



## DOL News Brief

October 1, 2009

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### Solis at Clinton Global Initiative



New York was the center of the world last week, as global leaders from government, the private sector, civil society and popular

culture convened in Manhattan for the annual meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative.

Secretary Solis joined Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Carlos Slim Helú, Chairman of the Board of Grupo Carso S.A. de C.V., Marilyn Nelson, Chairman of Carlson Companies Inc., and others in a provocative discussion on how companies, governments, and civic leaders can build opportunities for young people in a way that makes sound business sense.

- [View the Slideshow](#)

### Coming to You Via Satellite

This morning, Secretary Solis fielded questions — via satellite — from local TV newscasters throughout California, Louisiana, North Carolina and Pennsylvania. She discussed President Obama's health insurance reform plan, the current employment situation, and DOL's efforts to make "Good Jobs for Everyone" a reality. In the past weeks, Solis has also been interviewed on these topics by TV and radio programs in Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Idaho, Kansas, Michigan, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, and Wisconsin.

- [View the Health Care Web Site](#)

### DOL Hosts Information Exchange

Representatives from DOL hosted officials from Chile's Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare to exchange information about the



## What's Hot:

### OSHA Begins NEP on Recordkeeping

OSHA initiated a National Emphasis Program (NEP) on recordkeeping, which focuses on the accuracy of injury and illness data kept by employers in high injury and illness rated industries. Records inspections, employee interviews and workplace inspections are all components of the NEP.

- [Read the News Release](#)
- Learn More About OSHA Activities - [Subscribe to "QuickTakes"](#)

### UI Technology Gets a Boost

DOL announced \$164.5 million in grants to improve the operation and security of unemployment insurance systems in 49 states, as well as DC, PR and US VI. Funds will be used to ensure claims and benefits are processed and paid in a timely, consistent and secure manner — an improvement that is "critical to providing workers with the income security needed to actively seek re-employment," stated Secretary Solis.

- [Read the News Release](#)

### 85,000 Children Worldwide Served by ILAB

Coffee, bricks, and embroidered textiles — what do these products have in common? The answer: Sometimes they are made with exploitive child labor. More than 85,000 children in 19 countries will be rescued from exploitive labor thanks to nearly \$59 million in grants awarded by the Department's International Labor Affairs Bureau (ILAB). The grants will not only offer children an alternative future, but also develop national action plans to tackle this global crisis.



- [Read the News Release](#)

### Child Labor Violations at Market Research Firm

Western Wats Center Inc., a Utah-based market research company, has been assessed \$552,750 in penalties for violating child labor regulations under the FLSA. An investigation from DOL's Wage & Hour Division revealed that the company employed 1,482 minors who worked in excess of hours and time regulations for minors during the school year. The penalty is among the highest assessed for child labor violations.

- [Read the News Release](#)

## National News:

### National Disability Employment Awareness Month

National Disability Employment Awareness Month begins today — a special observance where people across the country recognize and celebrate the contributions of workers with disabilities. The month is also dedicated to

Department's National Call Center (NCC), Chile's current programs and initiatives, and labor law enforcement in both countries. The agenda included a trip to the NCC operations facility, where NCC staff handled more than 1.8 million phone calls and nearly 70,000 e-mails from the public in FY 2008.

- [View the Slideshow](#)

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## One BIG State



Secretary Solis traveled to the Lone Star State last weekend, where she visited El Paso's Norman Haley Employment Center,

and joined Congressman Silvestre Reyes for a roundtable discussion with labor, business and community leaders. She then headed to Rio Grande Valley's University of Texas — Pan American. She spoke to 1,500 attendees at the Hispanic Engineering Science and Technology Conference (HESTEC). Solis also took part in a Q & A session on "Green Technologies," moderated by Telemundo's Jose Diaz-Balart that included Congressmen Ruben Hinojosa, Henry Cuellar and Solomon Ortiz.

- [View the Slideshow](#)

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## OSHA: GHS for USA

The first major health rulemaking of the Obama administration was announced by OSHA this week. The agency is proposing a rule to align their Hazard Communication standard with provisions of the UN's Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS). Following the September 30 publication of the proposal in the Federal Register is a 90-day comment period that ends Dec. 29. OSHA plans to hold public hearings on the rulemaking early in 2010.

- [Read the News Release](#)
- Learn More About OSHA Activities - [Subscribe to "QuickTakes"](#)

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## Upcoming Deadlines & Events

### ARRA Grant Application Deadlines

- [Health Care Sector and Other High Growth and Emerging Industries](#)  
(SGA/DFA PY 09-01)  
Close: 10/5/2009

fostering a culture that values the skills and talents of all qualified employees. "Fair access to employment is a fundamental right of every American, including the 54 million people in this country living with disabilities," proclaimed President Obama. Throughout October, the Department's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) will focus a spotlight on effective initiatives to remove unnecessary barriers to equal employment opportunities.

- [Download the Poster](#) [PDF]

### Vick To Repay Pension Plan

NFL player Michael Vick and his company, MV7 LLC, are obligated to repay at least \$416,461 in restitution to a pension plan sponsored by the company, and Vick must forfeit any rights to benefits from the plan. Vick and his company also agreed to pay a civil monetary penalty imposed by DOL. This consent judgment resolves Solis v. Vick, the Department's lawsuit alleging that Vick violated federal employee benefits law when he used plan assets to help pay his unlawful dog fighting conviction as well as his bankruptcy attorney fees.

- [Read the News Release](#)

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## Recovery Highlights: Michigan

DOL awarded the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth National Emergency Grants totaling \$38 million to assist laid off-workers in the Southeast, West, and Mid-Michigan regions. The grants will serve 13,291 workers affected by future layoffs occurring within these regions during the grants' 12-month period. "These grants are part of an active commitment to retraining and reintegrating workers who have been impacted by the automotive crisis into promising sectors of Michigan's regional economies," said Secretary Solis.

- [Read the News Release](#)

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## Spotlight on States: Maine

Relief is on the way for Maine workers affected by layoffs at RR Donnelley and Standard Insurance Co. The Department announced a \$2 million grant to assist approximately 300 workers at RR Donnelley in Wells, and \$430,417 in grants to assist approximately 65 workers at the Portland and South Portland locations of Standard Insurance Co. Skills assessment, individual career counseling and occupational skills training are among the services made available through these grants.

- [Read the RR Donnelley News Release](#)
- [Read the Standard Insurance Co. News Release](#)

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## DOL In Action:

### Women's Bureau Goes Green

The Department's Women's Bureau announced this week that they will publish a first-of-its kind "Woman's Guide to Green Jobs," slated for release in spring 2010. In both hard copy and online curriculum, the Guide will provide women and employment professionals with information on hiring needs, training and entrepreneurship opportunities in green industries.

- [Read the News Release](#)



### Wage and Hour Recovers \$1.5 Million

The Department has given Vermont based SI International SEIT Inc. until

- [State Energy Sector Partnership \(SESP\) and Training Grants \(SGA/DFA PY-08-20\)](#)  
Close: 10/20/2009

#### EBSA COBRA Subsidy Under ARRA

- [October 15 - 16 — San Francisco, CA](#)

#### OFCCP Compliance Assistance Seminars for Construction Contractors

- [October 2 — Richmond, VA](#)

#### OFCCP — Compliance Assistance Seminar (ARRA)

- [October 6 — Mountainside, NJ](#)

#### OFCCP — Compliance Assistance AAP Workshop

- [October 7 — Pittsburgh, PA](#)
- [October 8 — Baltimore, MD](#)

#### OFCCP — Compliance Assistance Seminar

- [October 7 — Boston, MA](#)

#### Economic Recovery — What Women Need to Know

- [October 10 — Reno, NV](#)

the end of the month to pay \$1,559,978 in back wages it owes 272 employees. During a Wage & Hour Division investigation, the company was found in violation of the McNamara-O'Hara Service Contract Act's wage provisions. Contrary to the provision requirement that contractors and subcontractor be paid the prevailing wage rate for their work on federal service contracts, SI International SEIT Inc. misclassified employees and failed to pay them the proper rates.

- [Read the News Release](#)

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## Opportunities are Open: OSHA in Texas

Want a career protecting lives? DOL's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) may be the place for you! OSHA opportunities are open in the Lone Star State. Explore the three opportunities listed below or [view all](#) the exciting and rewarding DOL positions.

1. Position in El Paso, TX  
[Investigator \(Occupational Safety and Health\) — Grade 9](#)  
DE-09-DAL-OSHA-0306  
Close: 10/15/09
2. Position in Fort Worth, TX  
[Investigator \(Occupational Safety and Health\) — Grade 9](#)  
DE-09-DAL-OSHA-0318  
Close: 10/25/2009
3. Position in Austin, TX  
[Safety Engineer — Grade 9](#)  
DE-09-DAL-OSHA-0312  
Close: 10/06/2009

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