

**Civil Rights Act of 1866 - 14 Stat. 27**  
*Congressional Record*

**April 9, 1866**

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**Prepared and Tendered by:**

**Lane Lee Bowers**

Plaintiff, Pro Se

**In Support of:**

Federal Civil Rights Complaint

Civil Rights Act of 1866 — 14 Stat. 27;

Civil Rights Act of 1871 — 17 Stat. 13;

(42 U.S.C. § 1983)

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**Description:**

EXHIBIT L contains the complete Congressional Record publication of the **Civil Rights Act of 1866**, as found in **14 Stat. 27–30**, enacted **April 9, 1866**. The attached document includes the full statutory language establishing federal citizenship, equal civil rights, federal criminal penalties for deprivation of rights under color of law, exclusive and concurrent jurisdiction of the federal courts, enforcement duties of U.S. officers, and presidential authority to use federal force to ensure compliance. The Record includes all operative provisions and both chambers' override of the presidential veto.

These pages document Congress's original statutory framework for federal civil-rights protection and enforcement. The Act expressly applied to **any person acting under color of any state law, statute, ordinance, regulation, or custom**, and imposed federal criminal consequences for violating the rights of civilian American inhabitants. The Exhibit contains the exact black-letter text establishing these obligations, penalties, and enforcement mechanisms.

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**Purpose:**

To establish the **controlling federal authority** that governs Plaintiff's civil-rights claims and binds all federal courts adjudicating actions brought under the Civil Rights Acts or their modern codification. The Civil Rights Act of 1866 provides:

**1. No Immunity for Violators**

The Statutes at Large at 14 Stat. 27 contain **no form of immunity** for state or local officers who deprive an inhabitant of rights under color of law. Congress intentionally refused to create exemptions, privileges, immunities, or shields for officials or private actors working jointly with them.

# COVER SHEET

## 2. No Statute of Limitations

The 1866 Act imposes **criminal liability without any statutory limitation period** for deprivation of rights. Congress provided an unlimited federal enforcement mandate to protect inhabitants from abuses committed by persons acting under color of state law.

## 3. Statutes at Large Control — Not the U.S. Code

Under 1 U.S.C. § 204(a):

- Title 42 of the United States Code is **not** enacted into positive law.
- Its provisions — including § 1983 — are **only prima facie evidence** of the law.
- The controlling authority is the **original Statutes at Large**:
  - 14 Stat. 27 (1866)
  - 17 Stat. 13 (1871)

Therefore, **the courts must apply the black-letter law of the Statutes at Large**, not the interpretive or editorial codification printed in Title 42.

## 4. The Black-Letter Law Governing § 1983 Comes Directly From 14 Stat. 27

When any federal action is brought “under 42 U.S.C. § 1983” the court is required to apply the **original congressional enactment**, which includes:

- Federal protection of equal rights;
- Criminal prosecution of offenders;
- Federal jurisdiction over state failures;
- Presidential enforcement authority;
- Unlimited enforcement period;
- **Absolute rejection of immunity for wrongdoers.**

## 5. Federal Jurisdiction Is Mandatory, Not Discretionary

Congress enacted 14 Stat. 27 to ensure federal protection precisely when:

- *State and local officials refuse due process;*
- *Property is seized unlawfully;*
- *Access to records or courts is denied;*
- *State courts fail to provide remedy;*
- *Officers act jointly with private parties to violate rights.*

These are the exact circumstances present in this case.

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