



The Information Edge

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March on Washington for Jobs & Freedom

August 28th marks the 60th anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

The event focused on employment discrimination, civil rights abuses against African Americans, Latinos, and other disenfranchised groups, and support for the Civil Rights Act that the Kennedy Administration was attempting to pass through Congress. This momentous display of civic activism took place on the National Mall, "America's Front Yard" and was the culmination of an idea born more than 20 years before.

While the March was a collaborative effort, sponsored by leaders of various student, civil rights, and labor organizations, the original idea came from A. Philip Randolph, a labor organizer and founder of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and the Negro American Labor Council (NALC). His vision for a march on the Nation's Capital dated to the 1940s when he twice proposed large-scale marches to protest segregation and discrimination in the U.S. military and the U.S. defense industry and to pressure the White House to take action. The pressure worked. President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 8802 (Prohibition of Discrimination in the Defense Industry, 1941) and President Truman signed Executive Order 9811 (Desegregation of the Armed Forces, 1948), and Randolph cancelled the marches.

By the 1960s, a public expression of dissatisfaction with the status quo was considered necessary and a march was planned for 1963, with Randolph as the titular head. Joining Randolph in sponsoring the March were the leaders of the five major civil rights groups: Roy Wilkins of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Whitney Young of the National Urban League (NUL), Martin Luther King, Jr. of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), James Farmer of Congress On Racial Equality, and John Lewis of the Student Nonviolent

Coordinating Committee (SNCC). These "Big Six," as they were called, expanded to include Walter Reuther of the United Auto Workers (UAW), Joachim Prinz of the American Jewish Congress (AJC), Eugene Carson Blake of the Commission on Religion and Race of the National Council of Churches, and Matthew Ahmann of the National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice. In addition, Dorothy Height of the National Council of Negro Women participated in the planning, but she operated in the background of this male dominated, leadership group.

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March on Washington for Jobs & Freedom

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While the March was a peaceful occasion, the words spoken that day at the Lincoln Memorial were not just uplifting and inspirational such as Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech, they were also penetrating and pointed. There was a list of "Ten Demands" from the sponsors, insisting on a fair living wage, fair employment policies, and desegregation of school districts. John Lewis in his speech said that "we do not want our freedom gradually but we want to be free now" and that Congress needed to pass "meaningful legislation" or people would march through the South. Although the SNCC chairman had toned down his remarks at the request of white liberals and moderate black allies, he still managed to criticize both political parties for moving too slowly on civil rights. Others such as Whitney Young and Joachim Prinz spoke of the need for justice, for equal opportunity, for full access to the American Dream promised with the Declaration of Independence and reaffirmed with the passage of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments. They spoke of jobs, and of a life free from the indifference of lawmakers to people's plights.

In the end, after all of the musical performances, speeches, and politics, it was the people that truly made the March on Washington a success. They brought box lunches, having spent all they could spare to get to Washington; some dressed as if attending a church service while others wore overalls and boots; veterans of the Civil Rights Movement and individuals new to the issues locked arms, clapped and sang and walked. Many began without their leaders, who were making their way to them from meetings on Capitol Hill. They could no longer be patient and they could no longer be held back, and so they started to march - Black, White, Latino, American Indian, Jewish, Christian, men, women, famous, anonymous, but ultimately all Americans, all marching for their civil rights.



Photos and text provided by The National Park Service (<https://www.nps.gov/articles/march-on-washington.htm>)

Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas (LANWT)

Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas is offering free pro-se assistance to those who qualify every Thursday in the conference room of the 429th District Court in the Collin County Courthouse.

For more information please contact:
(972) 542-9405

Do I benefit from **LEGAL AID?** 

Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas (LANWT) offers free civil legal assistance to low-income Texans who wouldn't otherwise be able to secure such legal representation.

Practices include:

- Support for Families
- Preserving the Home
- Maintaining Economic Stability
- Safety, Stability and Health
- Individuals with Special Needs
- Problems Affecting Groups of Individuals

**Contact
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Hours of Operation:
Monday—Friday
8:00 am—5:00 pm

Note: Computers will
automatically log off
at 4:50 p.m.

Have you not been paid all wages earned?

Submit a wage claim with the Texas Workforce Commission no later than 180 days after the date the claimed wages originally became due for payment.

TWC investigates wage claims under the Texas Payday Law, Chapter 61 of the Texas Labor Code, which states that an employer could be charged and convicted of a felony of the third degree, which holds a penalty of up to ten years in prison, for failure to pay wages. Tex. Labor Code § 61.019 (2021)

Texas Payday Law covers all Texas business entities, regardless of size, except for public employers such as the federal government, the state or a political subdivision of the state. All persons who perform a service for compensation are considered employees, except for close relatives and independent contractors.

Both employees and employers should be aware of the law so they will know their rights and responsibilities

Payments Subject to Payday Law

The kinds of payments subject to the Texas Payday Law include:

- Compensation for services rendered regardless of how they are computed
- Commissions and bonuses according to the agreement between the parties
- Certain fringe benefits due under a written agreement with or policy of the employer



More information and links to submit claims can be found at: www.twc.texas.gov

Did You Know?

Texas Law Help maintains an event page/calendar where those in need may be able to track down legal assistance from attorneys and discuss a legal issue one-on-one at a clinic hosted by a reliable nonprofit partner. Most clinics offer virtual appointments in order to maintain COVID-19 safety protocol.

Visit texaslawhelp.org/events for more info

**TEXAS
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Important Announcement

Please keep in mind that if you are not comfortable visiting the library in person to do research during the pandemic, we have a number of resources available online. While we cannot provide legal advice, we may be able to guide you to the resources or forms necessary to assist you in your situation.

Library staff may be reached at 972-548-4255 or 972-548-4260.





LABOR DAY

The Law Library
will be closed
September 4th, for Labor
Day.



New on the Shelf

- ◆ Federal Criminal Code and Rules—2023 Revised Edition
- ◆ Ineffective Assistance of Counsel—2023 Edition
- ◆ O'Connor's Texas Civil Forms—2023
- ◆ O'Connor's Federal Civil Forms—2023
- ◆ Federal Criminal Appeals—2023 Edition
- ◆ Federal Court of Appeals Manual—7th Edition



Legal Humor



"It's even worse. It's a cease, desist,
and knock it off already."