



## VOTER PARTICIPATION ISSUE FORUM EXPERT PANEL

*Wednesday, June 2, 2010*

*Lehman College, Bronx*

### **Jerry H. Goldfeder**

*Special Counsel, Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP*

Jerry H. Goldfeder, Special Counsel at Stroock & Stroock & Lavan, is an election lawyer with over 25 years of trial and appellate experience, representing elected officials, candidates for public office, unions, partnerships and corporations in the areas of campaign finance, voting rights and public integrity defense.

Prior to joining Stroock, Goldfeder served as Special Counsel to New York State Attorney General Andrew M. Cuomo, where his portfolio included public integrity matters. Before joining Attorney General Cuomo's office in 2007, Goldfeder was in private practice, focusing on election law and campaign finance compliance. He also served as Special Counsel to the New York State Senate Democratic Conference under then-Senator David A. Paterson from 2003 to 2004.

He is the author of the recently published treatise *Goldfeder's Modern Election Law*, now in its Second Edition. He teaches Election Law as a Lecturer-in-Law at the University of Pennsylvania Law School and as an Adjunct Professor at Fordham Law School. He regularly lectures on "How to Decide an Election Case" to the Justices and attorneys of the Appellate Division, Second Department. Goldfeder also chairs the Election Law Committee of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. He has written extensively on election-related topics and regularly appears in the media as an election and campaign finance expert. Before entering private practice, he was Law Secretary to Samuel J. Silverman of the Appellate Division, First Department.

Prior to being admitted to the bar, Goldfeder studied and taught political science.

### **J. Phillip Thompson**

*Associate Professor of Urban Politics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)*

An urban planner and political scientist, Phil Thompson is currently an Associate Professor of Urban Politics at MIT. He received a B.A. in Sociology from Harvard University in 1977, a Master's degree in urban planning from Hunter College in 1986, and a PhD. in Political Science from the CUNY Graduate Center in 1990. Thompson worked as Deputy General Manager of the New York Housing Authority and as Director of the Mayor's Office of Housing Coordination. He is a frequent advisor to trade unions in their efforts to work with immigrant and community groups across the United States.

Thompson's most recent academic work includes a 2004 review of public health interventions in poor black communities (written with Arline Geronimus) published in the *Du Bois Review* entitled "To Denigrate, Ignore, or Disrupt: The Health Impact of Policy-induced Breakdown of Urban African American Communities of Support," an article entitled "Judging Mayors" in the June 2005 issue of *Perspectives on Politics*, and a book called *Double Trouble: Black Mayors, Black Communities and the Struggle for Deep Democracy* published in 2006 by Oxford University Press. After Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans in 2005, Thompson worked with the AFL-CIO Investment Trust Corporation and with local community groups to create affordable housing and workforce development initiatives to help rebuild

New Orleans. Currently, he is working with community groups, labor unions, and local government officials to encourage large-scale energy efficiency initiatives in urban areas through a collaborative called Emerald Cities.

**David R. Jones**

*President and CEO, Community Service Society*

Since 1986, David R. Jones has been President and Chief Executive Officer of the Community Service Society of New York (CSS), a nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization that promotes economic advancement and full civic participation for low-income New Yorkers. An outspoken advocate for low-income New Yorkers, Jones writes bi-weekly newspaper columns in the *New York Amsterdam News* and *El Diario/La Prensa* that serve to educate the public and government officials on issues of importance to minority and poor communities.

Jones served on Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg's transition committee, is Vice Chair of the Independent Budget Office's Advisory Committee and serves on the Department of Health & Mental Hygiene's Advisory Council. He is a board member of the Scherman Foundation, the Nation Institute, and the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy, a leading philanthropic watchdog organization.

From 1996 to 2000, Jones was Chairman of the Board of Carver Federal Savings Bank, the largest African-American managed bank in the nation. He was a long-serving Trustee of Wesleyan University, where he is currently Trustee Emeritus. Jones served on the board of the City's Health and Hospitals Corporation and was Vice Chairman of the Primary Care Development Corporation, which finances health care programs and facilities in medically underserved communities. From 1983 to 1986, he served as Executive Director of the New York City Youth Bureau, and from 1979 to 1983, was Special Advisor to Mayor Edward I. Koch handling race relations, urban development, immigration reform, and education.

Jones interned for Senator Robert F. Kennedy while receiving his undergraduate degree from Wesleyan University. He received a law degree from Yale in 1974, and clerked for Judge Constance Baker Motley. Jones is a recipient of the Thomas J. Watson Fellowship. Prior to his nonprofit and public service careers, he specialized in corporate antitrust cases and contract litigation at the law firm of Cravath, Swaine & Moore.

**Lorraine C. Minnite**

*Assistant Professor of Political Science, Barnard College*

Lorraine C. Minnite has taught American and urban politics at Barnard College since 2000. Prior to that, she was the Associate Director of the Center for Urban Research and Policy at Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs. Her research is concerned with issues of inequality, social and racial justice, political conflict, and institutional change. Minnite has consulted with various labor, advocacy, and governmental organizations which have relied on her expertise in voting, public policy, and demographic patterns in New York City.

Minnite has published on various aspects of political participation, immigration, voting behavior, and urban politics. She is finishing a book on the politics of electoral rules that is tentatively titled, *The Politics of Voter Fraud*. With Frances Fox Piven and Margaret Groarke she is co-author of *Keeping Down the Black Vote: Race and the Demobilization of American Voters*, forthcoming from The New Press. Minnite holds a B.A. in History from Boston University and a Ph.D. in Political Science from CUNY.

**Harry Kresky**

*Law Office of Harry Kresky, New York City*

Harry Kresky is a 1971 graduate of Columbia Law School where he served as an editor of the *Columbia Law Review*. He is currently in private practice in New York City. He is one of the country's leading election attorneys and has represented independent voters, candidates and parties for the past 30 years as well as insurgents seeking ballot access in major party primaries.

Kresky was appointed by Mayor Michael Bloomberg to serve on the 2002 New York City Charter Commission. He serves as counsel to the New York City organizations of the Independence Party. He has been appointed to Chair the Election Law Committee of the New York County Lawyers Association, and is currently the Chair of the Ballot Access Subcommittee of the Election Law Committee of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York.

Kresky has written extensively on election reform issues. An op-ed he authored in support of open primaries recently appeared in the *Sacramento Bee*. He presently represents eleven non-aligned voters in federal litigation defending Idaho's open primary system. He serves as counsel to [independentvoting.org](http://independentvoting.org). In 2007-2008 he teamed with attorneys from the law firm of Holland and Knight to prevent the destruction of historic St. Brigid's Church in lower Manhattan.