

Strategies for Improving the Wages and Working Conditions of Low-Wage Workers

Tuesday, November 22, 2005
Law School Rotunda
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

INTRODUCTION

Senator John Edwards

MODERATOR

Arne Kalleberg, *UNC, Sociology*

Arne L. Kalleberg is a Kenan Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Senior Associate Dean for Social Sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He has published over 100 articles and chapters and eight books on topics related to the sociology of work, organizations, occupations and industries, labor markets, and social stratification.

PANELISTS

John Sweeney, *American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations*

John Sweeney was first elected president of the AFL-CIO in 1995. At the time of his election, Sweeney was serving as president of the Service Employees International Union. In May 2000, Sweeney was also elected president of the Trade Union Advisory Committee (TUAC), an international organization with consultative status at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Annette Bernhardt, *New York University School of Law, Brennan Center*

Dr. Bernhardt is currently the Deputy Director of the Poverty Program at the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law. A leading expert on low-wage labor markets, Bernhardt provides policy analysis and research for the Center's work on economic justice issues. Her focus is on helping national and local efforts to develop viable responses to the changing nature of work in this country, with particular emphasis on the low-wage service sector.

Eduardo Peña, *United Commercial Food Workers*

Eduardo Peña is the International Representative of United Food and Commercial Workers and the Staff Coordinator for the Justice for Smithfield Workers Campaign. He began his career with UFCW in 1998 with the Local 481 in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and has been an organizer for the Smithfield Campaign since December of 2002. He oversees the daily work of the campaign in Tarheel, NC.

Melanie Stratton, *UNC-Chapel Hill, Student*

Melanie Stratton is a junior at UNC majoring in Economics and International Studies. She is a governing board member of the Workers Rights Consortium, an agency which monitors conduct violations at UNC to ensure the protection of university employees' rights. She has served as the International Solidarity Coordinator for United Students Against Sweatshops and is a member of Student Action with Workers and the university licensing oversight committee.