

## Fellow Helps Monitor Prevailing Wages

### Her Work Dramatically Increases Open Records Requests

*Lisa spent the summer of 2015 as a Peggy Browning Fellow with the Sheet Metal Workers Local 19 in Philadelphia. This marked the beginning of nearly two years of working on fair contracting issues for them. She told us that few other experiences have been as personally and professionally transformative.*

“One of the first assignments I received still stands out sharp in my mind,” noted Lisa. “One of the organizers had filed a Right to Know request for certified payroll records, which was denied. I was asked to appeal the denial. Days of researching yielded everything I needed to make our case, and taught me about certified payroll records – documents that contractors must submit to public agencies to prove they paid their workers the prevailing wage, as required by state and federal prevailing wage acts.”

Lisa was thrilled when the agency that denied the request conceded that the denial was improper and granted it just a few days after Local 19 filed briefs with the Office of Open Records.

After that first victory, she began regularly working with the business agents and organizers on open records requests. She learned about all the different methods unethical contractors



*Lisa Eisenberg hard at work at Sheet Metal Workers Local 19*

use to violate prevailing wage acts and shortchange workers.

Over time, the business agents and organizers showed her how they spot probable violations, and described evidentiary problems that made it difficult to prove some of the most egregious ones. **By the end of the summer, Local 19’s business manager offered Lisa the opportunity to stay on to continue her work. She happily accepted.**

In January 2016, Lisa approached Business Manager Gary Masino suggesting a more efficient way to make

cases against unethical contractors. They discussed the idea of one larger system of monitoring violators, rather than a collection of separate, smaller efforts.

Under the new easily replicable system, the union began handing cases over to authorities more quickly than ever before. In the fall of 2016, Gary asked Lisa to write a guide. The end product was a manual that any of the building trades in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware could use to establish similar monitoring systems to create a unified effort in the region.

*“In the time that I worked on prevailing wage monitoring, I filed 231 open records requests—up from 42 the year before my fellowship. While non-union workers are the direct beneficiaries of my work, Local 19’s members ultimately benefit. Holding unethical contractors accountable levels the playing field for bidding public works projects, and helps union contractors compete.”*

*- Lisa Eisenberg*



# 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.

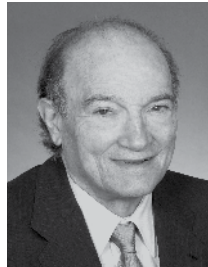
The Peggy Browning Award is presented annually to social justice champions who have distinguished themselves with passion and dedication to the rights and needs of workers and their families.

### 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.

# Celebrating 20 Years

## *Remembering Our Past and Building for the Future*



As we celebrate our 20th anniversary, it is a time to look back and recall how we became an institution. Peggy Browning, my late wife, was a preeminent labor lawyer, a member of the NLRB, and an exceptional person. When she died in 1997, I was her survivor and believed I was duty bound to further her legacy of working for workers' rights. I wanted to form an organization to galvanize the labor community as well as people of good will. As her legacy grew into an essential institution, she would not be forgotten. **I knew nothing would make her prouder than continuing her important work, but I also knew I was unable to achieve this objective alone.**

To accomplish this grand plan, I called upon Peggy's friends to come together as the Founding Advisory Board and help to launch the Peggy Browning Fund. All of them were stalwarts of the Labor Movement and everyone I called was happy to join.

We had many meetings defining our mission and its primary purpose. The importance of the Founding Advisory Board is legendary. Without their help, PBF might not have survived past infancy.

Looking to the future, our goal is now sustainability - to continue recruiting for and benefitting the labor movement. This year we've placed 81 law students in paid Summer Fellowships, we're hosting our Annual National Law Students Workers' Rights Conference and conducting Regional Workshops at 15 law schools across the country. Over 68% of our former Fellows are working for the Labor Movement or in public interest Labor Law.

**For this we thank you, our donors, who made it possible to sustain our programs this far.**

As you can see on the back cover, in addition to recognizing the works of General President James T. Callahan of the IUOE, we will be honoring our Founding Advisory Board and the memory of those who've passed. We hope you will join us.



## Facts About the Peggy Browning Fund\*

- 81 Summer Fellowships in 2017
- 155 Participating Law Schools
- 63 Mentor Organizations
- 893 Total Fellowships Filled from 1998 – 2017
- 68.8% Alumni working for workers' rights or other public interest organizations (of PBF alumni who have graduated from law school)
- Over 2,500 Students have attended PBF's National Law Students Workers' Rights Conferences

\*As of press time

# A Mentor's Perspective

## Union President/Business Manager Calls PBF "One of Greatest Programs"

As part of our 20th Anniversary Celebration, the President and Business Manager of Sheet Metal Workers Local 19 in Philadelphia was recognized with the Peggy Browning Award. It's fitting that Gary Masino was recognized this year since his union has been involved in our mission from the beginning. Peggy was an attorney who worked with Local 19. Unfortunately, Gary did not have the opportunity to work with her. In his acceptance remarks, Gary noted, "She was an extraordinary woman who wasn't afraid of anything. When most people would have given up, she went looking for the answers.

They tell me she was a fighter, who would work countless hours for the people who needed it the most, the working men and women who wanted a better life."

As a mentor organization, he continued, "The Peggy Browning Fund gives young labor law students the opportunity to spend ten weeks in the trenches with the Labor Movement. It's an experience that will last them a lifetime. We bring them into our world. We bring them on picket lines. We bring them into union elections. We take them into the street and into the Labor Board, which we file charges



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with, and we walk them through the whole process."

(See Cover Story for more information on Lisa Eisenberg, PB Fellow 2015.)

*"What Lisa was able to do with the construction logs we've been trying to do for 17 years! She was extraordinary, thinking way out of the box! The Peggy Browning Fund is one of the greatest programs around and I encourage all unions to take advantage of it!"*

- Gary Masino, President & Business Manager, Sheet Metal Workers Local 19

## 2017 Regional Workshops

Our Regional Workshops focus on educating law students about the type of work attorneys do in union-side law firms, worker centers, in-house union counsel, and government agencies that oversee labor and employment laws. The following law schools are currently coordinating workshops:

City University of New York  
Georgetown University  
New York University  
Rutgers, Camden  
Rutgers, Newark  
Southern University  
Temple University  
University of California, Berkley  
University of Florida  
University of Michigan  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Virginia  
University of Southern California  
University of Washington

If you'd like to learn more, contact Program Coordinator, Julia Watkins at [jwatkins@peggybrowningfund.org](mailto:jwatkins@peggybrowningfund.org).

## New Fellowships for 2017

Twelve Summer Fellowships were added this year:

Adelante Alabama Worker Center - Birmingham, AL  
AFSCME District Council 36 - Los Angeles, CA  
Fair Work Center - Seattle, WA  
Hammond & Shinnars - St. Louis, MO  
LAANE (Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy)  
New Mexico Center on Law And Poverty - Albuquerque, NM  
NYSUT - Albany area, NY  
O'Donoghue & O'Donoghue - Washington, DC (returning)  
Schwerin Campbell Barnard Iglitzin & Lavitt - Seattle, WA  
Segal Roitman LLP - Boston, MA  
Sheet Metal Workers Local 83 - Albany, NY  
UFCW Local 770 - Los Angeles, CA

Type of Org.	# of Orgs	# of Summer Fellowships	% of Total Summer Fellowships*
Unions	20	36	44%
Worker Centers & other NPOs	28	29	36%
Union-Side Law Firms	15	17	20%
Total	62	81	100%

\* The 2017-2018 school-year fellowship is not filled yet.



## 20th Anniversary Solidarity Series Profiles

### *Emphasize the Value of Our Programs*

To mark this milestone, we've asked our alumni to share how their Peggy Browning Fellowships have helped them to better understand a career in the field of workers' rights and provide them with a network of students who are working towards the same goal – improving workers' experiences in the workplace. We've posted their profiles on our website and have included excerpts here. To read all our profiles and more from these alumni, go to [www.peggybrowningfund.org/news/20th-anniversary-solidarity-series](http://www.peggybrowningfund.org/news/20th-anniversary-solidarity-series).



**Briana Beltran,**  
**PBF'09**  
*New York  
University  
School of Law*

**Clinical Teaching Fellow,  
Farmworker Legal Assistance Clinic  
at Cornell Law School**

I entered law school with two broad areas of interest: immigrants' rights and international human rights. **Through my Peggy Browning Fellowship at National Day Laborers Organizing Network (NDLON), I learned that my true passion was in the immigrants' rights field, particularly as it intersected with employment or labor issues.** In my second and third years of law school, I took courses on employment and labor law, including specialized seminars, and participated in two clinics heavily focused on immigration.

My placement at NDLON was not a placement in a traditional labor law setting. Instead, my fellowship focused on labor and the employment rights of immigrant workers generally. Since then, I have continued in that field. I think my Summer Fellowship gave me useful experience and helped me cultivate connections with other advocates that I have maintained to this day.



**Beau Haynes,**  
**PBF'10**  
*University of  
Washington  
School of Law*

**Co-Founder  
Washington Wage Claim Project**

My Summer Fellowship was with the National Employment Law Project (NELP) in Seattle, working on a number of policy oriented projects and amicus briefs. **It provided exposure to a higher-level view of employment law issues, and put our local advocacy efforts in the national context.** My fellowship also took place during the height of immigration reform efforts in 2010, so it was an exciting time.

My first job was as an Americorps wage claim advocate with CASA Latina, a local Seattle organization. There I got to know our local immigrant community, and began to learn how to combat the everyday wage and hour abuses of vulnerable worker populations.

In 2014 I helped form the Washington Wage Claim Project, a small non-profit. My practice today is very much in line with that first position at CASA Latina, representing primarily immigrant construction and service industry workers in small to medium size wage and hour cases, with a small class action practice.



**Mami Kato,**  
**PBF'09**  
*Wayne State  
University  
School of Law*

**Associate, Sachs Waldman PC,  
Detroit, MI**

I went to law school with the specific purpose of becoming a union-side labor lawyer. Having done my Fellowship at the United Auto Workers Legal Department, **I was able to observe that the actual practice of law involved more than just thorough knowledge of labor and employment law.** My Fellowship gave me a glimpse into the “real” world and enabled me to ascertain for myself what I needed to know once I stepped out of law school to be an effective attorney and advocate.

Since 2012, I've had the fortune of working at Michigan's oldest union-side labor law firm, where my practice is focused more on traditional labor law, as well as dealing with election and campaign finance law. This I find to be both fascinating and frustrating, especially given the ever-changing world of campaign finance. I've also had the privilege of serving on the panel for the PBF Regional Workshops hosted at the University of Michigan Law School. I also try to meet with PB Fellows in Detroit each summer to see how they are doing.

*“Learn a foreign language!  
And market yourself appropriately  
if you already speak one or more  
languages in addition to English.  
Learning to speak Spanish opened  
countless doors for me, including  
many that have helped lead to  
my career.”*

*- Beau Haynes, PBF'10*

# Highlights

*“The Peggy Browning Fellowship Program is a well-recognized program and it is highly regarded. I know that several of my colleagues were also Peggy Browning Fellows. Additionally, my office brings on Fellows as law clerks each summer.”*

- Greg Ainsley, PBF'11



**Greg Ainsley,  
PBF'11**

*University of  
Wisconsin  
Law School*

**Associate Counsel, New York State  
United Teachers (NYSUT)**

I worked, as a Peggy Browning Fellow, at the law firm Levy Ratner, PC and

it really solidified many of my career goals and interest in pursuing labor law. It transformed law into something more tangible, because I could actually see how my efforts helped real people. After my fellowship, I tried to select courses that would be most useful in helping me to practice in that area, and also appeal to prospective employers in that field.

I have been an attorney at NYSUT for

about four years now and have enjoyed the variety of issues and found great satisfaction in the work that I do every day.

I am connected with many other PBF alumni and my Alumni Association Chapter. **They are your colleagues, and aside from being a tremendous resource for knowledge, I have found that PBF alumni are also great people.**

*“Look for and take every opportunity to become a better writer. I have been fortunate to work for an attorney with an effective and highly persuasive writing style, who has taken the time to edit my writing and provide me with constructive feedback. I’ve found that an ability to write effectively is the key to advocacy, especially when workers’ fundamental rights are at stake.”*

- Mami Kato, PBF'09

## Alumni Chapters Coordinate Activities This Summer

### *And Reach Out to New Fellows*

Peggy Browning Fund has a substantial group of active alumni who are focused on developing future worker advocates by participating in our programs. In 2017, alumni are planning several activities for alumni and fellows to meet, network, learn, and have fun.

Our Alumni Chapters in Washington DC, New York, Chicago, and Philadelphia are planning get-togethers for folks to meet and relax at baseball games, labor movie nights, and other networking events. In addition, every year PBF organizes teleconferences for Summer Fellows to learn about different areas of labor law that they may or may not practice

during their Summer Fellowships. This year, at least eight PBF alumni will be facilitating teleconferences covering ‘How to Get the Most From Your Summer Fellowship’, ‘Labor History 101’, ‘Get To Know the National Labor Relations Act’, and ‘Changes to Expect in Labor Law’.

**“PBF fellows represent the hope and future of the labor movement.** To develop and grow into leaders, they need mentorship and support. I enjoy participating in PBF events because I think about those who had patience with me when I was brand new to the movement, and how much that meant to me and my development as a labor



*Los Angeles Alumni and 2016  
Fellows at their orientation with  
Lisl Soto (Second from right).*

attorney,” said Lisl Soto, PBF'07 at the NLRB Division of Judges in San Francisco. She is now a Shareholder at Weinberg, Roger & Rosenfeld.

# Philadelphia Awards Reception

20th Year Celebration Starts In Our Hometown

“Thank you to the Peggy Browning Fund for all you do to inspire and to train the next generation of progressive advocates and activists.” Those words from awardee Neal Bisno, Executive Vice President, SEIU, were repeated throughout the evening on March 7th when we recognized social justice champions Walter DeTreu, arbitrator and mediator; Neal Bisno and Gary Masino, President and Business Manager of Sheet Metal Workers Local 19.

Neal further noted, “Year in and year out, Peggy Browning Fellows at SEIU provide critical support for workers standing up to organize, from the Fight for 15, to airport workers to adjunct faculty and nurses and healthcare workers.”

Peggy Browning 2009 Fellow Steven Grubbs shared his fellowship experience



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*PBF'09 Steven Grubbs,  
Advocacy Representative,  
SEIU Healthcare PA*

with the Int'l Brotherhood of Teamsters and stated, “The Peggy Browning Fund gave me real world experience and establishes a network to make the wheels of progress move.”



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*PBF President Joe Lurie with awardees  
Walter DeTreu, Gary Masino and Neal Bisno*

## Philadelphia 2017 Reception Sponsors

### Steward

Sheet Metal Contractors Association of Philadelphia/Local 19

### Guardian

DWD Mechanical  
SEIU

*“The Peggy Browning Fund gives young labor law students the opportunity to spend ten weeks in the trenches with the Labor Movement. It’s an experience that will last them a lifetime.”*

– Gary Masino,  
President/Business Manager,  
Sheet Metal Workers Local 19

## 2017 Leadership Circle

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United Steelworkers

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# New York Awards Reception

Over 300 guests celebrated our awardees and 20th Anniversary at our New York Awards Reception at the Sheraton NY Times Square Hotel on April 27th. Special recognition

was given to the work of M. Patricia Smith, Esq., the former Solicitor of Labor, and the Peggy Browning Award was presented to Christopher Erikson, Jane Lauer Barker, Esq. and

Carol Wittenberg.

In addition, Ceilidh Gao, 2012 Peggy Browning Fellow, shared her summer experiences at the National Employment Law Project (NELP).



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2012 PB Fellow Ceilidh Gao, now Staff Attorney, NELP.



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PBF Board member Gwynne Wilcox of Levy Ratner PC; Awardee Jane Lauer Barker, Esq. of Pitta LLP; PBF President Joe Lurie and Awardees Carol Wittenberg, Arbitrator and Mediator and Christopher Erikson, Business Manager, IBEW Local 3

## New York 2017 Reception Sponsors

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IBEW Local 3

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Metallic Lathers & Reinforcing Iron  
Workers Local 46

### Guardian

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Iron Workers Local 580  
IUOE Local 94  
JAMS, Inc.  
Kauff, McGuire & Margolis LLP  
Magnacare  
NYECA  
New York Hotel Trades Council &  
UNITE HERE! Local 6  
Pitta LLP  
Proskauer LLP  
Wigdor LLP

We proudly join in honoring  
**CAROL WITTENBERG**  
A stellar Mediator and Arbitrator  
and a treasured friend.

Our congratulations to all the 2017 honorees.

**Ralph Berger**  
**Marlene Gold**  
**Bonnie Weinstock**

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## Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars

Join us as the Peggy Browning Award is presented to:



**James T. Callahan**  
 General President

*International Union of Operating Engineers*

And

### PBF Founding Advisory Board Members

Allison Beck	Laurence Cohen
Fred Feinstein	Jonathan Hiatt
Kathy Krieger	Joe Lurie
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Judy Scott	

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

AFL-CIO Lobby & Gompers Room  
 815 Sixteenth Street • Washington, DC 20006

## SAVE THE DATES!

Recognizing:

**Alejandra Valles**

*VP & S. CA Director*

*SEIU USWW*

**Victor Narro**

*Project Director, UCLA Labor Center*

## Justice for Port Drivers Campaign

*IBT*

September 14, 2017

The Westin Bonaventure  
 Hotel & Suites  
 404 S. Figueroa Street  
 Los Angeles, CA

## 2017 National Law Students Workers' Rights Conference

**October 13 & 14**

*Maritime Conference Center  
 Linthicum Heights, MD*

Watch our website for details  
[www.peggybrowningfund.org](http://www.peggybrowningfund.org)

For more conference information, contact  
 Mary Anne Moffa, Executive Director  
 267-273-7992

For more event information visit  
[www.peggybrowningfund.org/events](http://www.peggybrowningfund.org/events)  
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