

# The Peggy Browning Fund Newsletter

*Educating Law Students On The Rights And Needs Of Workers*

Winter 2003

Joseph Lurie, President

Mary Anne Moffa, Executive Director

## 2003 Fellowship Program

This past summer 26 Peggy Browning Fellows worked for the National Labor Relations Board, labor unions and public interest organizations helping working people. Working people need the law students' energy, talent and creativity now more than ever. Work experience is a necessary part of every law student's education.

At the end of each summer, the Fellows gather together for a feedback session. Here are some of the students' comments:

◆ **Brian Bradford, AFSCME:** "Working for AFSCME played a big part in helping me to realize that this is the area of the law that I am passionate about. When I go back to law school, I will be more focused than I was as a 2L, and my career path is a lot clearer than it was before the summer."

◆ **Robert Hicks, NLRB:** "My direct supervisor, Judge Shamwell, was fabulous as a mentor and overseer. I am most thankful for your program because it allowed me to experience what a career in labor law would be like and gave me an opportunity to meet several important contacts."

◆ **William Igoe, UAW:** "The program at the UAW met and exceeded my expectations and inspired me to want to continue to pursue a career representing



*Front: Jennifer Kaufman, Joann Putnam, Amanda Lawrence. Back: Rob Hicks, George Faraday, Paul Schimmel, Malene Prince, Tim Fadgen, Celine Mizrahi, Brian Bradford. Photo by MAM.*

working people and their union."

◆ **Jennifer Kauffman, NLRB:** "I was very happy with my experience ... In fact, it exceeded my expectations. I thought the fellowship would be a chance for me to put the concepts I had learned in my labor law class to practice and to confirm my desire to go

into labor law when I graduate and that I would become familiar with the specialized issues in the Contempt Litigation branch. This was all true."

◆ **Amanda Lawrence, SMWIA:** "The opportunity to work for the Sheet Metal Workers International Association provided me with a wonderful experience. The objective of my internship with the SMWIA was to have a chance to apply the labor law knowledge I had gained so far in law school, as well as to gain new insights on current worker issues through hands on research. My internship met all these expectations and beyond. I was especially pleased when I met other professional women who were part of the labor movement. The informal gathering arranged by Mary Anne Moffa also provided a wonderful forum for networking with future colleagues and the opportunity to simply meet some other great people who are interested in

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## 2003 Fellowship Program (continued)

aiding the labor movement. My Peggy Browning fellowship with SMWIA has convinced me that I have made the right decision to pursue a career as a union side labor lawyer.”

◆ **Cory Mason, Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union, San Francisco, CA:** “My experience with the Local ended with a remarkable event on the second to the last day of work when I attended an all day meeting of approximately 300 of Local 2’s rank and file leadership. It was a powerful and inspiring day, which included surprise guest speakers Jessie Jackson and Governor Gray Davis. The day ended in a demonstration to support another union and its efforts to achieve a contract with a group of San Francisco hotels. It was a perfect way to tie together all the experiences I had over the summer and to demonstrate how a strong local union, with dedicated members and staff, has the power to improve working conditions.”

◆ **James McGregor, UNITE:** “The fellowship was an excellent summer experience. My major goal for this summer’s fellowship was to finally put the legal knowledge I gained in law school into the service of the working class. Before this summer’s fellowship, I had worked for the National Labor Relations Board; and I really wanted to get out of that neutral role and into the position of advocacy for ordinary people.”

◆ **Linelle Mogado, Greater Boston Legal Services:** “I love the mentorship relationships I developed with the seven lawyers at the Employment Unit. The atmosphere was conducive to developing and pursuing my areas of interest with those who specialize in those areas. I really got to figure out the type of lawyer I want to be, the type of colleagues I want to have, the clients I want to serve, and the work I want to do. This is no small feat – many things challenge your goals and ambitions in law school. Being a Fellow helped me get grounded in the ideals that brought me to law school in the first place.”



*2003 Summer Fellows Martin Milz, Tamika Edwards, and Elana Olitsky. Photo by MAM.*

◆ **Joann Putnam, SEIU:** “My ten weeks at SEIU provided me with invaluable professional and personal growth. I view my Peggy Browning fellowship as forming the foundation of what I hope will be a long and successful career as a labor lawyer.

### Upcoming Events - Mark Your Calendars

**Wednesday, January 28, 2004** – Reception honoring **Marvin Miller**, the founding Executive Director of the Major League Baseball Players Association (MLBPA) at the Sheraton New York Hotel.

**Saturday, March 6, 2004** - Our Sixth Annual Dinner Dance in Philadelphia, PA, honoring **Wendell W. Young, III**, President, UFCW Local 1776.

Each of these individuals has inspired countless others to advocate for workers’ rights. Join us now as we honor their work and raise funds to support the next generation of activist lawyers. To attend or support any of these events, contact Mary Anne Moffa at 215-665-6815 or at [mmoffa@peggybrowningfund.org](mailto:mmoffa@peggybrowningfund.org).

# Fifth Annual National Law Students' Workers' Rights Conference

On October 3, 2003, 125 law students from 48 law schools attended The Peggy Browning Fund's Fifth Annual Conference. There was excitement as the students attended workshops, networked and were inspired by lawyers who are presently fighting for the rights of working people.

The conference began with a dinner and plenary session where students heard from Sharon Dietrich,

the managing attorney for Employment and Public Benefits at Community Legal Services in Philadelphia. Sharon's background is in employment law, particularly Welfare to Work. Sharon explained her work in dealing with hundreds of cases that CLS handles each year.

Sharon's talk was an inspiration to students like Annie Mortland of the University of Oregon Law School who told us: "I would love to hear more from Sharon Dietrich. Her speech was inspirational to me. Her career is the ideal path I would like to emulate. Thanks for the great conference and enabling me to attend."

The keynote speech was given by Terry Meginniss, a union side labor lawyer practicing in New York City. Terry explained that representing unions was "intellectually challenging, engaging and stimulating." He went on to say:

"What's unique about the practice of labor law, and, in particular, the practice of labor law for unions, is that winning litigation of any particular issue, whatever the source of rights that are at stake, is not an end in itself – it is only a part of the union's program, only a piece of the union's effort



*Top: Student Marva Deskins with Professor Homer LaRue. Far Left: Sharon Dietrich. Center: facilitator Nancy Schiffer. Below: Facilitator Kathy Krieger. Photos by MAM.*



to move its agenda. Litigation and 'lawyering' for unions are successful if they build the organization and move it forward. We see this as a social movement of which we are a

part, and a small part. Put another way, we succeed not because we won a case or an arbitration, but when the win makes the organization stronger – the measure of that is whether the members of the organization feel a greater commitment to the union's program and act on that commitment."

After the keynote address, students attended the following workshops: Organizing Challenges and Real World Strategies; International Labor Rights in the Global Economy; The Rewards of Labor Law Practice; and The Changing Face and Roles of the Labor Movement in the New Economy. The feedback from the law students at the end of conference confirmed its success.

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## Where Are They Now?

**B. Maria Baldrige**, 2001 PBF Fellow, has been working at the Legal Aid Society, Juvenile Rights Division, in Jamaica, NY, since early summer. She represents children in child protective cases and she will soon start handling juvenile delinquency cases in a public defender capacity.

**Katy Dunn**, 2002 PBF Fellow, has an internship at the AFL-CIO General Counsel's office in Washington, DC this winter. Katy is currently in her third year at Northeastern University and is trying very hard to find a union-side labor law job.

**Mark Floyd**, 1999 PBF Fellow on whom we reported in our last issue, has passed the bar in Florida and is working at Mierzwa and Associates, P.A., practicing traditional union-side labor law and representing public sector unions.

**Leah Ford**, 2000 PBF Fellow, has been a staff attorney for the International Brotherhood of Teamsters in Washington, DC, for more than a year. She loves working as in-house counsel for a large international union.

**Lance Geren**, 1999 PBF Fellow, began working with the firm of Freedman and Lorry, P.C., in Philadelphia, PA, this past year. He is admitted to practice law in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, as well as the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

**Leon Pasker**, 1998 PBF Fellow, has been with the Solicitor's Office of the U.S. Department of Labor in Philadelphia, PA, for the past three years. Leon's office handles civil enforcement for all agencies within the Department of Labor. Capitalizing on his accounting degree, Leon handles mostly ERISA work, spending much of his time in Federal Administrative Court and often in District Court as well. After graduating from Temple University School of Law, Leon clerked for a year in Superior Court in New Jersey before joining the Department of Labor.

If you are a former PBF Fellow, or if you know how to reach any Fellows with whom we may have lost contact, let us hear from you!