



THE INTAKE

Your Contributions to Justice at Work
Issue 15, Volume 2 (Spring 2025)

**Solidarity Across the State =>
Strength and Safety in Numbers**

JUSTICE AT
WORK

You brought workers from diverse industries and backgrounds together

Over 300 participants from worker centers across the state gathered at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 103 on March 15th for the 3rd Annual Building Justice Worker Forum. This year, the Building Justice Committee (convened by the Brazilian Worker Center and Justice at Work) welcomed the Brazilian Women's Group, Brockton Workers Alliance, Chinese Progressive Association, Community Labor United, MassCOSH, Matahari Women Workers' Center in planning the event. We hosted participants in a safe space and offered interpretation in six languages. *(Continued...)*

Advocates from the MIRA Coalition and the National Domestic Workers Alliance broke down executive orders and recent federal policy changes, and immigrant workers highlighted the need for solidarity and mutual support in the face of threats by federal politicians. Representatives from the City of Boston vowed to foster safe workplaces and communities for all. In breakout discussions by language, workers documented their concerns and strategies, which they then reported out to the larger audience, providing the coalition that organized the event priorities moving forward.

“It feels good to do this in partnership with a broad coalition of worker organizations that are all watching out for each other during this moment.”

Pietra Adami, Brazilian Women's Group Workers' Rights Organizer and co-MC of the Worker Forum

You allowed us to harness the spirit of solidarity from the day-long assembly to mobilize allies to join Building Justice and the Brazilian Women's Group for a direct action supporting workers experiencing wage theft at a restaurant in Allston. A delegation accompanied three workers to deliver a demand letter drafted by our legal team detailing the wages owed to each worker, while others marched outside demanding justice in four different languages. Stay tuned for opportunities to join workers in solidarity and updates in this wage theft case.

Workers Win Despite Company Going Out of Business

You enable co-enforcement to work like it should

When restaurants close, too often their kitchen and wait staff are never paid their final wages. This was the case for three workers who sought the help of the Chinese Progressive Association (CPA) to get several weeks of wages and overtime pay. Recognizing the complexity of the case and the need for legal help, CPA partnered with Justice at Work. With your support, we finalized a formal letter addressed to the restaurant owners, outlining the workers' claims and the legal basis for their demands. We also shared our investigation of the owners' assets, providing CPA with greater leverage. Meanwhile, CPA brought further pressure by filing complaints with the The Fair Labor Division, which was poised to launch an investigation into the matter if the restaurant owners failed to respond to the demand letter. Co-enforcement, whereby government labor agencies, worker centers, and legal advocacy organizations collaborate to enforce workplace standards, worked its magic. The restaurant owners ultimately paid \$36,000 in back wages to the three employees. When savvy worker centers like CPA, legal advocacy groups, and responsive government agencies each play their role, workers demand workplace dignity.



“Although it was difficult, with support from Justice at Work and the AGO, we recovered the stolen wages. This was my first case--the process strengthened my belief in the power of collective action, and I was inspired by the workers' determination.”

- Ruolin Wu, CPA Workers' Rights Organizer



"It's great to see how Justice at Work's vision for LFWC has grown. We've loved teaming up to create a unique space that brings together a regional worker center movement while also involving folks like us--legal allies from around the country." - Sheila Maddali, GLOW Executive Director

National Interest for Regional Convening as Trump Takes Office

You made possible our networking and strategizing in this moment

Eleven days after inauguration, we hosted our 2nd Law for Worker Centers (LFWC) convening, providing attorneys, organizers and worker leaders the opportunity to network, peer learn, and strategize under a rapidly changing workers' rights landscape. We kicked off with a skit involving a group of restaurant workers supported by the fictitious MA Worker Center meeting for the first time with a lawyer. This grounded the two-day convening in the real world opportunities and challenges of a law and organizing approach and led us into timely discussions about organizing to prepare for workplace immigration enforcement and protecting nonprofit organizations from attacks and investigations. For this 2nd LFWC, which attracted twice as many people as our initial convening, the National Employment Law Project joined us and our prior co-convenor, Grassroots Law and Organizing for Workers, to organize the event.

A key topic at LFWC was labor-based immigration relief in support of organizing, including how to support the thousands of recipients of deferred action who supported labor investigations under the Biden Administration. Building off of ideas from LFWC, and with your support, we organized a clinic for over 40 workers with pending deferred action applications. We provided a KYR training involving roleplays with ICE agents and provided workers with a personalized letter to provide to law enforcement that cites their eligibility for deferred action and lists Justice at Work as their attorney. The final piece of the clinic included a full immigration intake and a consultation with an immigration attorney in order to identify any longer-term immigration relief for which the worker might be able to apply.

You strengthen us as we remain nimble in supporting workers through the changes of the new federal administration. Amplify your voice and our work by making a gift at [jatwork.org/donate](https://www.jatwork.org/donate) or via the reply card.



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This moment calls the worker center movement to be the most powerful version of ourselves. It was inspiring to learn from other law and organizing models, including base-building and membership structures.

Janae Choquette, Staff Attorney Fair Work Center, Seattle, WA

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We were happy and confident [at the clinic] because we saw the Justice at Work team. The community also liked that everything was well organized—we all worked together and were able to serve everyone!

Sergio Mejía, Pescando Justicia Coordinator, Centro Comunitario de Trabajadores

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14TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION & SOLIDARITY AWARDS

Thursday, June 5th

6pm - 10pm

Ironworkers Local 7

195 Old Colony Ave., South Boston

Join us for a night of community and celebration!

Purchase your ticket at
<https://jatwork.org/14th-annual/>
or use the enclosed RSVP card

Contact crab@jatwork.org or
(617) 371-8952 for more info

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