Worker Center Lawyer Program  
UC Irvine School of Law  
February 23, 2013

A growing cadre of public interest lawyers at non-governmental organizations and law school clinics have provided legal support for workers’ rights campaigns led by low-wage and immigrant labor activists. Although some of these campaigns are now collaborative efforts with established unions, the advocacy originated outside of the union movement amongst once-excluded workers.

Lawyers collaborating with worker centers bring a set of assumptions about law and legal action that depart from professional norms, even as compared with traditional worker-side employment and labor lawyers. We will use this day together to discuss common approaches, challenges in lawyer-client relationships and in court and agency settings, the unique features of immigrant advocacy, and to brainstorm potential collaborations and networks.

7:30    Breakfast
8:00 – 8:15 Welcome
     Sameer Ashar, UCI Immigrant Rights Clinic
8:15 – 9:00 Discussion with Organizers – Strategic Vision and Legal Capacity Needs
     Pablo Alvarado, National Day Laborer Organizing Network*
     Neidi Dominguez, CLEAN Carwash Campaign*
     Ai-jen Poo, National Domestic Workers Alliance
     Moderator:  An Le, Asian Pacific American Legal Center
9:15 – 10:30 Best Practices for Lawyers Advancing Worker Organizing
     Co-facilitators:
     Fran Ansley, University of Tennessee
     Betty Hung, Asian Pacific American Legal Center
10:45 – 12:00 Defense of Organizing in Litigation Contexts
     • Organizational Privilege
     • Standing
     • Lawyer-Client Privilege
     • Settlement Confidentiality
     Co-facilitators:
     Chris Williams, Workers’ Law Office, P.C.
     Haeyoung Yoon, National Employment Law Project
12:15 – 1:15 Lunch – Organizational Defense
• Compliance Auditing
• Employment Policies
• Misclassification as Labor Organization

Dan Clifton, Lewis, Clifton & Nikolaidis, P.C.
Brian Glick and Rachel Spector, Fordham CED Clinic
Moderator: Tsedeye Gebreselassie, National Employment Law Project

1:30 – 2:45 Organizing Around Immigration Status
• Legal Counseling on Status Issues
• Collectivizing Individual Defense in Deportation Proceedings
• Immigration Enforcement as Workers’ Rights
• Criminal/Immigration
• Impact of Comprehensive Immigration Reform

Facilitator:
Chris Newman, National Day Laborer Organizing Network

3:00 – 5:00 Future Collaborations

Facilitator:
Scott Cummings, UCLA School of Law

*Invited, not yet confirmed