

MassCOSH's Legal Access Attorney Directory Informational Packet

Increasing Organized Labor and Injured Workers Access to Legal Representation, Justice, and Compensation



Fall 2014

The Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety & Health



MassCOSH



Responding to our communities needs, together.

For over 37 years, MassCOSH has forged relationships with workers and organized labor to ensure that workers know their legal rights and have ready access to skilled legal representation when the law has been broken.

Every year, MassCOSH referrals result in hundreds of thousands of dollars returned to workers. Yet, despite our impressive efforts, we feel we are just scratching the surface of matching workers with legal council and we need your help.

This directory is intended to be distributed to union partners and workers who would like to seek out legal counsel . **The funds generated by its proceeds will help MassCOSH manage its ever increasing load of workers seeking aid as well as help pass legislation that benefits all workers** such as H2460 (an expansion of OSH protections) and H1698, SB866 (increased burial benefits under Workers' Compensation).

The many benefits of taking part in MassCOSH's annual Legal Access Attorney Directory include:

- ◆ Exposure to organized labor as MassCOSH distributes the book to its union members
- ◆ Directory availability during Worker Memorial Day events honoring workers killed on the job and aiding those affected by workplace illness, injury and death
- ◆ Directory availability to workers seeking to learn more about their rights
- ◆ Publishing the directory on MassCOSH website where it can be easily found by the public seeking more information regarding their legal rights

Your support and services are essential to safe and just workplaces throughout Massachusetts. Your participation will also ensure MassCOSH can continue its important work educating workers on their legal rights.

"MassCOSH has demonstrated a consistent ability to connect the legal community with labor leaders, worker activists, and others who have strong standing and would benefit tremendously from pursuing legal action"

- Douglas K. Sheff, Esq, Sheff Law

"MassCOSH assistance was instrumental in allowing our client to find treating physicians who reviewed the facts in her work accident and classified it as a work injury. The client had visited a local health center initially and they failed to take a detailed history and misclassified the injury. Without MassCOSH's efforts, this case could have been very difficult to resolve."

- Paul F. Murphy, Esq, Law Offices of Paul F. Murphy

"As Co-Chairman of the MassCOSH Lawyers Committee, I have worked closely with... MassCOSH staff on legal issues affecting workers' health and safety, including legislation banning dangerous flammable floor finishing products. MassCOSH has been an invaluable voice for workers in the Commonwealth as well as providing a forum for the lawyers to strategize, share ideas and collaborate on worker legal issues."

- David C. Strouss, Esq, Partner, Thornton & Naumes



In a notable 2013 MassCOSH victory, MassCOSH lawyers' committee member Brian Joyce won a major settlement from Walmart on behalf of the family of Romulo Santos, a Brazilian-born worker who was electrocuted on a construction site in 2008.

While the funds won't bring Santos back to his family, it will both help them as they struggle financially with the loss of an important breadwinner and will send a message to Walmart that the company needs to take responsibility for the safety of their construction projects and of workers within their stores.

(The exact amount can't be disclosed due to a confidentiality clause in the settlement.)

Vital Statistics (2013)

Case Information	Clients
Workers Educated about their Rights	475
Workers Benefiting from Legal Representation	370
Clients Below 125% of the Poverty Line	250
Clients Between 125%-187% of the Poverty Line	120
Male Clients	210
Female Clients	160
Clients Under 18 Years-Old	15
Clients Between 18-59 Years-Old	355
Latino Clients	350
Other Clients of Ethnicities	20
MassCOSH Worker Hotline Phone Calls	160
% of Hotline Calls Concerned with Wage Violations	48%
% of Hotline Calls Concerned with Injury/Workers Comp	17%
% of Hotline Calls Concerned with Unjust Firing	15%
% of Hotline Calls Concerned with Discrimination	10%
% of Hotline Calls Concerned with General Rights	10
Number of Worker Leaders who Voluntarily Conduct Outreach to the Community	35
Total Number of Clients Outside Route 128	40



Directory Breakdown

Page size: 8.5" by 11"

(firms/offices will also be listed alphabetically in directory front pages)

Associate Listing

\$500.00

A quarter-page ad featuring:

- ◆ Firm name, address, phone, and website listed
- ◆ A 200 letter character limit for use to describe firm, staff, *et cetera*

Partner Listing

\$1,000.00

A half-page color ad featuring:

- ◆ Firm name, address, phone, and website listed
- ◆ Logo printed
- ◆ A listing of three legal practice areas
- ◆ A 350 letter character limit for use to describe firm, staff, *et cetera*

Champion Listing

\$2,500.00

A full-page color ad featuring:

- ◆ Firm name, address, phone, and website listed
- ◆ Logo printed
- ◆ Optional picture printed
- ◆ A listing of all your legal practice areas
- ◆ A 600 letter character limit for use to describe firm, staff, *et cetera*

Agreement Between MassCOSH And 2014 Attorney Directory Participants

In addition to participating in MassCOSH's 2013-2014 Attorney Directory, I/ we agree to the following:

Responsiveness – Following an inquiry by MassCOSH or a worker, participating attorneys will contact the worker within 48 hours to schedule an intake. Within ten days of receipt of proper materials needed to evaluate the case, the attorney will provide the client with either an agreement to represent or written notice that s/he is unable to take the case.

Orientation – Either upon accepting the case or in the initial meeting with the client, the attorney will orient the worker about what s/he can expect from the workers compensation process and approximate time lines.

Communication Frequency: The attorney will inform the worker as to the preferred method of communication (writing and/or phone) and the regularity with which s/he can expect updates.

Communication Language: It is expected that the attorney will provide translation for non-English speaking clients at all meetings , as well as written communication to ensure that the worker is fully informed of the process.

Respect – It is expected that, if presenting a settlement offer, the attorney will be respectful of the worker's wishes and not put undue pressure on the worker. Any written or verbal communication about the settlement is expected to be translated.

Signed: _____ **Dated:** _____

Printed Name: _____

MassCOSH's Legal Access Attorney Directory Donation Form

To submit directory information, please visit www.masscosh.org/directory

The link provided will take you to electronic documents corresponding to your chosen level of support that can be filled out and emailed to jeff.newton@masscosh.org

Please make checks payable to MassCOSH or contact Jeff Newton at 617-825-7233 x14 to pay with a credit card.

Listing type _____ Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Please submit this form with payment to:

MassCOSH 1532B Dorchester Ave., Dorchester, MA 02122

Name: _____

Firm/Office: _____

Web Address: _____

Office Address _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Telephone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Best Communications Contact: _____

Foreign Language Capabilities: _____

**Time is limited. Please reply by
June 30th.**