

# *The Wall Street Journal*

## **Political Diary**

**October 2, 2012**

### **Love Story**

**By Jason L. Riley**

Last week Mother Jones magazine was accusing Utah congressional candidate Mia Love of making up stories about her family history. This week the liberal publication is eating crow.

The magazine took Ms. Love, a Republican, to task for claiming that her birth in the U.S. on Dec. 6, 1975, allowed her Haitian-born parents and older siblings to become American citizens under a law that was set to expire on Jan. 1, 1976.

"My parents have always told me I was a miracle and our family's ticket to America," Ms. Love told the Desert News last year.

In an article last week, Mother Jones suggested that Ms. Love's story was untrue. "It's an uplifting story, but there's one problem with this account," said the magazine. "According to immigration lawyers and U.S. officials, there doesn't appear to have been a law of the kind described [by Ms. Love] . . . that would have conferred citizenship on Love's parents, let alone her siblings, by simply having a baby in the United States."

But it turns out that the reporter didn't do enough reporting. Stuart Anderson, a former Immigration and Naturalization Service official who currently runs the **National Foundation for American Policy**, did some digging of his own. He described his findings in an interview with The Wall Street Journal last week and then elaborated on them in a column for Forbes.com.

"Such a law did, in fact, exist, although it did not give citizenship to the parents of U.S.-born children but rather the ability to obtain legal residency," he wrote. Mr. Anderson quoted Margaret Stock, an immigration attorney who has written extensively on birthright citizenship, as well as immigration lawyers who were practicing in the 1970s. "Stock points out that the State Department's Foreign Affairs manual describes the law that Love's family may have used, which expired in 1977, a little more than a year after Mia Love's birth on U.S. soil."

To its credit, Mother Jones has corrected the original story. Now it can focus with equal zeal on fact-checking Massachusetts Senate candidate Elizabeth Warren's claims of Native American ancestry.