

LIFTING JUSTICE LIFTING VOICES

**CELEBRATING 106 YEARS OF SERVICE
JUNE 8, 2022 | HYATT REGENCY SAN FRANCISCO**

**LEGAL
AID AT
WORK**

Lieff Cabraser Salutes Legal Aid At Work for Its Unceasing Fight to Uphold and Protect Workers' Rights



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LIFTING JUSTICE LIFTING VOICES

CELEBRATING 106 YEARS OF SERVICE | JUNE 8, 2022 | HYATT REGENCY SAN FRANCISCO

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Dear Colleagues and Friends,
The Board and staff of Legal Aid at Work are pleased to welcome you tonight at our annual event *Lifting Voices, Lifting Justice*.

Together we are marking our organization's 106 years of service as we advocate for equity in the workplace alongside our clients, their families, and communities across the state.

We are delighted that we have been able to come together in person with members of our bench and bar and our allies, partners, colleagues, and friends for this special occasion. It is important that, after these past two years of challenges and struggles, we will recognize the progress we have made to secure justice for all, as we acknowledge the distance we yet have to travel to achieve our shared vision.

As we enter into the third year of the pandemic, we know that there have been fundamental shifts in the way we work and live. We also became acutely aware of the reach and depth of disparities in our society and how the most vulnerable among us suffer extreme economic insecurity, structural racism, and constant affronts to their basic dignity. Our democracy rests on fairness, inclusion, respect, dignity, and the rule of law. We at Legal Aid at Work are set on doing our part to advance these shared core principles in the workplace.

In keeping with our commitment, our program tonight will highlight the inspiring stories of advocates who have worked to create foundational change. Our distinguished speaker David Chiu has fought tirelessly to deliver on the promise that the power of our government must work for the people. Our honoree Keith Wattley has changed lives in his work representing prisoners serving life sentences with the possibility of parole before the parole board. Eddy Zheng, who was one of Keith's clients, will present the Mathew O. Tobriner Public Service Award to him.

We thank you for being in our company this evening and for providing Legal Aid at Work with essential and generous support that sustains our critical work.

Warmly,

Annette P. Carnegie
Chair of the Board of Directors

Joan M. Graff
President

THIS EVENING'S PROGRAM

MUSICAL INVOCATION

Geechi Taylor
Trumpet

WELCOME

Harrison "Buzz" Frahn
Legal Aid at Work Board of Directors

PRESENTATION OF THE CURRENT WORK OF LEGAL AID AT WORK

DeCarol Davis
Director of the Community Legal Services Program

2022 MATHEW O. TOBRINER PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

Keith Wattley
Founder and Director, UnCommon Law

Presented by

Eddy Zheng
President and Founder, New Breath Foundation

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

David Chiu
San Francisco City Attorney

CLOSING REMARKS

Harrison "Buzz" Frahn

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Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein Attorneys at Law

Described by The American Lawyer as "one of the nation's premier plaintiffs firms," Lieff Cabraser is a 90-plus attorney law firm with offices in San Francisco, New York, and Nashville. We have been committed to seeking justice for the injured, victims of fraud, whistleblowers, employees, and investors in the Bay Area and nationally across the U.S. for over forty-five years.

Lieff Cabraser litigates significant employment class action lawsuits, including gender and race discrimination cases against Fortune 100 companies and other firms; overtime pay lawsuits on behalf of hourly and entry-level professionals; ERISA claims on behalf of employees and retirees for pension plan abuses; and ground-breaking class action lawsuits like those filed against Apple, Google, Intel, and others challenging collusive recruiting practices that restrict worker mobility and suppress pay.

We also represent employee whistleblowers who challenge wrongdoing by their employers. The firm's whistleblower cases have challenged a wide variety of government fraud, including overcharges to Medicare, military units, and federally-funded education programs.

Our lawyers are committed to fighting for the rights of employees in California and nationwide. We strive to make lasting change in company practices while also remedying the harms suffered by our clients. We are proud to have assisted our clients in ensuring that their employers implement hiring, pay, promotion, and evaluation practices that are fair and transparent across all variety of industries and all levels of employment.

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Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP is one of the world's leading international law firms. At the epicenter of Silicon Valley, the Palo Alto office represents leading Northern California and international technology and life sciences companies, private equity firms and financial institutions. The firm's attorneys believe in using their skills and passions to serve low-income communities, fight against injustice, preserve access to the courts, and enforce the rule of law. Simpson Thacher provides legal services to poor and vulnerable communities, nonprofits and fledgling small businesses, and major initiatives that focused on preservation of the environment, adequate education and civil and human rights.

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Keker, Van Nest & Peters LLP is a 100-lawyer law firm based in San Francisco, California. For more than 40 years, the firm has litigated complex, high-stakes civil and criminal cases throughout the United States. We take the cases where companies, products, and careers are riding on the result. Our clients are high-profile individuals, as well as some of the world's most successful companies, including Genentech, Google, Instacart, Lyft, Meta, Major League Baseball, Netflix and Qualcomm.

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Kirkland is committed to providing legal services without charge to those who cannot afford counsel, with the goals of improving lives, bettering communities and deepening our attorneys' professional experience. Kirkland attorneys at all levels pursue pro bono matters dealing with a variety of issues such as immigration, disability rights, civil rights, prisoner rights, death penalty cases and criminal appeals, guardianship, veterans' benefits, and the representation of nonprofit organizations, among other areas. Learn more about Kirkland's commitment to pro bono at www.kirkland.com/probono.



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ABOUT THE MATHEW O. TOBRINER AWARD

“The core of a free and democratic society lies in full and equal access to the courts.”

— The late Honorable Mathew O. Tobriner,
Associate Justice of the California Supreme Court, 1962–1982;
President, Board of Directors, Legal Aid at Work, 1961–1963

Justice Mathew O. Tobriner was revered as a legal scholar and humanitarian who did not hesitate to speak out on behalf of disadvantaged and marginalized people. He expressed the fundamental principle that, “Whatever hardship poverty may cause in society generally, the judicial process must make itself available to the indigent; it must free itself of the sanctions born of financial inability.”

Justice Tobriner gave life to those words while serving as a longtime member of our Board of Directors and, for a term, as its president. In memory of Justice Tobriner, Legal Aid at Work pays annual tribute to individuals who have made extraordinary efforts to assist the most vulnerable members of our community and to strengthen the principle of equal access to justice.

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Eva Paterson

2016

George Takei

2017

The Honorable
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2018

Saru Jayaraman

2019

Julie A. Su

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Alicia Garza

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Gerald P. López

2022 MATHEW O. TOBRINER PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

KEITH WATTLEY, Founder and Director, UnCommon Law

Presented by Eddy Zheng, President and Founder, New Breath Foundation



Keith Wattley has been advocating for the rights of people in prison and on parole for more than 20 years. Prior to launching UnCommon Law in 2006, he was a staff attorney at the Prison Law Office, a nonprofit law firm in Berkeley. At UnCommon Law, he has focused on helping people transform their lives and demonstrate to the parole board that they can safely be released from their life sentences. He has also engaged in impact litigation and individual cases involving unlawful prison and parole conditions, and he has trained hundreds of lawyers, law students and others in advocating for the rights of incarcerated people.

In 2018, Wattley was selected as one of the Obama Foundation's inaugural Fellows, recognizing his unique legal model and vision, and in 2020, he was awarded the James Irvine Foundation's Leadership Award. Wattley has been active on several boards of directors, and is co-chair of the Institutional Review Board (human subjects committee) for the National Council on Crime and Delinquency. He was also a member of the Founding Board of Directors for the Prison University Project (San Quentin's College Program) and a member of the Board of Directors for Legal Services for Prisoners with Children. Wattley currently teaches a course titled "California Prisons and Discretionary Parole" at UC Berkeley School of Law, where he also supervises the Post-Conviction Advocacy Project.

Wattley received his B.A. in Psychology from Indiana University and his J.D. from Santa Clara University School of Law.



Eddy Zheng is the Founder & President of New Breath Foundation. He works to mobilize resources to support Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) harmed by violence and the unjust immigration and criminal justice systems.



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KEYNOTE SPEAKER

DAVID CHIU, San Francisco City Attorney



David Chiu is the City Attorney of San Francisco, the first Asian American to hold the post. The City Attorney's Office provides legal counsel to the Mayor, Board of Supervisors and 100+ departments, boards, commissions and offices that comprise the City and County of San Francisco's government.

Previously, David represented eastern San Francisco as a State Assemblymember. Over seven years, he authored 75 laws, addressing housing, homelessness, transportation, education, environment, health, public safety, workers and civil rights. David served as Assistant Speaker pro Tempore,

Chair of the Assembly Housing & Community Development Committee, Chair of the California API Legislative Caucus, and Policy Chair of the California Legislative Progressive Caucus.

For six years, David served as president of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, while representing San Francisco's northeast neighborhoods of District 3. With a reputation as a consensus maker, David was the first board president in city history elected by fellow supervisors to three consecutive terms, and the first Asian American to hold the post. As Supervisor, David authored 110 ordinances, tackling affordable housing, job creation, public safety, healthcare, the environment, transportation, civil rights, language access, and ethics. Collaborating with Legal Aid at Work, David authored two groundbreaking workplace laws, the San Francisco Family Friendly Workplace Ordinance and the Predictable Scheduling and Fair Treatment Ordinance.

Before holding public office, David served as law clerk to Judge James R. Browning of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, a civil rights attorney with the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, a criminal prosecutor at the San Francisco District Attorney's Office, Democratic Counsel to the U.S. Senate Constitution Subcommittee, and general counsel to a public affairs technology company. The son of immigrants, he received his undergraduate, master's in public policy and law degrees from Harvard. He is married to Candace Chen, a public interest lawyer who directs a refugee foster care program. They are raising their six-year-old son, Lucas.

The background of the entire page is a black and white photograph of a group of people in an office setting. Several individuals are visible, with their hands raised in a high-five gesture, suggesting a celebratory moment. The lighting is soft, and the overall tone is professional yet warm. In the top left corner, the firm's name 'Simpson Thacher' is displayed in a serif font.

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Keith Wattley

*Recipient of the
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JERRY KENNEDY QUARTET



Jerry Kennedy, bass, is a band leader and music teacher. He has toured as an opening act for George Clinton, James Brown and Maceo Parker and is currently a band director at Black Pine Circle in Berkeley.



Raliegth Neal II, keyboards, has dedicated his life to music, with over 30 years of experience with artists such as Stacy Lattisaw, Guru's Jazzmatazz, Michael Franti and Spearhead, be Be Winans, Trevor Hall, Herbie Hancock, The Groove Collective, Stephanie Mills and others. He has also led music education programs and workshops for ages 5 to adult and has composed for television, movies and gaming.



Geechi Taylor, trumpet, is known mostly as a sideman for top bands playing music ranging from jazz to hip-hop. Geechi has also dedicated himself to the future of jazz by being a mentor to the kids interested in music.

With **Michael Rogers** on drums.

ABOUT US

We seek justice for low-wage workers, families and communities.

THE PEOPLE WE SERVE: We stand alongside our clients in challenging unlawful, abusive, and intimidating practices at work and in the community. Many of these practices are rooted in deeply embedded racism and discrimination against people of color.

Our clients are undocumented immigrants, people of color, those with limited-English proficiency, survivors of domestic violence, caregivers, members of the LGBTQ community, pregnant women, new parents and working families, people with disabilities, military veterans and workers making claims for unpaid wages and unemployment insurance.

HOW WE WORK: Our free legal services are more in demand than ever before in our 106 year history. Structural racism in the workplace and broader society continues to deprive millions of Californians of their dignity and prevent them from achieving their true potential. These problems have only been magnified by the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic devastation it has wrought.

We offer legal advice and counseling services through statewide clinics, medical-legal partnerships, and helplines. We file cases and administrative actions to enforce labor, employment, and civil rights. We conduct trainings of workers and legal advocates and disseminate practical but comprehensive legal information online. And we advocate for local, state, and national policies that strengthen the rights of low-wage workers and their families.





OUR PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

The **National Origin and Immigrants' Rights Program** advances fair and equal treatment for all workers regardless of their place of origin or immigration status.

The **Wage Protection Program** brings economic security to our clients and their families as they struggle against rampant wage theft and, in some cases, forced labor.

The **Gender Equity and LGBT Rights Program** combats sex-based discrimination, harassment, and domestic and sexual violence while advancing the rights of women and persons who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or non-binary.

The **Work and Family Program** ensures that workers do not have to choose between the health of themselves or their families and their economic livelihoods.

Project SURVIVE works to break the cycle of violence and poverty for survivors of domestic violence and their children by empowering them to exercise their right to stay safe while maintaining basic economic security.

The **Fair Play for Girls in Sports Project** promotes the health, educational achievement, and future employment opportunities of girls from low-income communities.

The **Racial Economic Justice Program** fights discrimination against people of color and advocates for equity and opportunity for all.

The **Disability Rights Program** enables persons with disabilities to participate fully in work, schools, and life in their communities.

The **Workers' Rights Clinic** operates 15 clinic sites around the State and serves as a point of entry and assistance for the thousands of low-wage workers we provide advice and counsel to each year.

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We proudly support Legal Aid at Work

and join in congratulating this year's
Mathew O. Tobriner Public Service
Award recipient

Keith Wattle
Founder and Executive Director
UnCommon Law



RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- We assisted a Latino day laborer in Sonoma County recover over \$90,000 after his employer threatened him with deportation and death simply for asking for his wages.
- We co-sponsored legislation (SB 639) that ended the practice of allowing employers to pay less than minimum wage to persons with disabilities through sheltered workshops. Over 5,000 Californians were being paid as little as \$2 per hour through this exploitative program.
- We filed a lawsuit on behalf of a female truck driver from Fresno who was sexually assaulted by her co-driver. After she reported the assault, her callous employer told her to still finish her route and then fired her. With support from the TIME'S UP Legal Defense Fund and co-counsel at Lang Richert & Patch, we are working to hold this employer accountable and end the broader culture of impunity in male-dominated industries.
- We helped champion the passage of COVID-19 sick leave (SB 95 and SB 114), which allows millions of low-wage, essential workers and parents to stay home for COVID-related reasons without worrying about losing their income or being fired.
- We created an online campaign that identified job postings that discriminated against persons with conviction histories (using words like "no felonies" or "must pass background check") and told violators of their need to comply with Fair Chance laws. Our successful pilot prompted the State of California to replicate the program statewide.
- We helped secure a decision from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit protecting undocumented workers from exploitation. The Court held that undocumented workers can legally assert state law violations of workplace rights and are entitled to almost all the same remedies as other employees despite their immigration status.
- Continuing our expansion in Southern California, we opened our 15th Workers' Rights Clinic site in partnership with USC Gould School of Law. Each year our Workers' Rights Clinic provides free legal advice and counsel to thousands of vulnerable low-wage workers throughout California.



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This year, Legal Aid at Work is pleased to announce two sets of awards to recognize the outstanding contributions from Board members, the Distinguished Service Award and the Meritorious Service Awards.



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The Distinguished Service Award is given annually to one board member who has tirelessly devoted outstanding service to Legal Aid at Work and who has worked to advance the core principle of providing access to justice.

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MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS

The Meritorious Service Award is given to a current or former board member who consistently and meaningfully contributed their time and energies to advancing Legal Aid at Work. This award recognizes those many contributions necessary to the continued success of the organization, including, by way of example, litigation and litigation support, finance, marketing, fundraising, operations, technology consulting, legal advice, and the provision of continuing education to staff members.

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(As of May 27, 2022)

HONORING ANA FLORES

With great pride and affection Legal Aid at Work celebrates the important and meaningful contributions of our longtime colleague and friend Ana Flores who joined our organization in 1986.



Ana is at the frontline of our organization's services. She responds to low-wage workers who call with inquiries, and directs the steady flow of those seeking help to resources both within and outside of our organization. Born and raised in San Francisco and bilingual in Spanish and English, Ana conducts initial intakes and determines where best to send first-time callers. She manages appointments for our Workers' Rights Clinic sites across California, serves as an interpreter for monolingual clients, and assists with the translation of written documents.

During her 35 years with Legal Aid at Work Ana has provided guidance, comfort, encouragement and a listening ear to thousands of persons in need of information, a referral or someone to hear them out. In all that she does Ana is gracious, warm, caring, calm and respectful. She is indeed the compassionate, big hearted hub of our organization.

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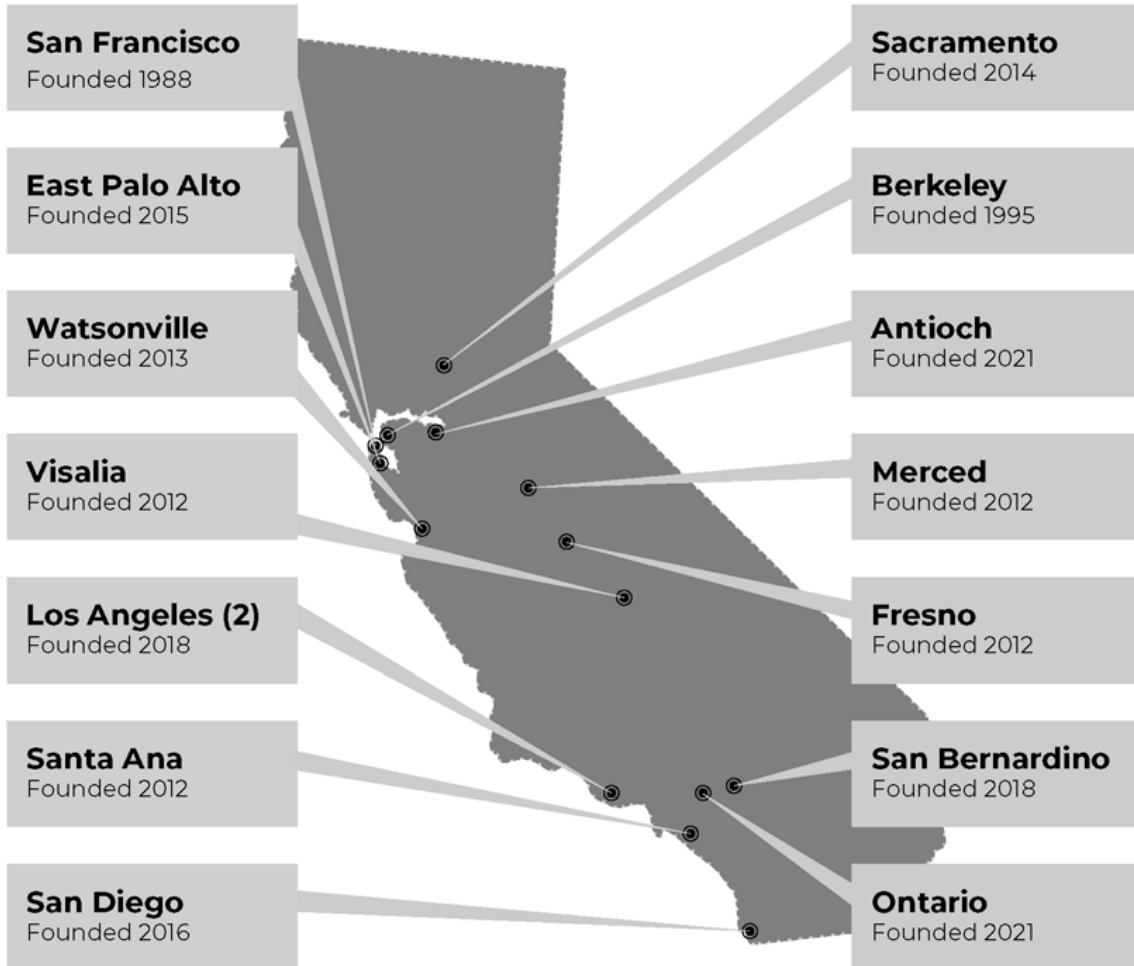
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— Jeff

"I had to find someone who knew the legal jargon and who could help me navigate the convoluted healthcare benefits system. Unless I was an attorney, I would not have known how to figure out what my rights were. If I had not been introduced to Legal Aid at Work and DeCarol, I'd be fighting a \$127,232 medical bill. When you have an attorney who's willing to give their time, talent, and expertise to show you how to get through the system, you have that hope."

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— Laurence F. Pulgram, Fenwick & West LLP

Legal Aid at Work is a nonprofit legal services organization that has been assisting low-income, working families for more than 100 years. Its programs conduct outreach, provide direct legal services to thousands of people each year, engage in litigation when necessary, and advocate for policies that strengthen the rights of low-income people.

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