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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 Monday, January 11, 2010  
 8  
 9 TRANSCRIPT of testimony of RONALD VANN,  
 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 10:03  
 13 o'clock in the forenoon.  
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 24

Page 2

1 B E F O R E:  
 2 (BY TELEPHONE)  
 3 JOHN MARTIN, SPECIAL ASSISTANT  
 4 DOMINIQUE LUDVIGSON, SPECIAL ASSISTANT  
 5  
 6 A P P E A R A N C E S:  
 7 UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS  
 8 OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL  
 9 BY: DAVID P. BLACKWOOD, ESQ.  
 10 MAHA JWEIED, ESQ.  
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 16 Attorneys for The Commission  
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Page 3

1 I N D E X  
 2 WITNESS PAGE  
 3 RONALD VANN  
 4 By Mr. Blackwood 4  
 5  
 6 E X H I B I T S  
 7 NUMBER DESCRIPTION PAGE  
 8 Exhibit 1 Printout from Internet 26  
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Page 4

1 RONALD VANN, after having been first  
 2 duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:  
 3 EXAMINATION  
 4 BY MR. BLACKWOOD:  
 5 Q. Good morning, Mr. Vann.  
 6 A. Good morning.  
 7 Q. Appreciate your coming.  
 8 A. Thank you for having me.  
 9 Q. As you know, you and I talked before  
 10 about some of the activities by the New Black  
 11 Panther Party on Election Day as well as what  
 12 Department of Justice looked into. I want to ask  
 13 you, you were there on Election Day, right?  
 14 A. That is correct.  
 15 Q. What was your capacity?  
 16 A. A poll watcher.  
 17 Q. That was for the Democratic Party?  
 18 A. That's correct.  
 19 Q. How often have you served as a poll  
 20 watcher?  
 21 A. I've served numerous times during an  
 22 election.  
 23 Q. Four, five times?  
 24 A. Four, five times.

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1 Q. Do you get paid for that?  
 2 A. Yes.  
 3 Q. How much?  
 4 A. About \$75.  
 5 Q. And usually -- do you work with Mr.  
 6 Jackson?  
 7 A. Yes.  
 8 Q. And that's Jerry Jackson, correct?  
 9 A. That's correct.  
 10 Q. Mr. Jackson is a member of the New  
 11 Black Panther Party. Is that right?  
 12 A. I have no idea.  
 13 Q. Are you a member of New Black  
 14 Panther Party?  
 15 A. Not at all.  
 16 Q. On Election Day 2008, Mr. Jackson  
 17 showed up wearing a black -- what I would describe  
 18 as a Black Panther uniform: black pants, black  
 19 shirt, black jacket, and black beret. Right?  
 20 A. Yes.  
 21 Q. Is that the first time he wore his  
 22 uniform to --  
 23 MR. BLACKWOOD: Who is there?  
 24 MR. MARTIN: John.

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1 MS. JWEIED: Who else joined?  
 2 MS. LUDVIGSON: Dominique.  
 3 MR. BLACKWOOD: We'll give you the  
 4 name.  
 5 BY MR. BLACKWOOD:  
 6 Q. Had he ever wore a uniform before?  
 7 A. I have no idea.  
 8 Q. The times you've worked for them,  
 9 did he wear his uniform at the polling place?  
 10 A. I never really took notice.  
 11 Sometimes you have a jacket on or have a coat. If  
 12 he do have a black uniform, you couldn't see it.  
 13 Only thing you could see is bottom.  
 14 Q. Because he'd have an overcoat?  
 15 A. Exactly.  
 16 Q. Now, you were wearing a green and  
 17 white jacket?  
 18 A. Green and white jacket.  
 19 Q. And that had the white stripes on  
 20 it?  
 21 A. That is correct.  
 22 Q. Describe the polling place. Not  
 23 physically, but who is where?  
 24 By the way, it's at 1221 Fairmount,

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1 right?  
 2 A. That is correct.  
 3 Q. Excuse me.  
 4 A. You have people that's outside  
 5 giving out pamphlets. You have people inside  
 6 that's signing up to vote, okay.  
 7 Q. But the people handing out  
 8 pamphlets, they have to stay a certain distance  
 9 from the door. Is that correct?  
 10 A. That's correct.  
 11 Q. Who is inside?  
 12 A. You have -- you have the people that  
 13 work the polls.  
 14 Q. Those are people that work for the  
 15 city?  
 16 A. Right. The judge and couple other  
 17 people that's inside.  
 18 Q. Okay. And what about the poll  
 19 watchers?  
 20 A. Well, the poll watchers are around  
 21 the place. You know, like me myself, I'm outside,  
 22 I'm inside, I'm outside, I'm inside.  
 23 Q. What do you view your role is as a  
 24 poll watcher?

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1 A. To make sure everything is no  
 2 trouble. No one is jumping in the line. No one in  
 3 there to cause mass confusion.  
 4 Q. And you were an official for the  
 5 Democratic Party, correct?  
 6 A. That is correct.  
 7 Q. Is that an elected position?  
 8 A. Yes.  
 9 Q. How does the election occur?  
 10 A. To get the position?  
 11 Q. Yes.  
 12 A. A petition, and you go around in the  
 13 neighborhood and you ask people to, you know, sign  
 14 a petition, and they sign it. And you take it back  
 15 to the state representative, and they take it from  
 16 there.  
 17 Q. And who actually votes on whether  
 18 you get to be a poll watcher?  
 19 A. That's a good question. I don't  
 20 know how that works. You sign the petition, and  
 21 you give it to the representative, and he does the  
 22 rest. Now, who decides whether you're a poll  
 23 watcher or not I don't know. Unless the  
 24 commissioner.

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1 Q. And the commissioner is what? Is he  
2 like a block captain?  
3 A. No. Commissioner is like -- the  
4 voter commission.  
5 Q. A what?  
6 A. A voter commission.  
7 Q. Voter, okay.  
8 A. Yeah.  
9 Q. Are you part of your block  
10 organization?  
11 A. No.  
12 Q. Okay. You're not a block captain?  
13 A. No, no. Just a committee person.  
14 Q. What's the committee?  
15 A. Committee person, he is like trying  
16 to keep the neighborhood clean. Trying to keep the  
17 drugs out of the neighborhood. Trying to keep  
18 people looking to see whose house they can break in  
19 or what cars they can break in, that sort of thing.  
20 Q. It's still affiliated with the  
21 Democratic Party?  
22 A. Yes.  
23 Q. By way of an example -- I'm not  
24 going to make this an exhibit -- this is a watcher

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1 certificate and this one is for Jerry Jackson.  
2 A. I have one.  
3 Q. Each election you get one, too?  
4 A. That is correct.  
5 Q. After the presidential election in  
6 2008, did Mr. Jackson continue to serve as a poll  
7 watcher?  
8 A. Yes.  
9 Q. About how many elections?  
10 A. What is it? It was one more, I  
11 think, after.  
12 Q. Was that a -- bear with me.  
13 A. For the district attorney.  
14 Q. Or a judge I think it might have  
15 been.  
16 A. District attorney or judges.  
17 Q. A judge of the Common Pleas Court,  
18 does that sound familiar, May 19, 2009?  
19 A. Maybe so.  
20 Q. But it was a local election?  
21 A. Yeah, local.  
22 Q. On that election did Mr. Jackson  
23 come in his black uniform?  
24 A. I don't recall. I don't know.

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1 Q. Now, I've seen -- unfortunately, we  
2 don't have a wi-fi connection here, but I have seen  
3 a tape, and I wasn't sure it was you, but I saw a  
4 gentleman in a green jacket.  
5 A. Yes, it was me.  
6 Q. Did Mr. Jackson arrive in his  
7 uniform or did he change there?  
8 A. I don't know.  
9 Q. Did he come with his friend?  
10 A. I don't know that either.  
11 Q. All right. I believe the other  
12 gentleman is Minister King Samir Shabazz.  
13 A. I don't know him.  
14 Q. Never seen him before?  
15 A. I've seen him, but I don't know him.  
16 Q. Where have you seen him?  
17 A. In the neighborhood.  
18 Q. Does he live in that neighborhood?  
19 A. No, I don't think he does.  
20 Q. Jerry Jackson does?  
21 A. Jerry Jackson does.  
22 Q. Do they seem to be friends?  
23 A. I don't know that either.  
24 Q. Have you seen them doing things,

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1 like handing out leaflets?  
2 A. You know, I'll tell you, I don't get  
3 in people's business. What Jerry Jackson does with  
4 his friends or whatever he wears, that's his  
5 business. My thing is my business and I'm better  
6 off that way. Now, I don't mean no disrespect, of  
7 course. If that Jerry's friend, then Jerry has a  
8 right that he wants to be his friend.  
9 We working the polls and I'm doing  
10 what I'm supposed to be doing. Jerry working the  
11 polls and he doing what he supposed to be doing.  
12 Only thing I observed was the guy that with him had  
13 the stick and was doing the stick like this now.  
14 Wasn't swinging at anyone, he was just --  
15 Q. Smacking it in his hand?  
16 A. Right. Then the police was called.  
17 Q. Who called the police, do you know?  
18 A. I have no idea. The police was  
19 called. The police came. Police asked him, "What  
20 you doing with the stick?" and whatever he said to  
21 the police. He put the stick away and they left.  
22 Q. And he left, too?  
23 A. He left, too.  
24 Q. And that's the smaller gentleman?

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1 A. Yeah.  
 2 Q. The video -- let me back up. Inside  
 3 the facilities there were also Republican poll  
 4 watchers, right?  
 5 A. I don't know who they were.  
 6 Q. Did you see --  
 7 A. There was other people there.  
 8 Q. What did they look like? If you  
 9 recall.  
 10 A. I don't remember.  
 11 Q. Was it an African-American couple?  
 12 A. It was one African-American, one  
 13 Caucasian.  
 14 Q. Who was which?  
 15 A. The female was Caucasian.  
 16 Q. Okay.  
 17 A. I think -- I think it was another  
 18 female or it was another male African-American.  
 19 I'm not quite sure.  
 20 Q. But a total of two: one male, one  
 21 female?  
 22 A. That I can remember.  
 23 Q. Have you ever seen them before?  
 24 A. No.

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1 Q. Do you know whether they were  
 2 members of the Republican Party one way or the  
 3 other?  
 4 A. I didn't ask.  
 5 Q. So you just didn't talk to them?  
 6 A. No, no. I spoke, I mean, you know,  
 7 but -- "Where you from? Who are you?" I didn't --  
 8 Q. You didn't introduce yourself?  
 9 A. No. "How you doing?" and that was  
 10 it.  
 11 Q. Now, there came a time, as you  
 12 mentioned, the police came at one point.  
 13 A. Uh-huh.  
 14 Q. And I've seen some videos. There is  
 15 also a white woman wearing a little blue jacket  
 16 that's talking on a cell phone. Do you know who  
 17 I'm referring to?  
 18 A. (No response.)  
 19 Q. Let me see if I have a picture.  
 20 Were you in contact with Democratic -- I assume  
 21 there is a headquarters that you report to.  
 22 A. There is a ward that I report to.  
 23 Q. The ward leaders, you check in with  
 24 them by phone?

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1 A. They come and may check things going  
 2 smoothly.  
 3 Q. Kind of like a roving team?  
 4 A. Yes.  
 5 Q. Would the ward leader be by himself?  
 6 A. Depends. May be by himself or  
 7 someone with him.  
 8 Q. Who was that person?  
 9 A. Arthur Green.  
 10 Q. Was Mr. Green driving an SUV around?  
 11 A. Yes.  
 12 Q. There is one scene showing you and  
 13 Mr. Green and Jerry Jackson talking to each other.  
 14 Was that about the incident that occurred?  
 15 A. I have no idea.  
 16 Q. Mr. Jackson at the time was writing  
 17 something down. Do you recall what you all were  
 18 discussing?  
 19 A. I don't remember that neither.  
 20 Q. Okay. Well, we'll see if we can get  
 21 a picture of it. You don't remember, though, a  
 22 young white woman who was chatting behind Jerry  
 23 Jackson and the other gentleman constantly on the  
 24 telephone?

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1 A. I remember a woman was there. It  
 2 was a Caucasian woman and it was either an  
 3 African-American woman or an African-American male.  
 4 I can't really --  
 5 Q. You mean two different people?  
 6 A. There was so much going on that day  
 7 that --  
 8 Q. When did all this start?  
 9 A. Well, as far as I can recollect, we  
 10 was all standing out. I'm inside, I'm outside, I'm  
 11 inside, I'm outside. Jerry Jackson and his friend  
 12 was outside. I think a couple of people came in to  
 13 vote or something or something to that effect, and  
 14 the guy had the stick and doing the stick like this  
 15 and --  
 16 Q. I'm just going -- smacking it in his  
 17 hand, right?  
 18 A. Yeah.  
 19 Q. Did the voters come in and complain  
 20 about it?  
 21 A. I guess they did, because I wouldn't  
 22 be sitting here now.  
 23 Q. Did you hear anybody complain about  
 24 it?

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1 A. No, I didn't hear no one complain  
 2 about it.  
 3 Q. Did you go outside to Jerry and say,  
 4 "Hey, your friend should knock this off"?  
 5 A. No, I just mind my business. People  
 6 going to do what they want anyway, so.  
 7 I feel that the guy shouldn't have  
 8 been there. That's my personal business. I don't  
 9 matter.  
 10 Q. The guy you're talking about is the  
 11 guy with the nightstick?  
 12 A. Yeah, he shouldn't have been there.  
 13 Q. Did Jerry ever come inside?  
 14 A. Yeah, he came in and out. He was in  
 15 and out.  
 16 Q. I guess I'm really talking about the  
 17 time that the police got there. That was pretty  
 18 early in the morning, or do you recall?  
 19 A. I think it was somewhere in the  
 20 afternoon probably. Around lunchtime. Vaguely.  
 21 Q. What time do the polls open?  
 22 A. What, 7:00?  
 23 Q. I'm asking you. I don't know.  
 24 A. 7:00.

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1 Q. Jerry was there because that was his  
 2 job, right?  
 3 A. Yes.  
 4 Q. Was his friend there the whole time?  
 5 A. I don't know. Because I didn't get  
 6 there until late.  
 7 Q. What time did you get there?  
 8 A. I got there about maybe nine.  
 9 Q. Was Jerry there with his friend at  
 10 that time?  
 11 A. Yes.  
 12 Q. Just to be clear, you didn't talk to  
 13 him, "Hey, Jerry, what is your friend doing here  
 14 with a nightstick?"  
 15 A. Uh-uh.  
 16 Q. I'm sorry. You have to say no.  
 17 A. Oh, okay. No.  
 18 Q. Did you report the fact that this  
 19 guy was there with a nightstick to your ward  
 20 leader?  
 21 A. No. I didn't report it. But with  
 22 all the publicity, somebody reported it.  
 23 Q. And after -- was it after the police  
 24 came your ward leader showed up?

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1 A. Yes.  
 2 Q. And what did the ward leader say?  
 3 A. I don't know what he said to Jerry,  
 4 but I know he said to me, "Man, what's going on  
 5 around here?"  
 6 And I'm like, "What you mean?"  
 7 You know, "Like the TV news  
 8 reporters and police. What's going on?"  
 9 I'm like -- I'm flabbergasted.  
 10 Q. If you were flabbergasted -- I want  
 11 to make sure, and I know you kind of hinted before,  
 12 if you were flabbergasted, why didn't you go up to  
 13 Jerry and say, "Why don't you ask your friend to  
 14 leave?"  
 15 A. Mr. Black, some things unsaid. If I  
 16 said something to Jerry, it would be an argument,  
 17 so I don't even want to go there. My thing is keep  
 18 my mouth shut, stay out of it, and that's the best  
 19 method.  
 20 Q. Okay. One of the things that I  
 21 heard on the tape is the Fox reporter I think at  
 22 one point say, "Somebody has called the police on  
 23 us," the reporters.  
 24 Do you know if anybody called the

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1 police on them?  
 2 A. I don't know.  
 3 Q. He pointed -- he turned around and  
 4 pointed to someone standing behind him. It wasn't  
 5 you. I think it was a white man with a lanyard on  
 6 his chest.  
 7 Do you recall anybody like that  
 8 working the polls that day?  
 9 A. Vaguely.  
 10 Q. Would that be the judge?  
 11 A. No, no.  
 12 Q. Okay.  
 13 A. Uh-uh.  
 14 Q. Let's go back to the white woman  
 15 again who is behind --  
 16 MS. JWEIED: It's not working.  
 17 MR. BLACKWOOD: Before we break, I  
 18 have a photo of it downstairs.  
 19 Off the record a second.  
 20 (Discussion held off the record.)  
 21 MR. BLACKWOOD: Okay. Back on the  
 22 record.  
 23 BY MR. BLACKWOOD:  
 24 Q. I'm sorry. We're going to try to

Page 21

1 get a photo of the woman I'm referring to.  
 2 Was there any -- did you see any  
 3 evidence of a white supremacist group or skinheads  
 4 showing up?  
 5 A. I mean, people coming in to vote. I  
 6 mean --  
 7 Q. No, no, I mean specifically was  
 8 there any white group or, you know, white  
 9 supremacists out there trying to stir up the voters  
 10 or block people?  
 11 A. I don't know, sir.  
 12 Q. You didn't see it?  
 13 A. I didn't see it. I didn't see it.  
 14 Q. Did anybody express concern to you  
 15 about Jerry and his friend?  
 16 A. Well, you know, I mean, people was  
 17 talking about all the publicity going on about the  
 18 police and the news media and stuff like that and  
 19 the guy with the stick.  
 20 But, you know, my thing is I just  
 21 listen, keep my mouth shut. This way can nobody  
 22 come back and say, "Mr. Vann said this," or  
 23 "Mr. Vann said that." Sometimes it's just best to  
 24 keep your mouth shut.

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1 Q. Did you even talk to Jerry until the  
 2 ward leader got there?  
 3 A. Kept my mouth shut.  
 4 Q. I'm just asking. You didn't talk to  
 5 Jerry at all and you didn't call the ward leader or  
 6 anybody else at the Democratic Party to say, "We  
 7 have a problem here"?  
 8 A. No.  
 9 Q. Going back from when you arrived, I  
 10 just want to make sure I was clear. I understand  
 11 you didn't get there until around nine. Jerry's  
 12 friend was already there, correct?  
 13 A. That's correct.  
 14 Q. And he already had his nightstick  
 15 out and was hitting it with his hand?  
 16 A. Right.  
 17 Q. Okay.  
 18 When the ward leader got there, did  
 19 you overhear what Jerry or the ward leader was  
 20 saying?  
 21 A. No.  
 22 Q. Did you see anyone turn away from  
 23 the polls?  
 24 A. No, not that I can remember. No. I

Page 23

1 don't think.  
 2 Q. And you were inside and outside?  
 3 A. I'm all over the place.  
 4 Q. Okay.  
 5 Did you call the police at any time?  
 6 A. No.  
 7 Q. Do you know if anybody else called  
 8 the police?  
 9 A. Someone did.  
 10 Q. But did you hear, for example,  
 11 someone call the police or someone say, "I am going  
 12 to call the police"?  
 13 A. When the police arrive, only thing  
 14 police say is someone called. That's the only  
 15 thing the police said. You know, I just stayed out  
 16 of it.  
 17 Q. What were the Republican poll  
 18 watchers doing throughout this time?  
 19 A. I don't recall.  
 20 Q. The couple that we mentioned before  
 21 who were serving as Republican poll watchers, did  
 22 they stay inside the building most of the time?  
 23 A. I don't recall.  
 24 Q. At some point the Fox News person

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1 arrives. Do you recall when that person got there?  
 2 A. I don't recall that neither. It was  
 3 so many people there, Fox, 6, 10.  
 4 Q. When you say 6 and 10, those are TV  
 5 channels?  
 6 A. TV channels.  
 7 Q. So there was more than just Fox  
 8 here?  
 9 A. That I can recall, yes.  
 10 Q. Fox is -- what channel are they?  
 11 A. 29.  
 12 Q. And so 6 and 10 are what, NBC and  
 13 CBS?  
 14 A. Yes.  
 15 Q. Did you give any interviews to any  
 16 of them?  
 17 A. No.  
 18 Q. If you could, walk me back again.  
 19 Who was the judge inside the polling place?  
 20 A. The judge is Jeannie. She's a  
 21 judge.  
 22 Q. How do you spell her name?  
 23 A. J-e-a-n -- what is it? You can  
 24 spell it a number of ways. J-a-n-i-e or

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1 J-e-a-n-n-i-e.  
 2 Q. And that's her last name?  
 3 A. Just the first name.  
 4 Q. Do you know her last name?  
 5 A. I don't know her last name.  
 6 Q. Did she do anything that you're  
 7 aware of?  
 8 A. No. Not that I can remember.  
 9 Q. And the ward leader, again, you  
 10 didn't call him, he just showed up?  
 11 A. Well, yeah, he checking up on the  
 12 polls and stuff like that. He's like a rover, you  
 13 know, just doing his rounds.  
 14 Q. Here we go. We'll mark this as an  
 15 exhibit later on, but see that white woman in the  
 16 background?  
 17 A. Okay.  
 18 Q. She's got like a long T-shirt on and  
 19 a small jacket.  
 20 A. Okay.  
 21 Q. And she's got a cell phone on.  
 22 A. Okay.  
 23 Q. I mean, cell phone to her ear.  
 24 Do you recall seeing her?

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1 A. I do.  
 2 Q. Do you know who she was?  
 3 A. No, I don't.  
 4 Q. Do you know if she's a Democratic --  
 5 working with the Democratic Party?  
 6 A. I don't know who she is.  
 7 Q. So you never went up to her?  
 8 A. No.  
 9 Q. Okay.  
 10 A. I mean, I know she was there, but I  
 11 didn't know who she were.  
 12 MR. BLACKWOOD: Tell you what, why  
 13 don't we make that Exhibit 1.  
 14 (Exhibit 1 marked for  
 15 identification.)  
 16 BY MR. BLACKWOOD:  
 17 Q. Sir, who we're referring to is the  
 18 woman on the lower left-hand side --  
 19 A. Let me ask you, how did I get caught  
 20 up in this mess?  
 21 Q. Well, I will tell you. We are  
 22 trying to learn who was there, and, frankly, if I  
 23 had her name, I'd probably want to talk to her.  
 24 Nobody implies you did anything improper one way or

Page 27

1 the other. We are trying to talk to everyone at  
 2 the polling place.  
 3 A. I don't have time to get mixed up in  
 4 anybody else's mess.  
 5 Q. If you could identify that person,  
 6 I'd like to talk to her.  
 7 A. I don't know who she is. I don't  
 8 have a clue who she is. I remember her being  
 9 there, but I don't know who she is.  
 10 Q. She wasn't there when you arrived?  
 11 A. She might have been.  
 12 Q. You don't even recall?  
 13 A. I don't recall.  
 14 Q. She's not someone you've seen before  
 15 on other elections?  
 16 A. Uh-uh.  
 17 Q. And she hasn't been there since  
 18 2008?  
 19 A. Right, since then.  
 20 Q. Did you speak to anybody from the  
 21 Department of Justice?  
 22 A. No.  
 23 MR. BLACKWOOD: Tell you what, just  
 24 wait a second. We'll step outside and be right

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1 back in.  
 2 (Recess at 10:25 a.m.)  
 3 (Resumed at 10:26 a.m.)  
 4 BY MR. BLACKWOOD:  
 5 Q. Just one more question. Are you  
 6 aware of whether DOJ tried to speak to you?  
 7 A. No one tried to speak with me. The  
 8 only one that called me was you.  
 9 Q. Okay.  
 10 A. You're the only one.  
 11 MR. BLACKWOOD: All right. Are  
 12 there any commissioners on the phone?  
 13 Okay. I don't hear any, so thank  
 14 you, Mr. Vann. I very much appreciate your coming  
 15 down here.  
 16 (10:26 a.m.)  
 17  
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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.

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Certified Court Reporter  
XI02094  
Notary Public  
My commission expires 3-22-11



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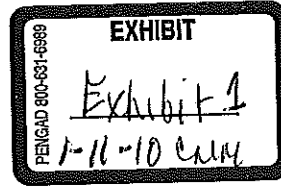
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### Obama's corruption of civil rights law



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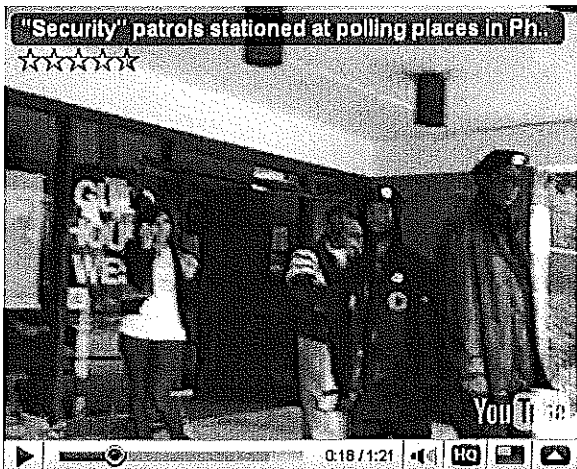
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In the Obama administration, try to apply the civil rights laws equally and you're gone. That was the experience of the justice department attorney who pressed charges against a group of Black Panthers that were intimidating voters in a Pennsylvania 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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