



DOL News Brief

June 9, 2011

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Registered Apprenticeship:
The Secret is Out!



Joined by young apprentices and labor and industry leaders on Monday, Secretary Solis highlighted state-of-the-art training provided by joint

apprenticeship programs at the Labor Department's "Out Educate, Out Build" event on the National Mall. The celebration marked the centennial anniversary of Registered Apprenticeships – the nationally recognized credentialing system for skilled and technical occupational training programs overseen by the Employment and Training Administration – in the U.S. Following remarks, participants toured mobile training units from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, United Association, International Masonry Institute and the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades. "I've said it before and I'll say it again," Solis told the crowd of nearly 500, "joint apprenticeships are one of this country's best kept secrets. But from the National Mall this morning, I'm proud to let the secret out!"

- [View the Slideshow](#)
- [Read the Secretary's Blog Entry](#)
- [Read the Secretary's Remarks](#)
- [Learn About Registered Apprenticeships](#)

Squawk At DOL



What better place to broadcast on "Jobs Friday" than the department's Labor Hall of Fame? Last week, CNBC's morning show, Squawk Box,

was back (for the third time) at the Labor Department for its three-hour broadcast. Secretary Solis joined anchors Joe Kernan, Becky Quick and Carl Quintanilla for an early morning discussion about Solis' recent

What's Hot

Report Shows Employment of Blacks Trailing Whites, Hispanics

The Labor Department released "The Black Labor Force in the Recovery" on Monday, the latest report in a series examining the situations of women and minorities in the American economy since the recession that began in 2007. In 2010, the unemployment rate for blacks was 16 percent – significantly higher than those of both whites and



Hispanics. This group made up 12 percent of the U.S. labor force, with 18 million people, representing 62 percent of the black population, either employed or looking for work. Through a series of radio interviews, Secretary Solis discussed DOL's commitment to improving the employment picture for black Americans. "We will continue to make sure that all communities have access to programs that would equip them with the skills they need to compete in the 21st century job market," she said.

- [Read the Report](#)
- [Read the Secretary's Blog Entry](#)

DOL Grants of \$5 Million to Fund Programs Aiding 3,000 Veterans

Secretary Solis announced Wednesday a competition making available more than \$5 million for programs under the department's Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program. Administered through the Veterans' Employment and Training Service, the grants will provide funding to state and local workforce investment boards, local public agencies and nonprofit organizations to assist approximately 3,000 homeless veterans with job training and other employment-related services. "No one should face homelessness. But statistics reveal that a disturbingly large percentage of our homeless population is made up of veterans," said Solis. "The Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program will help these veterans prepare for and obtain meaningful employment so they can establish a more stable civilian life."

- [Read the News Release](#)

DOL/AstraZeneca Settle Sex Discrimination Suit

Forty-eight years after President Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act, women are still fighting for pay equity. AstraZeneca, one of the largest pharmaceutical companies in the world and a Department of Veterans Affairs' contractor, has agreed to pay \$250,000 to 124 women who were subjected to pay discrimination while working at the corporation's Philadelphia Business Center. The company also agreed to work with the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs to conduct a statistical analysis of the base pay of 415 individuals employed as sales specialists in

commencement speeches, and previewed her visit to Memphis the next day to induct the 1,300 participants of the 1968 sanitation workers' strike into the Labor Hall of Fame. Other guests included Alan Greenspan, former chairman of the Federal Reserve; New York Times columnist and Pulitzer award-winning author Thomas Friedman; and Service Employees International Union President Mary Kay Henry.

- [View the Slideshow](#)
- [Watch the Interview](#)

Driving Economic Growth

The Detroit Three automakers – General Motors, Ford and Chrysler – posted profits last quarter, marking the first time in almost two decades



that all gained market share. Since GM and Chrysler restructured, the industry has created 115,000 jobs. This growth is a byproduct of the American auto companies working with, not against, their unionized workforce. On Tuesday, Secretary Solis addressed the successful partnership at a Labor and Employment Relations Association conference. "This administration knew labor and management could sit across the table and retool for the 21st century in a way that's good for the bottom line and for those on the assembly line. We still have more work to do to retrain workers and retool facilities to build the cars of the future, but we're on the right path."

- [View the Slideshow](#)
- [Read the Secretary's Blog Entry](#)

1968 Workers Inducted into DOL Hall of Fame: Part 2



Secretary Solis visited Memphis last weekend to complete a two-part induction of the 1968 Memphis sanitation strike workers into the

Labor Hall of Fame. More than 700 people gathered at the University of Memphis to witness and celebrate the historic occasion. Solis emphasized the importance of public workers and the positive impact they have on surrounding communities. She encouraged the crowd to adopt the attitudes of the 1,300 men that participated in the strike and to work toward bettering working conditions in the United States.

- [View the Slideshow](#)

Alabama, Delaware, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. If the analysis concludes that female employees continue to be underpaid, the company will adjust salaries.

- [Read the News Release](#)
- [Read the Blog Post](#)

Take Three: Borzi Defines Fiduciary

Assistant Secretary of the Employee Benefits Security Administration Phyllis C. Borzi addresses the proposed change to the definition of fiduciary.

Your agency has proposed a regulation on the definition of a fiduciary. What is a fiduciary?

Under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, a fiduciary is someone who occupies a special role in an employee benefit plan, such as someone who is paid to act on your behalf or to advise you about your retirement investments. Fiduciaries are required by law to act prudently and only in your interest and not in their own. A fiduciary could be your employer, some other service provider or the individual whose retirement investment advice you rely on.

How would the proposal change the definition of fiduciary?

We have proposed to revise the definition that was adopted in 1975 before 401(k) plans even existed and when most workers were still participants in traditional pension plans. We believe the investment adviser a worker retains to help him or her invest retirement savings should, in more cases than under the current rule, be considered a fiduciary and, therefore, subject to the requirements of ERISA. Among other things, this would mean the adviser could not offer advice that is more financially beneficial to him or her than to you, and would be required to act only in your best interest.

Why is this important?

Saving for retirement can be difficult and investing has become increasingly complex. There are no "do-overs" when it comes to your retirement savings so we need to make sure investment advisers are operating in a worker's best interest and are held accountable for the advice for which they are paid.

For more information, look in the New & Noteworthy section on www.dol.gov/ebsa or call 866-444-EBSA.

- [AARP Radio Interview with Asst. Sec. Borzi on Definition of Fiduciary](#)

Around DOL

Safety is POWER

The National Safety Council designates June as National Safety Month to emphasize the importance of safety in the workplace, at home, in the community and on the road. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management jointly sponsored DOL Safety Day at the Labor



Department's headquarters in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday. This year's theme was Safety is POWER, which builds on the presidential initiative "Protecting Our Workers and Ensuring Re-employment." "The POWER initiative is a critical component in Secretary Solis' vision of 'good jobs for everyone' in America — and we can't have good jobs unless they are safe jobs," said Dr. David Michaels, assistant secretary for OSHA. "Day in and

- [Watch the Video](#)
- [Read the Secretary's Remarks](#)

Secretary Solis Honored for Commitment to LGBT Community

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force honored Secretary Solis on Sunday at the first Pink & Purple Awards Brunch in Washington, D.C. Solis



was honored for her long and proud commitment not only to the LGBT community but to the advancement of working people everywhere. In a rousing speech, she expressed her gratitude for the NGLTF and praised its work for the LGBT community, as well as advocacy on a broad range of social justice issues. Solis said, "I'm honored to receive this award. But I dream of a day when it is commonplace for all of us to simply respect each other for who we all are. You are the ones who deserve a medal. You are the ones who, through your actions and activism, are changing hearts and minds every day."

- [View the Slideshow](#)
- [Read the Secretary's Remarks](#)

Creating Partnerships is Focus of OFCCP Atlanta Meeting



In Atlanta, the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs brought together federal contractors, community-based organizations, colleges

and universities, and state employment agencies to talk about "Good Jobs for Everyone – Building a Diverse Workforce Together!" Presenters included Rep. John Lewis, who spoke on the continued relevance of civil rights enforcement; OFCCP Director Patricia Shiu on the agency's vigilance in equalizing the workforce; and representatives of the city of Atlanta, who showcased the "Hire One Initiative," to encourage 150,000 Atlanta companies to hire one person each.

- [View the Slideshow](#)
- [Read Shiu's Comments](#)

Congressional Hispanic Caucus Interns Chat with WB Director

Women's Bureau
Director Sara

day out here in the Labor Department, we all focus on the safety and health of workers around the nation. Today is a day to reflect and act on your own safety and health needs."

- [View the Slideshow](#)

Labor Advisory Committee on Trade Welcomes New Members

This week, Secretary Solis announced four new members of the Labor Advisory Committee for Trade Negotiations and Trade Policy, created under the Trade Act of 1974 to provide information and advice relating to negotiating objectives and bargaining positions of the United States prior to entering into trade agreements with foreign countries. "We are excited about the addition of these new members and look forward to the advice they will provide on international trade negotiations and trade policies of the United States. These advisors will play an important role in developing trade objectives that reflect the concerns of America's workers," said Solis.

- [Read the News Release](#)

New Faces on Construction Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee on Construction Safety and Health has advised the Occupational Safety and Health Administration assistant secretary on construction standards and policy matters for nearly 40 years. Eight new members were announced this week. "The new ACCSH members possess a wealth of knowledge and real-world experience on a wide range of construction health and safety matters," said Assistant Secretary Dr. David Michaels. "I am confident these new members, representing the interests of labor, management, government and the public, will use their expertise to provide valuable advice and recommendations on important workplace safety and health issues. We share the goal of good, safe jobs for all American workers."

- [Read the News Release](#)
- [Learn More about ACCSH](#)

National News

Focus on Rural Communities

President Obama today signed an executive order establishing the first-ever White House Rural Council. Through the council, the Labor Department and other Cabinet agencies will build on the administration's rural economic strategy, improve the implementation of that strategy and address challenges facing rural communities. "Safe and healthy workplaces and a local workforce prepared for the jobs of the 21st century are vital to sustaining strong rural communities," said Secretary Solis. "The Rural Council will help the Labor Department more effectively support greater coordination among businesses, rural workers and government resources. The result will be safer, more innovative and more competitive workplaces, and greater prosperity for our nation."

- [Read the News Release](#)
- [Read the Executive Order](#)

News You Can Use

WHD Opens Field Office in San Angelo, Texas

The Wage and Hour Division has opened a new field office at the O.C. Fisher Federal Building and courthouse in San Angelo. "This new office will be a great one-stop resource for the people of central Texas on compliance assistance and information concerning the federal labor laws we enforce," said Regional Administrator Cynthia Watson. The San Angelo Field Office

Manzano-Díaz was the keynote speaker for the incoming summer internship class at the Congressional



Hispanic Caucus Institute on Monday. She spoke about the value of an education and dreaming big, as well as ethical leadership as the interns begin their eight-week experience on Capitol Hill. They asked Manzano-Díaz questions about work experiences, the current state of the economy for women and the global competitiveness of the country. Manzano-Díaz concluded her remarks about leadership and public service by quoting Dr. Martin Luther King: "Everyone can be great because anyone can serve."

Reaching Out to the Crescent City



The White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships hosted the second leg of its Connecting

Communities for the Common Good tour in New Orleans, La., earlier this week. The conference, attended by more than 500 people, was an opportunity to reach out to faith and community groups and their leaders about the work of the federal government, and invite them to get involved. Staff from Secretary Solis' Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships facilitated panel discussions on jobs and economic recovery. Local leaders, including Bryan T. Moore, director for workforce development in Mayor Mitch Landrieu's office, addressed progress being made implementing a National Emergency Grant awarded by DOL in response to last year's oil spill. Other panelists discussed high growth and emerging industries in the region, including health care, coastal restoration and water management.

- [Learn More with the Conference Toolkit](#)

NJ Summit on Safety, Wages Draws Latino and Immigrant Workers

More than 100 workers, advocates and representatives from community-based organizations participated in the Southern New Jersey



has oversight for agency enforcement throughout the San Angelo Metropolitan Area as well as central Texas. The public can visit the new office at 33 East Twohig Ave., Suite 104-B, or call 325-655-2791 to receive assistance in English or Spanish. It is an extension of the division's San Antonio District Office.

- [Read the News Release](#)
- [Read the News Release \(En Español\)](#)

New Designation for Energy Workers

Workers across the country who became ill as a result of working in the nuclear weapons industry are covered under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Act for compensation and medical benefits. The Labor Department announced this week the addition of four new groups of workers from different sites – Linde Ceramics Plant in Tonawanda, N.Y.; Norton Co., in Worcester, Mass.; Vitro Manufacturing in Canonsburg, Pa.; and the Wah Chang facility in Albany, Ore. – to the act's Special Exposure Cohort. A worker who is included in a designated SEC class of employees, and who is diagnosed with one of 22 specified cancers, may receive a presumption of causation under the EEOICPA.

- [Read the Linde Ceramics Plant News Release](#)
- [Read the Wah Chang Facility News Release](#)
- [Read the Norton Co. Facility News Release](#)
- [Read the Vitro Manufacturing News Release](#)

DOL Working for You

One-Stop Career Center Leads Job Seeker to Sought After Position

Gary Popeck went through four tough job interviews with a New Jersey company, besting 250 other applicants to be hired as an assistant corporate controller. He credits his good fortune to the career counseling and support he received at a Dover, N.J., One-Stop Career Center. There he heard from motivational speakers and took courses on how to tailor his resume and cover letter to specific job openings. He also learned the benefits of using social media, such as LinkedIn, to land employment opportunities. Popeck's interviews went smoothly because the training "made me feel more comfortable and helped me sell myself better." The program, he added, "led to my success by improving my job search skills and enhanced my ability to have confidence."



- [Find a Local One-Stop Career Center](#)

Job Corps + Air Force = Future Nurse



Nineteen-year-old Ronica Mitchell realized she didn't have enough money to go to college and become a nurse, so she moved on to plan B. Mitchell enrolled at the Job Corps center in Gulfport, Miss., where she worked hard to graduate with a certificate in medical office support. She has enlisted in the Air Force after learning from her father, a former Marine, that the military would provide the finances necessary for her to go to school once she has completed her service. Facing almost nine weeks of basic training, Mitchell said she is proud about what she has accomplished and excited about her future. "Job Corps helped me become a better person,"

Action Summit for Latino/Immigrant Workers in Bridgeton this week. The event, co-hosted by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the Wage and Hour Division, Comite de Apoyo A Los Trabajadores Agricolas, the Mexican Consulate General and Camden's Catholic Diocese, provided attendees information about workplace safety and fair wages. Participants learned about employer responsibilities under federal law and how to file a complaint if their rights have been violated. OSHA emphasized precautions related to extreme heat when working outdoors.

- [View the Slideshow](#)
- [Learn About the Heat Campaign](#)

Lawson Receives Flemming Award

For six decades, the Arthur S. Flemming Awards have recognized outstanding men and women in the federal government. Kelly Lawson received this prestigious honor on Monday at The George Washington University for her work with the department's Boston Regional Solicitor's Office. As she did in private practice, Lawson has distinguished herself during her 12 years with SOL. She skillfully has handled large numbers of demanding legal matters that span an unusually wide range of program areas, including cases under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, Executive Order 11246, the Davis Bacon and Related Acts, the Fair Labor Standards Act and the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

- [Learn About the Award](#)

Partnership for Safety

Improving health and safety for auto workers is the goal of a partnership signed this week by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration; Ford Motor Co.; Automotive Component Holdings LLC; the United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America; and the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Since 2000, OSHA has had a strategic partnership with Ford and the UAW, the original partners, which has resulted in a significant reduction in workplace injuries – including an 88 percent reduction in days away from work. "The partnership is a win-win for management and labor. It contributes to Ford's competitiveness in the global economy while protecting the safety and health of thousands of workers," said OSHA Assistant Secretary Dr. David Michaels.

- [Read the News Release](#)

she said. That experience, coupled with her military enlistment, is starting her on a path to work in the nursing field.

DOL in Action

Kentucky Receives \$4.3 Million for Storm Cleanup

The Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet received a \$4,276,514 National Emergency Grant for the creation of temporary jobs to assist in recovery efforts in 47 counties from April's severe storms, tornadoes and flooding. "People in Kentucky are still reeling from the devastation of recent storms. The grant will help affected communities as they begin cleanup and repair efforts," said Secretary Solis.

- [Read the News Release](#)
- [Read FEMA Declaration](#)

OSHA Fines Alabama Lumber Company Nearly \$160,000

Thomasville Lumber Co. has been cited by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration for 24 safety and record keeping violations at its plant in Thomasville, Ala. Five willful, 13 serious and six other-than-serious violations related to hazards involving lockout/tagout of energy sources, failing to maintain complete and accurate OSHA logs for four consecutive years, and a lack of machine guarding. Penalties total \$159,700. "OSHA will not hesitate to impose significant penalties when it finds that workers are being endangered on the job, and when employers intentionally disregard their responsibility to completely and accurately maintain injury logs that can help them identify problem areas," said Cindy Coe, the agency's regional administrator.

- [Read the News Release](#)

Alabama Auto Parts Manufacturer Fined More Than \$179,000

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has cited Saehaesung Alabama Inc. for eight safety violations after a follow-up inspection to evaluate the abatement of violations found in 2009. Penalties total \$179,300. Two willful, one repeat, four serious and one other-than-serious violation relate to lockout/tagout of energy sources, failing to provide training and information on hazardous chemicals, and not using safety blocks while adjusting dies in the mechanical presses.

- [Read the News Release](#)

Back Wages Secured for Child Care Facility Employees in Louisiana

Because of consistent and widespread noncompliance at child care facilities throughout Louisiana with the minimum wage, overtime pay and record keeping provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Wage and Hour Division launched an enforcement initiative focused on this industry. More than \$146,000 in back wages for 680 employees has been recovered through 73 investigations. "The initiative . . . demonstrates the Wage and Hour Division's commitment to a new strategic approach to achieving sustained compliance with labor laws in high risk industries that employ vulnerable workers and where wage and hour violations are most prevalent," said Regional Administrator Cynthia Watson.

- [Read the News Release](#)

More Than \$200K in Back Wages, Damages for Private Security Guards

The Labor Department obtained summary judgment in a lawsuit against International Detective & Protective Services of Chicago, and its owners and officers, William L. Lillard and Arnett Lillard, recovering more than

Milwaukee Job Corps Center Wins



The Job Corps' center in Milwaukee, Wis., recently won two awards for its building design and architecture. A Design Award from Mayor

Tom Barrett praised the building for its "contribution to the character of its surroundings, adding value to the neighborhood and contributing to the urban fabric of the community." The Daily Reporter, a construction newspaper, selected the center as an outstanding construction project, citing it as having "met and exceeded expectations."

- [View the Slideshow](#)

Upcoming Deadlines & Events

Check out the grant opportunities with DOL.

- [Open Funding Opportunities](#)

EVENTS SPOTLIGHT: Register to Join DOL in Denver on June 30

The Labor Department will hold an Informational Outreach Forum – "Promoting Good Jobs for Everyone" – on June 30 at Metropolitan State College in Denver for employers, employees, unions and community-based organizations. Staff from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the Wage and Hour Division, the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, the Women's Bureau, the Office of Labor-Management Standards, the Mine Safety and Health Administration, the Office of the Solicitor, and the Veterans' Employment and Training Administration, along with the secretary's regional representative, will participate in plenary and breakout sessions offering compliance assistance and promoting workers' rights. Registration is required, and space is limited. Contact Cindra Thompson at thompson.cindra@dol.gov or 303-844-1288.

EBSA — Choosing a Retirement Solution for Your Small Business Workshop

- [June 14 — Webinar](#)

EBSA — HIPAA and Other Health Benefits Laws: Compliance Assistance Seminar

- [June 28-29 — Raleigh, NC](#)

EBSA — Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program Workshop

\$200,000 in back wages and damages for 57 security guards. The company violated the Fair Labor Standards Act after misclassifying the workers as independent contractors by not paying them overtime compensation, as well as by not maintaining required record keeping. The department's suit was filed following an investigation by the Wage and Hour Division. "An employer may not misclassify its workers as independent contractors in order to avoid paying them required wages under the FLSA," said Thomas Gauza, director of the division's Chicago District Office.

- [Read the News Release](#)

AK Steel Fined for Not Recording Hearing Hazards

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration cited AK Steel Corp. for willful record-keeping violations related to potential hearing hazards at its Butler, Pa., facility. From 2007 through 2010, the company failed to record outcomes indicating worker hearing hazards and work-related injuries, resulting in \$206,000 in proposed penalties. "Accurate injury and illness records are vital to protecting workers' health and safety," said Robert Szymanski, OSHA's area director.

- [Read the News Release](#)

EBSA Recovers \$10.5 Million for Workers in 3 States

The Labor Department takes action when unscrupulous plan sponsors and advisers seek to deprive workers of their employment benefits. This week DOL obtained six consent judgments requiring payment of \$10,454,545 in restitution to the DirecTECH Holding Co. Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan for 5,799 participants and \$1,045,454 in civil penalties to the federal government. The settlements resolved a lawsuit filed by DOL alleging that multiple defendants, to their own benefit, imprudently used plan assets to purchase company stock at inflated prices, causing millions of dollars in losses to the plans and participants in Kentucky, Michigan and Louisiana.

- [Read the News Release](#)

Misclassified Drywall Installers Receive Overtime Back Wages

The misclassification of employees as independent contractors is an alarming trend, particularly within low-wage industries in which the division historically has found significant wage violations. The Wage and Hour Division has recovered \$203,323 in back wages for 224 drywall installers following an investigation that found Escapade Acoustic Drywall in Lafayette, La., and Lloyd N. Moreau LLC of Pineville, La., misclassified drywall installers as independent contractors and consequently denied them proper overtime compensation in violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act. "Hundreds of misclassified drywall installers were working as many as 60 hours a week but were denied the overtime pay protections guaranteed them by law," said Regional Administrator Cynthia Watson.

- [Read the News Release](#)

DOL Sues Texas State Agency for Failing to Pay Overtime

The Labor Department has filed a lawsuit against the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services' Child Protective Services Division in Austin for failing to pay 800 investigators and case workers overtime compensation as required by the Fair Labor Standards Act. The suit seeks back wages of more than \$1 million, plus liquidated damages. "Civil servants entrusted with the important job of protecting Texas' children were forced to relinquish their wage protections," said Secretary Solis. "The Labor Department's job is to protect workers from such violations of the law, and we are taking the necessary actions to ensure these employees are properly paid."

- [Read the News Release](#)

- [June 22 — Philadelphia, PA](#)

MSHA — 4th Annual Southeast Region/Central Kentucky Mine Rescue Contest

- [June 15 - 16 — Maysville, KY](#)

MSHA — Joseph A. Holmes Association 2011 National Meeting and Training Seminar

- [June 21 - 23 — San Antonio, TX](#)

MSHA — Penn State's Miner Training Program

- [June 15 — Pittsburgh, PA](#)

OFCCP — AAP Development and Preparing for a Desk Audit

- [June 23 — Los Angeles, CA](#)

OFCCP — Building Partnerships for the Community

- [June 29 — Charlotte, NC](#)
- [June 29 — Raleigh, NC](#)

OFCCP — Community Outreach and Education Event

- [June 16 — Richmond, VA](#)
- [June 23 — Richmond, VA](#)

OFCCP — Community Outreach Presentation to Veterans and Disability Rights Organizations

- [June 23 — Baltimore, MD](#)

OFCCP — Compliance Assistance Seminar for Construction Contractors

- [June 16 — Nashville, TN](#)
- [June 30 — Memphis, TN](#)

OFCCP — Compliance Assistance Seminar for Construction and Supply and Service Contractors

- [June 29 — San Diego, CA](#)

OFCCP — Compliance Assistance Seminar for Supply & Service Contractors

- [June 14 — Mountainside, NJ](#)
- [June 15 — Nashville, TN](#)
- [June 21 — Jacksonville, FL](#)
- [June 23 — Memphis, TN](#)
- [June 29 — Nashville, TN](#)
- [June 29 — Portland, OR](#)

OFCCP — Compliance Assistance Seminar for Reasonable Accommodations

EBSA and OLMS Team Up to Protect Apprenticeship Fund

Michael Doggett, former business manager for the Carpenters Local Union 502 in Port Arthur, Texas, has been sentenced to five months in prison and ordered to make \$39,324 in restitution payments for embezzling from a union benefit plan. Doggett pleaded guilty in January to one count of theft from the Carpenters and Millwrights Local 502 Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee Fund. "I hope that this case sends a clear message to all who hold an office of trust, or operate or administer apprenticeship and training programs, that the Department of Labor is committed to vigorously pursuing those who abuse their positions and use program funds for personal gain," said Roger Hilburn, director of the Dallas Regional Office of the Employee Benefits Security Administration. Michelle Hussar of the Office of Labor-Management Standards in Dallas added, "This sentencing shows that justice will be done for those union officers and employees who do not handle union funds prudently and for the benefit of their fellow hard-working members, as required by law."

- [Read the News Release](#)

WHD Reaches Precedent-setting Settlement with New Jersey Farm

Migrant workers at a Hammonton, N.J., blueberry farm will be better protected thanks to a settlement agreement secured by the Wage and Hour Division. In two separate actions, administrative law judges have ordered Columbia Fruit Farms Inc., its owners Anthony DiMeo and William DiMeo, and crew leader Sorel Rivvil to pay \$28,499 plus interest in civil money penalties to resolve violations dating back to 2008. "This precedent-setting agreement will go a long way in protecting the interests of workers employed by this farm, as well as others in the industry," said Patrick Reilly, the division's district director. In addition to resolving three years of violations with a single agreement, enforcement talks spurred the owners to take significant actions toward ensuring the violations will not recur.

- [Read the News Release](#)

Retail Furniture Outlet to Pay Back Wages, Civil Money Penalties

Han Nara Enterprise LP, doing business as Ashley Furniture HomeStore in Lubbock, Texas, has agreed to pay \$57,286 in back wages to 170 sales consultants in Amarillo, Midland and Lubbock, Texas, and in Hobbs, N.M., following an investigation by the Wage and Hour Division that found violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act. Additionally, the company failed to maintain required record keeping. Civil money penalties of \$37,400 also have been assessed.

- [Read the News Release](#)

Continued Assistance After the Storm for Puerto Rico

A \$2 million increment of a continuing National Emergency Grant was awarded to the Puerto Rico Department of Labor and Human Resources to fund temporary jobs for ongoing cleanup and recovery efforts following the October 2010 destruction caused by Tropical Storm Otto. "Even after months have passed, Puerto Rico is still dealing with the aftermath of Tropical Storm Otto," said Secretary Solis. "The funding being made available today will continue support efforts to restore the island and help its people get back on their feet."

- [Read the News Release](#)

- [June 16 — Miami, FL](#)

OFCCP — DOL Forum - Promoting Good Jobs for Everyone

- [June 30 — Denver, CO](#)

OFCCP — Preparing for a Construction Evaluation

- [June 15 — Houston, TX](#)

OLMS — Compliance Assistance Seminar

- [June 16 — Hato Rey, PR](#)
- [June 23 — Birmingham, AL](#)

WB — WA Women Veterans Summit

- [June 18 — Bellevue, WA](#)

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