



Chris Owens NELP's New ED

December 13, 2007

Chris Owens Appointed NELP's Executive Director

We are pleased to announce that Chris Owens has joined the National Employment Law Project in the capacity of Executive Director.

A well-regarded worker advocate, Ms. Owens brings rich experience and a deep commitment to NELP's work. She previously held several senior level policy positions at the AFL-CIO, including Director of Public Policy from 2001-2005. In that role, she worked closely with national and local unions, as well as with NELP and other worker advocacy groups around the nation, on numerous federal and state advocacy initiatives. Most recently, Ms. Owens led the Democratic National Committee's American Majority Partnership, which engaged in issues-based outreach to core Democratic communities.

Ms. Owens founded the Worker Options Resource Center (WORC), a non-profit organization that engaged in public education and advocacy on behalf of low wage workers. WORC was a leader in efforts to pass the 1996 federal minimum wage increase and also developed a program of extensive outreach and technical support to living wage activists around the nation.

A graduate of The College of William and Mary (B.A.) and the University of Virginia School of Law (J.D.), Ms. Owens has an extensive background in civil rights and employment discrimination law. Over her career, she has represented women and people of color in discrimination lawsuits and engaged in administrative and legislative advocacy on behalf of numerous public interest organizations. She also worked for the U.S. Department of Labor and the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. In the latter position, she played a senior role in developing now long-standing Commission guidelines on sexual harassment, affirmative action and employee selection procedures. Ms. Owens has spoken and written extensively on a wide range of issues in the areas of civil, women's and workers' rights.

Beth Shulman, Board Chair
National Employment Law Project

National Employment Law Project, advocating for the working poor and the unemployed

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