A Voting Rights Odyssey

Black Enfranchisement in Georgia

From slavery to the white backlash of the 1990s, A Voting Rights Odyssey is a riveting account of the crusade for equal voting rights in Georgia. Written by a veteran civil rights lawyer who has tried innumerable voting cases, the book draws upon expert reports and other court records, as well as trial testimony and interviews with the men and women who served as plaintiffs and witnesses in litigation that helped to forge a revolution in voting rights. The book explores, and repudiates, the myths of the Reconstruction era that blacks were incapable of voting and holding office. It also catalogues the extraordinary, and ultimately failed, attempts of the state leadership to maintain white supremacy after the abolition of the white primary, the demands of the civil rights movement, and passage of the historic Voting Rights Act of 1965. A Voting Rights Odyssey is essential reading for anyone interested in the way in which race has driven and distorted the political process in the South.

Laughlin McDonald has been director of the Southern Regional Office of the American Civil Liberties Union in Atlanta, Georgia, since 1972. He has represented minorities in numerous discrimination cases and specialized in the area of voting rights. He has testified frequently before Congress and written for scholarly and popular publications on civil liberties issues. His books include The Rights of Racial Minorities (1998) and Racial Equality (1977).
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