



DOL News Brief

February 25, 2010

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MSHA's Main Addresses Backlog of Contested Citations



Mine Safety and Health Administration's (MSHA) Assistant Secretary Joseph A. Main went to Capitol Hill on Tuesday to address the House Committee on

Education and Labor about a growing concern for the agency – the increasing backlog of contested citations for violations of health and safety standards awaiting resolution by the federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission. Since his first day on the job, Main has been examining the causes of the existing backlog and exploring solutions. "For the Mine Act to be effectively implemented the way Congress intended, contested penalty cases must be resolved in a timely way," Main testified. "Even though the case backlog has not affected MSHA's ability to require operators to abate hazardous conditions, it has severely reduced the deterrent value that penalties were meant to have."

- [Read the Testimony](#)
- [View the Slideshow](#)

Solis' UniVision for Latino Youth

On Tuesday, Secretary Solis joined Education Secretary Arne Duncan and Gates Foundation Co-chair and Trustee Melinda Gates to launch Univision's Education



Campaign promoting high school completion and college readiness among Latino youth. With support from The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and in collaboration with major Hispanic national and local organizations and government agencies, Univision is connecting Hispanic parents and caregivers with resources encouraging educational attainment.

- [View the Slideshow](#)

Oates on Jobs in Ohio

Last Friday, Assistant Secretary for the

What's Hot: One Year and Counting...

It has been a year since Secretary Solis walked through the doors of the Department of Labor. And in the year since she arrived, there has been a renewed focus to create "good jobs for everyone." With the help of a tireless staff, DOL eased the burden of the recession on working families, jump started the recovery of our economy with more than 90,000 jobs, and protected workers' rights and benefits in the face of economic pressures that threatened their well-being. This work has made a real difference in the lives of working families.



- [View the Slideshow](#)

News You Can Use

Not Too Late to Save the Date

Registration for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's National Action Summit for Latino Worker Health and Safety on April 14-15, 2010, in Houston is still open. The summit, co-sponsored by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and in partnership with the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, seeks to reduce injuries and illnesses among Latino workers by enhancing their knowledge of workplace rights and improving their ability to exercise them. Attendees will include workers and representatives from employer associations, labor unions, faith community, community organizations, universities, safety and health professionals, consulates and others.

- [Register](#)

DOL Working For You

Job Corps Cooks Up Exciting Career for SF Chef

As the head chef of a popular San Francisco eatery, Chanette Purser-Smith (pictured in red) spices each meal with a pinch of passion and a dash of determination. She credits her success to rigorous culinary training learned from Job Corps.



Purser-Smith left rough teenage years behind her and blossomed at the Shriver (Mass.) center, where she earned a food service certificate in 2007. She then moved to and graduated from the Treasure Island (Calif.) center's advanced culinary arts program in 2008, where she also found time to intern at both a catering company and restaurant. Her career has even taken her to Germany to learn how to bake.



Employment and Training Administration Jane Oates joined Reps. Tim Ryan and John Bocchieri to learn firsthand about job creation, economic

recovery, and ongoing challenges from local and state leaders in Ohio. Stops included the Employment Source in Canton, and Rep. Ryan's office in Warren, where Oates discussed job creation with representatives from Eastern Gateway Community College and the Trumbull County Workforce Investment Board.

DOL in Action

Department Launches Enforcement Efforts in Utah and Denver

The Department's Wage and Hour Division (WHD) has launched a pair of concentrated enforcement efforts in Utah and the Denver metropolitan area to combat violations of federal minimum wage, overtime pay and child labor regulations. In Utah the initiative will focus on the restaurant industry by conducting approximately 65 establishment investigations. In addition to restaurants, the Denver initiative will include construction sites, where WHD plans to use the results to develop future strategies to increase compliance levels in order to secure safe and healthy workplaces for employees.

- [Read the Utah Release](#)
- [Read the Denver Release](#)

WHD Promotes Compliance with Fair Labor Standards Act in NY

DOL's Wage and Hour Division is currently conducting a compliance initiative in the health care industry for all New York state counties north of New York City. This initiative from the Albany District Office aims to promote compliance with the minimum wage, overtime, recordkeeping and child labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), and to ensure employees are protected and compensated in accordance with the law. Investigations during the last five years revealed that less than 36 percent of health care employers in that area were in compliance with the FLSA.

- [Read the News Release](#)

EBSA Year in Review

The Department's Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) had several noteworthy achievements during fiscal year 2009, including monetary results of more than \$1.3 billion for retirement, health, and other employee benefits plans governed by federal employee benefits law. EBSA also closed 3,669 civil investigations, while criminal offenses involving employee benefit plans led to indictment of 115 individuals. "These results reflect a strong, fair and aggressive program to protect the benefits of American workers, retirees and their families," said EBSA Assistant Secretary Phyllis C. Borzi.

- [Read the Fact Sheet](#)

Wage and Hour Reaches Out to N.C. Latinos About Their Rights

Wage and Hour staffers Yaimara Esquivel and Carmen Otero-Infante, from the North Carolina District Office, were interviewed by Father Fernando Torres for "La Voz Católica," a radio program presented by the Catholic Diocese's of Raleigh on Radio La Ley, 96.9 FM. Conducted in Spanish, the interview informed Latinos in North Carolina of their rights in regard to child labor, the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act and the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Protection Act.

- [Listen to the Interview](#)

OSHA Holds Combustible Dust Stakeholder Meeting in Atlanta

On Feb. 17, DOL's Occupational Safety and Health Administration hosted a public listening session in Atlanta. Representatives from trade groups, individual companies and unions participated in two sessions meant to provide information for the analysis and development of a protective and feasible standard for combustible dust. Since 1980, more than 130 workers

ODEP on the Road

Assistant Secretary for the Office of the Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) Kathy Martinez traveled to Atlanta, Ga. on Wednesday for the fifth stop on her National



Listening Tour. "The employment figures for people with disabilities are way too low," said Martinez. "ODEP is working with other federal agencies to change this picture as we strive for good jobs for everyone, including those of us with disabilities." The following day she was the keynote speaker for "Disability Day," an annual gathering hosted by the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities and the Governor to promote meaningful community living for Georgians with disabilities and their families.

- [Learn More About the Tour](#)

Upcoming Deadlines & Events

March 3, DOL officials will host two town hall meetings in Ronkonkoma, N.Y. detailing a new class of former employees of the Brookhaven National Laboratory recently added to the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act's (EEOICPA) special exposure cohort and outlining Parts B and E of the EEOICPA.

DEEOIC — Town Hall Meetings to Assist Nuclear Weapons Workers

- [March 3, 2010 — Ronkonkoma, NY](#)

MSHA — Spring Thaw Workshop

- [March 3, 2010 — Utica, IL](#)
- [March 3, 2010 — Emporia, KS](#)

ODEP — A New Day: We're Listening

- [March 3, 2010 — Boston, MA](#)

OFCCP — ARRA Compliance Assistance Seminar

- [March 3, 2010 — Boston, MA](#)

OFCCP — Compliance Assistance for Supply and Service Contractors

- [February 26, 2010 — Richmond, VA](#)

OFCCP — Compliance Assistance for Construction Contractors

- [March 4, 2010 — Philadelphia, PA](#)
- [March 5, 2010 — Richmond, VA](#)

OFCCP — Compliance Assistance Seminars

- [March 2, 2010 — Danbury, CT](#)
- [March 3, 2010 — Boston, MA](#)
- [March 3, 2010 — Boston, MA](#)

OFCCP — AAP Development & Preparing for a Desk Audit

- [March 2, 2010 — Philadelphia, PA](#)

OFCCP — Affirmative Action Plan (AAP) Workshop

- [March 3, 2010 — Pittsburgh, PA](#)

OLMS — Compliance Assistance Seminar

- [March 2, 2010 — Austin, TX](#)
- [March 2, 2010 — Albuquerque, NM](#)
- [March 2, 2010 — Louisville, KY](#)
- [March 3, 2010 — Salt Lake City, UT](#)
- [March 3, 2010 — Westerville, OH](#)

OLMS — Trustee Workshop

- [March 2, 2010 — Salt Lake City, UT](#)
- [March 3, 2010 — Albuquerque, NM](#)

OSHA — OSHA Listens

- [March 4, 2010 — Washington, DC](#)

WB — Women's Expo

- [March 4, 2010 — Wichita, KS](#)

WB — Women's Role in the Green Economy

- [March 5, 2010 — Boston, MA](#)

Follow USDOL on

- Statement by Solicitor of Labor M. Patricia Smith regarding ongoing investigation of Upper Big Branch Mine explo... <http://bit.ly/gyS3YZ> 4 days ago
- Mining deaths rise in 2010 [01/13/2011] <http://bit.ly/g77s3S> 4

have been killed and more than 780 injured in combustible dust explosions. Comments from a similar meeting held in December are now available online.

- [Read the Meeting Summary](#)

International Scene

Department Seeks Feedback on Child Labor

The Department's Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) recently announced that it is publishing two related requests for information (RFIs) from the public in advance of developing reports to Congress and the president. One seeks information on goods produced in foreign countries by child labor, forced labor and/or forced or indentured child labor. The other focuses on certain countries' efforts to implement their international commitments to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. Written documentation responding to the RFI's should be submitted by April 9 to Tina McCarter (mccarter.tina@dol.gov) or Leyla Strotkamp (strotkamp.leyla@dol.gov).

- [Read the News Release](#)

Recovery Highlights

Department Announces \$1.3 Million Grant to Assist Workers in Idaho

Workers affected by layoffs at Dell Computer's call center in Twin Falls, Idaho will benefit from a \$1,324,672 grant made available through Recovery Act funding. "This grant will provide important re-employment and retraining services to help workers in Idaho access job opportunities in expanding fields," said Secretary Solis. These services may include skills assessment, basic skills training, individual career counseling and occupational skills training.

- [Read the News Release](#)

Spotlight on States: Kansas

The Department announced a \$7,543,200 grant to assist about 1,120 workers affected by layoffs from multiple companies in the aviation, construction, health care, manufacturing and retail industries in south central Kansas. "Aviation manufacturing and other industries in Kansas have been significantly impacted by the recent economic downturn. These Kansans deserve our support as they take part in the nation's ongoing economic recovery," said Secretary Solis. "This grant will help workers obtain the re-employment and training services they need to secure good jobs in new and emerging industries."

- [Read the News Release](#)

Opportunities are Open: OWCP

The Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP) administers four major disability compensation programs which provide wage replacement benefits, medical treatment, vocational rehabilitation and other benefits to certain workers or their dependents who experience work-related injury or occupational disease. It's exciting and important work. Explore the OWCP positions below or [view all](#) the exciting and rewarding opportunities at DOL.

1. Position in New York City, NY
[Worker's Compensation Claims Examiner — GS-0991-12/12](#)
DE-10-BOS-OWCP-67

[days ago](#)

Close: 03/05/2010

2. Position in Washington DC Metro Area

[Medical Officer \(Occupational Medicine\) — GS-0602-15/15](#)

DE-10-ESA-EE-18

Close: 03/30/2010

3. Position in Charleston, WV

[Workers' Compensation Assistant — GS-0303-05/06](#)

MS-10-PHIL-OWCP-0061

Close: 03/08/2010

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