

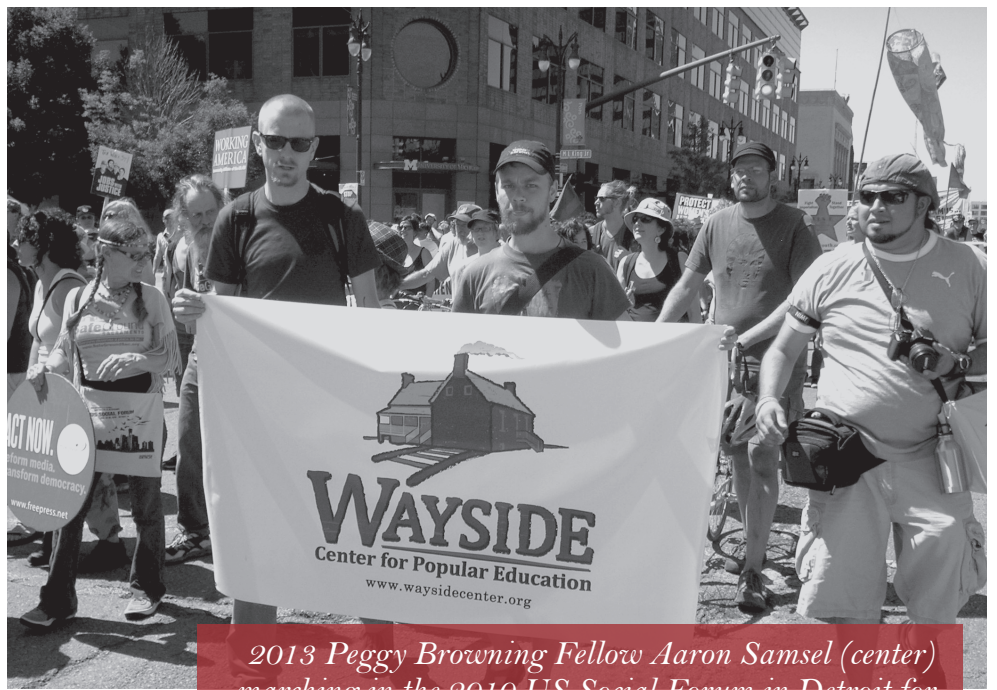
Educating Law Students on the Rights and Needs of Workers

2013 Class of Summer Fellows

Bring Personal Experiences to their Summer Positions

Aaron Samsel became interested in social justice issues when he was sixteen, following the events of 9/11. Because of these events, he was compelled to get involved and did so by working to organize the homeless in his home state of Virginia. **At that time, he realized the need to organize around social issues – that one of the key points in people’s lives is their work life or work identity. He realized that peoples’ lives can really change when they take collective action as workers.**

During his undergraduate years at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, VA, Aaron had difficulty furthering his social justice interests. There were few mentors in Virginia with whom he could identify as most didn’t know much about unions. He quickly realized that he would have to figure out how to be effective on his own. With the advice of a few unions, Aaron became a student leader in the campus Living Wage Campaign. They were told they would not succeed, as Virginia is a Right-To-Work state. He persevered by organizing classified employees, students, faculty and community members to win pay increases for university housekeepers and groundskeepers.



2013 Peggy Browning Fellow Aaron Samsel (center) marching in the 2010 US Social Forum in Detroit for Wayside Center for Popular Education.

Choosing a semester abroad in Mexico, Aaron was interested in following the path of global trade changes by U.S. manufacturers moving their factories to Mexico. He followed how foreign-produced goods, raw materials and migrant labor were integrated into American life. He then returned to Mexico a few times to help organize and became a Human Rights Observer in Zapatista territory, Chiapas, Mexico, documenting the government’s low-

intensity warfare against indigenous communities.

Aaron was inspired to return to Virginia to organize around issues affecting working class communities in his home state. He worked for the SEIU in Richmond to foster community support for the Employee Free Choice Act and the Affordable Care Act; the Sacred Heart Center, connecting Black and Latino low-wage workers to social service programs; The People United, conducting “Know Your Rights” and interpreters’ trainings and co-founded the Wayside Center for Popular Education – a retreat and training center for organizers.

“I am looking forward to the challenges, responsibilities and privileges that come with becoming a Peggy Browning Fellow. I know that this will propel me toward my future as a movement lawyer.”

- Aaron Samsel, PBF ‘13

(Continued on page 3)



Margaret A. (Peggy) Browning

A Beacon for Workers' Rights

Our namesake was, by all accounts, an exceptional person whose life and qualities left their mark upon the legal community and on the national scene. Born in Tennessee and educated at Swarthmore and the University of Pennsylvania Law School, Peggy was a creative and dynamic attorney.

While her name could have graced the masthead of any mega law firm, she chose to devote her energies to workers' rights. In her defense of workers' interests, she never lost a case in the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. Peggy was tirelessly focused on issues such as union representation, fair and equal pay and decent working conditions.

Her achievements strongly justified President Clinton's nomination of her as the first union-side lawyer in history to be appointed to the National Labor Relations Board.

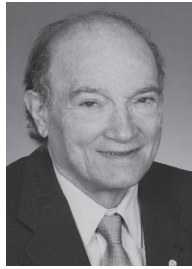
The Peggy Browning Award is presented annually to social justice champions who have distinguished themselves with passion and dedication to the rights and needs of workers and their families.

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Peggy Browning Fund educates and inspires the next generation of advocates for workplace justice. Through fellowships, workers' rights conferences, networking and other programs, the PBF provides unique opportunities for law students to work for economic and social justice.

Fellowships and National Conference

Help to Fill the Void



As recently as twenty years ago, law schools across the country recognized the importance of including labor law courses as an important part of their curriculum. Unfortunately, today this is no longer the case. In a report on Thomson Reuters *News and Insights* of April 11, Marquette University Law Professor Paul Secunda, who teaches labor and employment law, stated that "hiring among law school professors specializing in labor and employment dropped this year, and the field is overlooked at many law schools." He went on to say that "there is an unbelievable lack of movement" in hiring labor and employment law professors, attributable to the field suffering an identity crisis. "If there is not a large group of prominent professors who are teaching enthusiastically, how are students going to remain interested?"

Thanks to your help, we have made, and continue to make, an impact in the education and recruitment of young lawyers for the labor movement. Our 10-week Summer Fellowship Program

and our annual National Law Students Workers' Rights Conference provide the training and education many law students want but do not receive in law school. We offer law students wide-ranging opportunities to work for social and economic justice.

Building on these opportunities, many of our alumni have gone on to work for unions, the National Labor Relations Board, the U.S. Department of Labor, worker centers and union-side law firms. You will see for yourself, as we've highlighted a number of our alumni in the center of this newsletter.

Although we are proud of increasing the number of Fellows we placed to 70 positions, we cannot begin to fill this vacuum. This year we received well over 500 applications for the 70 fellowship positions we can afford to offer. The waiting list for unions and worker centers wanting our students is long and continues to grow. Please consider making a gift with the envelope enclosed. Your continued support can make the difference!



Facts About the Peggy Browning Fund

- 70 Summer Fellowships in 2013 from a pool of over 500 applicants
- 139 Participating Law Schools
- 22 Union Mentors
- 14 Worker Center Mentor Orgs
- 9 Government Agency Mentor Orgs
- 8 Union-Side Law Firm Mentors
- 500 Alumni (Not including 2013 Fellows)
- 136 Alumni Working in Workers' Rights Labor Law
- 61 Alumni Working in Public Interest Labor Law

A Mentor's Perspective

by Catherine K. Ruckelshaus, Legal Co-Director,
National Employment Law Project (NELP)



PBF Mentor Cathy Ruckelshaus

As an honored recipient of Peggy Browning Fund Fellows, NELP has been lucky to be a part of this program since its inception. There are three things about the Peggy Browning Fellowship that make it the wonderful opportunity for students that it is.

One is that it contributes to the growth of a community of law students committed to working on worker-side labor and employment issues. Law school does not provide a lot of opportunities for most law students interested in this type of work to have contact with others similarly interested and with people who make their living doing this work.

The second thing is that the Peggy Browning Fellowship is unique, in that **it links private labor firms with non-profit legal services and other community legal groups** who do the type of labor and employment law that NELP, Community Legal Services in Philadelphia and Greater Boston Legal Services do. This builds the movement,

which is in much need of sustenance in these times.

Finally, the Fellows themselves are wonderful. Each year, NELP gets a thick stack of incredible applicants, and each summer, we've enjoyed a new Peggy Browning Fellow. One Fellow in particular stands out as an example: she started in 2000 as a Fellow, continued on as a staff attorney at NELP and worked on starting up the first ever low-wage workers rights clinic in New York City, after the September 11th attacks. This Fellow and many others have continued to work in labor and employment law after their fellowships. The Peggy Browning Fund contributes to this growing law firm without walls.

In Memoriam - Norm Gleichman

The Peggy Browning Fund mourns the loss of Norm Gleichman, a very good friend of PBF and a dedicated labor lawyer and advocate, who died suddenly in January 2013. Norm was Deputy General Counsel of the Service Employees International Union since 2002. He was also an active member of the PBF Advisory Board, our Conference Planning Committee and our DC Reception Host Committee. **He mentored many PBF Fellows, other law students and young lawyers starting out in careers dedicated to workers' rights, and he had a huge impact on the lives of many in the labor movement.**

For eight years before joining SEIU's legal staff, Norm was a legal counsel with the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission. Earlier, he worked for the Communications Workers of America and practiced with the firms of Barr, Peer & Camens and Cafferky, Powers, Jordan & Lewis. His career was one dedicated to advancing social justice for working people. In Norm's memory,



Norm Gleichman at the 2012 Wrap-Up Workshop advising Peggy Browning Fellows to make the most of their fellowship experience.

we have dedicated the PBF Fellowships at SEIU.

We are very grateful to Norm's family for suggesting PBF as one of the organizations to receive donations. We appreciate the kindness of the many friends, relatives and former students who responded. To date, we have received over \$15,000, which will benefit the students Norm so loved to mentor and inspire. His work will live on in the work, and the hearts, of those he helped to train.

2013 Class of Summer Fellows

(Continued from page 1)

Completing his first year at the City University of New York School of Law, CUNY, Aaron has worked with Brandworkers International where he organized immigrant workers in bread factories, waking early to meet the workers as they completed their shifts to discuss organizing options. Aaron is now a Peggy Browning Fellow at CASA de Maryland this summer.

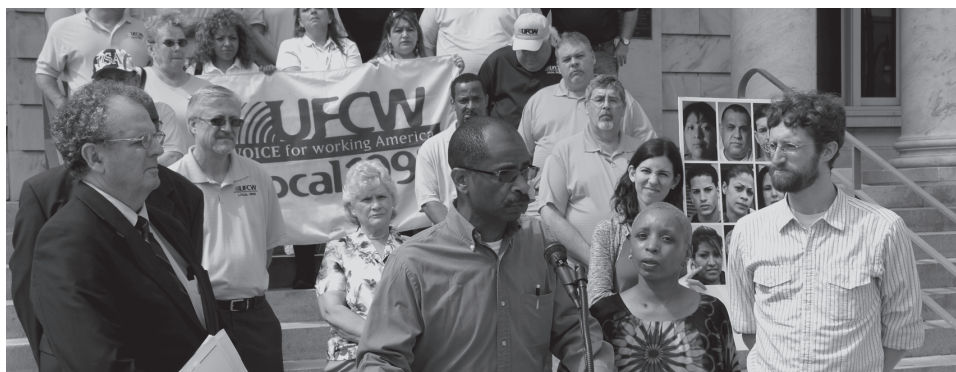


PBF'13 Aaron Samsel (right) interviewing Mississippi State Senator Derrick Simmons while working for the Mississippi Workers' Center for Human Rights.

Alumni Continue The

More Than Just A 10-Week Fellowship

Being a Peggy Browning Fellow is more than just a 10-week experience. It encompasses both the time spent on the job during the fellowship as well as various other educational and networking activities before, during and after the fellowship. We continue to provide assistance in building a network of contacts to help in their subsequent job search. Nearly 40% of our alumni have gone on to jobs in the labor movement or in public interest organizations. **The experiences, knowledge, and contacts they gained during their fellowships helped them begin careers advocating for workers.** At unions, worker centers, with the NLRB (where currently more than 20 of our alumni are working), in other government positions or union-side law firms, many have been playing active roles in the labor movement. The following examples show how a few of our alumni are succeeding, interspersed with comments from alumni at the NLRB on what their fellowship means today.



Tom Fritzsche, PBF '07, on right, at a rally held on April 16 to protect workers in the poultry industry from a proposed new regulation that would allow poultry plants to run even faster than they do now.

Tom Fritzsche, PBF '07

Immigrant Justice

Tom Fritzsche knows first-hand about the need for immigration reform. As staff attorney for the Southern Poverty Center's Immigrant Justice Project, he has represented hundreds of immigrant workers who are paid cheap wages and work under unspeakable conditions.

Located in Atlanta, Georgia, Tom began working for the project in 2009 as a Skadden Fellow. Over the last few years, he has represented a group of immigrant workers fired from a cheese factory that had stopped paying them for their work. When they staged a sit-in to demand pay for their completed work, they were

arrested for trespassing and were nearly deported. His representation led to successful results in their civil cases.

Recently, Tom authored a report for the Southern Poverty Law Center, *Unsafe at These Speeds: Alabama's Poultry Industry and its Disposable Workers*. It presented the results of over 300 interviews the Center conducted with poultry workers

around Alabama. As a result, the Center launched a campaign to slow down line speeds in order to reduce workers' risks of repetitive motion injuries.

Tom values his PBF experience at the National Day Laborer Organizing Network in Los Angeles, California. "I conducted training for day laborers concerning their legal rights, analyzed immigration reform proposals and set up legislative visits," said Tom. "That furthered my interest in immigrants' rights advocacy using the law as an important tool to support workers fighting for justice... **I will continue to support the Peggy Browning Fund as it elevates the importance of workers' rights in law school in a meaningful way and gives Fellows more career options in social justice.**"

Autumn Gonzalez, PBF '04

A Voice for Nurses

Autumn Gonzalez works for one of the nation's fastest growing labor and professional organizations in the U.S. - the California Nurses Association/National Nurses Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO. As a labor representative of registered nurses at three independent hospitals in Northern California, she is responsible for contract negotiations, arbitrations and grievance processing.

In addition, Autumn advocates for National Nurses United including organizing around the "Robin

"My Peggy Browning Fellowship at the AFL-CIO was the pathway in determining what type of law I wanted to practice. It has assisted me in honing relationships with other union-side attorneys in the DC area and strengthened the bond with other Fellows who are currently my co-workers."

Walakewon (Wala) Blegay, PBF '10, Attorney Advisor, NLRB Office of Board Members, Washington, DC

Fight After Summer Ends

Hood Tax,” a tax on Wall Street transactions. Now with more than 140 endorsing organizations, National Nurses United is supporting the “Inclusive Prosperity Act,” H.R. 1579, reintroduced by Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN) on April 17, legislation that embodies the Robin Hood Tax’s goals and principles.

Prior to her starting at the California Nurses Association in July 2012, Autumn worked for six years as assistant counsel to the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU) in Washington, DC. There, she was heavily involved in a 40,000 worker organizing drive at the Transportation Security Administration, which included basic EEO filings, legal advice to non-union employees, and grievance administration in a non-union setting. Prior to that she was an organizer and field representative in

“I highly value my Fellowship at Sherman Dunn. Even my short time with such brilliant and experienced labor attorneys was very important to my professional development. I also believe that being a Fellow helped me get my current position.”

Craig Nadeau, *PBF’10*, Honors Attorney,
NLRB Office of Board Members, Washington, DC



Jonathan Harris,
PBF ’08
**Collecting
Unpaid Wages**

It took two years of litigation and two U.S. Marshals to recover wages owed to a group of construction workers in Maryland. In July 2012, PBF Fellow Jonathan Harris accompanied U.S. Marshals dressed in bulletproof vests to execute on a judgment against a construction contractor that had not paid its workers and

and more efficient way for workers to collect their unpaid wages.

The answer came in April 2013, when the Maryland legislature passed a bill Jonathan drafted in 2012 that is the strongest wage lien law in the country and takes effect in October. Called the Unpaid Wage Lien Act, it makes it easier for workers to collect unpaid wages by allowing them to record a lien on their employer’s property. Best of all, workers won’t have to file a lawsuit to begin the process, and if the employer doesn’t respond to the worker’s notice of wages owed within thirty days, the lien will automatically take hold.

Jonathan drafted the bill and lobbied for it as a Skadden Fellow at the Public Justice Center in Baltimore, Maryland. **“I am happy for my former clients who have fought so hard to recover their hard-earned money. The Act will be a useful tool in the fight against the wage theft epidemic that will help many workers in Maryland,”** said **Jonathan**. He watched the passage of the bill from Mississippi, where he is a law clerk to the Honorable James E. Graves, Jr. of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, and an adjunct professor of law at Mississippi College School of Law.

“To learn about the proud and innovative history of the United Steelworkers and have an opportunity to assist with some of the most difficult pension and health care issues helped me to understand labor and employment law from a strategic and insider perspective.”

Nikhil Shimpi, *PBF’06*,
Trial Lawyer, NLRB Region 2, Manhattan, NY

Sacramento, CA, and law clerk for the Office of the General Counsel at the international headquarters for UNITE HERE! “My Peggy Browning Fellowship was at UNITE in New York,” said Autumn. **“I had the opportunity to work with a group of smart, progressive attorneys and staff who let me take part in a variety of projects. It was a lot of fun and confirmed for me that I wanted to practice and work in labor.”**

ignored a lawsuit. Within two hours, the contractor produced a certified check for the full amount of the judgment and attorneys’ fees, so as to avoid having a locksmith change the locks and close the office. Despite the happy ending, the experience demonstrated the need for a quicker

“Through my Fellowship, I was able to intern at my current job and experience first-hand what it would be like to work at the NLRB. Without a doubt, PBF opened many opportunities that enabled me to land a job that I truly enjoy.”

Elvira Pereda, *PBF’09*, Field Attorney,
NLRB Region 20, San Francisco, CA

Philadelphia Awards Reception

Kicks Off 2013

On a stormy evening in March, the Philadelphia union faithful came together to recognize 2 Pennsylvania labor leaders, Rick Bloomingdale, President, Pennsylvania AFL-CIO and Samuel Staten, Jr., Business Manager, LIUNA Local 332, for their commitment to the workers of the Greater Philadelphia area. Held at Penns Landing Caterers, Rick addressed the current state of the labor movement in Pennsylvania in his remarks while accepting the Peggy Browning Award. Ryan Boyer, Business Manager of the Laborers District Council Metro Philadelphia and Vicinity, accepted the award for Sam Staten, Jr. who was not able to attend.

2011 Peggy Browning Fellow, John J. Mulholland, Jr., spoke passionately about his Summer Fellowship experience. "My experience with the United Mine Workers was phenomenal! I was immediately put to work and was able to work on projects that

significantly impacted our membership. I was treated as an integral part of the legal department and had the opportunity to work with other departments on a regular basis."

Our thanks go to the Awardees, Host Committee and reception sponsors for another very successful evening!



Rick Bloomingdale, President, PA AFL-CIO receiving the Peggy Browning Award at the reception in March with Mary Anne Moffa, PBF's Executive Director, Joe Lurie, PBF President and Liz McElroy, Secretary Treasurer, Philadelphia Council AFL-CIO

The Peggy Browning Award is presented annually to social justice champions who have distinguished themselves with passion and dedication to the rights and needs of workers.

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Supports All Programs

The Leadership Circle affords donors the opportunity to make one annual leadership-level gift per year that would support all PBF's programs. Members are recognized at all annual receptions, at the National Conference, in our newsletters and on our website. To join the Leadership Circle, contact Rhonda Gelman Kelley, CFRE, Director of Development and Marketing at 267-273-7994 or rkelley@peggybrowningfund.org.

The Peggy Browning Fund gratefully acknowledges the following annual Leadership Circle donors:

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New York Awards Reception

Record-Breaking Once Again!

This year's Awards Reception in New York City was held on April 8 in the auditorium of SEIU 32BJ. With record numbers of guests and funds raised, this annual event has become our most successful to date and will help us to address the number of unions and worker centers asking for Peggy Browning Fellows in the future!

Recognized for their passion and dedication to the rights and needs of workers with the Peggy Browning Award were Héctor Figueroa, President, SEIU 32BJ, Susan Davis, Esq. of Cohen, Weiss & Simon LLP and Richard Adelman, Esq., arbitrator and mediator. Each spoke eloquently of the need to attract and cultivate young members to the labor movement.

Peggy Browning alumna Wendy LaManque, *PBF'12*, addressed the group stating, "My work with CWA District 1 last summer gave me real responsibility and meaningful insight into what it means to be an advocate for workers. I learned that not every grievance is going to be a winner and every worker who feels powerless deserves to have someone that's going to fight like hell for them, win or lose. I am now more confident that my place is here using my law degree to help advance the labor movement!"

On behalf of this year's Peggy Browning Fellows, we thank our New York Awardees, Host Committee members and sponsors for helping us to advance the Fellowship Program.



2013 Peggy Browning Awardees Dick Adelman, Esq., arbitrator, Susan Davis, Esq. of Cohen, Weiss & Simon and Héctor Figueroa, President, SEIU 32BJ.

SAVE THE DATES!

2013 National Law Students Workers' Rights Conference

October 25 & 26

The Conference Center at the Maritime Institute
Linthicum Heights, Maryland

Keynote Speaker

Craig Becker, Esq.
General Counsel, AFL-CIO

For More Information contact
Mary Anne Moffa, Executive Director,
at 267-273-7992

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UAW Region 9A

Peggy Browning Fund

Educating Law Students on the Rights and Needs of Workers

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www.peggybrowningfund.org

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Is Presented To:



James Boland

*President, International Union of
Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers*



Nancy Schiffer

*Retired Associate General Counsel,
AFL-CIO*

Monday, June 24, 2013

AFL-CIO Lobby & Gompers Room

815 Sixteenth Street • Washington, DC 20006

5:30 p.m. – Networking, Open Bar and Buffet

7:15 p.m. – Award Presentations

To register, visit www.peggybrowningfund.org/events.

For more information, call 267-273-7994.

October 25 **Fellows Wrap-Up Workshop**

October 25 & 26 **National Law Students
Workers' Rights Conference**

The Conference Center at the Maritime Institute
Linthicum Heights, MD

November 7 **Chicago Peggy Browning Awards Reception**

James M. Sweeney, President-Business Manager
IUOE Local 150

Karen G. J. Lewis, President
Chicago Teachers Union

J. Peter Dowd, Esq., Dowd, Bloch & Bennett

To see profiles of all 2013
Summer Fellows visit our website at
www.peggybrowningfund.org/news/newsletters