



THE INTAKE

Your Contributions to Justice at Work
Issue 17, Volume 1 (Fall 2026)

JUSTICE AT
WORK

Immigration Law Firm is Held Accountable for Wage Theft

We will not back down from supporting workers, regardless of industry

In August 2024, Giovanna Campos, an administrative employee at a Natick-based immigration law firm, turned to the Building Justice Committee of the Brazilian Worker Center (BWC) after being denied overtime pay. Despite working long hours on administrative duties and office maintenance, she and her colleagues were misclassified as exempt "paralegals" and denied overtime. (Continued...)

Giovanna and four coworkers sought community support from BWC and legal representation from Justice at Work in order to hold the firm accountable. As BWC Executive Director Lenita Reason noted, "This case proves labor violations can happen anywhere—even in the legal field—and shows that when workers stand together with community support, justice is within reach." Fifteen months after filing suit in Massachusetts Superior Court, alongside co-counsel Ortiz & Moeslinger, P.C., Justice at Work secured a \$1.1 million settlement for a class of 227 affected workers. Your support makes it possible to stand with brave workers like Giovanna who challenge exploitation across industries.



"The approval of this settlement represents not only justice for those of us who came forward, but also recognition of everyone who supported us throughout this journey. I feel proud, relieved, and grateful that we were able to stand up for ourselves and for others who may face similar situations."

-Giovanna Campos, Brazilian Worker Center



Brazilians Fare Better in "Worker World Cup"

5th Annual Soccer and Solidarity



Manoel Messias (2nd from left, front row), the winning captain: "The event brings together all of the organizations—like an annual reunion. We see old friends and make new ones. I remain involved because it feels like a family."



Our 1st annual youth match saw workers' children take center stage. Thanks to a donation from the City of Boston, everyone took home a brand new soccer ball.



"The tournament was an incredible way to meet people and come together to raise awareness and support communities. As a 1st generation Colombian-American woman, it was an amazing experience to play for a cause that unites immigrant workers, labor advocates, and local organizations through soccer."

- Jacqueline Vanegas (4th from the right, City Hall Strikers)



Soccer and Solidarity is hosted by Building Justice, a joint effort between Justice at Work and BWC. We were thrilled to be reunited with Lidia Ferreira (far right), who bolstered our team from 2024-2025, supporting workers in applying for deferred action during the Biden Administration.

One Year In and the Impact is Obvious

Your Support Transforms Our Legal Capacity



Claudia teaching seafood processing workers about labor-based immigration relief



A tireless learner dedicated to building our partners' capacity, Keally (back row, 5th from right) attended a Training for Change multi-day workshop.

Attorneys Keally Cieslik and Claudia Torres joined Justice at Work on the same day last September and both hit the ground running. Together, they have organized legal clinics for over 260 members of the Centro Comunitario de Trabajadores in New Bedford, exploring possibilities for immigration relief based on workplace exploitation. Following a surge in local ICE enforcement this September, Keally has engaged with detainees, their families, and their attorneys to ensure workers' labor histories are leveraged as potential grounds for relief from deportation. In one case involving a worker who co-led efforts against workplace harassment at a tire recycling plant, Keally pressed authorities to certify him for a victim-based visa to help him remain with his wife and kids. Keally has also provided

a variety of workers' rights law and organizing support. She won approval for a \$350,000 class action settlement in federal court, handing out checks to 52 workers in July. In our Summer Institute for Organizers, Keally taught 18 staff members from 11 worker organizations how to lawfully pressure secondary targets, like the large corporate customers of abusive employers.

Meanwhile, Claudia has built mightily on our efforts to stem gender-based workplace discrimination and violence. Working with co-counsel, Pontikes Law, LLC, and Fair Work, PC, she recently secured significant settlements for a worker sexually assaulted on the job and another targeted for her identity. Like Keally, Claudia has inspired us with her dedication to our clients and her immersion in the work as she has already attended two national conferences and led her first deposition last month. Building on her commitment to support the rights and dignity of sex workers, Claudia introduced Justice at Work to the Boston Sex Workers and Allies Collective, a group we've now served by drafting a survey for their members and a local policy order to stop arbitrary arrests and prosecution of sex workers, their customers and service providers who assist them, which was passed in early October.

With your support, Keally and Claudia are enhancing our capacity to realize our vision that all people can find their voice and power on the job to ensure fair pay, safety, and dignity.

"Claudia's care, kindness, and respect allows for beautiful trust with workers and organizers, and that is really inspiring. With Keally, I feel lucky to have a legal partner who also brings an organizing lens to the table. She understands that our work goes beyond individual cases, building power and fighting for justice." - Pietra Adami, Brazilian Women's Group

Dance for Justice Takes a Year Off

Keep on Moving

In order to focus on supporting communities of workers in low-paying jobs who remain under attack during the Trump Administration, we will not be hosting our 15th Dance for Justice this fall. We plan to revamp the event next year, to continue to build community and resource our work through music and dance.

In the meantime, our team still plans to attend a dance social together this fall, so keep an eye out and come join us.

Staff

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have us at their back
as they demand justice