¡Si, Se Puede! Yes, We Can!

Instituto Laboral De La Raza
2019 National Labor-Community Awards

Peter Finn
Guest of Honor & California Labor Leadership Award

Enrique Arguello
Bay Area Labor Leadership Award

Ted Lewis
International Solidarity Award
SALUTES

INSTITUTO LABORAL DE LA RAZA

ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 2019 NATIONAL LABOR-COMMUNITY AWARDS
AND THIS YEAR’S AWARD RECIPIENTS

PETER FINN
SECRETARY-TREASURER, TEAMSTERS LOCAL 856

ENRIQUE ARGUELLO
BUSINESS MANAGER, LABORERS LOCAL 270

AND

TED LEWIS
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, HUMAN RIGHTS DIRECTOR, GLOBAL EXCHANGE
Instituto Laboral de la Raza
2019 National Labor-Community Awards

Saturday, April 6th, 2019
Reception and Media Coverage: 5:00pm
Dinner and Awards: 6:00pm

Hilton San Francisco — Union Square
333 O’Farrell Street — San Francisco, CA

2019 Honorees

GUEST OF HONOR
& CALIFORNIA LABOR LEADERSHIP AWARD

Peter Finn
Secretary-Treasurer/Principal Officer
Teamsters Local 856

BAY AREA LABOR LEADERSHIP AWARD

Enrique Arguello
Business Manager
Laborers’ Local 270

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY AWARD

Ted Lewis
Executive Council Human Rights Director
Global Exchange
For over 35 years, the Instituto Laboral de la Raza has served low income families of California as a nonprofit advocacy and workers’ resource center in the Mission District of San Francisco. Most of its clients are unorganized working poor immigrants from Mexico, Central America and Southeast Asia.

The Mission of the Instituto Laboral de la Raza is to provide labor rights education and legal advocacy to obtain unpaid wages and other denied benefits for the unorganized working poor. It works in collaboration with other neighborhood organizations to effectively manage all other critical needs for the economic, health and social welfare of these disadvantaged, disparaged families.

The Goal of the Instituto Laboral de la Raza is to attack the root causes of systemic poverty of people from all social and ethnic backgrounds through programs that stabilize them in their communities, and to build leadership skills so that they may contribute to the economic, social and cultural enrichment of their communities.

Founded in 1982 by Jose E. Medina and community labor leaders, the Instituto, through its community unionism program, also provides workers with information to assist them to seek employment opportunities through Union hiring halls as well as to provide them the means to organize in their workplaces. The Instituto Laboral de la Raza has both community activists and labor leaders that sit on its Board of Directors. Its Advisory Board includes men and women from Organized Labor, from the legal and religious community, as well as grassroots activists.

Instituto Laboral de la Raza is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. It does not charge for any of its services. It is funded by donations, grants and sponsorship by Unions and select businesses. It produces an annual fundraising Labor Community Award Dinner that is the largest in the U.S. Donations are tax deductible in accordance with section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code.
Dear Friends of Labor and Community Supporters:

Welcome to Instituto Laboral de la Raza’s 2019 National Labor-Community Awards. Your continued support helps us to fulfill our mission of providing workers’ rights education and direct legal services without fee for California’s unorganized working poor. Our staff at Instituto Laboral de la Raza advocate for workers using California’s administrative laws to secure wages, compensation for injuries, and other earned benefits previously denied to them.

This year’s Event celebrates successful California Labor Leaders, Peter Finn, Secretary-Treasurer of Teamsters Local 856 and Enrique Arguello, Business Manager of Laborers’ Local 270. Both of these unions are productive and dynamic, together employing tens of thousands of union men and women with good paying jobs.

The 12,000 member-strong Teamsters Local 856, with the leadership of Secretary Treasurer Peter Finn, fight back the onset of corporate-funded legal attacks. Local 856, under Peter Finn, have strengthened its bargaining power regardless of these attacks, and have increased its membership in the process. Local 856 employs in the Hotel, Airline, Healthcare, Benefit Admin, Car Rental, Law Enforcement, and many other sectors.

Laborers’ 270, under Enrique Arguello’s leadership, employ union workers in both construction and industrial occupations. The members of Local 270 have skills to operate heavy equipment for both grading and paving. The Union includes construction projects and jobs in: San Benito, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and Monterey counties. Laborers’ 270 is a growing union, 6,000 members strong, working in many Bay and South Bay Area’s largest construction projects.

We are also pleased to honor our good friend, Ted Lewis, Co-Director of Global Exchange. Global Exchange is an advocacy group and non-governmental organization, based in San Francisco, California, in the past 30 years. Global Exchange has defined its mission to promote human rights, social, economic, and environmental justice around the world. Its Motto: Resisting injustice, envisioning alternatives and taking action.

As we strive to protect the labor rights of those less fortunate, it is with great satisfaction that Instituto directs workers to union apprenticeship programs being offered in the San Francisco Bay Area. All net proceeds from this Event fund educational and labor services that we provide for low income families. We now look forward to providing you with entertainment, inspiration and a renewed call for the empowerment of all workers.

Enjoy your evening.

In Unity,
Sarah M. Shaker
Sarah M. Shaker
Executive Director
Labor Rights Education and Legal Advocacy Services

Instituto Laboral de la Raza provides labor rights advocacy and broad-based educational outreach. Clients are served 7 days a week on a drop-in basis or by appointment. The Instituto is proud to serve all California residents, regardless of their race or national origin, without fee.

The Instituto works closely with community-based organizations, federal and state agencies, law firms, and Organized Labor to assure that clients are effectively served on all other social, economic, and labor issues.

**LEGAL SERVICES**

- Advocacy for denied Wages and other Earned Benefits through state administrative and judicial proceedings
- Referral Services to Labor Law Firms for all other legal issues that place low income families at risk including
  - Injury Cases in the Workplace (Workers Comp), medical care and benefits
  - All other Injury Cases suffered by Workers and Non-Workers alike
  - Discrimination, Harassment, and Wrongful Termination (Race, Sex, Age, Pregnancy, Language)
  - Unfair Labor Practices
  - Immigration Law related to Employment and Labor

**REFERRAL SERVICES TO OTHER COMMUNITY- BASED ORGANIZATIONS**

- Job Training and Job Placement Services.
- Children and Family Services.
- Immigration Services.
- Elder Services (social and legal services for seniors).
- Emergency Services (Food, Shelter, Medical Care, Sustaining funds)
- Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services

**OTHER SERVICES**

- Translations and Research
- Basic Income Tax Prep and securing Taxpayer ID Numbers
Instituto Laboral de la Raza

STAFF

SARAH M. SHAKER  
Executive Director

DOUG HAAKE  
Senior Legal Advocate

ROSA ARGENTINA OATES  
Office Manager

NELSON ALVARENGA  
Legal Advocate

AMIT PENDYAL, J.D.  
Law Clerk

BETH MOSELEY  
Special Events

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JAIME T. GONZALEZ  
Board President  
Contract Enforcement Specialist  
SEIU Local 521

RUDY GONZALEZ  
Board Treasurer  
Executive Director  
San Francisco Labor Council

BRIAN McWILLIAMS  
Board Secretary  
Ship Clerks Union Local 34 (ILWU)

JOHN ULRICH  
UFCW Local 5 (Retired)

LAURIE MESA  
Community Relations Director  
UFCW Local 5

OSCAR DE LA TORRE  
Business Manager  
NCDCL - LIUNA

OLGA MIRANDA  
President  
SEIU Janitors Local 87

FREDDY F. SANCHEZ  
UFCW Local 5 &  
Teamsters (IBT) (Retired)

SAMUEL ROBINSON  
Business Manager  
Laborers’ Local 166 - Hod Carriers  
(LIUNA)
Peter Finn
Secretary-Treasurer/Principal Officer
Teamsters Local 856

Instituto Laboral de la Raza
Guest of Honor &
California Labor Leadership Award
Raised in an activist union family – Peter’s grandfather was a rank and file Teamster in a Boston department store, father a professor who was active in the 1969 San Francisco State strike, and mother a community organizer in San Francisco and Sonoma County – Peter’s social and economic justice awareness was shaped by his family and he started his path to union activism as a rank and file Teamsters Local 856 member and shop steward more than 20 years ago in San Francisco.

In 2013, he became the principal officer and secretary-treasurer of Teamsters Local 856. Under his leadership, the Local’s membership has doubled in size. Peter credits the success of Local 856 on not one person, but rather the collective effort of those who came before and those currently fighting day-in and day-out on behalf of the membership. He believes that empowering members, fighting with force at the bargaining table, and providing aggressive representation is bolstered by maintaining a robust political program and a strong commitment to building power through organizing.
In addition to heading the 12,000-member Local 856, Peter sits on the Teamsters Joint Council No. 7 Executive Board as recording secretary, and is a trustee on the Teamsters Local 856 Health and Welfare Trust Fund.

Peter Finn lives with his wife, Devon, and their daughter, Leelee, in San Francisco.
“I feel very happy and blessed to be a Teamster, because since we became Local 856 members, our union has grown a lot. We had 7,000 to 8,000 members, and now we’re at over 12,000. If you believe in what Teamsters are doing, then you know STRENGTH IN NUMBERS will increase power and improve dignity for workers.” – Noven Feria, Local 856 Shop Steward at Mount Diablo Unified School District
Enrique Arguello
Business Manager
Laborers’ Local 270

Instituto Laboral de la Raza
Bay Area Labor Leadership Award
Enrique Argüello is 59 years old; he immigrated to California from Morelia Michoacán, Mexico in 1986 as an undocumented worker. He started working in the fields at the age of 26 and switched over to the restaurant industry as a dishwasher prior to joining the construction workforce. Now he is the Business Manager of Laborers’ 270, a member of the Northern California District Council of Laborers and Laborers’ International Union of North America (LIUNA).

Enrique was and has always been passionate about actively participating in the labor movement and fighting for social justice.

Organizations he is actively involved with are SIREN, Somos Mayfair, Sol Coalition Primo De Mayo, and in all union activities of the Laborers’ Local 270.

Currently as the Business Manager of the Laborers he has continued to mobilize many of the Local 270 members by helping pass measures that create jobs, fight for the increase of the minimum wages, rent control, and wage theft. Enrique has also assisted with the recent San Jose flooding and has hosted many workshops for citizenship.
The first recorded meeting of Local 270 happened on August 5, 1916. Since that time, the Local has been providing representation and support for all our members in the Bay area. We represent employees in both construction and industrial occupations. Our members’ skills range from heavy highway, pipe layer underground, fencing and traffic control, grading and paving and construction buildings. Our geographic jurisdiction covers the California counties of San Benito, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and Monterey. We have offices in Salinas, San Jose and Santa Cruz, California.
Ted Lewis
Executive Council Human Rights Director
Global Exchange

Instituto Laboral de la Raza
International Solidarity Award
Ted Lewis started the Mexico program at Global Exchange in 1995. Earlier he founded a school that sent students to Central America and Southern Africa in the late 1980s. In 1990 he organized a month long civil observation mission to Nicaragua’s landmark post revolutionary elections. Then after three years of teaching in public schools in California and New York, Ted organized another international election observation mission, this time for the 1994 Presidential elections in Mexico. This collaboration led Global Exchange invited Ted to build a program of exchange and solidarity with Mexico’s civil and human rights movements.

In recent years Ted has focused supporting Mexican organizations working to end the murders, corruption and impunity resulting from misguided drug policy designed in the United States. During 2011 and 2012 Ted took a leading role in organizing the Caravan for Peace that brought dozens of Mexican drug war victims to tell their stories and appeal for change in 27 cities across the United States.


Sally Kinoshita is Deputy Director of the Immigrant Legal Resource Center
Alianza Civica is an independent and non-partisan coalition of more than 400 non-governmental and civic organizations from throughout Mexico. It was originally formed to provide civic observation of the 1994 presidential elections. Since then Alianza has been involved in observing and reporting on state and local elections throughout Mexico.
Instituto Laboral de la Raza
A Pictorial History of the Last 13 Years of Our Labor & Community Awards Dinners

2006-2018
Friday, Feb 10
2006

Marriott Marquis, San Francisco

Guest of Honor & Labor Leader of the Year
Terence M. O’Sullivan
General President
Laborers’ International Union of North America

Hon. Barbara Lee
U.S. Congress (D-CA)

Micheal J. McLaughlin
Secretary-Treasurer
Teamsters Local 856

Larry Del Carlo
President
Mission Housing Development Corporation