

**REALIZING THE AMERICAN DREAM?
CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES FACING H-2B
GUEST WORKERS AND THEIR ADVOCATES**

*Presented by the International Human Rights Law Clinic,
Immigrants' Rights Division*

March 24, 2009

9:15 am – 7:00 pm

**American University Washington College of Law
4801 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Room 603, Washington, DC**

"The nation's immigration system is broken." This is a common phrase in current political discourse, but what does it really mean? This conference will explore one way in which the immigration system is failing: the H-2B guest worker program. Several features of the H-2B program will be explored during this event, including the H-2B recruitment process and intersections with human trafficking; efforts to organize H-2B workers; the multiple challenges that arise when undertaking transnational litigation involving H-2B workers; and the future of the H-2B program under the Obama administration. The conference will bring together experts to discuss these issues, while also drawing attention to the role that law school clinics can play in addressing these matters.

Agenda, with speakers confirmed as at 03.05.09

8:45 am **Registration and Continental Breakfast**

9:15 am **Opening Remarks**

9:30 am **H-2B WORKERS: RECRUITMENT & TRAFFICKING**

Speakers: *Hilary Aham*, Special Litigation Counsel, Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit, U.S. Department of Justice; *F. Javier Díaz de León*, Head of Section for Regional and Hispanic Affairs, Embassy of Mexico; *Victoria Gavito*, Legal Director, Centro de los Derechos del Migrante, Inc.; *Michelle Lapointe*, Staff Attorney, Immigrant Justice Project, Southern Poverty Law Center; *Ann Jordan*, Project Director, Human Trafficking and Forced Labor, Washington College of Law (**Moderator**)

11:00 am **Coffee Break**

11:15 am **ORGANIZING H-2B WORKERS**

Speakers: *Joseph J. Baniszewski*, Deputy Asst. General Counsel, National Labor Relations Board; *Daniel Castellanos-Contreras*, Organizer, Alliance of Guest Workers for Dignity; *JJ Rosenbaum*, Counsel, New Orleans Workers' Center for Racial Justice;

Leticia Zavala, Director of Outreach & Leadership Programs, Centro de los Derechos del Migrante, Inc.; *Michele Pistone*, Visiting Professor of Law, WCL (**Moderator**)

12:30 pm **Lunch**

1:15 pm **THE REALITIES OF TRANSNATIONAL LITIGATION INVOLVING H-2B WORKERS**

Speakers: *Mary Bauer*, Director, Immigrant Justice Project, Southern Poverty Law Center; *Cathleen Caron*, Executive Director, Global Workers Justice Alliance; *Rachel Micah-Jones*, Executive Director, Centro de los Derechos del Migrante; *Arthur N. Read*, General Counsel, Friends of Farmworkers; *Sarah Paoletti*, Clinical Supervisor & Lecturer, University of Pennsylvania (Moderator)

2:45 pm **Coffee Break**

3:00 pm **THE H-2B PROGRAM & THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION**

Speakers: *Terry R. Yellig*, Sherman, Dunn, Cohen, Leifer & Yellig, P.C.; *Daniela Dwyer*, Supervising Attorney, Farmworker Division, Maryland Legal Aid Bureau (**Moderator**); additional speakers to be confirmed.

4:30 pm **STUDENT PRESENTATION**

Gillian Chadwick; *Nicole Gamble*; *Caroline Lyznik*; *Shanti Martin*
Student Attorneys, International Human Rights Law Clinic, Immigrants' Rights Section

5:00 pm **RECEPTION**

General Registration – no charge, but required. *CLE Registration* (3 credits will be applied for) –\$55

To register, please go to www.wcl.american.edu/secle/registration

For further information about registration, please contact: Office of Special Events & Continuing Legal Education, American University Washington College of Law, 202.274.4075 or secle@wcl.american.edu