 9 poll watchers. But that was the second time they  
 10 put us together. Normally we're not in the same  
 11 location.  
 12 Q. Okay. So you had worked with him  
 13 together as a team in 2004, or do you recall when  
 14 it was?  
 15 A. I don't know what year it was, but I  
 16 know we did work together before.  
 17 Q. And you generally work for the  
 18 Republicans?  
 19 A. Yes.  
 20 Q. Have you ever worked for the  
 21 Democrats?  
 22 A. No.  
 23 Q. How did you get the job?  
 24 A. It was through Ms. Denise. I

Page 6

1 believe she passed. But she worked with -- he's a  
 2 minister. I can't remember -- I can't think of his  
 3 name right now. But I know Ms. Denise was the one  
 4 that started us with being poll watchers. I can't  
 5 think of --  
 6 Q. Did she have an Italian last name?  
 7 A. No, I don't know. I just know her  
 8 name was Ms. Denise.  
 9 Q. Okay.  
 10 And do you get paid to be a poll  
 11 watcher?  
 12 A. Yes.  
 13 Q. How much did you get in 2008?  
 14 A. I believe \$200.  
 15 Q. Okay.  
 16 When did you arrive -- now, going  
 17 back to Election Day in 2008 --  
 18 A. Okay.  
 19 Q. -- around what time did you all  
 20 arrive?  
 21 A. 6:00, I believe.  
 22 Q. And you arrived together?  
 23 A. Yes.  
 24 Q. Was anybody from the New Black

Page 7

1 Panther Party there when you arrived?  
 2 A. Nobody was there when we arrived.  
 3 When we arrived at like -- nobody was outside, like  
 4 no voters.  
 5 Wait. I don't know -- I don't know  
 6 if we arrived at 6 or 7. I know it was early in  
 7 the morning.  
 8 Q. Did you get there before the polls  
 9 actually opened?  
 10 A. Yes. Yes, we got there before they  
 11 opened, because they opened the machines while we  
 12 were there. But there was nobody, like, outside,  
 13 nobody around.  
 14 Q. Could you describe for us the  
 15 physical layout. For example, I come up to  
 16 Fairmount; I go through the doors. Where are you  
 17 going to be?  
 18 A. We were at the left. When you go  
 19 in, you go around, and it was a desk there, and  
 20 there was a door right -- like around the front of  
 21 the desk where the security is, there was a door  
 22 right on the side that goes right through the  
 23 doors, and the voting machines was in there.  
 24 Q. Is this a nursing home or a

Page 8

1 retirement home?  
 2 A. I don't know if it's a nursing home  
 3 or a retirement home. I know it's like elderly  
 4 people in there.  
 5 Q. And from where you were sitting  
 6 could you see the entrance?  
 7 A. No. No. We were -- when you go  
 8 around and go in, it was like a -- we could see  
 9 like -- it was like a wall right here and we were  
 10 sitting right here in the corner, and you can see,  
 11 like, the glass. We could see out the window.  
 12 Q. Of the entrance?  
 13 A. No, we couldn't see the entrance.  
 14 Q. Okay. You could see out a window on  
 15 the side?  
 16 A. Right, right.  
 17 Q. Did there come a time when people  
 18 indicated that there was some kind of disturbance  
 19 out front?  
 20 A. Well, we saw when the cops came. We  
 21 didn't hear, because where we were we couldn't hear  
 22 anything, because when the people were coming in,  
 23 they had lines, like, at the door. Like, we  
 24 couldn't even get out the entrance because the

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1 doorway was so crowded with people, the line coming  
 2 in to vote.  
 3 Q. And that was first thing in the  
 4 morning?  
 5 A. As soon as they opened up, yes.  
 6 Q. Okay.  
 7 And tell me about when the police  
 8 arrived.  
 9 A. That's all we saw was the police  
 10 arrive, but we didn't know what was going on.  
 11 Q. Did either of you get up to look  
 12 outside to see what was happening?  
 13 A. No. No.  
 14 Q. How did you know that the police had  
 15 arrived?  
 16 A. We saw them through the window.  
 17 Q. Oh, through that side window --  
 18 A. Yes, that's where we were looking  
 19 out the window when we saw -- we didn't know  
 20 something was going on because we couldn't see. We  
 21 just saw when the police came, and I said to Larry,  
 22 I said, "The cops are here. I wonder what's going  
 23 on."  
 24 And we just sat there watching out

Page 10

1 the windows, but we couldn't, like, stay watching  
 2 because we had to watch -- you know, like poll  
 3 watchers. We were watching the people coming in to  
 4 vote and everything.  
 5 Q. And just so the record is clear, the  
 6 window that you looked out to see the police was  
 7 the side window in the voting room, not the front  
 8 entrance?  
 9 A. Right.  
 10 Q. Okay.  
 11 Did anybody tell you what was going  
 12 on?  
 13 A. No. Well, the people were talking.  
 14 People were talking, but -- we heard them say the  
 15 Panthers was there, but they didn't tell us, like  
 16 come in and to talk to us, because we didn't talk  
 17 to the people.  
 18 Q. When you say "the people," who --  
 19 A. Like the voters. They were talking  
 20 as they were coming in, like saying stuff. They  
 21 were talking to each other and we heard them, but  
 22 nobody came in, like, and said to us, "The Panthers  
 23 are here." Nobody did that.  
 24 Q. Okay. So you were just overhearing

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1 other people talk about it?  
 2 A. Yes, yes.  
 3 Q. Did either you or your husband  
 4 contact anybody about what you were hearing from  
 5 people saying that the Panthers were outside?  
 6 A. No.  
 7 Q. Did you ever speak to a Mr. Wayne  
 8 Byman?  
 9 A. I don't know.  
 10 Q. He's an -- he's African-American.  
 11 He claims he came by early in the morning and saw  
 12 the Black Panthers there and then talked to you.  
 13 A. No.  
 14 Q. Okay.  
 15 A. Nobody talked to me about the  
 16 Panthers. I don't know anything about the  
 17 Panthers. Nobody came to me and said anything. I  
 18 just overheard the people when they were coming in.  
 19 Q. Right.  
 20 A. But talk to anybody, I didn't talk  
 21 to anybody, because we were informed when we became  
 22 poll watchers that we don't talk to anybody, and  
 23 they introduced us to the guy that would be coming  
 24 by to check on us.

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1 Q. Who was that guy?  
 2 A. I can't remember his name, but he  
 3 was at the office where Ms. Denise was. And he was  
 4 the one that, like, took us over there. When we  
 5 had to go down -- we were poll watchers downtown  
 6 one time, and, like, wherever we had to go, he  
 7 would drop us off to our locations. And we know  
 8 him because he was always -- it was always the same  
 9 guy.  
 10 But he didn't talk to us about the  
 11 Panthers because he didn't know anything about the  
 12 Panthers. He came, he bought us lunch and coffee,  
 13 but --  
 14 Q. Do you know who was that?  
 15 A. I can't remember his name.  
 16 Q. Do you know what he looks like?  
 17 A. Yes.  
 18 Q. Could you describe him?  
 19 A. He was a Caucasian guy. He was,  
 20 like, muscular build. He drove, like, a sports  
 21 car.  
 22 I mean, I don't know if I'm helping  
 23 you or not, but I don't know -- that's all I know.  
 24 Q. About how old is he?

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1 A. Probably about early 40's,  
 2 something. I don't know.  
 3 Q. And he's the one that -- and you had  
 4 worked with him before?  
 5 A. Yes.  
 6 Q. Was that at the election that you  
 7 mentioned before that you and your husband had  
 8 worked at together?  
 9 A. Yes.  
 10 Q. So he drives you there --  
 11 A. He drove us. We were in Center City  
 12 one time and he dropped us off down there to our  
 13 location because he had to go down and check to see  
 14 if, you know, all the people were there. And he  
 15 said he was -- we had went to the office where he  
 16 was at and he dropped -- he said he would drop us  
 17 off down there.  
 18 Q. Okay. And in 2008 he drops you off,  
 19 right?  
 20 A. No, he didn't drop us off in 2008.  
 21 Q. Let's talk about 2008 then.  
 22 A. Okay.  
 23 Q. All right.  
 24 But he at least worked with you?

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1 A. Yes.  
 2 Q. All right. Did he bring you lunch?  
 3 A. He brought us coffee and doughnuts.  
 4 Q. What, in the morning?  
 5 A. Yes.  
 6 Q. At that time did he tell you  
 7 anything about any incidents or anything going on  
 8 outside?  
 9 A. No. There was nothing going on when  
 10 he came the first time.  
 11 The second time when he came was  
 12 when the -- like -- but the crowd had died down  
 13 when he came. And he was asking was everything  
 14 okay. And we was like, yeah, everything was fine,  
 15 because nothing happened inside. Whatever happened  
 16 happened outside.  
 17 But we couldn't even see because we  
 18 couldn't even see the front to see what was going  
 19 on. We could see from the side. I saw, like, the  
 20 news channels out there and, like, the cameras. I  
 21 could see the cameras from the side, but over here  
 22 we couldn't see anything, so I don't know what was  
 23 going on out front.  
 24 Q. Did he tell you what he had

Page 15

1 observed?  
 2 A. No. I don't think he observed  
 3 anything. He wasn't there when all that was going  
 4 on. When he came, everything had died down.  
 5 Q. Let me back up so I understand the  
 6 timing. The first time is he's bringing you coffee  
 7 and doughnuts?  
 8 A. Right.  
 9 Q. The second time is --  
 10 A. But he came, like, lunch -- the  
 11 first time he came was, like, in the morning just  
 12 to make sure we were there. He talked to us to  
 13 make sure everything was okay. He asked us were we  
 14 there when the machines opened, stuff like that,  
 15 and then he left. He told us he would be back to  
 16 check on us.  
 17 And then he came back -- when he  
 18 came back at lunchtime, that's when everything --  
 19 the commotion and everything, like, had died down,  
 20 like the cops were gone. You could see people were  
 21 out there talking, but there was nothing going on  
 22 when he came.  
 23 Q. Did the reporters stay out there for  
 24 a while longer?

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1 A. They were there for a while, yes.  
 2 Q. Okay. So they stayed much longer  
 3 than the police?  
 4 A. Yes.  
 5 Q. Was there any sort of system, if you  
 6 had seen any irregularities or problems, for you to  
 7 contact the Republican Party?  
 8 A. No, there was nothing that we needed  
 9 to contact them for.  
 10 Q. No, I know what you're saying.  
 11 A. Okay.  
 12 Q. But was there a method by which you  
 13 were supposed to contact them?  
 14 A. Yes.  
 15 Q. All right. And what was that?  
 16 A. If anything happened, like if  
 17 anybody came in there, like, trying to be  
 18 disruptive or anything, we were supposed to call  
 19 them.  
 20 Q. And you had what, cell phones to  
 21 call?  
 22 A. Yes.  
 23 Q. Okay.  
 24 And your view is that only mattered

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1 if it happened inside the polling place itself?  
 2 A. No, because I couldn't see what was  
 3 going on outside, so I didn't know what to tell  
 4 them. What was I going to tell them if I called?  
 5 The cops were outside?  
 6 We were told not to go outside.  
 7 Like, we were told to stay inside; we were poll  
 8 watchers, to stay inside and watch the polls. If  
 9 something's going on outside and I leave to go  
 10 outside, then who's watching the polls inside?  
 11 So we just stayed inside, but we  
 12 kept watching to see, you know, if whatever was  
 13 going on outside was going to come in. We kept  
 14 looking around the people out the door and we  
 15 couldn't see anything. It was so crowded at the  
 16 doorway to get in.  
 17 Q. At the morning?  
 18 A. In the morning, yes.  
 19 Q. Okay.  
 20 Let me just show you what's been  
 21 marked as Exhibit 1.  
 22 A. Okay.  
 23 Q. And only for the purposes of looking  
 24 at that photo at the bottom.

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1 A. I didn't see this.  
 2 Q. That's what I'm trying to find out.  
 3 This is just a still part of a video  
 4 that was taken about the outside of the building.  
 5 A. Okay.  
 6 Q. And did you ever see any of the two  
 7 black gentlemen before?  
 8 A. No.  
 9 Q. And you didn't see them that day  
 10 either, correct?  
 11 A. No.  
 12 Q. The white woman standing behind  
 13 them, her face is somewhat obscured, but she's  
 14 wearing the white T-shirt and short jacket talking  
 15 on the cell phone, did you ever see her before?  
 16 A. No.  
 17 Q. Let me mention some names and give  
 18 you some descriptions and tell me whether you saw  
 19 these individuals that day.  
 20 A. Okay.  
 21 Q. There was a tall white man wearing a  
 22 long white shirt and blue jeans. I believe his  
 23 name was Chris Hill. Did he ever come in to speak  
 24 to you or your husband?

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1 A. I don't remember -- I can't -- I  
 2 really can't remember, but nobody came in to talk  
 3 to us.  
 4 Q. Okay. Nobody?  
 5 A. No, just the man that we worked  
 6 with. Like, we didn't talk to anybody. We didn't  
 7 talk to anybody. Nobody came in to talk to us.  
 8 The most I found out about this is  
 9 when they came to my house asking me questions.  
 10 And I was like, I didn't even know what was going  
 11 on. I heard the people talking about it, but to  
 12 see it for myself, I didn't see anything.  
 13 Q. Okay. The people that were coming  
 14 in that you were overhearing, what were they  
 15 saying?  
 16 A. They were saying something about  
 17 the -- they heard that the Panthers was out there  
 18 and the cops was out there, and they was trying to  
 19 see what was the cops going to do. That's what we  
 20 heard the people saying.  
 21 But when me and Larry looked out the  
 22 window -- because we even walked, like, further  
 23 down in the room, because it was a big window,  
 24 trying to go down as far as we could go to see what

Page 20

1 we could see, and we still couldn't see. Because I  
 2 guess the way the building is made, we couldn't see  
 3 the front. It guess because it goes around like  
 4 that and it's like a wall right here, we couldn't  
 5 see around the front. We couldn't see anything.  
 6 Q. The entrance kind of sticks out?  
 7 A. Yes.  
 8 Q. So that kind of blocked your view  
 9 from that side room?  
 10 A. Yes.  
 11 Q. Did any of those people that you  
 12 overheard, did they indicate any concern?  
 13 A. No. They were still voting. The  
 14 people came in and voted regardless. It didn't  
 15 break up the line. It didn't stop the people from  
 16 voting. They still came in.  
 17 Q. Was there any indication what time  
 18 the Panthers left?  
 19 A. I don't know. I never saw them  
 20 there, so I don't know what time they left.  
 21 Q. Did you ever introduce or meet the  
 22 Democratic poll watchers there?  
 23 A. Yes.  
 24 Q. So you met Mr. Vann?

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1 A. I don't remember names, but I did  
 2 meet some people there.  
 3 Q. Do you recall what they looked like?  
 4 A. One of them was -- there was a  
 5 Caucasian man there and there was an  
 6 African-American guy there from the Democrat Party.  
 7 Q. Was the African-American man wearing  
 8 a green jacket with white stripes on the shoulder?  
 9 A. Oh, I don't know.  
 10 Q. Don't recall?  
 11 A. I can't remember. No.  
 12 I saw a lot of people on that day.  
 13 Q. Did you ever talk to the election  
 14 judge at all?  
 15 A. Yes.  
 16 Q. Did the election judge ever at any  
 17 point get outside -- get up and look outside to see  
 18 what was happening?  
 19 A. Oh, I don't remember, sir.  
 20 Q. Okay. The Caucasian man that you  
 21 say was a Democratic worker, what position did he  
 22 have?  
 23 A. He was a poll watcher, also.  
 24 Q. Do you know whether he called the

Page 22

1 police?  
 2 A. I have no idea. Where he was  
 3 sitting, I couldn't see him calling the police,  
 4 because he was sitting -- Larry and I was on this  
 5 side. The doorway was here. He was sitting in the  
 6 corner over there. So we saw more than what he  
 7 could see. So I couldn't see him calling the  
 8 police and he couldn't see what we could see.  
 9 Q. So you were closer to the window?  
 10 A. Right.  
 11 Q. He was on the other side of the  
 12 room --  
 13 A. There was no window over there. He  
 14 was, like, in the corner against the wall, just  
 15 like that. He couldn't see no more -- and we could  
 16 see -- the people were coming in and the line was  
 17 here. He couldn't even see us from the line.  
 18 So if he called the police, I don't  
 19 know why he called the police, because all he could  
 20 see was the crowd coming in. He couldn't see what  
 21 we could see. And what we saw, you know, was like  
 22 the cops and the camera. That's all we saw. We  
 23 couldn't see the people.  
 24 Q. So it's safe to say you don't know

Page 23

1 who called the police?  
 2 A. Right. I have no idea.  
 3 Q. Okay.  
 4 You had mentioned just a minute ago  
 5 some people came to talk to you about it. Do you  
 6 know who they were?  
 7 A. Came to talk -- oh, to my house?  
 8 Q. Yes.  
 9 A. The FBI. The FBI came. And  
 10 somebody else came, but I can't remember who they  
 11 are. Like, they came up to talk to us and they  
 12 asked us questions about it.  
 13 Q. Can you describe the other people?  
 14 A. What other people?  
 15 Q. White? Black?  
 16 A. They were white. Two white  
 17 gentlemen.  
 18 Q. Two white guys. And those were the  
 19 FBI agents?  
 20 A. One was the FBI and one said he was  
 21 a -- something else. I don't know what he was.  
 22 Q. From the Department of Justice?  
 23 A. Yes.  
 24 Q. Heavyset? Young? Old? Or you just

Page 24

1 don't remember?  
 2 A. One was an older guy, like an older  
 3 man, thin build. And the other one was a younger  
 4 guy.  
 5 Q. And there's just the two of them?  
 6 A. Yes.  
 7 Q. Did they talk to your husband as  
 8 well?  
 9 A. Yes.  
 10 Q. And about how soon after the  
 11 election was that?  
 12 A. That was like this year sometime. I  
 13 would say probably about June.  
 14 Q. June of --  
 15 A. July.  
 16 Q. Of 2009?  
 17 A. Yes.  
 18 Q. Okay.  
 19 The election is in November, and it  
 20 was about six, seven months after that?  
 21 A. Right.  
 22 Q. Okay.  
 23 And did you give a statement?  
 24 A. No. I told them I didn't -- I told

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1 them like I'm telling you, I didn't know anything.  
 2 We didn't see anything; we didn't know anything.  
 3 And I asked him, like, why -- we  
 4 told them -- because when we was leaving -- when we  
 5 were leaving from the site where we were poll  
 6 watchers, the guy that I was telling you about that  
 7 came to check on us, like, we were telling him,  
 8 like, we didn't know, like, what was going on  
 9 outside. And he said don't worry about it because  
 10 we didn't know anything. We didn't know what was  
 11 going on, and I wasn't going to lie and make up  
 12 something. The people said it, but we couldn't see  
 13 it. You know, and that's, like, hearsay. I'm  
 14 hearing what you're saying, but I can't see what  
 15 you're talking about it. And he said, "Don't worry  
 16 about. It's okay."  
 17 And then, like, later on I'm  
 18 wondering, like, why the people coming to my house  
 19 when I told people we don't know what was going on?  
 20 I told Larry, "I'm not going to lie and tell them  
 21 we saw something we didn't see."  
 22 These are the Panthers right here?  
 23 Q. That's my understanding, yes.  
 24 A. I never saw these people. I never

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1 saw none of this. I didn't see these people like  
 2 this. I never saw none of that.  
 3 Q. You stayed in your room?  
 4 A. We stayed in the room.  
 5 From where we were at, I never saw  
 6 them outside. If I saw them, I would say I saw  
 7 them.  
 8 If I saw them, I wouldn't have known  
 9 who they was anyway. I don't know who the Panthers  
 10 are.  
 11 Q. Okay. Did you hear about any  
 12 incident involving white supremacists that day?  
 13 A. No.  
 14 Q. Did anybody from the Black Panther  
 15 Party contact you after the election?  
 16 A. No, uh-uh.  
 17 Q. And just to be clear, when the FBI  
 18 and some other man met you, they didn't ask you to  
 19 sign any statement?  
 20 A. No.  
 21 Q. Did you see or hear any voters being  
 22 turned away?  
 23 A. No.  
 24 Q. Did anybody indicate to you -- and I

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1 understand you're inside -- that people were  
 2 turning away from the polls?  
 3 A. No.  
 4 MR. BLACKWOOD: Commissioner Yaki,  
 5 do you have any questions?  
 6 COMMISSIONER YAKI: No, I don't.  
 7 MR. BLACKWOOD: Thank you very much.  
 8 I very much appreciate you taking the time.  
 9 THE WITNESS: You're welcome.  
 10 (9:45 a.m.)  
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Page 28

1 C E R T I F I C A T E  
 2 I, Cheryl M. McCollum, a Certified  
 3 Court Reporter and Notary Public, do hereby certify  
 4 that, prior to the commencement of the examination,  
 5 the witness and/or witnesses were sworn by me to  
 6 testify to the truth and nothing but the truth.  
 7 I do further certify that the  
 8 foregoing is a true and accurate computer-aided  
 9 transcript of the testimony as taken  
 10 stenographically by and before me at the time,  
 11 place and on the date hereinbefore set forth.  
 12 I do further certify that I am  
 13 neither of counsel nor attorney for any party in  
 14 this action and that I am not interested in the  
 15 event nor outcome of this litigation.  
 16  
 17  
 18  
 19  
 20  
 21  
 22 Certified Court Reporter  
 23 XI02094  
 24 Notary Public  
 My commission expires 3-22-11  
 Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

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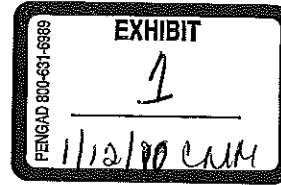
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# Obama's corruption of civil rights law



Dennis Byrne

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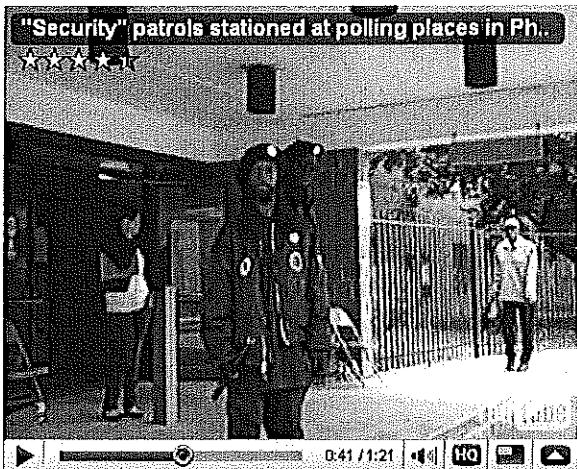
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In the Obama administration, try to apply the civil rights laws equally and you're gone. That was the experience of the justice department attorney who pressed charges against a group of Black Panthers that were intimidating voters in a Pennsylvania polling place. (Story is [here](#).)

Christopher Coates, the department's veteran voting rights section chief, has been "detailed" (duties unknown) for 18 months to the U.S. Attorney's office in South Carolina. The department is trying to pass off the transfer as having nothing to do with his enforcement of the voting rights act against the Black Panthers; the effort is utterly unconvincing.

The incident was captured on video (below) and widely circulated on YouTube, raising a national furor. Despite the clear evidence before everyone's eyes, political appointees in Obama's justice department dismissed the charges. The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights sought to investigate the dismissal, but has been rebuffed by Obama's justice department.

This is serious stuff. The message is clear to career administrators: Try to enforce the law in a fair and impartial way, and you're gone. Political interference of the enforcement of our laws--as Democrats correctly reminded us during the Bush administration--is unacceptable. Congress, in its oversight function, should get to the bottom of this miscarriage of justice. But because all the committees are control by Democrats, it won't.



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