

Phillip and Sala Burton Center for Human Rights
and the
University of San Francisco, Center for the Pacific Rim
presents

Reclaiming May Day Fundamental Rights and the Law of Nations

celebrating nature and honoring the working men and women
who fought for and won the eight hour day

Date: Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Time: 5:45 PM

Location: Berman Room, Fromm Hall, University of San Francisco
(on the corner of Golden Gate Ave. & Parker Street, San Francisco)

Moderator: Justice Harry Low, former California Insurance Commissioner

Panelist: Michael Theriault, Secretary-Treasurer, San Francisco Building and Construction Trade Council
The Role of the San Francisco Building and Construction Trade Council (SFBCTC) in winning the 8-Hour Day

Panelist: Professor Connie de la Vega, Director, International Programs, University of San Francisco School of Law

Advocates Should Use Applicable International Standards to Address Violations of Undocumented Migrant Workers' Rights in the United States.

Hastings Race and Poverty Law Journal, Volume 3, Issue 2

Cosponsors: Bar Association of San Francisco*
University of San Francisco School of Law*
San Francisco Labor Council, AFL-CIO*

Sierra Club*
SFBCTC*

* invited, not confirmed

The mission of the Phillip and Sala Burton Center for Human Rights is to promote international human rights, labor and environmental norms to enhance economic and social justice locally, nationally and internationally. To achieve this mission we are launching an annual program, Reclaiming May Day, Fundamental Rights and the Law of Nations.

May Day has been a celebration of nature since time immemorial. On May 1, 1886 the Knights of Labor, a predecessor of the AFL-CIO, called a national strike in the United States and Canada to demand an eight-hour workday. The following day six strikers were killed in Chicago at Haymarket Square. In 1889 the International Working Men's Association declared May 1st an international working class holiday in commemoration of the Haymarket Martyrs. The red flag became the symbol of the blood of the working class martyrs in their battle for workers rights. The communist usurped this working people's holiday and used it for their own ends.

– *The Origins and Traditions of MAYDAY*, by Eugene W. Plawiuk

To counter this communist holiday, the American Bar Association in the late 1950's instituted May 1 as Law Day to draw attention to both the principles and practice of law and justice. President Dwight D. Eisenhower established Law Day by proclamation in 1958 and in 1961; May 1 was designated by a joint resolution of Congress as the official date for celebrating May Day U.S.A.

With the threat of communism subsiding we are reclaiming this ancient celebration of nature and the victories of working people by organizing annual programs on May 1 to promote international human rights, labor and environmental law

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

for more information contact Bill Hough at 415-378-7935 or bhough@psburtoncenter.org