

**INVITATION TO CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2006**

**10:00 AM – 12:00 NOON  
Capitol Hill, Rayburn 2257**

**Protecting Democracy:  
Using Research to Inform the Voting Rights Reauthorization Debate**

February 7, 2006

Dear Colleagues:

The Chief Justice Earl Warren Institute on Race, Ethnicity and Diversity at the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, Boalt Hall and the Institute for Governmental Studies at U.C. Berkeley are co-sponsoring a **briefing specifically for Congressional staff** on research commissioned for our symposium entitled **Protecting Democracy: Using Research to Inform the Voting Rights Reauthorization Debate. The Congressional briefing will be held on Friday, February 10, 2006 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on Capitol Hill in Rayburn, Rm. 2257.**

We invite you to join voting rights scholars, lawyers, and advocates to discuss several important new studies addressing issues related to Section 5 and Section 203. The commissioned studies address a range of issues including the overall effects of Section 5 and the continuing need; electoral representation and influence; and Section 203 issues including implementation, threshold formulas and enforcement costs.

Please come and hear from several researchers and advocates and share your views about the most important issues to address to best inform legislators in the upcoming reauthorization debates. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ana Henderson at 510-643-6307 or [ahenderson@law.berkeley.edu](mailto:ahenderson@law.berkeley.edu) or Elaine Mui at 510-642-9919 or [emui@law.berkeley.edu](mailto:emui@law.berkeley.edu). We look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,

Christopher Edley, Jr.  
Dean and Professor of Law

Bruce Cain  
Professor of Political Science  
Director, Institute of Governmental Studies