Peggy Browning Fund

Educating Law Students on the Rights and Needs of Workers

The Road To A Peggy Browning Fellowship

The Next Generation

What motivates today's law student to prepare for a career in labor law? The answers are as varied as the budding labor lawyers themselves. For several of this year's Peggy Browning Fellows, motivation is their own experience in the workforce. Several have been union members, and many have seen firsthand the need for the protection unions and strong legal representation can bring.

Joseph Michaels, PBF '12, comes from a deeply pro-union family in Lansing, MI, where the labor movement and workers' rights were regular topics of discussion around the dinner table. On one occasion, after his family returned home from walking the picket line with his great-grandfather's union brothers and sisters at the Detroit News and Free Press, he and his four siblings decided to call a strike against his parents demanding to receive an allowance for their chores. He was just nine years old.

Joe graduated with a bachelor's degree in economics and labor studies from Wayne University in Detroit, where he was active in the campus chapter of United Students Against Sweatshops. He completed an Organizing Institute Apprenticeship with the AFL-CIO and spent three years as a union organizer for the the Civil Service Employees Association in New York State, where he worked on campaigns to help

SHOW SONIE

"If we have any chance of a fair and just society for all workers, it will come from labor unions that are committed to the effective representation of their members, and the organizing of non-union workers. I hope I am able to help in that effort this summer."

-Joseph Michaels, PBF '12

workers in a variety of industries build their first unions. Currently, Joe is attending the University of Michigan Law School, where he is the Workers' Rights Coordinator for the Michigan Immigration and Labor Law Association. He will work with the United Auto Workers in Detroit this summer.

After living in Nigeria for her first eight years, Oluwatosin Fadarey, PBF '12, and her family moved to Lawrence, MA. When she returned ten years later, she was struck by the fact that every house she visited had a 'house helper', a child or preteen from rural

parts of Nigeria whose parents sent them to live with wealthier families who provide food, shelter and an education in exchange for domestic services. The plight of child workers in Nigeria was disturbing to her.

Upon graduation from Brown University, Tosin took a position with LEAP Africa, a non-profit organization in Lagos that provides leadership training to Nigerian youth and equips them with the tools necessary to implement service projects in their communities. "Despite Nigeria's shortcomings, both my colleagues and program participants remained

(Continued on page 5)



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.

2012 Summer Fellows

Continue to Impress Us



Joseph Lurie, President

Greetings to all our Fellows, Alumni, Mentors, Supporters and Friends:

As I look at how far we've come, I recognize many factors have contributed to our success:

- Peggy Browning's passion for workers' rights
- a focus on our mission and vision
- a generous community of supporters and donors
- a dedicated staff, and most essentially
- a group of bright law students who are passionate about working for economic and social justice, and have chosen to dedicate their professional future to this noble calling.

The zeal of our fellows to work for workers' rights is the cornerstone of our strength. This summer we have placed 70 Fellows, from approximately 525 applicants, working in unions, workers' centers, Department of Labor, NLRB, nonprofit organizations and union-side law firms. I have reviewed

their letters, essays and applications to discover the source of their passion and commitment. The most common thread is their experience with the labor movement prior to law school. As you read their stories, in the center of this newsletter, you will see that some grew up in union households, some experienced the struggles of their parents for decent working conditions and some had personal experience having worked for unions or workers' centers.

Your support for our Summer Fellowship Program is essential for each Fellowship Class. To help us continue to meet the need for additional fellowships each year, please consider making a gift using the envelope attached in the center of this newsletter. My thanks to you for your continued interest.

In solidarity.



P.S. Also, thank you for passing this newsletter on to someone who doesn't know about us!

Alumni Connections

Networking in the DC Area

In January, the Peggy Browning Alumni Connections Washington, DC Chapter came together for their first activity - an informal meeting and happy hour. Organized by committee members Michael Artz, PBF 2000 and PBF Board Secretary, and Andi DiBitetto, PBF '06, the group first was introduced to Sean Sansiveri, Esq., of the NFL Players Association in the AFSCME offices, then

regrouped next door for the happy hour. Sean spoke about the life of an NFL union attorney, the NFL lockout experience and the new NFL collective bargaining agreement. Planning is underway for additional programs for the DC Chapter and to organize chapters in other cities around the country. Watch for announcements of upcoming activities at www.peggybrowningfund.org.

Facts About the Peggy Browning Fund

- **70** Summer Fellowships in 2012 from a pool of over 525 applicants
- **126** Participating Law Schools
- 17 Union Mentors
- 15 Worker Center Mentor Orgs
- 8 Government Agency Mentor Orgs
- 8 Union-Side Law Firm Mentors
- 424 Alumni (Not including 2012 Fellows)
- 101 Alumni Working in Workers' Rights Labor Law
- 20 Alumni Working in Public Interest Law

Regional Workshop Pilot Project

Bringing Labor Law Students Together

Over 40 Pittsburgh area law students attended the first Peggy Browning Fund Regional Workshop at the University of Pittsburgh Law School on February 11. Their goal was to learn from an esteemed panel what it's like to practice law on behalf of workers and their unions, or at a neutral government agency regulating the workplace. Students from law schools at Duquesne, Penn State, Pitt and West Virginia were invited to participate, followed by lunch and networking. In addition to learning about working for economic justice, the panel shared their insights on how to obtain a job within the labor community. They also learned about the impact the Peggy Browning Fellowship Program has had in preparing today's best candidates to become tomorrow's advocates.

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The panel included: **Joseph Baniszewski**, Deputy Assistant General Counsel, National Labor Relations Board; **Richard Brean**, General Counsel, USW, and PBF Board member; **Amanda Bundick**, *PBF '12* (Pitt Law '13); **Ellen Dannin**, Fannie Weiss Distinguished Faculty Scholar and Professor of Law, Penn State Dickinson School of Law; **Ellen Doyle**,

Partner, Stember Feinstein Doyle Payne & Kravec, Pittsburgh; Amanda Fisher, Asst. General Counsel, USW, Pittsburgh; Joyce Goldstein, Partner, Goldstein & Gragel, Cleveland; Mike Healey, Partner, Healey & Hornack, Pittsburgh; Anne Lofaso, Associate Dean and Professor of Law, WVU College of Law.

2012 Peggy Browning Fellows

Varied Backgrounds - Similar Passion



Daniela Conde, New Orleans Workers' Center for Racial Justice

The daughter of Mexican immigrants, Daniela was motivated to attend law school by the conditions in her community and her family's socioeconomic struggles. Originally from Anaheim, CA, she received her bachelor's from UCLA and is a second-year student at the University of San Francisco School of Law.

Daniela has clerked at La Raza Centro Legal, helping represent lowwage immigrant Latino workers in discrimination and wage and hour cases and investigating local policy solutions to the issue of wage theft. She has also advocated for welfare recipients to address civil legal issues preventing them from obtaining or maintaining employment while clerking at Bay Area Legal Aid. Currently, Daniela is participating in USF's Employment Law Clinic and representing federal employees in Merit System Protection Board appeals, as well as low-wage workers in wage and hour claims, before the California Labor Commissioner.

"I firmly believe that the law must be combined with grassroots organizing, public policy and advocacy in order to achieve social change. I want to learn from the struggles and victories in order to become a strong community lawyer and advocate for the working poor."

- Daniela Conde, PBF '12



David Feinstein, Service Employees' International Union, Washington, DC

David Feinstein, a first-year student at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, graduated from Pomona College in Claremont, CA, and received his Master's in Education from Fordham University. As a teacher in the New York City Public Schools, David became a member of the United Federation of Teachers and wrestled with the effects community issues such as crime, immigration and the availability of jobs and healthcare had on his ability to teach in the classroom.

"Together we took a deep collective breath, and assigned tasks to be performed for the next meeting. The deep breath was necessary, because even the slightest whiff of this activity could mean summary dismissal."

- David Feinstein, PBF '12

He then worked in a number of restaurants, where he helped in efforts to organize workers. He says of his experience, "The working population of even very high-end New York City restaurants is still largely immigrant, undocumented, lacking proficiency in English, and completely disorganized. Wage and hour violations are commonplace; unprotected employees are underpaid or otherwise exploited; and there is an abysmal level of job security."

David hopes his Peggy Browning experience will help him to use his

skills and experience to advocate on behalf of working groups, such as day laborers and restaurant workers, and play a part in helping them develop practices of self-advocacy.



Ariana
Washington,
American
Federation of
Government
Employees,
Washington, DC

Having interned for the Department of Veterans Affairs in the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation in Des Moines, IA, in 2007, Ariana's work with veterans returning from active duty who were facing employment discrimination or problems obtaining employment piqued her interest in labor and employment law. Currently a second-year student at Emory School of Law, she earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees from Hampton University in Virginia and spent each summer as an intern gaining valuable experience in union organizing with AFSCME in Michigan; working with the Catholic Campaign for Human Development in New Haven, CT; and with the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights in Atlanta, GA.

"I am a strong advocate for unions and believe they can provide true and lasting benefits for both employers and employees. I hope that my work this summer will allow me to help create a healthier workplace."

- Ariana Washington, PBF '12



Paul Jung, Los Angeles Black Worker Center Project

Paul is a proud Angeleno and a son of Korean immigrants who settled in this country in the late 1970's. His interest in economic and social justice advocacy developed from his family's experiences in Los Angeles. His mother was a garment worker for nearly 10 years, which opened his eyes to the harsh experiences of many working-class immigrants and another family member who fell victim to the juvenile justice system.

Paul received his bachelor's degree from Bowdoin College in Brunswick, ME, where he interned at the Youth Law Center as a Preston Public Interest Fellow. He participated in the California Capitol Fellowship Program, twice participated in the AmeriCorps Public Allies Program in Los Angeles, and engaged various Los Angeles communities through his work as a Policy Fellow at the Advancement Project in California.

At the UCLA School of Law, Paul continues to engage in workers' and immigrants' rights issues through

his participation in various El Centro Legal Clinics and student organizations such as the Los Angeles Public Interest Law Journal, along with his volunteer activities in local Asian American bar associations.



Elizabeth Wiseman, Schwarzwald McNair & Fusco, LLP, Cleveland, OH

A second-year law student at Ohio State University, Moritz College of Law, Liz was led to law school through her experience working as a low-level manual laborer in a textbook warehouse in Nebraska. After earning a bachelor's degree from Ohio State University and a master's in flute performance from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln, she took a temporary position in the

"The experience of witnessing so many of my friends lose their jobs over the course of four hours made me realize why I wanted to go to law school -- to provide a fundamental fairness to employees and working families through adequate legal representation."

-Elizabeth Wiseman, PBF '12

textbook warehouse, which lasted longer than she ever expected.

When the stock markets began to fall in 2008, her employer eliminated over one-third of her department in a single day. Although she was spared, this experience had a powerful impact.

Liz's Summer Fellowship is with a union-side labor law firm serving a variety of local and international unions. She looks forward to developing her skills in union advocacy.

Alumni Highlights

Co-Authors Address Labor Dilemma

What's clear in today's economic climate is that the labor movement is at a crossroads. It's facing a dilemma: in order to increase labor's political power, unions must grow in number, but in order to grow in number,

the movement must overcome the obstacles employers put in the way of workers' efforts to organize - obstacles not currently protected by law.

To address the issue, authors Richard D. Kahlenberg and Moshe Marvit, PBF '09, have written a book published by Century Foundation entitled, Why Labor Organizing Should be a Civil Right. In it they support the premise that the solution is to establish the right to organize as a civil right. The book analyzes the failure of current laws to protect workers' rights to

organize and lays out a strategy to address this failure through amending the 1964 Civil Rights Act to include union activity as a protected civil right.

Moshe Marvit, who graduated from Chicago-Kent College of Law in 2010, served as a Peggy Browning Fellow in the summer of 2009 at the National Labor Relations Board, Division of Judges, in San Francisco, CA. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in labor history at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA.

The Road To A Peggy Browning Fellowship (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

committed to fighting injustice. Their conviction motivated me and reinforced my desire to become a legal advocate."

Now a second-year student at Vanderbilt Law School, Tosin will be working at the International Brotherhood of Teamsters in Washington, DC. She plans to be an advocate for workers' rights both in the US and in Nigeria. "A Peggy Browning Fellowship will expose me to the complexities of fighting workplace injustice, and prepare me to become an advocate for Workplace Reform in Nigeria. It is an ideal next step in accomplishing my goal as an agent of change."

Oluwatosin Fadarey, PBF '12



Philadelphia Reception Provides Forum

2012 Fellows Networking Early

On March 7th, the Philadelphia labor community, friends and associates came together to recognize social justice champions Henry Nicholas, President, 1199C, National Union of Hospital and Healthcare Employees and Ed Mooney, International Vice President of CWA District 2-13. Held in the Sheet Metal Workers Local 19 hall, over 180 guests enjoyed a buffet dinner and had the opportunity to meet several of this year's Peggy Browning Fellows and alumni. Andrew Kelser, PBF '11, spoke about his summer fellowship experience and last year's PBF workers' rights conference.

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Leadership Circle 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 events, at the National Conference, in our newsletter and on our website. To join the Leadership Circle, contact Rhonda Gelman Kelley, CFRE at 267-273-7994, Director of Development and Marketing or rkelley@peggybrowningfund.org.

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

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New York Reception

Largest in our History

Over 300 guests were present to observe Denis Hughes, Past President of the New York State AFL-CIO; Vincent Pitta, Esq., Managing Partner of Pitta & Giblin, LLP and Martin Scheinman, Esq., arbitrator and mediator receive the Peggy Browning Award, for their dedication to the rights and needs of workers, on April 3rd at the United Federation of Teachers.

The total dollars raised from this reception was the largest of any event since the Peggy Browning

Fund began coordinating events in Chicago, New York, Philadelphia and Washington, DC over its 15 year history. Former and 2012 Peggy Browning Fellows were in attendance and Sonya Mehta, PBF '11 and Jason Jendrewski, PBF '09 spoke of their experiences. The proceeds from all our annual receptions directly fund each year's Fellowship Program and a portion of the National Law Students Workers' Rights Conference in October.



New Brand, New Website

Made Possible with Grant

Over the last year, the Peggy Browning Fund updated its branding and redesigned its website to stay current with today's technology trends. With a grant from The Philadelphia Foundation, we partnered with Lyquix, a Philadelphia technology consulting firm for this project. Now, students can completely apply online for a fellowship or the national conference; donors can more easily make online gifts, register to sponsor or register to attend our receptions; and Peggy

Browning Fellows can communicate via the Fellows Network.

The Philadelphia Foundation grant was made possible due to the generosity of the Effie May Beckett Fund, The Philadelphia Foundation Education Fund, the Henry Griffith and Anna Griffith Keasbey Fund and the John B. Gest Memorial Fund. We are grateful to The Philadelphia Foundation for assisting us in updating our brand and gaining the ability to better utilize today's technology.

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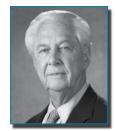
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Tuesday, June 26, 2012
AFL-CIO Lobby & Gompers Room
815 Sixteenth Street
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5:30 p.m. – Networking, Open Bar and Buffet 7:15 p.m. – Award Presentations

To Register, visit www.peggybrowningfund.org/events. For more information, call 267-273-7994.

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars

Watch our website for details.

October 3 - San Francisco, CA Peggy Browning Awards Reception

Art Pulaski, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, California Labor Federation

Duane B. Beeson, Esq., Beeson, Tayer & Bodine

October 12 - Fellows Wrap-Up Workshop

October 12 – 13 - National Law Students Workers' Rights Conference