

## 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Solidarity Series

### *PBF 2011 Summer Fellow Greg Ainsley*



Greg attended the University of Wisconsin Law School in Madison and accepted a Peggy Browning Fellowship at the union-side law firm of Levy Ratner, PC in New York City. He is now Associate Counsel for New York State United Teachers (NYSUT).

#### **What has been your career path since your Peggy Browning Fellowship?**

*“The Peggy Browning Fellowship program was definitely very influential in shaping my career path. As a Fellow, I worked at the law firm Levy Ratner, PC during my 2L summer and I had a terrific experience.*

*It really solidified many of my career goals and interest in pursuing labor law. After my Peggy Browning Fellowship and graduating from law school, I worked at a private practice law firm on Long Island for about a year before I became Associate Counsel at NYSUT. I have been an attorney at NYSUT for about four years now. I have enjoyed the variety of issues that I encounter and I have found great satisfaction in the work that I do every day. This is an area of law where you can actually see your efforts make a big difference in your clients’ lives.”*

#### **Did your PB Fellowship affect your course of study in law school?**

*“My undergraduate major was in Industrial and Labor Relations, so I had some interest in exploring labor and employment law prior to becoming a Peggy Browning Fellow. However, like most law students, that interest was largely academic and I had limited experience in the field to know whether I truly wanted to continue in that area professionally. Also, the required courses that you have to complete during the first couple of years law school, aside from being very reading intensive, can feel rather soulless.”*

*“My Peggy Browning Fellowship really helped to confirm that I did want to pursue labor law. It transformed law into something more tangible. After my fellowship, I tried to select courses that would be most useful in helping me to practice in that area, and also appeal to prospective employers in that field. I was also fortunate that my law school offered a pretty wide variety of courses in that area of study.”*

**Did it help you to obtain employment in labor law?**

*“I believe that being a Peggy Browning Fellow did help me to obtain employment in my desired field. The Peggy Browning Fellowship Program is a well-recognized program and it is highly regarded among organizations that represent working people. I know that several of my colleagues were also Peggy Browning Fellows. Additionally, my office also brings on Fellows as law clerks each summer.”*

**Has the interests or goals of today’s law students changed from your years in school?**

*“I think that most law students want to use their law degree in an impactful and socially responsible way. However, I think that a reality that persists for current law students is balancing their personal interests with the practicalities of the current legal job market and their personal financial situation. I know that when I was a law student, labor law classes were not always the most popular courses at my school. I suspect that may still be the case. I think the last point also makes the PBF program all the more important.”*



*Greg returning from a court appearance at the New York Supreme Court.*

**Are you connected to other PBF alumni? Are you active in your area’s Alumni Association Chapter?**

*“Yes, I am connected with many other PBF alumni and I try to stay active with my Alumni Association Chapter. The labor world is a pretty small world and you will regularly see a lot of the same faces at various meetings and functions, and I think that it is very important to keep in touch with this great network of people. They are your colleagues, and aside from being a tremendous resource for knowledge, I have found that PBF alumni are also great people.”*

**What advice would you give to today’s students who are considering a career in labor or public interest law?**

*“Go for it! I think that this field provides the opportunity to perform meaningful work that can positively impact the lives of many individuals. There is definitely a need for capable attorneys who are willing and able to advocate for working people. The Peggy Browning Fellowship program is also a great way to get real exposure to those areas of law.”*