From: Ana María Archila
To: Stoffmacher, Bruce
Subject: CPD Expands, Defending Pensions, Expanding Voter Access and More...
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CPD on MSNBC: Defending Public Workers

Last week, Connie Razza, CPD's Director of Strategic Research, was invited to participate in a roundtable discussion on public sector pensions on MSNBC's *Melissa Harris Perry.* Connie discussed the role of Wall Street recklessness in manufacturing funding shortfalls for pensions, and the role that public workers play in our society and economy.

Watch the segment here.

New Staff, New Partners, New Board

CPD is proud to continue growing our staff with talented, experienced policy experts and organizers. This month, we welcome Oona Chatterjee and Crystal Zermeno.

Welcome, Oona!

Oona Chatterjee comes to CPD after serving for 2 years as the Associate Director of New York City Organizing at the Annenberg Institute for School Reform. In that role, she worked with AISR's New York City team and partner organizations throughout the city to support parent and student organizing efforts to advance school reform. Prior to coming to AISR, Oona served for fifteen years as Co-

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CPD IN THE NEWS

As Wells Fargo is Accused of Fabricating Foreclosure Papers, Will Banks Keep Escaping Prosecution?
3.21.2014, *Democracy Now*

Industry Attacks on 'Scaffold Law' Put Construction Workers on Shaky Ground
3.13.14, *In These Times*

Faltan traductores en viviendas públicas de NYC
3.16.14, *El Diario*

CAMPAIGN NEWS

Executive Director of Make the Road New York, an organization which she co-founded and which is one of the most respected and effective organizing groups in the country. Make the Road New York is a core partner of CPD. Oona's work at MRNY included participating in the design, creation and ongoing support of two small public schools, building vital student and parent organizing programs within the organization, and playing an important role in the founding of citywide and national youth organizing coalitions to advance school reform. She is a long-time board member of the North Star Fund, a progressive NYC-based foundation.

Welcome, Crystal!

Crystal Zermeno has worked for over 15 years in labor, politics and community organizing. Most recently, she served as Strategy and Development Director for the Texas Organizing Project, developing and implementing TOP's statewide electoral program, working with staff on strategic policy and organizing campaigns, fundraising, and offering technical support in organizational development. Prior to joining TOP, Crystal worked for the Service Employees International Union as a researcher and political coordinator for public employees, as well as the Justice for Janitors and Stand for Security campaigns in California, Texas, and nationally. Crystal has also worked on a number of political campaigns, including a successful State Assembly race in Alameda County, California, and the SEIU New Mexico effort in Albuquerque and Las Cruces to elect President Obama.

New Core Partners
CPD continues to build new, strong, value-adding relationships with leading base-building organizations around the country.

Texas Organizing Project, Our DC, Action North Carolina, and CASA de Virginia and have all joined the CPD family as core partner organizations.

Chicago Voters Overwhelmingly Support $15 Living Wage
3.19.14, *In These Times*

Richmond May Soon Have California's Highest Minimum Wage
3.20.14, *NBC Bay Area*

CPD on Facebook and Twitter

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Local Progress Tackles Economic Fairness

Tomorrow in Seattle, Local Progress, the national network of progressive municipal elected officials, is co-hosting a **Symposium on Income Inequality**, bringing together elected leaders from eight of the nation's largest cities to discuss how best to confront inequality and raising the minimum wage.

CPD's staff attorney and Local Progress program lead, **Ady Barkan**, and

New Board Member
CPD welcomes the newest member of our Board of Directors, Jon Hiatt.

Jonathan Hiatt is the Chief of Staff and Executive Assistant to the President of the AFL-CIO. He was appointed to the position in September 2009, after serving for fourteen years as the General Counsel of the AFL-CIO. Hiatt previously served eight years as General Counsel to the Service Employees International Union, based in Washington, D.C., where he directed the union's legal department. Before that, he was a partner in a union-side labor law firm in Boston. He joined the firm in 1974, after graduating from Berkeley Law School and Harvard College.

CPD Rallies for Same Day Voter Registration in Delaware

CPD's Director of Civic Engagement and Politics, Katrina Gamble, has been playing a leading role in Delaware's fight for same-day voter registration, working closely with CPD's core state partner Delaware Alliance for Community Advancement.

The News Journal of Wilmington covered a recent press conference including Katrina and elected officials advocating for same-day registration, which will reduce barriers to voting and will serve as a model policy for additional states.

Read more here.

CPD Represents at Hearing on Charters

CPD Policy Advocate **Josie Duffy** played key roles in coordinating and supporting the event, which is free and open to the public.

The other event sponsors are Seattle University and the office of Seattle Mayor Ed Murray. Mayor Murray has been a leader in the fight for higher wages, after being elected last November on a platform that included increasing the minimum wage to $15.

City officials from New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, San Diego, San Jose, San Francisco, Oakland, and Seattle will be in attendance.

Read the full article here.

Paid Sick Days Expansion Becomes Law in NYC

On March 20, Mayor Bill de Blasio signed into law an expansion of the Earned Sick Time Act, which CPD and our partners helped to win last year. Hundreds of thousands of additional workers will have the right to take a paid day off to care for themselves or a sick family member.

Starting April 1, businesses with 5 employees or more will be required to provide paid sick days (increased from businesses with 15+ employees). The newly expanded Earned Sick Time Act will also:

- Include manufacturing workers (who were previously excluded).
- Extend the time in which workers can file complaints.

CPD's Education Director, Kyle Serrette, recently traveled to Philadelphia to participate in a daylong meeting with Pennsylvania's Auditor General to discuss accountability and effectiveness of charter schools.

Kyle made clear that more oversight of charter schools is needed, and called for "a comprehensive investigation that allows the public, regulators, and legislators to better understand the depth of the problem."

Read more here.

Please Support Us: CPD Gala Tonight

Tonight, CPD, alongside our c4 sister organization, Action for the Common Good, is hosting our Annual Gala in Washington, DC. The event is an opportunity to financially support CPD's work and to meet our partners from across the country. It's not too late to join us.

Center for Popular Democracy's Annual Gala
Thursday, March 27, 6-8 PM
National Education Association
1201 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC

We're proud to be honoring:
Mary Kay Henry
President
SEIU

And Celebrating:
Tefere Gebre
Executive Vice President

- Expand the list of relatives whom workers can care for with their sick time to include grandparents, grandchildren, and siblings.
- Allow the City to proactively enforce the law.

CPD thanks our partners who helped drive this victory: Make the Road New York, the Working Families Party, the NYC Paid Sick Days Coalition, SEIU 32BJ, Mayor de Blasio, Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Council Member Margaret Chin (bill sponsor), the Progressive Caucus of the City Council, and Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer.

Thank You, Brittny!

We wish the best of luck and give our sincere thanks to Brittny Saunders, who is leaving Center for Popular Democracy to join New York Mayor Bill de Blasio's administration as Deputy Counsel to the Mayor.

Brittny was one of the first staff to join the CPD team. Her understated brilliance, humor, and passion for the work helped set the standard for CPD's policy team. She dove in, helping us build out our policing,

AFL-CIO

And recognizing CPD's Core Partner Organizations.

More information is here: www.populardemocracy.org/gala

Home Defenders League: Making Waves to Help Underwater Home Owners

Despite news reports of housing price increases in some markets—and the return of record profits and bonuses on Wall Street—the foreclosure crisis continues to impact many communities, especially communities of color targeted for predatory lending. One in five American homeowners are still "underwater" --owing more than their homes are worth.

Democracy Now interviewed the Home Defenders League's National Campaign Director Kevin Whelan on the continued lack of bank accountability for the foreclosure crisis -- including a report by the Department of Justice Inspector General that demonstrated that the Department had made mortgage fraud a low priority.

In the interview, Kevin discussed the story of Lavinia Curry, an 86 year old grandmother in Irvington, NJ who fought foreclosure for three years after Wells Fargo refused to accept her family's attempts to pay their mortgage in full after missing a single payment.

Click here to read the full article.

Celebrating Our Partners

CPD Partners Help Raise the Wage

education, immigration, and racial justice policy portfolio. As our workload grew, she also helped build our capacity -- recruiting and overseeing our year-round intern program and our legal fellows.

While at CPD, Brittny played a critical role in helping to launch the New York Immigrant Family Unity Project. NYIFUP is the nation's first public defender program for detained immigrants facing deportation.

Brittny has been an incredible asset for our organization and partners. We are so excited for her new role, and look forward to collaborating with her in the years to come.

CPD's Core State Partner organizations are helping to drive changes in the minimum wage across the country, and this month, three cities are making strides.

In **Richmond, California**, where our partner **Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment** is a part of a minimum wage coalition, the city approved a $12.30 minimum wage to be enacted by 2017 – one of the highest in the nation.

With ACCE's help, Richmond has proven itself a progressive leader tackling inequality; it is also aggressively fighting Wall Street, pioneering groundbreaking measures to stave off foreclosures.

Further south in the Golden State, our partner **Center on Policy Initiatives** is driving support for a minimum wage increase and earned sick days for workers in **San Diego**. On March 12, CPI helped launch the "Raise Up San Diego" campaign in support of a ballot measure for November that will raise the minimum wage and guarantee paid sick days to workers if approved. The campaign announced the support of four city council members at its launch.

And in **Chicago**, our partner **Action Now**, is leading a campaign for a $15 wage. On March 18, voters overwhelmingly approved a nonbinding referendum, by an 87%-13% margin, expressing support for a $15 minimum wage for large employers in the city. Those results give elected officials a strong indicator of public support as the city council considers raising the wage in the coming weeks.

Visit our website to learn more and to support our work.

Follow us on Facebook! **Forward to a friend »** **Twitter**

The Center for Popular Democracy promotes equity, opportunity, and a dynamic democracy in partnership with innovative base-building organizations, organizing networks and alliances, and progressive unions across the country. CPD builds the strength and capacity of democratic organizations to envision and advance a pro-worker, pro-immigrant, racial justice agenda.

This message was sent to bstoffmacher@oaklandnet.com from:

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