Redistricting

- On February 4th, the North Carolina Supreme Court struck down North Carolina’s state legislative and congressional maps as extreme partisan gerrymanders. The North Carolina State Conference of the NAACP (NAACP NC) had filed an amicus brief in *North Carolina League of Conservation Voters v. Hall*, alleging racial gerrymandering. In its final decision, the court, importantly, reaffirmed an argument put forward by the NAACP NC in earlier litigation that, in redistricting, the General Assembly must first look to build districts required by the Voting Rights Act, which is a race-conscious inquiry and helps to protect Black voting strength.

- On February 7th, the U.S. Supreme Court struck another serious blow to equal rights through its shadow docket. In a 5-4 decision in *Milligan v. Merrill*, with Chief Justice Roberts joining the more liberal wing, the Court stayed the preliminary injunction won by the Alabama State Conference of the NAACP. The injunction prohibited Alabama from holding elections under its racially gerrymandered maps. The U.S. Supreme Court is not a ruling on the merits. Thus, it did not reverse the lower court’s determination that Alabama’s maps are discriminatory, but it does mean that the U.S. Supreme Court will allow racially gerrymanders to stay in place for the 2022 elections. The Court’s decision, as laid out in Justice Kavanaugh’s concurrence, relied upon a rule, known as the Purcell principle, whereby courts should generally refrain from allowing election changes on the “eve” of an election to avoid voter confusion. Alabama’s primary elections are scheduled for May 2022, and general election will not take place until November 2022. Accepting Justice Kavanaugh’s reasoning signals the likelihood of a greatly expanded meaning of “eve” that could have a dramatic effect on election law.

Education

- On February 10th, the U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina in *Bishop of Charleston v. Adams*, issued summary judgment against plaintiffs’ attempt to strike down Article XI of South Carolina’s Constitution, which protects funding for public schools by prohibiting the state from providing certain funds to private or religious schools. The South Carolina State Conference of the NAACP (NAACP SC) had previously sought to intervene in the case and subsequently filed an amicus brief defending the constitutionality of Article XI. The court’s order picked up on the amicus brief’s historical and legal arguments about the equal protection clause and Article XI’s lack of an adverse impact on racial minorities. The ruling is a win for the NAACP SC and for South Carolina’s public schools more generally. The Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection represented the NAACP SC in drafting the amicus brief.

Housing Navigator Program

- On February 10th, Assistant General Counsel Joseph Schottenfeld spoke at a Stanford Law School event aimed at designing eviction prevention social media and outreach materials.
The NAACP Office of General Counsel is also working with a coalition of partners in both Columbia, SC and nationally to advance eviction diversion advocacy initiatives, like creating eviction diversion and other navigator programs.

**Law Fellows**

- The NAACP Office of General Counsel is still recruiting for the 2022 NAACP Kellogg’s Summer Law Fellow Program. Students may apply by using the following link: [Apply Here](#) The application deadline is **Friday, March 11, 2022**. OGC is seeking six full-time Summer 2022 Law Fellows. Candidates must send a Resume, Cover Letter, Transcript, and Writing Sample. If selected for the program, candidates must provide two (2) reference letters. Reference letters should be sent to legal@naacpnet.org and should contact Associate General Counsel Anson Asaka at aasaka@naacpnet.org if there are any questions. The Law Fellows will work on a variety of civil rights cases and internal matters under the supervision of the attorneys in Office of the General Counsel. In addition, they will assist in planning of the NAACP Legal Advocacy Institute, a continuing legal education seminar taking place during the NAACP National Convention in July 2022. This fellowship will provide the Fellows with the opportunity to lead an advocacy project, assist with ongoing litigation, develop legal education materials, and work under the supervision of attorneys to protect the NAACP brand. The positions are contingent upon continued funding.

**NAACP 113th Anniversary**

- On February 16th at 6:00 p.m. ET, General Counsel Janette McCarthy Wallace and Carroll Rhodes, Redistricting Consultant to OGC, will participate in a panel discussion presented by the Loudoun County Commonwealth Attorney in Loudoun County, Virginia. The panel discussion is in celebration of the 113th anniversary of the NAACP’s founding. The discussion will focus on the NAACP’s recent litigation efforts, the Housing Navigator Program, and redistricting.