August 2019 Newsletter

Thank You

Dear Friends & Allies,

This is my final newsletter missive as the Executive Director of Worksafe. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve our staff, our volunteer speakers, the communities we work with, and the friends and allies who support our mission.

In my tenure we grew a lot — fundamentally changing the way we think about workplace health and safety, labor laws, and collective action. Almost every day is a privilege to be a part of this work and community.

I am especially impressed and thankful for my colleagues at Worksafe. Working in the nonprofit sector has been a rewarding, learning experience. I am grateful for the opportunity to have met and worked alongside each and every one of you.

Those friends and supporters have become my friends and supporters, and I value the shared experience of working to protect the health and safety of all workers.

We are thrilled to announce that Augustin Eichwald-Romero, a new staff attorney, will take over for Tim Shadix in Southern California and spearhead our temporary worker project. Augustin has significant experience working with immigrant and temporary workers in the broader Southern California area, and he will continue to work with us to support worker health and safety. He will be a great addition to our team.

We appreciate all the work Tim has done over the past several years, and we wish him all the best in his new role.

Since 2017, Tim has been leading our temporary worker project and has worked with many people across the state to protect workers from harm. He has been a wonderful coworker and a vital part of the Worksafe team.

Adding to the recent changes at Worksafe, this month we said farewell to Doug Parker, who will help keep the temporary worker project alive and well — keep an eye out for more exciting developments in the future!

The good news? Tim isn't going far — he is joining the WWRC team as an Attorney! He will support WWRC's capacity to support warehouse workers with legal issues in Southern California.

The last few years have been a whirlwind — quitting my job and moving across the country for love, coming to Worksafe, getting married, losing a parent, and welcoming our daughter into the world. Now, sooner than I ever expected, I am moving on to a new opportunity.

This new opportunity would not be possible but for the incredible welcome I received when I arrived at Worksafe, from the staff, the Board, and our allies. I am so impressed by the work of the nonprofit legal and worker activist community.

The rotating board of directors, our nonprofit partners, and our friends and allies continue to be a wonderful support as we navigate this transition.

I am so grateful to all of you — our friends, partners, allies, and supporters — for your steadfast support and encouragement. I am deeply honored that Governor Newsom and Secretary Su have placed their confidence in me to lead Cal/OSHA.

Thank you for being such a great team, and for all you have given to make our work possible.

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Doug Parker

Worksafe's Tim Shadix Joins WWRC

As the lead on our temporary worker project in Southern California, Tim has worked hard to build that project into one of our core programs.

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Workers at Risk

Women's Voices for the Earth (WVE) has announced two weeks ago that SB 574, the Cosmetic Fragrance and Flavor Ingredient Right to Know Act of 2019, has passed the Senate and is heading into an Assembly floor vote in early September.

If passed, the law would require companies selling personal care or beauty products in California to disclose fragrance ingredients. This bill would bring California in line with other states, such as New York, which passed a similar law in 2017.

Workers at Risk — a campaign of WVE — has been working to ensure that this bill is passed and that it is enforced.

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Meet Our New Staff Attorney

We are thrilled to announce that Maggie Thompson has joined our staff as an Attorneys. Maggie will be leading our temporary worker project in Southern California, working with unions, activists, and our partners to protect workers from harm.

Before joining Worksafe, Maggie worked as a paralegal for a community development organization and a law firm. She has experience working in immigration and housing law.

Maggie has a background in community organizing and has worked on various campaigns to address pollution and environmental injustice in Los Angeles' South Bay community.

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And We're Seeking a New Legal Fellow!

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