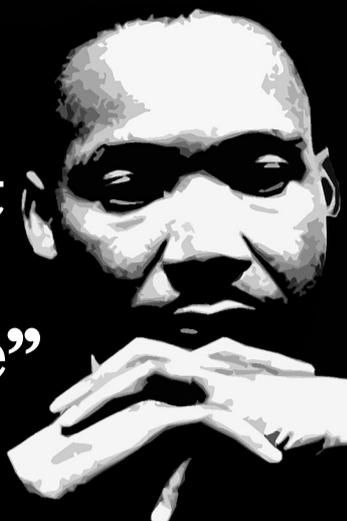


# Editorial | Commentary

## “Injustice Anywhere is a Threat to Justice Everywhere”

By Phil Weiser



On the entrance to the Colorado Supreme Court building is a famous quote from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: “injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” These words speak to my own family’s experience and to my philosophy as a candidate to be Colorado’s next Attorney General. My mom and grandparents survived the Holocaust and came to this country because of our commitment to freedom, equality, and opportunity for all. Dr. King’s vision and my family’s experience both speak to a core American value—liberty and justice for all.

At President Obama’s Justice Department, I served under Eric Holder, the first African American to be the nation’s top law enforcement official. I am proud that both President Obama and Attorney General Holder worked hard in every community to provide the safety and security that comes from a healthy, trusting relationship with law enforcement. That’s why, after videos of young black men being beaten by the police in Ferguson, Missouri and elsewhere, the Department of Justice took seriously concerns of excessive force.

Without leadership at the federal level, we at the state and local levels need to improve the relationship between law enforcement and the African American community. We need to find more creative solutions for building trust between law enforcement and communities they serve. At the Attorney General’s Office, the Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) program seeks to ensure that police are trained to thoroughly investigate racially motivated hate crimes, are aware of biases, and do not unnecessarily escalate interactions with citizens in our diverse communities, which can lead to consequences like those we saw in Ferguson and elsewhere.

As Attorney General, I will fight for Dr. King’s legacy and liberty and justice for all. That means fighting against discrimination, confronting hate crimes, and championing diversity and inclusiveness. Promoting diversity and inclusiveness was a top priority for me when I was the Dean of CU Law School, which is why I was honored by the Colorado Hispanic Bar Association as its partner of the year. As Attorney General, I will continue that work by appointing a Leader for Inclusive Excellence who will answer directly to me and will help me recruit and promote diverse individuals to the office. To learn more my campaign, my plans for the Attorney General’s office, and how you can join my team, please visit philforcolorado.com.

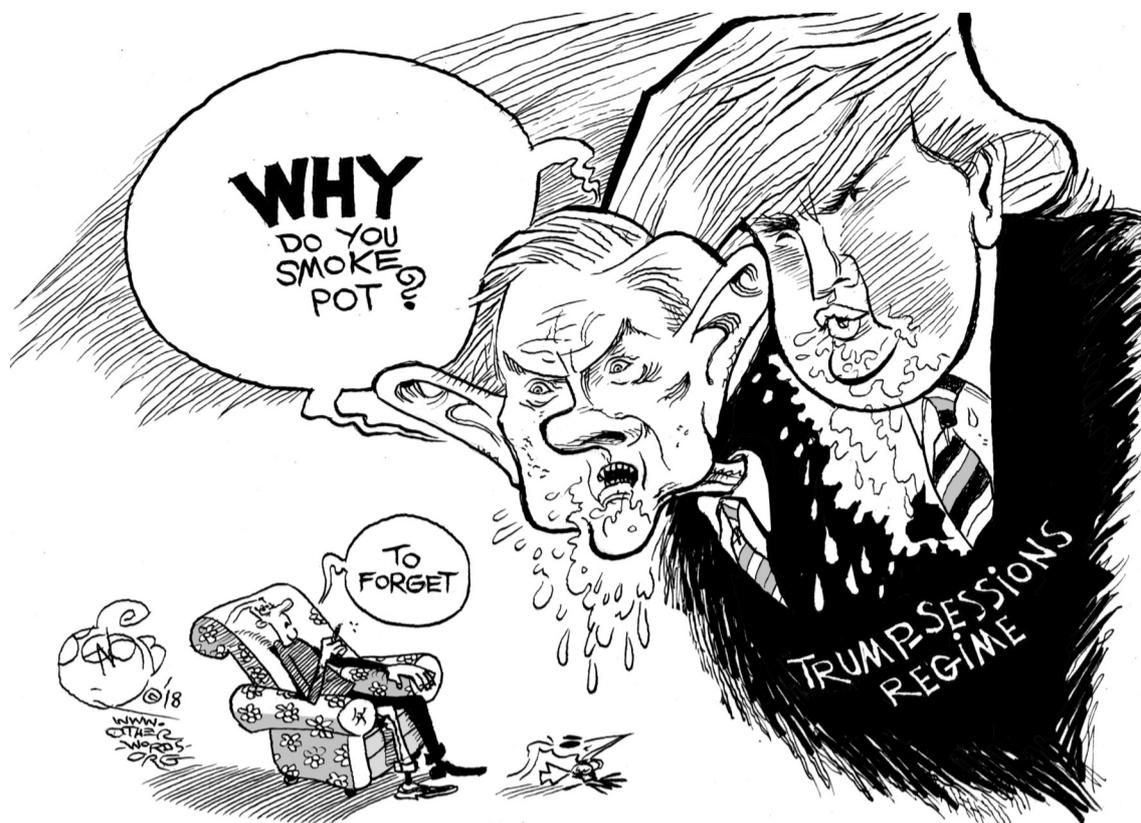
*Phil Weiser is the Hatfield Professor of Law and Dean Emeritus at the University of Colorado Law School. He served in the Obama Administration as a Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the U.S. Department of Justice and as Senior Advisor for Technology and Innovation at the White House’s National Economic Council. Phil lives with his wife and two children in Denver.*

*Editor’s Note: Phil Weiser is a candidate for the 2018 Colorado Attorney General race.*

*The deadline is Monday, January 15, 2018 to declare voter affiliation—Republican or Democrat—if you want to participate in precinct caucuses.*

**I HAVE A DREAM  
“LET FREEDOM RING FROM THE  
SNOW CAPPED  
ROCKIES OF COLORADO!”**

**MLK, JR. AUGUST 28, 1963**



### Putting the Heat on What Takes the Edge Off

*Jeff Sessions wants to crack down on legal marijuana, the only thing getting some people through this administration.*

#### To Be Equal

## 2018 Marks the 50th Anniversary of a Momentous Year in Civil Rights

By Marc H. Morial

*“It is not an overstatement to say that the destiny of the entire human race depends on what is going on in America today. This is a staggering reality to the rest of the world; they must feel like passengers in a supersonic jetliner who are forced to watch helplessly while a passel of drunks, hypes, freaks, and madmen fight for the controls and the pilot’s seat.” – Eldridge Cleaver, Soul on Ice, 1968”*

As we embark upon the new year of 2018, we step into the 50th anniversary of a year that shook the world, in particular, the world of civil rights in the United States.

Perhaps the most momentous of these events are the assassinations of Martin Luther King, Jr., and Robert Kennedy. Both of these tragic deaths hold personal significance for my family. My parents, civil rights activists, were personally acquainted with the Rev. King. My mother, Sybil Morial, and King were students together at Boston University while she pursued her Master’s Degree in education and him his Ph.D. in theology. In her memoir, Witness to Change, she writes of the moment on April 4 when she learned of his death:

I could hardly grasp the words: Martin Luther King has been shot to death in Memphis. Dutch was in the study. I called to him, and he came and stood by me. “Martin has been killed.” I could hardly say the words; I could hardly believe it. Not Martin. Dutch and I watched the gruesome footage in silence.

She recalled the words of his final speech, “I’ve seen the Promised Land.

I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land.”

He knew it, but we didn’t. And we didn’t understand his death. I was inconsolable ... I said to Dutch, “Now that Martin is gone, what will become of the movement?” “It will go on. It must.”

My late father-in-law, Ross Miller, was a trauma surgeon and Kennedy campaigner who was present at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles on June 5. When the shots rang out, he bravely stepped forward and tried to save the lives of Kennedy and others who were wounded.

These deaths are but two of the civil rights milestones of that historic year half a century ago.

On February 8, the Orangeburg Massacre took place in South Carolina. Highway Patrol officers opened fire on a crowd of 200 students gathered on the campus of South Carolina State University to demonstrate against the continued segregation at the bowling alley. Three young men were killed, and 27 other protesters were injured.

On April 11, amid continuing unrest triggered by King’s murder, President

Lyndon Johnson signed one of the most significant laws of the era - the Civil Rights Act Of 1968, more commonly known as the Fair Housing Act. The Act prohibited not only racial and religious discrimination in the sale or rental of a home but also racially-motivated threats, intimidation or retaliation about housing.

In a move often cited as an inspiration by current-day activists, on October 2 Black Olympians Tommie Smith and John Carlos African-American athletes raised their arms in a black power salute after winning the gold and bronze medals in the men’s 200 meters.

November 22 saw the first interracial kiss ever to air on television in the United States, between the characters Captain James Kirk and Lieutenant Nyota Uhura, on the program Star Trek.

In the coming year, we will observe many of these anniversaries in-depth. We begin the year reflection on a half-century of civil eight progress, and the progress that lies ahead.

*Marc Morial is political and civic leader and the current president of the National Urban League.*