Chicago Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO and The Institute for Law and the Workplace

THE NINTH DISTINGUISHED LABOR LEADER LECTURE
Richard L. Trumka
President, AFL-CIO

Thursday, October 6, 2011
3:00-4:00pm
Richard L. Trumka

Richard L. Trumka was elected President of the AFL-CIO on September 16, 2009, following 15 years of service as the AFL-CIO’s Secretary Treasurer.

Born in 1949, Mr. Trumka grew up in the Pennsylvania coalfields during the 1960’s, worked in the mines, and eventually worked his way through Penn State University, where he graduated in 1971 with a Bachelor of Science degree. He received a law degree from Villanova University in 1974. After law school, Mr. Trumka worked on the legal staff of United Mine Workers for four years before returning to mine work in 1979. He rose quickly through the ranks, first serving as chair of UMWA Local 6290’s safety committee and later on the union’s International Executive Board. At 33, he was elected the UMWA’s youngest president. During the course of his UMWA three-term presidency, Mr. Trumka won passage of the federal COAL Act; brought the UMWA into the AFL-CIO; mobilized support to win a contract for 18,000 miners forced out on strike for seven months by BCOA; and established an office that rallied support among mineworkers for the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa.

In 1995, Mr. Trumka became the youngest AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer in its history. He soon carved out an innovative leadership role, creating investment programs for the pension and benefit funds of the labor movement, and chairing the AFL-CIO Industrial Union Council, a consortium of manufacturing unions focusing on key issues in trade, health care and labor law reform. A member of the AFL-CIO Executive Council since 1989, Mr. Trumka was instrumental in rallying the support of international labor on behalf of U.S. workers struggling for workplace justice. He also served on the executive boards of the International Miners’ Federation and the ICFTU, and played a key role in organizing a new global coalition of coal miners’ unions in five countries.

Mr. Trumka currently chairs the AFL-CIO’s Strategic Approaches Committee, charged with assisting affiliated unions that seek help achieving their strategic goals through collective bargaining. He chairs the AFL-CIO Finance Committee, the AFL-CIO Capital Stewardship Committee, and co-chairs the China Currency Coalition, an alliance of organizations supporting U.S. manufacturing.

Richard Trumka’s commitment to reunify the splintered labor movement as he once did the fractious UMWA, has won him widespread support among leaders representing blue-collar workers to white-collar professionals.
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Mr. Trumka currently chairs the AFL-CIO’s Strategic Approaches Committee, charged with assisting affiliated local unions and half a million members representing a diverse group of working people in a variety of industries throughout the area. Led by President Jorge Ramirez and Secretary-Treasurer Robert Reiter, the AFL-CIO defends a middle class of hard working men and women, pursues aggressive legislative and political strategies and helps working people remain a highly-skilled, sought-after workforce in the changing economy of the 21st Century.

Established more than 115 years ago, the Chicago Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO is the umbrella organization for Chicago and Cook County’s labor unions. The CFL and its 320 affiliated local unions and half a million members represent a diverse group of working people in a variety of industries throughout the area. Led by President Jorge Ramirez and Secretary-Treasurer Robert Reiter, the CFL defends a middle class of hard working men and women, pursues aggressive legislative and political strategies and helps working people remain a highly-skilled, sought-after workforce in the changing economy of the 21st Century.

The Institute for Law and the Workplace at Chicago-Kent is an intellectual home for the labor and employment law communities and addresses cutting edge issues involving the workplace through conferences, symposia and publications. The Institute houses the law school’s specialized J.D. program in labor and employment law, its annual conferences on Federal Sector and Illinois Public Sector Labor Law, the annual Kenneth M. Piper Memorial Lecture in Labor Law, and its publications, Employee Rights and Employment Policy Journal and Illinois Public Employee Relations Report. Membership in the Institute is by invitation and includes leading law firms, unions and employers.

**PROGRAM DETAILS**

Lecture: 3:00-4:00 p.m.

The lecture is free and open to the public. No registration is required. For further information call (312) 906-5090, or visit our website at cle.kentlaw.edu.
The Organized Labor Scholarship Fund at Chicago-Kent College of Law was established by the unions and union law firms who are members of the Institute for Law and the Workplace, including:

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The fund provides scholarship support to Chicago-Kent students specializing in labor and employment law who have significant ties to organized labor and to Chicago-Kent students serving as student externs to unions and union law firms. A complete list of scholarship recipients is available from the Institute for Law and the Workplace.

Contributions to the Organized Labor Scholarship Fund are welcome and are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.
Enclosed is my contribution to the Organized Labor Scholarship Fund at Chicago-Kent College of Law.

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