

Denise D. Lieberman

Denise Lieberman is a St. Louis civil rights attorney who currently serves as the Missouri Voter Protection Coordinator for the Advancement Project, a Washington, D.C. based racial justice organization. She is also a lecturer and adjunct professor at the School of Law at Washington University-St. Louis.

Lieberman is the first nominee born after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King to win the MLK Spirit Award. His spirit and ideas have influenced her life greatly.

She has been on the forefront of election reform. During the 2000 presidential election, Lieberman, while working as the legal director for the ACLU, filed a lawsuit against the City of St. Louis to keep the polls open after it became apparent that many voters were being wrongly turned away. She also brought local civil rights groups together and filed a class action lawsuit on behalf of disenfranchised African American voters. As a result of the action, the U.S. Justice Department mandated that the St. Louis City Board of Elections change its administration. Since that time, she has coordinated legal monitoring of the polls and voter advocacy, headed legal command centers and overseen hundreds of election protection volunteers in 2002, 2006 and 2008. She has also analyzed Missouri's election policy and worked with state and local leaders to address and identify systematic barriers to voting. Additionally, she has litigated other cases that have focused on religious freedom, racial profiling and free speech.

Lieberman is a 1987 graduate of University City High School. In 1991, she earned her BS degree in journalism from Northwestern University. Prior to earning her JD degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, Lieberman worked as a reporter for the *St. Louis Suburban Journals* and as a scheduler for former Missouri Gov. Bob Holden.