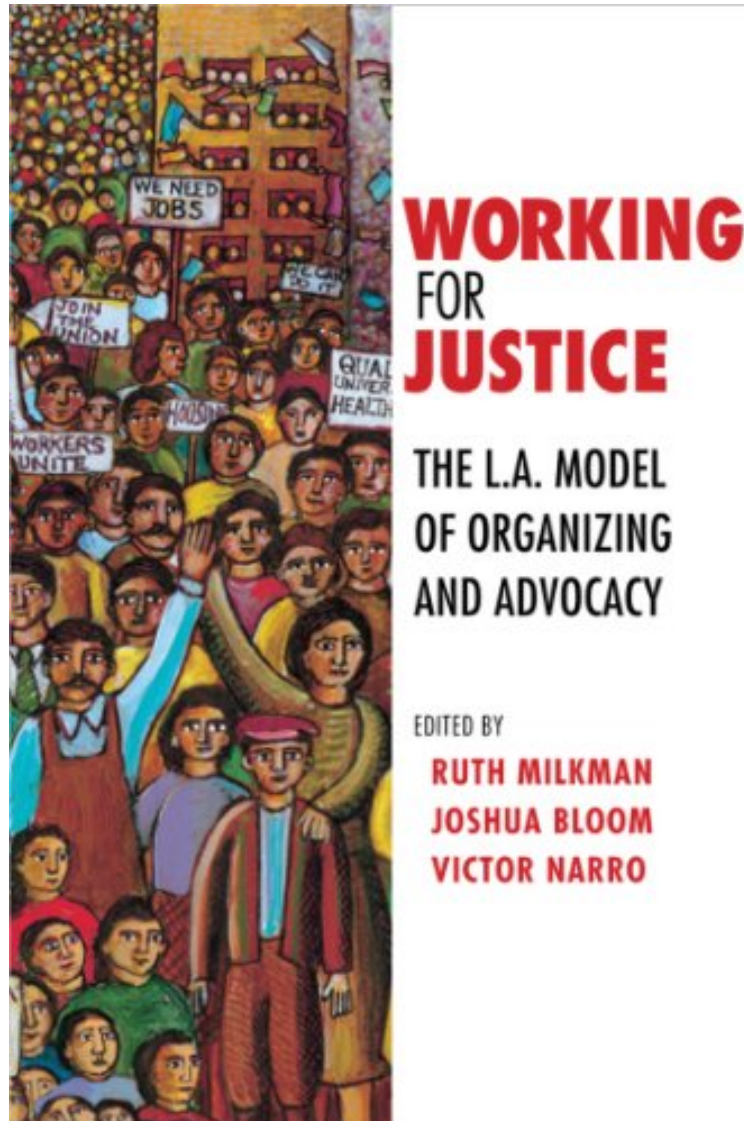


Working for Justice: The L.A. Model of Organizing and Advocacy

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From ILR Press : Working for Justice: The L.A. Model of Organizing and Advocacy before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Working for Justice: The L.A. Model of Organizing and Advocacy:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. fascinating and accessibleBy justiceThis book gives the reader real stories that are actually accessible. Learning about each struggle gives us hope that there is a path (or many paths) towards justice for workers (and by extension for our society), even if it is complex and ever-changing. The stories show that part of the answer may be in collaboration, in the strength that comes from pulling upon the strength of

different stake-holders, the community, activists, lawyers, organizers, and the public at large to make a campaign work -- to find real hope for workers, and for us all. An interesting read, full of heart. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. awesome introduction By Alessandro Delfanti I bought this book as an introduction to LA workers' movements and I found it awesome. Apart from giving me a good idea of what is going on in LA from that point of view, its best feature is the way it explores the common model all these organisations share. As an organiser I found this book inspiring and useful. As a sociologist I enjoyed its capacity to put together so many diverse struggles, analyse them with the direct involvement of people who participate to them, and point to a common approach they share.

Working for Justice, which includes eleven case studies of recent low-wage worker organizing campaigns in Los Angeles, makes the case for a distinctive "L.A. Model" of union and worker center organizing. Networks linking advocates in worker centers and labor unions facilitate mutual learning and synergy and have generated a shared repertoire of economic justice strategies. The organized labor movement in Los Angeles has weathered the effects of deindustrialization and deregulation better than unions in other parts of the United States, and this has helped to anchor the city's wider low-wage worker movement. Los Angeles is also home to the nation's highest concentration of undocumented immigrants, making it especially fertile territory for low-wage worker organizing. The case studies in Working for Justice are all based on original field research on organizing campaigns among L.A. day laborers, garment workers, car wash workers, security officers, janitors, taxi drivers, hotel workers as well as the efforts of ethnically focused worker centers and immigrant rights organizations. The authors interviewed key organizers, gained access to primary documents, and conducted participant observation. Working for Justice is a valuable resource for sociologists and other scholars in the interdisciplinary field of labor studies, as well as for advocates and policymakers.

"Insightful The authors are 'giving voice' to their subjects in a manner which was outlined by the Chicago School's understanding of early urban based sociological research in the 1930s." --Mobilization; "Critical and compelling." --Social Forces "Working for Justice serves both to refine and expand our knowledge of employee representation in Los Angeles through a collection of chapters related to union- and worker center-led efforts' on behalf of low-wage earning individuals. It offers a nuanced study of specific instances in which unions and advocacy groups have sought to organize low-wage workers The collection also takes us beyond the well-trodden ground of union advocacy in Los Angeles, introducing readers to the importance of worker centers within the region In so doing, the authors cover tremendously varied terrain while concurrently interweaving numerous threads of commonalities across the campaigns and organizing efforts to create a portrait of the intricate links between union and nonunion worker groups, a picture that most fully emerges in the excellent afterword."? J. Ryan Lamare, ILR (July 2011) "The essays in this volume offer us not only an informative account of some of the most vibrant and creative organizing campaigns to have emerged in recent years; they may also provide a glimpse of labor's future."? Joseph A. McCartin, Labor/Le Travail (Fall 2011) "Working for Justice is an excellent stepping off point for even more empirically rich, theoretically grounded studies of the workers' center movement."? Jacob Lesniewski, Critical Sociology (March 2012) "Working for Justice brings to light the struggles, the strategies, and the unlikely triumphs of organizations on the cutting edge of low-wage worker organizing in Los Angeles, the epicenter of labor's resurgence in the United States today. The book offers insights that can be found nowhere else and should be read eagerly by labor leaders and organizers, academics in fields from political science to sociology to law, and all others who seek a deeper understanding of how social change really happens."? Jennifer Gordon, Fordham Law School "If there is to be a paradigm shift toward public sociology, Working for Justice could serve as the exemplar. Community leaders and activists helped shape the questions that scholars pursued, provided access academics can rarely achieve, reviewed drafts and offered feedback, and in the process enriched scholarship and advanced theory. These are cutting-edge studies of little-known campaigns based on the Los Angeles model of intimate connections between unions and worker centers."? Dan Clawson, University of Massachusetts Amherst About the Author Ruth Milkman is Professor of Sociology at the CUNY Graduate Center and Academic Director of CUNY's Murphy Labor Institute. She is the author of several books, including the prizewinning Gender at Work and L.A. Story: Immigrant Workers and the Future of the U.S. Labor Movement. She is the coauthor of Unfinished Business, editor of Organizing Immigrants, and coeditor of Rebuilding Labor and Working for Justice, all from Cornell. Joshua Bloom is a Fellow at the Ralph J. Bunche Center at UCLA. He is first author of Black against Empire: The History and Politics of the Black Panther Party. nbsp;