

The Peggy Browning Fund

Educating Law Students on the Rights and Needs of Workers

Joseph Lurie, President

Mary Anne Moffa, Executive Director

Peggy Browning Fellows Fired Up By Current Events

Attacks On Workers' Rights Energize Today's Student Advocates

In a year when most American workers have lost ground in wages, seen their benefit programs significantly reduced, or had their pension funds stolen, we have also witnessed open attacks on public sector workers which threaten to reverse all the gains of organized labor in the last century.

These circumstances have served as a regular reminder of the need for strong, passionate advocates for justice. This has not been lost on this year's Peggy Browning Fellows.

Sarah Arendt, PBF 2011, is a second-year student at the University of Chicago Law School. She shared, "I grew up listening to my father and grandfather tell stories about working in their factory in Green Bay, Wisconsin in 100 degree temperatures and paper dust covering everything. That paper dust was mixed with asbestos and my grandfather is now suffering from over 30 years of exposure."

Sarah's mother is a member of the administrative staff at the University of Wisconsin at Green Bay. "She has lost a large percentage of her pension fund and is scared that people hold her responsible for the state's budget shortfall," Sarah remarked.



Sarah will be working at Communication Workers of America in Washington, DC this summer. "I'm thrilled to be heading to CWA, especially now. I've had heated debates about workers' rights with my friends. They see it in the abstract. I see it first-hand through my family. Defending unions and workers' rights has taken on a new meaning."

Gregory Ainsley, PBF 2011, is a second-year student at the University of Wisconsin Law School and witnessed many of the rallies at the state capitol. "One of the most striking things about the protests that I observed was the amount of involvement from members of the community who were not especially supportive of unionization, but were angered with the deceptive way collective bargaining rights were being destroyed for state workers – first claiming it was to solve budgetary problems, then disavowing that position. I also think that, because the union publicly offered concessions in basically all areas early on, many citizens in Wisconsin viewed the Governor as overreaching and disingenuous." Gregory was awarded a Peggy Browning Fellowship at the firm Levy Ratner, PC in New York City.

Liz Shuler To Headline PBF Conference

AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Will Be Keynote Speaker

Stimulating. **Thought-provoking.** Full of practical information. That's how students rated our conference last year. With Liz Shuler as our keynote speaker, we're sure that this year's National Law Students Workers' Rights Conference will live up to that standard and beyond!

In a year when significantly reducing or eliminating workers' rights has become the expedient way to balance state budgets, Liz has been in the trenches speaking out at rallies across the country. She is deeply committed to the Trumka Team's call to renew labor's appeal to younger people. "We have to change the

perception of unions," she says.

Elizabeth "Liz" Shuler became the first woman, and the youngest officer, ever elected Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL-CIO when she was voted into office by acclamation in 2009. She rose through the ranks from her first union position in Local 125 of the IBEW in Portland, Oregon, where she used her experience as a political activist and union organizer to educate and mobilize her membership



Photo by: Chris Salata

Wisconsin Protest

and to lead them in becoming active politically and legislatively.

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"We need to figure out how to make unions 'cool' again and reconnect with people where they live."

- Liz Shuler
AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer



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.

Attacks on the Labor Movement Jeopardize Workers



PB Fellows Needed More Than Ever! *Joseph Lurie, President*

Greetings to our Fellows, Friends and Supporters:

The American working class, middle class and labor movement are all under attack. In these trying times, The Peggy Browning Fund is more relevant than ever.

Lay-offs, pay cuts, loss of benefits and enormous unemployment have put great pressure on unions and workers rights' organizations to help those in need.

They are calling on The Peggy Browning Fund for Summer Fellows to help protect their needy constituencies. We are doing our best to satisfy these requests. Your support has enabled us to increase the number of Fellows this year to 57, which is the highest number of law students we have placed in our 15-year history.

Even so, there continue to be unions and workers rights' organizations on our

waiting list. They are looking for Peggy Browning Fellows because our Fellows have more than a passing interest in the labor movement. Most of these 1st and 2nd year law students come to us already having a labor background and a real passion for working for economic and social justice. They can hit the ground running!

This demand acknowledges the success of our program. It also demonstrates that now, more than ever before, we need to raise the funds necessary to place more students in summer positions. Help us to help them by going to our website and making a gift or by sending us your contribution in the attached envelope in the center of this newsletter.

In solidarity,



PBF Names New Board Chair

Dennis P. Walsh, Esq. Accepts New Role

In December of 2010, The Peggy Browning Fund Board of Directors named Dennis P. Walsh, Esq. as the new Board Chair in 2011 for a two-year term. This is a role that has not previously existed separate from Joe Lurie's role as President. Prior to this appointment, Dennis served as Board Secretary and was a member of our original Board of Directors. Joe will continue in his role as President.

Dennis began his legal career in 1984 as an attorney with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) in the Office of Representation Appeals, following his graduation cum laude from Cornell Law School where he was Editor of the Law Review. In 1987, he accepted a position as an attorney at the Philadelphia firm of Spear, Wilderman, Borish, Endy, Browning & Spear and worked with Margaret A. (Peggy) Browning.

He returned to the NLRB in 1994 as Chief Counsel to Member Browning

following her recess appointment by President Clinton and until her untimely death in 1997.

Today, Mr. Walsh is Deputy General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority; he was also appointed by President Obama and confirmed by the Senate as Chairman of the Special Panel on Appeals. Dennis is an Adjunct Professor of Labor Law at Howard University School of Law.



Life After Graduation: PBF Alumni Find Jobs in Labor Movement

Advocacy Continues After Fellowship Ends

Walakewon Blegay, 2010 Peggy Browning Fellow at the AFL-CIO, graduated this spring from the American University Washington College of Law. She recently accepted a position in the NLRB Honors Program, on the Board side.

Jim Conigliaro, Jr. has been working for District 15 IAMAW in Brooklyn since he graduated from St. John's University School of Law last year. He was a Peggy Browning Fellow in 2009 at CWA District One in New York City.



After her 2008 Peggy Browning Fellowship at the United Mine Workers and graduation from Howard University School of Law the following year, **Danielle Davis** secured a two-year fellowship with Mehri & Skalet in Washington, DC. When she finishes there in late July she'll move to New Orleans, where she'll be clerking for a U.S. Magistrate Judge with the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

After several years with Change to Win, 2003 PBF Fellow **George**

Faraday began a new job in January as a Senior Policy Analyst within the Laborers International Union's Organizing Department.

January also brought changes for **Jason Jendrewski**, 2009 PBF Fellow at the Screen Actors Guild, who reports that he landed a full-time position as a Labor Relations Trial Examiner with the New York City Office of Collective Bargaining.



Holly Miller now works in the Legal Department of the California Nurses Department and says she couldn't be happier. Holly was a PBF Fellow in 2007, when she worked at the National Employment Law Project in Oakland, CA.

After her PBF Fellowship in 2003 at Greater Boston Legal Services, **Linelle Mogado** worked as a labor lawyer in California for several years before moving to Toronto, Canada. She is currently a Policy Advisor with the Ontario Ministry of Labour, working on occupational

health and safety regulations.

Michelle Owen, 2009 PBF Fellow at the United Mine Workers, passed the bar and started a new job at the Illinois Labor Relations Board as an Administrative Law Judge/Staff Counsel. Michelle emailed us to, in her words, "thank everyone at The Peggy Browning Fund for giving me a wonderful opportunity. I learned a great deal as a fellow that will continue to aid me in my career."

After taking the Massachusetts bar exam, 2007 PBF Fellow **Uri Strauss** worked for a civil rights organization, the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, and then was a law fellow at SEIU, providing legal support to new organizing campaigns. Uri is proud that these campaigns have brought thousands of employees of private hospitals into the union, mostly from the South and Southwest. He recently began working for the American Friends Service Committee of Western Massachusetts.



New Alumni Outreach Committee Planned

To Be Launched This Fall

A new outreach committee, *Alumni Connections*, is in the works, with a dual charge - providing a peer network to those alumni who have remained connected to The PBF and finding those with whom we have lost contact after law school. **Michael L. Artz, Esq., PBF 2000**, Associate General Counsel at AFSCME and PBF Board member, will chair this new

committee that will initially be comprised of alumni and others who are currently serving on the PBF Advisory Board. With over 375 alumni, this committee will be creating ways to regularly communicate and keep our alumni connected. Look for announcements of their plans and activities on our website and in the fall newsletter.

If you are a former Peggy Browning Fellow and would like to participate on this committee, please contact Rhonda Gelman Kelley, CFRE, Director of Development and Marketing at rkelly@peggybrowningfund.org

Will Workers Have an Advocate When They Need One? Peggy Browning Fellows Well-Prepared for the Fight!

Labor Movement's Investment in these Students Will Reap Rewards



Raul Garcia

A Magna Cum Laude graduate of Villanova University in Pennsylvania, **Raul Garcia, American University College of Law, 2013**, will be working at the Laborers' International Union of North America in Washington, DC this summer. Having witnessed his mother's struggle with an employment-related injury, Raul made the effort to learn more about the labor movement, during his undergraduate years, by working as a translator for the Farm Workers' Clinic at Villanova and interning at the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, an affiliate group of the AFL-CIO. "I was encouraged to attend law school when I saw how important the law is to the labor movement. I have seen how laws can make things better for workers, but also how they can weaken workers' rights. I plan a long career using the law to further develop the labor movement, something this opportunity will inspire me to do well."

After completing her undergraduate work at the George Washington University in 2009, **Ivie Guobadia, Emory University School of Law, 2012**, was a community organizer for the North West Bronx Community and Clergy Association. "I was exposed to labor and housing issues that are faced by everyday people in one of the Bronx's poorest neighborhoods." Funded by the Center of Community Change, this

organizing experience also provided a classroom component where Ivie learned about social change and labor organizing. "That experience ignited my passion for labor organizing." After completing her PB Fellowship at the law firm of Outten & Golden, LLP, she will work at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's Legal Hearings Unit in Atlanta in the fall.



Ivie Guobadia

Christopher Hu, Stanford University School of Law, 2013, while a student at Brown University, was an active member of the Brown Student Labor Alliance which organizes around workers' rights issues on campus and in the broader Providence, Rhode Island community. Often working in tandem with the Rhode Island SEIU and UNITE HERE locals, Christopher engaged in a variety of activities, such as rallying student support for unjustly fired Brown food service workers and helping to win a



Christopher Hu

Justice for Janitors campaign to ensure that Brown's university apparel is not made in sweat shop conditions. "I am excited to have the opportunity at the labor firm of Gilbert & Sackman in Los Angeles, to be exposed to their contributions to the Los Angeles car wash workers' organizing campaign."

An avid supporter of public interest work, **Shontia Lowe, Michigan State University College of Law, 2013**, complemented her undergraduate experience at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts with a two-year commitment, through Teach for America, as a Spanish teacher at the Andrew Jackson Academy in District Heights, Maryland. Shontia worked tirelessly on behalf of her students and further developed her interpersonal skills. "My teaching experiences have strengthened my work ethic, especially when faced with unexpected circumstances." As she is an immigrant to the U.S., Shontia will make good use of her significant skills in Spanish communication advocating for immigrants at CASA de Maryland this summer.



Saerom Park

Prior to law school, **Saerom Park, New York University School of Law, 2012**, worked at Change to Win organizing Wal-Mart workers in Virginia and Maryland for the 2008 election and as

a labor organizer for the United Food and Commercial Workers. During the last year, she has worked as a student advocate for the NYU Immigration Rights Clinic. “This experience has given me the ability to create and begin the implementation of litigation to challenge the use of immigration detainees in New York City.” Saerom was awarded a PB Fellowship with Service Employees International Union in Washington, DC. “Working with unions or worker advocacy groups to empower workers, particularly low-income and immigrant workers, is my long-term goal. I believe that working with SEIU will help me gain the skills and practical tools I need to become an effective legal advocate for the most vulnerable workers.”

Jessica Rutter, University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law, 2013, arrived at law school from Duke University with an extensive labor rights background. While a national organizer with United Students Against Sweatshops in Washington, DC, she gained experience working with both domestic and international labor campaigns. Following that experience, Jessica worked with the Solidarity



Jessica Rutter

Center in Cambodia in strike support, strategic research and campaign training and at the Writers Guild of America West as an organizer working with reality TV show writers as the Guild prepared for a major strike. More recently, Jessica became a strategic campaigner with the Teamsters working on organizing and contract campaigns. “I am committed to pursuing a career in the service of the labor movement. My PB Fellowship at the National Employment Labor Project will help me to develop the hands-on legal skills to contribute more effectively.”

A graduate of Bates College, **Jesse Stewart, University of Maine Law**

School, 2012, spent nearly four years in El Salvador where he coordinated grassroots advocacy campaigns or ‘sister city’ relationships between Salvadoran communities and cities in the United States. Most recently, he spent the summer in Zacatecas, Mexico, working at a legal services organization dedicated to improving the working conditions of Mexican migrant workers in the U.S. “I’m interested in gaining further experience in all phases of pre-litigation and litigation work, and improving my legal research and writing skills. The National Labor Relations Board PB Fellowship is an ideal fit.”



Jesse Stewart

YOU can make it possible for more students to become workers’ rights advocates!
Simply make a gift using the attached envelope or contact Rhonda Gelman Kelley, CFRE,
Director of Development, at 267-273-7994

Liz Shuler To Headline PBF Conference

Continued from page 1

The 2011 National Law Students Workers’ Rights Conference is scheduled for October 14 & 15 at the National Labor College in Silver Spring, MD. We expect that over 225 law students, mentors, guest speakers and workshop facilitators from across the country will attend.

Since many of the students in attendance will have participated in collective bargaining protests in their own communities, we’re sure they’ll add well-informed viewpoints to the conference, which will kick off on Friday evening with a panel discussion, **The Battle Over Collective**

Bargaining: Wisconsin & Beyond. Video from many of the state actions making news around the country will enhance the presentation.



Liz Shuler

Back again this year, after last year’s debut, is the very popular pre-conference Congressional Staff Briefing. Students attending will learn how to get a job doing

labor law on Capitol Hill; what the job description entails and the differences between being a labor lawyer for a Member of Congress versus for a Committee. Labor lawyers for key House and Senate committees, as well as labor law attorneys for individual Members of Congress, will brief students about their work on Capitol Hill.

For more information on the National Law Students Workers’ Rights Conference, contact Mary Anne Moffa, Executive Director, at 267-273-7992 or go to our website.

2011 New York Reception A Success

In Spite of Inclement Weather

On the eve of a major snowstorm in New York City, 178 guests and supporters braved the elements to recognize three distinctive leaders of the labor movement. At Shanker Hall in the UFT Building, **Gary LaBarbera**, President of the Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York; **Terry Meginniss, Esq.**, Partner at Gladstein, Reif & Meginniss; and **George Nicolau, Esq.**, arbitrator and mediator received The Peggy Browning Lifetime Achievement Award.

Jacqueline Tekyi, PBF'10, spoke of her Summer Fellowship experience working in the General Counsel's office at Communication Workers of America. She shared, "I think I can speak on behalf of all the Fellows when I say that this summer's experience was invaluable, working with attorneys who love what they do, who are committed to the rights of workers, who are happy

to come into the workplace everyday to make a difference in the lives of working class Americans." Jackie stressed that her Peggy Browning Fellowship afforded her the opportunity to gain practical experience working in the field, writing, researching and making a difference. During the past two school years Jackie interned at the New York union-side law firm Levy Ratner, P.C. She recently accepted a full-time position there



Photo by: Pat Arnow

"The Peggy Browning Fund is an inspiration to all of us. I think that it's so important that we continue to support it...because we need dedicated, talented people to represent us union officers and our members"

- Gary LaBarbera

President, Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York

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At the CLEAN Carwash Campaign ...

Low-Wage Service Workers Gain an Advocate

Her Bi-Lingual Skills Will Be a Plus

With an impressive background in organizing campaigns with SEIU and UNITE HERE, working at the AFL-CIO Solidarity Center in Mexico City, and fluency in Spanish (particularly in labor terminology), **Meredith Garry** looks like a perfect fit for our newest fellowship at the CLEAN Carwash Campaign in Los Angeles, CA.

Initiated in 2007, the CLEAN Carwash Campaign arose out of efforts by CLEAN (Community-Labor-Environmental Action Network), a diverse coalition of labor, immigrant rights, community, religious, and student organizations which supports the organizing efforts of carwash workers who are fighting for better wages, working conditions, and dignity and respect on the job.

To sustain and expand their efforts, the coalition sought to create a partnership with the labor movement.

Carwash workers formed the Carwash Workers Organizing Committee of the United Steelworkers (CWOC-USW) to organize and win union recognition by carwash employers. The CLEAN Carwash Campaign assists workers with filing wage and hour claims or suits, defending workers' rights to organize with the National Labor Relations Board, and other legal actions.

Meredith will serve as a link between the campaign's attorneys, carwash workers, and union organizers and will communicate information about violations to attorneys and enforcement agencies. Her language skills will be put to good use in developing materials and trainings to educate workers and organizers about legal rights.

Funding for this fellowship is provided by an endowment grant from the Steelworkers Charitable and Educational Organization.

"I strongly believe that organizing the low wage service sector is not only essential to improving the lives of individual workers and fairly compensating them for their labor, but also to creating a just society on national and international levels."

- Meredith Garry 1L, University of Michigan Law School

Honorees Unfazed by Attacks on Labor

Collective Bargaining Protests Spark Passions

On March 3rd, The Peggy Browning Fund presented awards to **David R. Fillman**, Executive Director of AFSCME Council 13 and **Thomas P. Gallo**, Business Manager for the Steamfitters Local Union 420, for their leadership at the Sheet Metal Workers Union Hall in Philadelphia. An underlying tension was felt throughout the room as assaults on collective bargaining threaten workers around the country.

Dave Fillman proclaimed, "Educating law students on the rights and needs of workers is needed now more than ever before. The national flavor has been to denigrate and demean public employees. Yet, ninety miles from here on September 11, it was firemen, police and EMT's that were running into those twin towers. That's what public sector work is all about."

"We've had collective bargaining for over 100 years," Tom Gallo stressed. "We take it for granted until someone tries to take it away. If you break one of us, you break us all." He noted that, "The Peggy Browning Fund (will help us) to fight to our last breath to keep workers' rights, benefits and pensions."



Photo by: Harvey Finkle

Kamil Robakiewicz, PBF'10, stated, "I would like to thank all of you for allowing me to enter the ranks of the legal battle for the American worker. I am proud to say that I was a Peggy Browning Fellow last summer at the Department of Labor's Office of the Solicitor right here in Philadelphia." He noted, "A lot of my law school classmates think that the American worker's legal rights are all about Title VII, maybe the FLSA, and that's really where it ends. My phenomenal experience last summer will inform every decision that I make as a lawyer, and for that I thank all of you."

"We've been here before, we survived and I think they've woken up a sleeping giant"

- Tom Gallo

Business Manager, Steamfitters Local Union 420

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The Peggy Browning Fund

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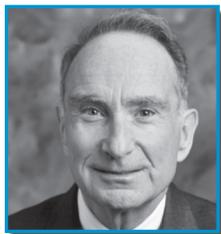
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Thursday, June 2, 2011
AFL-CIO

815 Sixteenth Street, NW • Washington, DC

**5:30 pm Networking,
Cocktails & Buffet**

6:30 pm Awards Presentation

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

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars

Watch our website for details.

October 14 – 15 – National Law Students Workers' Rights Conference, at the National Labor College in Silver Spring, MD.

November 10 – Chicago Peggy Browning Awards Reception, honoring: Henry Tamarin, President, Unite Here Local 1

January, 2012 – New York Peggy Browning Awards Reception, honoring: Denis M. Hughes, President, New York State AFL-CIO, Vincent F. Pitta, Esq., Managing Partner, Pitta & Giblin LLC, Martin Scheinman, Esq., Arbitrator & Mediator