

Going Green as a Nonprofit , Political & Career Strategy

In this instance “going green” is not referencing environmental concerns. It alludes to a populist effort; the inception of important, sound, but controversial grassroots reform. Of course that controversy stems from challenging status quo as opposed to espousing extremist views. In fact the underlying concepts should and can be mainstreamed. Proponents need only have the talent, skills, insights, and fortitude to accomplish that goal, usually without early major funding.

Grassroots reform, nonprofit organizations, and politics / public interest matters are often interconnected. What may be difficult to imagine is how they combine with “going green” to net career strategies:

- First, “going green” places ambitious, capable people on the proverbial ground floor of ventures that may yield more valuable experience than classic volunteer internships;
- Second, “going green” is somewhat entrepreneurial in that participants develop organizations and execute programs that could prosper to become their employers; and
- Third, “going green” as this message proposes involves helping preserve liberty and corresponding opportunities in America.

Zena D. Crenshaw-Logal, Esq.

NFOJA Administrator and

Member - OAK's Board of Managers

"Our democracy is so heavily weighted against the disenfranchised that considering America a republican form of government requires a leap of faith."

Zena D. Crenshaw-Logal, Esq.

Logal Professional & Public Policy Offices
7519 W. 77th Avenue
Crown Point, Indiana 46307
(Direct Dial) 219.865.6774 c/o Ext. 1
(Toll Free) 888.478.4439 c/o Ext. 1
(Email) lpppo@comcast.net

October 11, 2010

Hello,

I co-founded and help administer an "alphabet soup" of grassroots efforts with a common plight – an apparent lack of meaningful citizen oversight in America. That constitutional crisis may be largely academic for graduate students. However its impact on budding professionals is more direct and imminent than most people likely fathom.

A stellar coalition tackled the referenced problems in a recent submission to the United Nations (U.N.) for its upcoming Universal Periodic Review of America's human rights record. I drafted [our statement](#) with endorsements from accomplished lawyers, scholars, and distinguished human rights advocates including President Emeritus of Notre Dame University, Reverend Theodore Hesburgh.

My colleagues and I make these pivotal points to the U.N.:

1. "(o)ur democracy is so heavily weighted against the disenfranchised that considering America a republican form of government requires a leap of faith"; and
2. "... the ability of average Americans to effectively petition their government is so diluted or compromised that what would otherwise be our constitutional and universal human rights are no more than privileges, doled out at government discretion. Such is not the rule of law."

And such is more than the "stuff" of public interest advocacy.

The American Dream is quite vulnerable without genuine democracy and the rule of law. Opportunities are accordingly lost to unchecked waste, fraud, and abuse. The phenomenon is especially foreboding for young people hoping to fashion a good quality of life. Worse yet, related economic woes largely stem from an arguably more sinister threat.

Systematic, systemic human rights violations are very much part of life in America. They ensnare relatively few people. Yet our country's quality of liberty is defined by the rigors of vindicating that beleaguered group. The ability of average

Americans to contain institutionalized waste, fraud, and abuse is defined by those rigors.

Engaging U.S. College and University Campuses

U.S. college and university campuses should be as focused on accomplishing meaningful citizen oversight as they were on ending war and bigotry in the mid-1960s. True, the issues are a more natural concern for people with families, careers, businesses, and / or homes. But fewer young people may enjoy these privileges – or enjoy them as intensely as they otherwise would – unless post-secondary students help curb their loss.

Entrenched misconduct and corruption are beleaguering the national grassroots reform community. Relatively few were professional advocates when they became part of that community. Our work is a multi-faceted process many want to but cannot circumvent if we are to prevail.

Truly grassroots (hence emphasis on green) advocates need more volunteers who understand and embrace the “process” of grassroots reform which includes training, pursuit of short and long-term solutions, pass-the-hat and major fundraising. Even a modest influx of energy and expertise from graduate students of political science, nonprofit management, government, etc. - would spark critical momentum. Their youthful maturity should be a lightning rod for civic minded undergrads and veteran activists.

Introducing NFOJA and OAK

I was a civil trial attorney prior to becoming a full time good government advocate. Primarily I am a judicial reform activist though the various groups I help administer pursue civil and criminal justice system reforms and represent housing, health, education, and work-related advocates. All these efforts emerged from a group I co-founded and help administer, [National Judicial Conduct and Disability Law Project, Inc. \(NJCDLP\)](#).

NJCDLP sponsors the National Forum On Judicial Accountability (NFOJA) and OAK (Organizations Associating for the Kind of Change America Really Needs), a national consortium of grassroots advocates.

[NFOJA](#) is essentially a legislative initiative to vest randomly selected, trained, and rotating panels of private citizens with responsibility for state judicial disciplinary processes. Rather than judicial misconduct and / or corruption per se, NFOJA focuses on restoring the balance of power between America’s judiciary and its sovereign citizens.

[OAK](#) is more of a management tool than advocate. It was created to assemble a wide spectrum of grassroots advocates; help them transcend obvious differences to harness their critical similarities; otherwise help maximize their efficiency and effectiveness; and gear them to function much like a large voting bloc.

You Are Cordially Invited to Learn More by Completing Our Brief Survey: [CLICK HERE](#)

###