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## Law Library Blog (February 2023): Legal Beagle's Blog Archive

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# Legal Beagle's Post

February 3, 2023

## Black History Month: Past and Present

February 3, 2023



Although observances of black history began as early as 1915, Congress officially designated February as [Black History Month in 1986](#). Since then, presidents have issued annual proclamations to kick off the month. The first, issued by Ronald Reagan, stated that “[the foremost purpose of Black History Month is to make all Americans aware of \[the\] struggle for freedom and equal opportunity](#)” faced by African Americans throughout the history of our nation. It has become traditional for presidents to focus on a specific issue in this proclamation.

This year, equal access was the central theme of [President Biden’s proclamation](#). Equal access to the ballot box; safe drinking water; public transit; high-speed internet; fair housing and mortgage lending; and higher education. Biased policy decisions, both past and present, keep these basic necessities out of reach for many Black American communities.

President Biden also commented on the need to promote effective, accountable, and transparent community policing, an issue that has been hotly debated this year as we continue to have a conversation about the #BlackLivesMatter movement and the many senseless deaths of black men and women at hands of police.

While Black History Month is a time to reflect on the past struggles and achievements of black Americans, it's also clearly an excellent opportunity to reflect on the struggles of the present and the things we can do, particularly as members of the legal community, to impact our own and other communities for the better.

The least we can all do is maintain our awareness. The RWU Law Library continues to supplement its collection in the areas of antiracism, criminal justice reform, and culturally responsive pedagogy. We encourage you to check out our Black History Month book display and to search for other titles in our catalog. This month and throughout the year, if you have ideas for resources to be included in our collection, please email us at [lawlibraryhelp@rwu.edu](mailto:lawlibraryhelp@rwu.edu).

You're also welcome to check out our [Black Lives Matter resource guide](#) for more information. This guide is a community effort and contains resources recommended by alumni, faculty, staff, and students. This guide is a living work which will continue to grow and develop. If you have ideas for resources to be included in this guide, you already know what to do. We look forward to hearing from you with your suggestions.

February 17, 2023

## Thank You to Long Weekends

February 17, 2023



Happy Presidents' Day!

The holiday was initially made in honor of George Washington's birthday. However, the [Uniform Monday Holiday Act](#), signed into law in 1968 and effective as of 1971, made it a permanent federal holiday that would fall on the third Monday in February. According to the [United States Census Bureau](#) this act was designed to give people a reprieve since the government saw the emotional and economic benefits to having long weekends.

Since the holiday was moved to fall on a Monday, to create these wonderful long weekends, it no longer consistently falls on George Washington's birthday (February 20th) or at all on Abraham Lincoln's birthday (February 12th). As a result, we kind of just squish all the presidents together.... And call it Presidents' Day

So take this law to heart and economically and emotionally take the day off. Sleep in. Go [skiing](#) or [tubing](#) or [ice skating](#). Plan your world take over. Make yourself a nice breakfast. Fold that load of laundry that has been in the corner for two weeks. Spend time with friends and family. You're important and you've done more than enough! So, take the day to recognize that.

The library will still be open from 9:00am-11:00pm on Monday the 20th, but the librarians will be taking R & R to heart. We will be happy to help you with any requests when we return on Tuesday!