

GLOBAL LABOR JUSTICE -
INTERNATIONAL LABOR RIGHTS FORUM

PRESENTS

2020

*Labor Rights Defenders
Awards Ceremony*

— ◆ — ONLINE — ◆ —

OCTOBER 1, 2020
6:00 - 7:30 P.M. EST

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INTERNATIONAL
LABOR RIGHTS
FORUM



Letter from JJ Rosenbaum

GLJ-ILRF Executive Director



Thank you for joining in celebration of our 2020 Labor Rights Defenders- our first awards ceremony as the merged Global Labor Justice- International Labor Rights Forum (GLJ-ILRF). Together, we will re-confirm and build upon our commitment to advance labor rights and worker power in the global economy.

It is our honor to celebrate these Awardees-- Sharan Burrow, General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC); Dr. Lorretta Johnson, Secretary Treasurer Emeritus of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT); the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU); and the General Agricultural Workers' Union (GAWU) of TUC Ghana -- all of whom lead by example in organizing and expanding a diverse, dynamic, and powerful labor movement.

As you will hear today, each Awardee shows what it takes to link efforts with sister movements organizing for racial, gender, migrant and climate justice and to build the power of working people in opposition to corporate greed and growing anti-democratic, racist, and xenophobic forces.

Our Awardees exemplify what it means to live into existence the beautiful future that working people and communities deserve. They are joyful and powerful. They are graceful and fierce. They are forward looking. Their work honors the sacrifice and struggle by those who came before us, not by promising a return to the past, but by fighting for a transformative future.

Together, we will also celebrate shared values including solidarity with all working people across traditional sectors, employment categories, and migration statuses. We will uplift our shared commitment to center labor rights within broader struggles for human rights and a just approach to foreign policy, trade, and development aid. And we will honor the importance of expanding the spaces for voice and leadership of those workers who have historically been excluded from labor rights and worker organizations.

Working people around the world are increasingly divided by borders and economic forces. At the same time, their destinies are linked through transnational labor markets and labor migration, global production networks, and capital investments that are not restricted by the same borders. Even as the pandemic forces governments, suppliers, multinationals, and investors to reorganize global value chain capacity and restructure labor and financial markets, we see opportunities now for unity when the collective vision and power of working people is more urgent than ever.

Our goal tonight is to recognize, learn from, and be inspired by people's movements that pry open the cracks in neoliberal models of racialized capitalism. Through their strategic strikes, uprisings, and expanded organizing in the public, private, and informal sector, our honorees are showing what it takes to turn the tide.

JJ Rosenbaum
Executive Director

2020 AWARDS PROGRAM

This event offers Spanish interpretation: +1 (202) 808-0026

WELCOME

Erica Smiley, Jobs with Justice, GLJ-ILRF Board Member
JJ Rosenbaum, GLJ-ILRF Executive Director

AWARDS

LABOR RIGHTS DEFENDERS AWARDS

Introduction and Presentation by Stuart Appelbaum, President of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU) and Executive Vice-President of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW)

Acceptance by Sharan Burrow, General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

Introduction and Presentation by Liz Shuler, Secretary Treasurer of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)

Acceptance by Dr. Lorretta Johnson, Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT)

Introduction and Presentation by Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis, Co-Chair of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival with the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber and Director of the Kairos Center for Religions, Rights, and Social Justice at Union Theological Seminary

Acceptance by Christel Williams-Hayes, Recording Secretary, on behalf of the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU)

Introduction and Presentation by Sue Longley, General Secretary for the International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco, and Allied Workers Association

Acceptance by Andrews Tagoe, Deputy General Secretary, on behalf of the General Agricultural Workers' Union (GAWU) TUC Ghana

RECOGNITION OF DEDICATED SERVICE AND ENDURING COMMITMENT

Presentation by Lance Compa, Visiting Professor of Law, University of San Diego

Acceptance by Judy Gearhart, ILRF Executive Director years 2011-2020

RECOGNIZING SPONSORS

Cam Duncan, Host Committee Member

RECOMMITMENT TO MISSION

Anannya Bhattacharjee, International Coordinator of Asia Floor Wage Alliance
and GLF-ILRF Board Member

CLOSING REMARKS

JJ Rosenbaum, GLJ-ILRF Executive Director
Pablo Alvarado, Founder and Co-executive Director of the National Day Labor Organizing Network (NDLON) and GLF-ILRF Board Member

Music by Jornaleros Del Norte



2020

*Labor Rights
Defenders
Awardees*



Sharan Burrow

General Secretary of the
International Trade Union
Confederation

SHARAN BURROW was elected general secretary of the ITUC at its Second World Congress in Vancouver, June 2010. Prior to this, she held the position of ITUC President since its Founding Congress in Vienna (November 2006) and the position of ICFTU President since its 18th World Congress in Miyazaki (November 2004). She is the first woman to have held any of these positions.

Sharan was born in 1954 in Warren, a small town in western NSW, into a family with a long history of involvement in unions and the struggle to improve the lives of working people. Her great, great grandfather participated in the shearers' strike of 1891/92, becoming one of the first organisers for the Australian Workers' Union and standing for the state seat of Cobar for the fledgling Australian Labor Party in 1896. Sharan studied teaching at the University of NSW in 1976 and began her teaching career in high schools around country NSW. She became an organiser for the NSW Teachers' Federation, based in Bathurst, and was President of the Bathurst Trades and Labour Council during the 1980s. Sharan was elected Senior Vice-President of the NSW Teachers' Federation and became President of the Australian Education Union (AEU) in 1992. She represented the AEU on the ACTU Executive through the 1990s. Sharan was previously Vice-President of Education International from 1995 to 2000. Education International is the international organisation of education unions representing 24 million members worldwide.

In May 2000, Sharan Burrow became the second woman to be elected President of the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU). In October 2000, Sharan also became the first woman to be elected President of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions Asia Pacific Region Organisation. She has also served as a member of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation and a member of the Stakeholder Council of the Global Reporting Initiative. As part of her ILO responsibilities, Sharan chaired the Workers' Group of the Sub-Committee on Multinational Enterprises. Sharan Burrow was re-elected General Secretary of the ITUC at its 3rd Congress, in Berlin, May 2014 and at its 4th Congress, in Copenhagen, December 2018.



Dr. Lorretta Johnson

Secretary-Treasurer of
the American Federation
of Teachers

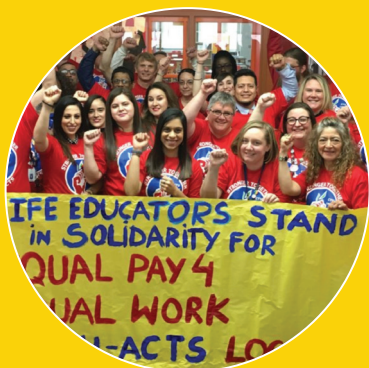
DR. LORRETTA JOHNSON was elected secretary treasurer of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), AFL-CIO in July 2011. In that same year, she was elected both the treasurer of the American Federation of Teachers Educational Foundation and chair of the AFT Benefit Trust. Before becoming AFT secretary-treasurer, Lorretta was the union's executive vice president (2008 to 2011).

Lorretta served as AFT vice president for 30 years and chaired the AFT Paraprofessionals and School-Related Personnel program and policy council for 32 years. She served as president of the Baltimore Teachers Union's paraprofessional chapter for 35 years and as president of AFT-Maryland for 17 years. In 2014, Lorretta chaired the AFT Racial Equity Task Force, leading the AFT to become the first public sector union in modern history to issue a substantive, action-oriented report on achieving racial equity in America: "Reclaiming the Promise of Racial Equity in Education, Economics and Our Criminal Justice System."

Lorretta started her career in 1966 as a teacher's aide in a Baltimore elementary school, where she earned \$2.25 an hour with no benefits. To improve the work situation of paraprofessionals like herself, she organized the Baltimore Teachers Union (BTU). In 1970, she negotiated the union's first contract, which was notable for its grievance procedure. This experience laid the foundation for Lorretta's union activism. Her efforts have helped the BTU become a lobbying and political force in City Hall, the Baltimore community, and the Maryland state Legislature. Over the years, she has served as chief negotiator for many other teacher and paraprofessional contracts as well.

Lorretta has held, and currently holds, several leadership positions outside the AFT. She is a vice president of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)—a federation representing 55 national and international unions, including the AFT—and serves on the boards of the AFL-CIO's Transportation Trades Department, Union Label and Service Trades Department, and Union Privilege organization. She is a trustee for the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO. She also serves on the board of directors of the Municipal Employees Credit Union of Baltimore. She is also the assistant treasurer for the Baltimore County chapter of the NAACP.

Lorretta's political activism led her to receive the 2018 Economy/Labor Service Award from the Baltimore County Democratic Party. She was also honored as 2005 Labor Leader of the Year by the Maryland Democratic Party. Ebony magazine also featured her in an article titled "Blacks of Influence in Unions." Lorretta has received numerous honors and awards, including an honorary doctorate from Coppin State, a community service award from the United Way, and a volunteer service award from the Maryland State AFL-CIO. She also received the Albert Shanker PSRP Pioneer Award and a service award from the Baltimore Teachers Union's paraprofessional chapter.



The Chicago Teachers Union

THE CHICAGO TEACHERS UNION (CTU) is an organization of educators dedicated to advancing and promoting quality public education, improving teaching and learning conditions, and protecting members' rights.

During the Great Depression, Chicago teacher's pay was inconsistent. These militant teachers took to the streets protesting the City and the Loop bankers who owed taxes that could have been used for salaries and schools. Joined by students, there were demonstrations of up to 25,000 people. In 1937, competing teacher unions finally united to form a single strong group, the Chicago Teachers Union. CTU won recognition in 1966 as the official bargaining agent for Chicago teachers, negotiating its first contract in 1967. In the following decades, there were seven strikes which improved both learning and working conditions. Gains included limits on class size, preparation periods, and money for classroom supplies.

During the civil rights movement, African American students in Chicago walked out protesting overcrowding and discrimination in education, especially against the segregated temporary trailers known as 'Willis Wagons' (named after the superintendent of Chicago's schools). In 1968, a series of wildcat strikes led by Black teachers protested racist hiring, promotion, and certification policies. Their courageous actions helped CTU begin to incorporate educational equity into its demands. During this period, Jacqueline Vaughn became an officer of the Union, later rising to become its first African American President.

Following a lengthy strike in 1987, the Illinois School Reform Act was passed. This Act established Local School Councils but also seriously weakened teacher tenure. In 1995, a new law called the Amendatory Act was used to further weaken the voices of both educators and parents by limiting subjects for union bargaining, and gave control of CPS schools to the mayor, including the power to appoint the Board of Education. More recently, neoliberal attacks and educational 'reform' have led to massive increases in charter schools, privatization, school closings, and over-testing. In 2010, CTU members spoke loudly, electing a new leadership. Under President Karen Lewis, the Union has launched major fights against school closings, radical disparities in school resources, and other issues harming students. In 2012, CTU organized the first strike in 25 years. Today, the union continues its work to achieve what the city and schools, its members and students deserve with massive community and parental support.

The CTU recognizes that when we fight these attacks together, we win, which is why in 2018 its membership voted to stand united with charter school teachers and staff in one local, fighting for the benefit of all of Chicago's educators and students.



The General Agricultural Workers' Union (GAWU) of TUC Ghana

(GAWU) is an affiliate of the Trades Union Congress Ghana, and is the largest trade union organizing farmers and agricultural workers in the country. GAWU is affiliated to the IUF Global Union Federation.

The General Agricultural Workers' Union (GAWU) of TUC was established through a merger of five smaller agricultural trade unions: Agricultural Divisions Workers Union (ADWU), Animal Health Workers Union (AHWU), Forestry Division Employees Union (FDEU) and the Produce Inspection Employees Union (FIEU). This took place at a merger conference at New Tafo in the Eastern region on 5th February 1959. Out of this merger conference was born the Union of General Agricultural Workers (UGAW) which was later renamed General Agricultural Workers Union. GAWU now has a membership base of about 10,000 which has been increasing annually. GAWU's mission is to defend and further rights of workers, women and all fundamental human rights through consistent organization of the formal and informal agricultural sector workers.

In its recent history, GAWU has focused on two key issues: advocating for cocoa farmers rights and eliminating child labor through child-centered community development (the latter began in 2007). Their organizing and advocacy strategy is based on two intersectional components: "responsible supply chain management across farming cooperatives in West Africa," and community development. In the cocoa industry, GAWU focuses on protecting both wage earners and non-wage earners in the formal and informal farm industry. In their anti-child labor work (the Child Labor Free Zones [CLFZ] project), GAWU works with 75 communities and 149 farmers in Cote D'Ivoire and Ghana. By the end of 2019, they had impacted 381,000 children in cocoa-growing communities.

RECOGNITION OF DEDICATED SERVICE
AND ENDURING COMMITMENT



*Judy
Gearheart*

JUDY GEARHART is a Visiting Scholar at the School of International Service, American University. From 2011-2020 she was the Executive Director of the International Labor Rights Forum. Judy is also an adjunct professor at Columbia University's School for International and Public Affairs, teaching the course Human Rights and Development Policy since 2002. Previously, Judy coordinated legal research and training programs for workers and trade unions at Social Accountability International, led field research and evaluations for UNICEF and the ILO's International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor in Honduras, and worked for women's rights and democratization with NGOs in Mexico. She has published on women's rights, women popular defenders and leadership building, children's rights, and labor relations. Judy holds a Master of International Affairs from Columbia University.

PRESENTERS

Pablo Alvarado

Pablo Alvarado is the co-executive director of the National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON). As a youth, Pablo Alvarado was raised in a village lacking running water and electricity. Working since he was five years old, Pablo spent several years as a day laborer in the United States, giving him first-hand knowledge of what it means to live and work at the lowest rung of society. This knowledge has stayed with him as he has dedicated his life to reducing the suffering of migrants in the United States. Pablo believes that if you protect those at the bottom of our society all of us are lifted.

Pablo co-founded the Institute of Popular Education of Southern California in 1991, Los Jornaleros del Norte day laborer band in 1996 and the National Day Laborer Organizing Network in 2001. He has won numerous awards and recognitions, including receiving the Next Generation Leadership Fellowship from the Rockefeller Foundation, which recognizes entrepreneurial, risk-taking and fair leaders who seek to develop solutions to major challenges of democracy. In 2004, Pablo was also recognized by the Ford Foundation's "Leadership for a Changing World Program." In August 2005, TIME Magazine named Pablo among the 25 most influential Hispanics in the U.S. and serves as a member of the GLJ-ILRF Board of Directors.

Stuart Appelbaum

Stuart Appelbaum became President of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union on May 1, 1998. He was reelected in 2002, 2006, 2010, 2014 and 2018, and currently serves as an Executive Vice-President of the 1.3 million-member United Food and Commercial Workers International Union.

Stuart previously served as International Secretary-Treasurer, Vice-President, Executive Board Member, Assistant to the President and Coordinator of Special Projects for the RWDSU. Stuart is a Vice-President of the national AFL-CIO and a member of the federation's Executive Council, where he co-chairs the federation's International Affairs Committee. He also currently serves as a vice president of the New York State AFL-CIO, and a member of its Executive Committee. Stuart is a member of the Democratic National Committee where he serves on the DNC's Executive Committee and co-chairs the DNC's Resolutions Committee. He also serves as the Chair of the DNC Labor Council. Stuart served as a delegate to the 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012 and 2016 Democratic National Conventions and an alternate delegate to the 1992 Democratic National Convention. In 2008, he served as a member of the Electoral College as an Obama elector from New York. In 2016, he served as a member of the Electoral College as a Clinton elector from New York. He serves as chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store International Union and Industry Benefit Funds.

Stuart is the President of the Jewish Labor Committee; and he is a member of the Executive Council of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. He is also a board member of the Latino Victory Fund. He is an officer of two global union federations: IUF (International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations) and UNI (Union Network International). Stuart is President of UNI Global Commerce (representing 160 unions and 4 million workers worldwide). He is a Vice President of the Consortium for Worker Education and was appointed by Governor Andrew Cuomo to the Regional Economic Development Council for New York City, where he serves on the Executive Committee. Stuart previously served as Chief House Counsel of the Democratic National Committee. He also previously worked for the Michigan State AFL-CIO and as Executive Assistant to the Secretary of the State of Connecticut.

Stuart is a summa cum laude graduate of Brandeis University, where he was named a Louis Dembitz Brandeis Scholar and was elected a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He graduated with honors from Harvard Law School. He is a member of the bar of the State of Connecticut. Appelbaum resides in New York City.

Anannya Bhattacharjee

Anannya Bhattacharjee, based in India, is the International Coordinator of the Asia Floor Wage Alliance, a global supply chain campaign to demand living wages for garment workers in Asia. She is founder President of Garment and Allied Workers in the northern state of Haryana, one of the largest production hubs in India. She is an Executive Council Member of the New Trade Union Initiative (NTUI). She is also a co-founder of the Society for Labour and Development, a labour rights research and campaign organisation in Delhi. She works closely with the United Workers Congress on international strategy.

Anannya has helped build grassroots labor-related collaboration between North America, Europe, and Asia. Earlier, she helped to organize the World Social Forum IV (in Mumbai, India) and coordinated the participation of over 100 delegates drawn from groups representing labor, women's rights, immigrant rights, students, youth, and indigenous people from the US, Canada, Mexico, and Colombia.

Prior to this work, Anannya was an activist based in the US for over 15 years. Originally from West Bengal, she went to the US as a student, where she led initiatives against US intervention in Central America and participated in the anti-apartheid movement. She lived in New York City from the late 80s, working locally and nationally in the women's movement and the immigrant rights movement. Realizing the lack of progressive organizations in the new and fast growing South Asian immigrant community in the metropolitan area, Anannya helped to start some of the earliest social justice-oriented community

organizations. These include a women's organization, Sakhi for South Asian Women, a domestic workers' organization, and a South Asian magazine of progressive/Left political and cultural analysis, SAMAR. She also helped with the establishment of an Asia Pacific radio show on the local Pacifica station. She worked in various capacities in these organizations - as founding Director, organizer, editorial member, and Board member. Later, as the first Executive Director of CAAAV: Organizing Asian Communities, a pan-Asian immigrant organization, she helped to shape its organizing programs which have included taxi drivers, domestic workers, vendors, and Southeast Asian refugees (amongst others). As a Steering Committee member of the Committee on Women, Population and Environment, she worked with other feminists to promote a transformative women of color agenda within the women's movement in the US.

Anannya worked as Program Officer at the Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program where she was responsible across the US for programs on Global Democracy, Environmental Justice, and Civil and Constitutional Rights. She was a Charles Revson Fellow for the Future of the City of New York in Columbia University and was Activist-in-Residence at the Asian Pacific American Studies Program and Institute at New York University. She has written and spoken widely on social justice issues around the world in a variety of venues and serves as a member of the GLJ-ILRF Board of Directors.

Lance Compa

Lance Compa is a visiting law professor at the University of San Diego. Previously, Lance was a Senior Lecturer at Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations in Ithaca, New York, where he taught U.S. labor law and international labor rights.

Before joining the Cornell faculty in 1997, Lance directed labor law research at the NAFTA Commission for Labor Cooperation. Prior to his 1995 appointment to the commission, Compa taught labor law, employment law, and international labor rights as a Visiting Lecturer at Yale Law School and the Yale School of Management. He also practiced international labor law for unions and human rights organizations in Washington, D.C.

Lance has written widely on trade unions, international labor rights, and other topics for a variety of law reviews, journals of general interest, magazines and newspapers. With colleagues in the Labor Law Group, he is a co-author of *International Labor Law: Cases and Materials on Workers' Rights in the Global Economy* (West Law Group, 2008), a 1000-page textbook for use in law schools and social science graduate programs.

Lance wrote the 2010 Human Rights Watch report *A Strange Case: Violations of Workers' Freedom of Association in the United States by*

European Multinational Corporations. He is also author of the 2005 HRW report *Blood, Sweat, and Fear: Workers' Rights in U.S. Meat and Poultry Plants*, and the 2000 HRW report *Unfair Advantage: Workers' Freedom of Association in the United States under International Human Rights Standards* (republished by Cornell University Press in August 2004 with a new introduction and conclusion).

In addition to his studies of workers' rights in the United States, Lance has conducted workers' rights investigations and reports on Cambodia, Chile, China, Haiti, Guatemala, Mexico, Sri Lanka, and other developing countries. He serves on two federal advisory committees related to his research and teaching: the Department of Labor's National Advisory Committee for Labor Provisions of Free Trade Agreements, and the State Department's Stakeholder Advisory Board on the U.S. National Contact Point for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

After law school and before turning to international labor law practice and teaching, Lance worked for many years as a trade union organizer and negotiator; first for the United Electrical Workers (UE), and then for the Newspaper Guild. While on the UE staff, he was involved in organizing and collective bargaining negotiations in multinational firms like General Electric and Westinghouse, and at many medium and small-sized firms throughout the United States. At the Newspaper Guild, he represented editorial, business, and production employees at the Washington Post, the Baltimore Sun, Agence France-Presse, and other news organizations.

Lance is a founding member and continues to serve on the GLJ-ILRF Board.

Cam Duncan

Cam Duncan joined the ILRF Board in 2007 and served as Board Chair 2011-16. Cam served as the Chief Economist for the House Small Business Committee in the 1980s, then managed a campaign on trade and the environment for Greenpeace International.

Cam taught labor economics at American University, worked for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), and represented union members in North and South America for the global union federation Public Services International and the National Labor College. Cam lives in Tesuque, New Mexico and is currently a trustee of the Northern New Mexico Central Labor Council.

Sue Longley

Sue Longley was elected General Secretary of the IUF in 2017, the first woman to hold the post. Prior to her election, she served as IUF Assistant General Secretary from 2016 and from 1994 as the IUF's International Coordinator for Agriculture and Plantations. Sue earlier worked for the IUF-affiliated Transport and General Workers Union, now Unite the Union, where she held several posts including Editor of the union's journal, the *Landworker*.

The IUF Rules and their commitment to “actively promote the organization of the world's resources in food for the common good” have been one of Sue's key priorities and have shaped how she engages with farmers, global food companies and the UN system in defense of workers' rights and in the battle for a sustainable food system.

Jennifer (JJ) Rosenbaum

Jennifer (JJ) Rosenbaum is the executive director of Global Labor Justice-International Labor Rights Forum. JJ is an attorney, organizer, and human rights strategist advocating for human rights, decent work for all, and fair migration. For over two decades, JJ has used legal, policy, and advocacy strategies to win access to rights and collective power for low-wage workers and advised workers' centers on transnational grassroots collaborations. Global Labor Justice follows a more than ten-year record in the post-Katrina Gulf Coast where JJ created a new model of movement lawyering as the founding legal and policy director for the National Guestworker Alliance and the New Orleans Workers' Center for Racial Justice. JJ has litigated cases before trial and appellate courts and led the human, labor, and migrants rights strategy for campaigns including the Signal workers, who exposed labor trafficking from India to the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina, and the Justice @ Hershey's campaign, where hundreds of foreign students won new regulations for the cultural exchange visa program.

JJ has extensive experience with human rights investigations, legal strategies that build collective power, and advising worker, immigrant, and community organizations. She has testified before Congress, writes and speaks globally, and is regularly consulted by national and global media. She is the co-chair of the American Bar Association's International Labor and Employment Committee and lectures on labor migration and comparative social justice lawyering approaches at Harvard Law School. She previously held a Robina Fellowship at the Orville H. Schell, Jr. Center for International Human Rights with a focus on the intersection of global supply chains and labor migration. JJ is a graduate of the University of Tennessee and the Harvard Law School. Follow her on twitter at @rosenbaumjj.

Liz Shuler

As a graduate of the University of Oregon with a degree in journalism, Elizabeth (Liz) Shuler, like many young people today, pieced together part-time jobs and struggled to find decent work in the early 1990s. Experiencing uncertainty in the economy made her realize that every job is an opportunity to stand up for the underdog. Today, as secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO, the second-highest position in the labor movement, Shuler serves as the chief financial officer of the federation and oversees operations. Shuler is the first woman elected as the federation's secretary-treasurer, holding office since 2009.

Liz grew up in a union household—her father was a power lineman and longtime member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 125 at Portland General Electric and her late mother worked as an estimator in the company's service and design department. A summer job in the payroll department at PGE during college revealed for Shuler how the clerical workers, who were not in the union, didn't have the same bargaining power or respect on the job as their unionized counterparts. In 1993, Liz was hired at Local 125, where she was thrust into a full-fledged campaign to help the clerical workers organize. The organizers on staff at the local were all men, so Liz was assigned to house-calling, since most of the clerical employees were women. That organizing experience showed Liz how important it was to build mobilizing capacity within the local union, particularly for women workers.

During this time, she traveled across the local's multi-state jurisdiction conducting organizing training for the 5,000-member local's 36 different bargaining units; developed a political action committee and member education; formed local networks to bolster the union's legislative power at the state capital in Salem. Liz's work to build member activism within the local union paid off nearly five years later when energy giant Enron tried to muscle electricity deregulation through the Oregon state legislature. Liz worked with a broad-based coalition of labor, community and environmental activists to challenge and ultimately overcome Enron's powerhouse lobbying campaign, a victory that sparked her passion for mobilizing workers to make change even when faced with overwhelming odds.

Liz's outstanding work made the IBEW take notice. Then-President J. J. Barry hired her as an international representative in the union's Political/Legislative Affairs Department in Washington, D.C. She lobbied Congress on such issues as energy and electricity, health care, transportation, apprenticeship and training, pension reform; raised PAC funds; developed political education programs; and mobilized local unions throughout the country. In 2004, she was promoted to assistant to the International President, advising President Ed Hill on program implementation and strategy and overseeing the work and budgeting of 11 departments.

“If we’re going to rebuild the labor movement, we need to start with a commitment to quality work to show that unions make a difference not only for workers and their families, but also for our employer partners,” she says. “Unions add value, and the IBEW is demonstrating how this added value translates to new work opportunities for its members.”

Erica Smiley

Erica Smiley is the executive director of Jobs With Justice. A long-time organizer and movement leader, Smiley has been spearheading strategic organizing and policy interventions for Jobs With Justice for nearly 15 years. Prior to taking up her current position with the organization, Smiley served as organizing director for Jobs With Justice developing campaigns that resulted in transformative changes to how working people organize and are civically engaged at their workplaces and in their communities. During her tenure at Jobs With Justice, Smiley has served in numerous leadership capacities including as campaigns director and as senior field organizer for the southern region.

Serving as one of the lead architects, Smiley has been instrumental in developing the strategic vision of Jobs With Justice to build power for impacted working people through expanding their collective bargaining power as one way to redefine and claim their democracy, while addressing issues of inequality and poverty. She has authored several related articles in the New Labor Forum, Dissent Magazine, the Journal on Class, Race and Corporate Power, and other publications lifting strategic organizing, movement building, direct action, and discourse as core strategies for advancing work in this arena. As one of the few queer black women leaders in the labor movement, Smiley has helped to seed numerous initiatives that position and prioritize the demands and voices of vulnerable working people in socio-economic and political decisions that directly and indirectly impact their individual lives, families, and communities. As a seasoned organizer she has been a vocal advocate for mobilizing our movements to be aligned around a common agenda for working families.

Prior to joining Jobs With Justice, Smiley organized with community groups and unions such as the Tenants and Workers Support Committee (now Tenants and Workers United) in Virginia and SEIU Local 500 in Baltimore. Her career in social and economic justice began in the reproductive justice field, serving as national field director for Choice USA (now United for Reproductive and Gender Equity—URGE) where she received the Young Women of Achievement Award in 2004.

Her passion for advancing innovations that prioritize the South is evident on the boards she serves on today and in the past which includes the board of the Highlander Research and Education Center, based in Tennessee, a catalyst for grassroots organizing and movement building in Appalachia and the South being part of the leadership council of the Workers Defense Project based in Texas. She is on the

board of the SEIU Education and Support Fund, the Workers Lab, and she participates in the Bargaining for the Common Good advisory committee. Smiley was recently named Will Empower Fellow with Rutgers and is currently co-authoring a book on bargaining and working people democracy with Sarita Gupta. She serves as a member of the GLJ-ILRF Board of Directors.

Reverend Dr. Liz Theoharis

The Reverend Dr. Liz Theoharis is Co-Chair of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival with the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II. She is the Director of the Kairos Center for Religions, Rights, and Social Justice at Union Theological Seminary.

She has spent over the past two decades organizing amongst the poor in the United States, working with and advising grassroots organizations with significant victories including the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, the Vermont Workers Center, Domestic Workers United, the National Union of the Homeless and the Kensington Welfare Rights Union.

Liz received her BA in Urban Studies from the University of Pennsylvania; her M.Div. from Union Theological Seminary in 2004 where she was the first William Sloane Coffin Scholar; and her PhD from Union in New Testament and Christian Origins. She has been published in The New York Times, Boston Review, Christian Century, CNN, The Guardian, The Nation, Religion Dispatches, Religion News Service, Sojourners, Time Magazine, and others. Liz was named one of the Politico 50 of "thinkers, doers and visionaries whose ideas are driving politics" in 2018. She gave a TED Talk, "A Call for Moral Revival" with Rev. Dr. William Barber in 2018.

Liz is the author of *Always with Us?: What Jesus Really Said about the Poor* (Eerdmans, 2017). She is co-author of *Revive Us Again: Vision and Action in Moral Organizing* (Beacon, 2018). Liz is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and teaches at Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

Los JORNALEROS DEL NORTE



About Los Jornaleros del Norte (The Day Laborer Band)

The Los Angeles California based Day Laborer Band was created by community members and musicians after an ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) raid that took place in the City of Industry, California in 1995 while a mobile health clinic of the Los Angeles County Health Department was providing HIV and other STD testing to Latino workers and families. Omar Sierra, one of the main vocalists of the band, was present during the raid and decided to write a Corrido (ballad) about the incident.

As time went on, the Day Laborer Band expanded and became a fundamental tool in the organizing effort for day laborers. The band's purpose is to inform, educate, organize, and mobilize migrant day laborers, sensitize the general community about day labor related issues, and denounce the abuses committed against them. The band has performed for day laborers at corners and centers, for local unions, for students, for activists, for teachers, and more.

For More Information on Los Jornaleros Del Norte and to watch for their upcoming 25th Anniversary Album, their website is <http://losjornalerosdelnorte.com>.

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