



DOL News Brief

September 8, 2011

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On Immigration Reform, Solis Salutes California 'Dreaming'



After 20 years as a California legislator, congresswoman and now Cabinet member, Secretary Solis told the California State Society that her

background as a Golden State lawmaker was great preparation for her current post. Speaking at the Golden State Roundtable on Capitol Hill, Solis said that current administration priorities, such as green job creation, worker protection and immigration reform, are all areas where California has led the nation. On Wednesday, she told a group of business leaders, educators and state advocates about the major investments the Department of Labor made in California's growing clean energy economy under her watch. She also praised the state assembly's recent passage of the Dream Act to support the contributions of immigrant youth. "As someone who has been working on this kind of legislation since the beginning of my career, I can't tell you how proud I am that California has taken the lead."

- [View the Slideshow](#)

Job Corps Job Fair

Nearly 100 recent Job Corps graduates polished up their resumes in preparation for the student job fair, held on Wednesday by the Job Corp's Eastern



Pennsylvania Career Transition Services. Sixteen employers from across the Philadelphia area, including Sheraton Hotels & Resorts and UPS, sought qualified Job Corps graduates to fill open positions. The event was an opportunity for graduates to meet and interact with potential employers, with hopes of securing jobs.

- [View the Slideshow](#)

What's Hot

The American Jobs Act

To create jobs, President Obama unveiled the American Jobs Act – nearly all of which is made up of ideas that have been supported by both political parties, and that Congress should pass right away to get the economy moving now. The purpose of the American Jobs Act is simple: put more people back to work and put more money in the pockets of working Americans. And it would do so without adding a dime to the deficit. The U.S. Department of Labor has a major role. Learn more and read the speech.



- [Read the President's Speech](#)

Labor Day Recap



For most people, last Monday was a day off. But for the U.S. Labor Secretary, Labor Day is always a day "on." And "on" was the operative word ... Secretary Solis was on TV, on message, on travel and on-line. Labor Day morning, Solis took to the airwaves, appearing on the NBC Today Show, ABC's Good Morning America and the CBS Early Show.

Later, she boarded Air Force One with President Obama, where they shared the stage at a rally in Detroit, Mich. Solis told the crowd of more than 15,000, "When America innovates ... when America builds ... America wins!" Afterwards, she still had the spirit and plenty to say. Solis penned more than 100 editorial articles — on topics ranging from veterans' employment to the renaissance of the manufacturing industry — for newspapers from San Diego, Calif., to Miami, Fla.



- [See our Special Labor Day Pages](#)
- [View the Slideshow](#)

News You Can Use

ERISA Advisory Council to Hold Public Teleconference

The department's Advisory Council on Employee Welfare and Pension Benefit Plans, also known as the ERISA Advisory Council, will hold a teleconference on Sept. 28. Members of the public are invited to participate in person at the U.S. Department of Labor, 122 C Street NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20210. The meeting, taking place from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m EDT, will include discussions on reports and recommendations for the

Irene Relief From Red Rock JC



As the East Coast experienced the wrath of Hurricane Irene last week, Red Rock Job Corps Center, in Lopez, Pa., served as one of hundreds of emergency shelters in the area. Now that local authorities have declared the areas safe and are evaluating the damage left

behind, seven Red Rock students will be assisting local residents with cleanup. FEMA has estimated damage at \$1 million for the area.

WB Holds Stand Down for Women Veterans in San Antonio

About 200 veterans, service providers, volunteers and state representatives attended the Women's Bureau's Stand Down for Women Veterans



event at the TriPoint Center in San Antonio last week. Women veterans and their families were provided with free services including employment assistance, medical care and mental health services, and legal consultations. Panel discussions and workshops featured women who successfully transitioned from the military into the civilian world. Service providers addressed transferring military skills to civilian job opportunities and financial literacy. Clinical professionals discussed post-traumatic stress disorder and military sexual trauma. The bureau provided on-site child care. Special guests included State Sen. Leticia Van de Putte and State Reps. Ruth Jones McClendon and Joaquin Castro.

- [View the Slideshow](#)

Job Clubs Hot in Cleveland



The Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships took its Job Clubs project on the road this week to Cleveland, Ohio.

Deputy Director Ben Seigel teamed up with two local job club coordinators, Yvonne Tufts Jeans of Mt. Zion Congregational Church and Robert Stewart of Cuyahoga Community College, to discuss the valuable role job clubs play in getting Americans back to work. At an event sponsored by the White House and the U.S. Department of Education, more than 200 faith and community

Secretary of Labor in three areas: challenges and best practices for ERISA compliance for 403(b) plan sponsors; hedge funds and private equity investments; and privacy and security issues affecting non-health care employee benefit plans.

- [Read the News Release](#)

Training Grants Contribute to Strong Mine Safety Culture

Funds totaling \$8,441,000 have been awarded to 47 states and the Navajo Nation in health and safety training grants for fiscal year 2011. These funds, allocated each year by the Mine Safety and Health Administration, provide training on compliance with health and safety standards, as well as for miners on their rights under the law and for mine rescue teams on being prepared in the event of a mine emergency. "These grant awards continue a tradition of cooperation between MSHA and the states that can really contribute to the development of a strong safety culture in the mining community," said MSHA Assistant Secretary Joseph Main. "There are many different facets to creating a safe work environment, and training workers and supervisors is an important one."

- [Read the News Release](#)
- [View State summaries and contact information](#)

Webcast on Fee Disclosure for 401(k)-Type Plan Participants

The Employee Benefits Security Administration will host a webcast on Tuesday, Sept. 13, from 1 to 2:15 p.m. EDT to provide information to plan fiduciaries and service providers on a final rule that improves the transparency of fees and expenses for workers in 401(k)-type retirement plans. The webcast will discuss the scope of the participant fee disclosure regulation under Employee Retirement Income Security Act Section 404(a), its requirements and recently extended compliance dates. It also will cover steps that plan fiduciaries will need to take to ensure that participants and beneficiaries are given, or have access to, information needed to make informed decisions and meaningfully compare the investment options under their plans.

- [Register Here](#)

DOL Working for You

Thanks to DOL-Funded Training, Valentine Loves New Green Job



Army veteran and iron worker Aaron Valentine enjoyed welding, riveting and building structures in several states. But the work dried up, his money was gone and then he was injured in a serious auto accident. Life looked bleak for the Missourian until he got help through the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program at the St. Patrick Center in St. Louis, a Department of Labor grantee. Valentine enrolled in training classes to learn skills necessary for a job in the recycling industry. His enthusiasm in class and his desire to learn led his instructor's company to offer him a job. He now works

as a maintenance supervisor at a local glass and paper recycling plant. "I feel blessed. The program works very hard to get you gainfully employed," he said.

CBJT Funding Helps Washington Worker Find Rewarding Career

In order to help expectant mothers, Patricia Anders decided to stop doing well and start doing good. Anders left a well-paying planning and community development

leaders packed into the media center at East Tech High School to learn about partnership opportunities across the federal government.

- [Visit CFBNP's Job Clubs Website](#)

Upcoming Deadlines & Events

Check out the grant opportunities with DOL.

- [Open Funding Opportunities](#)

EVENTS SPOTLIGHT: WB Stand Down

On Saturday, Sept. 10, the Women's Bureau will host the Tampa Bay Stand Down for Women Veterans. Designed as a one stop shop for services, this event will bring together government agencies and community-based organizations to provide free information and resources, including training and employment services, for the empowerment of women veterans and their families.

- [Preregister](#)
- [Learn More](#)

EBSA — 6 free compliance seminars on What to Expect from an EBSA investigation, Voluntary Compliance Programs, Abandoned Plan Program, COBRA, HIPAA & the Affordable Care Act

- [September 14 — Dallas, TX](#)

EBSA — Compliance Assistance Seminar on HIPAA and Other Health Benefit Laws

- [September 21-22 — Troy, NY](#)

EBSA — Multi-Subject Compliance Seminars

- [September 14 — Dallas, TX](#)

ETA Region 2 — ETA Technical Assistance Forum: Recalibrating the Workforce System

- [September 12-14 — Philadelphia, PA](#)

MSHA — Penn State Mine Safety Workshop

- [September 28 — Woodside, DE](#)

OFCCP — AAP Development and Preparing for a Desk Audit

- [September 22 — Los Angeles, CA](#)

OFCCP — Community Outreach and

job in Washington state to enroll in the nursing program at local Bellevue College. That program, expanded by a community-based job training grant from the Labor Department, helped pay for Anders' education. She graduated with an associate degree in nursing and now works as a labor and delivery nurse for a large Seattle health care provider. Anders said she left her secure job "to help the less fortunate" and now is doing rewarding work "that has made a difference."



DOL in Action

OSHA Issues Compliance Directive to Address Workplace Violence

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration issued a directive on "Enforcement Procedures for Investigating or Inspecting Incidents of Workplace Violence" that establishes uniform procedures for field staff responding to incidents and complaints of workplace violence and conducting inspections in industries considered vulnerable to workplace violence, such as health care and social service settings, and late-night retail establishments. Workplace violence is a serious recognized occupational hazard, ranking among the top four causes of death in workplaces during the past 15 years. More than 3,000 people died from workplace homicide between 2006 and 2010, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Additional BLS data indicate that an average of more than 15,000 nonfatal workplace injury cases was reported annually during that period. "These incidents and others like them can be avoided or decreased if employers take appropriate precautions to protect their workers," said OSHA Assistant Secretary Dr. David Michaels. "We have accompanied this directive with a new Web page to help employers address workplace violence issues."

- [Read the News Release](#)
- [View the Webpage](#)

Cenex Harvest Cited for Grain Elevator Area Violations

Cenex Harvest States Inc., doing business as Central Montana Co-Op in Columbus, was cited by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration for one willful, three repeat and nine serious safety and health violations found in the grain elevator areas of the company's facility. The investigation was initiated under OSHA's regional emphasis program targeting grain handling establishments. Violations include, but are not limited to, failure to test for hazardous atmospheres in permit-required spaces, unguarded pit and floor holes, and improper electrical wiring for high dust areas. Proposed fines total \$229,000.

- [Read the News Release](#)

Rite Aid of New York Cited for Hazards at Brooklyn Store

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has proposed \$121,100 in fines to Rite Aid of New York Inc. for alleged repeat and serious violations of safety standards following an inspection of a store in Brooklyn. OSHA identified several hazardous conditions similar to those previously cited during inspections of other Rite Aid stores in 2007 and 2008. These conditions include an emergency exit blocked by garbage and debris, merchandise stacked in an unsafe manner and electrical panels blocked by cardboard and totes containing merchandise.

- [Read the News Release](#)

Education Event

- [September 22 — Richmond, VA](#)

OFCCP — Compliance Assistance Seminar for Supply & Service Contractors

- [September 28 — San Diego, CA](#)

OFCCP — Educational Outreach, Montpelier Vermont Small Business Forum

- [September 27 — Montpelier, VT](#)

OFCCP — ILG Meeting Hartford, CT

- [September 23 — Hartford, CT](#)

OLMS — Compliance Assistance Seminar

- [September 15 — Harrisburg, PA](#)

OLMS — Financial Recordkeeping and Union Officer Elections

- [September 22 — Tukwila, WA](#)

OLMS — Financial Recordkeeping, Union Officer Elections, & Electronic Forms System

- [September 14 — Spokane, WA](#)

OLMS — Trustee Workshop Seminar

- [September 14 — Appleton, WI](#)
- [September 22 — Minneapolis, MN](#)

OSHA — First National Conference on Eliminating Health and Safety Disparities at Work

- [September 14-15 — Chicago, IL](#)

OSHA — Maritime Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety and Health Meeting

- [September 20-21 — Portland, ME](#)

WB — Stand Down for Women Veterans

- [September 10 — Tampa, FL](#)

WB —Region 3 Women's Economic Security Forum

- [September 12 — Philadelphia, PA](#)

WHD — 14th Annual Fiesta Fair of Services

- [September 18 — Snow Hill, NC](#)

WHD — Mobile Mexican Consulate

- [September 24 — Mt. Airy, NC](#)

WHD — Prevailing Wage Conference 2011

- [October 4-5, 2011 — Washington](#)

\$70,000+ in Back Wages Recovered for Tulsa, Okla., Employees

Latshaw Drilling Co. LLC in Tulsa, Okla., has paid \$70,701 in back wages for 34 painters and sand blasters following an investigation by the Wage and Hour Division that found violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act. "Latshaw Drilling took advantage of vulnerable workers by misclassifying them as independent contractors rather than regular employees. As a result, they were denied rightful wages and legal protections that are guaranteed under federal law," said Cynthia Watson, the division's regional administrator.

- [Read the News Release](#)

Manufacturers, Distributors of Hair Products Cited

Two Florida manufacturers and two Florida-based distributors of hair products containing formaldehyde have been cited by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration for 16 health violations involving alleged failures to protect their employees from possible formaldehyde exposure and to communicate with the products' users, such as salons and stylists, about the hazards of formaldehyde exposure. OSHA's inspections were initiated based on a referral by Oregon's Occupational Safety and Health Division, which tested more than 100 product samples at 50 salons using hair smoothing or straightening products.

- [Read the News Release](#)
- [Read OSHA's Hazard Alert](#)
- [Read the FDA's Letter](#)

\$104,000 Recovered for 230 Employees of Georgia Restaurant Chain

The Wage and Hour Division has recovered \$104,089 for 230 employees of This is It! BBQ & Seafood restaurant chain in Fayetteville, Ga., following an investigation that found violations of the minimum wage, overtime and record-keeping provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act. The company also was fined for allowing minors to work later than federal law allows.

- [Read the News Release](#)

Ohio Event/Party Rental Company Fined \$154K for 19 Safety Violations

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has cited ILAPA Inc., doing business as Lasting Impressions Event and Party Rentals in Bedford Heights, Ohio, for 19 safety violations. Two willful violations involve failing to train employees in the use of powered industrial trucks and causing a potential electrocution hazard by providing damaged extension cord sets to be used in wet locations without ground fault circuit interruption protection. The company faces \$154,000 in proposed fines.

- [Read the News Release](#)

J & S Plumbing Cited for Lack of Trench Cave-in Protection

Elk Grove Village, Ill.-based J & S Plumbing Inc. was cited by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration for one willful and two repeat alleged safety violations involving failing to protect workers from cave-ins while performing repairs to a sewer line in Arlington Heights. Proposed penalties total \$57,860.

- [Read the News Release](#)

NH Company Cited for Machine Guarding, Lockout/Tagout Hazards

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has proposed \$176,000 in penalties against Stowe Woodward LLC for 16 alleged violations of

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- DOL's OSHA cites Florida manufacturers and distributors of hair products containing formaldehyde for health v...
<http://t.co/jtQTxG7> about 2 hours ago
- DOL's ERISA Advisory Council to hold Sept. 28 teleconference [09/08/2011] <http://t.co/QKab5gy> about 7 hours ago

workplace safety standards following an inspection at the company's Concord, N.H., plant. Inspectors found several instances where operating machinery – including grinders, extruders and lathes – lacked proper guarding to prevent workers from coming in contact with moving parts. The machines also lacked adequate procedures to lock out their power sources to prevent unintended startup during maintenance.

- [Read the News Release](#)

Spotlight on States: Vermont

Vermont Receives \$9.3 Million to Support Displaced Workers

Vermont is the latest state to further modernize its unemployment insurance benefit program, making it eligible for nearly \$9.3 million provided last week by the department under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Vermont qualified for the state's remaining share of available funds by updating its program to assist part-time workers and people who are upgrading their skills. "These common-sense improvements are helping America's working families, strengthening our communities and building a stronger 21st century workforce," said Secretary Solis.

- [Read the News Release](#)

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