

# CHILD LABOR EXPLOITATION: What Adults Need to Know

Sponsored by AFT and Albert Shanker Institute

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## PRESENTERS



**Bridget Dutton** began her career with the Department of Labor in 2001 in Washington, DC as a Legislative Analyst for the Employment Standards Administration (ESA). In 2008, she joined the Wage and Hour Division as a Compliance Specialist and in 2010 headed to North Carolina to become one of the first Community Outreach and Resource Planning Specialists (CORPS) for the Division. Bridget's accomplishments in that role include being a founding member of the Farm Labor Practices Group (FLPG), helping to coordinate nearly 600 trainings across 11 states with between 7,000-8,000 agricultural employers attending each year. Since August 2020, Bridget has served as a Program Analyst and the National CORPS liaison in the Office of Performance and Communications. In that time, she has actively worked to enhance the visibility of the role of the CORPS while providing critical training and communication necessary for the CORPS to perform their work efficiently and effectively.



**Jack Kearns** is a Policy Advocate at the UCLA Labor Center and a recent graduate of UCLA with a Master's degree in Public Policy. During his graduate studies, Jack worked on two projects as a Graduate Student Researcher with the Labor Center. The first project involved researching the housing crisis to prepare a presentation at the inaugural LA County Federation of Labor Housing Summit. This historic Summit brought together more than 500 union leaders and elected officials to rally the labor movement around abolishing poverty and homelessness. The second project involved researching the rise in child labor violations and the push to weaken child labor laws around the country. Previously, Jack worked as a line cook at several restaurants in the Los Angeles area and is passionate about improving labor standards in the restaurant industry. He has also collaborated with UNITE HERE Local 11, representing many hotel cooks in the region, including writing his capstone project on how Local 11 can facilitate the creation of housing cooperatives for their members.



**Jessica Looman** is Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, U.S. Department of Labor. She had previously served as the Principal Deputy Administrator of WHD. WHD enforces worker protections and provides outreach and education about federal labor laws including minimum wage, overtime, child labor, and family and medical leave. Before joining WHD, Jessica served as the Executive Director of the Minnesota State Building and Construction Trades Council, where she advocated to expand construction career pathways, protected the physical and financial health of union construction workers, and increased private and public investment in construction infrastructure. Before joining the Building Trades, Governor Mark Dayton appointed Jessica to serve as Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Commerce. She also served as the Deputy Commissioner and the Assistant Commissioner for the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry where she oversaw the strategic coordination of DLI's five divisions. She has previously served as the General Counsel of the Laborers District Council of Minnesota and North Dakota. Jessica is a graduate of George Washington University and the University of Minnesota Law School. She lives in St. Paul, Minnesota with her husband and two sons.



**Mary Cathryn Ricker** is the Executive Director of the Albert Shanker Institute. Ricker is a National Board Certified middle school English/language arts teacher who has previously served as Minnesota's Commissioner of Education, as Executive vice-president of the American Federation of Teachers, and as president of the Saint Paul Federation of Teachers, Local 28. Prior to her leadership outside of the classroom, Ricker was a classroom teacher for 13 years in Minnesota, Washington State, and South Korea. Her teaching and leadership have been recognized with a number of other honors, including receiving the Education Minnesota Peterson-Schaubach

Outstanding Leadership Award, qualifying as a semifinalist for the NEA Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence, and serving as a featured contributor in the Annenberg Foundation's national professional development series "Write in the Middle." She has spoken and written extensively about teaching and learning, professionalism, and human rights issues and her work has appeared in local and national publications. She has traveled to speak, teach, or study public education, the labor movement, and democracy, including in Europe, North and South America, and Western Asia/the Arabian peninsula. Ricker earned her undergraduate degree in English with a mathematics minor at the University of Saint Thomas, and completed graduate work in Teacher Leadership at the University of Minnesota.



**David Weil** served as the Dean of the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University from 2017-2022 and currently is a Professor at Heller and the Department of Economics. Prior to joining the Brandeis faculty in 2017, he was the Peter and Deborah Wexler Professor of Management at Boston University's Questrom School of Business (1991-2014). He was appointed by President Barack Obama to be the Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division of the U.S. Department of Labor and was

nominated again to serve in that role by President Joe Biden. His area of expertise is employment and labor market policy; regulation; transparency policy; and the impacts of industry restructuring on employment and work outcomes and business performance. Professor Weil has written five books including *The Fissured Workplace* (Harvard University Press) and published over 130 articles. He is widely sought in the US and abroad as an advisor on public policy questions. Weil earned a bachelor's degree at Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations, a master's in public policy at the Kennedy School and a PhD in public policy at Harvard.



**Randi Weingarten** is president of the 1.8 million-member AFT, which represents teachers; paraprofessionals and school-related personnel; higher education faculty and staff; nurses and other healthcare professionals; local, state and federal government employees; and early childhood educators. The AFT is dedicated to the belief that every person in America deserves the freedom to thrive, fueled by opportunity, justice and a voice in our democracy. Weingarten also serves as President of the Albert Shanker Institute Board of Directors. Prior to her election

as AFT president in 2008, Weingarten served for 11 years as president of the United Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 2, representing approximately 200,000 educators in the New York City public school system, as well as home child care providers and other workers in health, law and education. From 1986 to 1998, Weingarten served as counsel to UFT President Sandra Feldman. Elected as the local union's assistant secretary in 1995 and as treasurer two years later, she became UFT president after Feldman became president of the AFT. Weingarten is the recipient of many commendations; she was included in *Washingtonian's* 2021 Washington's Most Influential People, *City & State New York's* 2021 New York City Labor Power 100, and *Washington Life's* 2018 Power 100 list of prominent leaders, and in 2017 received the Roosevelt Institute's FDR Distinguished Public Service Award. In 2013, the *New York Observer* named Weingarten one of the most influential New Yorkers of the past 25 years. Weingarten's column "What Matters Most" appears in the *New York Times'* Sunday Review the third Sunday of each month. Weingarten holds degrees from Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations and the Cardozo School of Law. She worked as a lawyer for the Wall Street firm of Stroock & Stroock & Lavan from 1983 to 1986.



**Kent Wong** is the Director of Labor and Community Partnerships at the UCLA Labor Center, where he teaches Labor Studies and Ethnic Studies. Before joining the UCLA Labor Center, Kent worked as staff attorney for the Service Employees International Union in Los Angeles. He also served as the first staff attorney for Asian Americans Advancing Justice in Los Angeles, the largest Asian American civil rights organization in the country. Kent served as the founding President of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO, the first national organization of Asian American union

members and workers. He is currently a vice-president of the California Federation of Teachers, representing education workers throughout the state. He previously served as the founding President of United Association for Labor Education, representing union and university labor educators across the country. Kent has published more than a dozen books on the labor movement, immigrant rights, popular education, and the Asian American community. His most recent publications are **Asian American Workers Rising**, **Mike Garcia and the Justice for Janitors Movement**, and **Revolutionary Nonviolence: Organizing for Freedom** capturing the teachings of Rev. James Lawson Jr., who he taught with at UCLA for twenty-two years. Kent also taught the first class in the country on the issue of undocumented immigrant students, and published three breakthrough books on the immigrant youth movement. He launched “Dream Summer,” the first national fellowship program for undocumented youth that has been in existence for fourteen years.