

ImmigrationWorks Northwest Summit ★ August 12, 2010 ★ Seattle, WA



Sponsored by ImmigrationWorks USA and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Dear friends,

ImmigrationWorks held its fourth annual summit in Seattle this month, and it went very well – we thought you might be interested in a report.

The event drew 150 employers who rely on immigrant workers for a packed day of panels, speeches and strategy sessions. Mostly small to medium-sized business owners, participants came from as far away as New York and New Mexico and from every economic sector that hires immigrants – high-tech, the service sector, agriculture and seasonal businesses.

The program featured four keynote speakers (from left to right): veteran political journalist **Morton Kondracke**, U.S. Representative **Rick Larsen** (D-WA), high-tech entrepreneur and scholar **Vivek Wadhwa** and Washington Senator **Patty Murray** (taped remarks).



A panel of business representatives and former officials from Washington DC reported on recent changes in immigration enforcement and visa policy. From left to right: National Restaurant Association vice president **Angelo Amador**, former director of ICE policy and planning **Patrick Shen**, Coalition for a Working Oregon co-chair **Jeff Stone**, former USCIS chief counsel **Lynden Melmed** and former DOL assistant secretary **Leon Sequeira**.



Employers from a range of sectors – a fruit grower, a winemaker, a restaurateur, a biotech entrepreneur and an executive of a staffing firm – discussed how immigrant workers help keep U.S. businesses running and contributing to a dynamic, competitive economy. Pictured here: **James McIntire**, Kelly Services (left) and **Rob Valicoff**, Valicoff Fruit Company.





Reform advocates from pro-immigration business coalitions across the U.S. discussed their most successful strategies and plans for the year ahead. Pictured here (left to right): **Andrew Rigie**, ImmigrationWorks New York, **Brent Olmstead**, Idaho Business Coalition for Immigration Reform and **Gene Baca**, New Mexico Immigration Coalition.



U.S. Chamber of Commerce senior vice president **Randel Johnson** presented highlights from a new report commissioned by the Chamber and the American Council on International Personnel, *Regaining America's Competitive Advantage: Making our Immigration System Work*.

ImmigrationWorks unveiled a national petition drive. Pro-immigration business activists across the U.S. will recruit colleagues, clients and suppliers from all economic sectors to sign a message to President Obama. The petition's bottom line: no reform can hope to work for U.S. businesses or the U.S. economy if it does not include adequate visas for immigrant workers at all skill levels to enter the country legally in years ahead.



A panel of premier immigration lawyers answered questions about existing law – high-skilled and lesser-skilled visa programs, audits, E-Verify and more.



ImmigrationWorks president **Tamar Jacoby** announced the IW 2010 HERO AWARDS honoring four pro-immigration business activists from IW state affiliates. The recipients: **Andrew Rigie** from the New York State Restaurant Association and ImmigrationWorks New York, **Gene Baca**, co-owner of Bueno Foods and leader of the New Mexico Immigration Coalition, **Dan Fazio** of Washington State Farm Bureau and ImmigrationWorks Washington and **Mike Gilsdorf**, co-owner of the Arapahoe Acres Nursery and former chair of Colorado Employers for Immigration Reform.



ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS

Diane Butler Lane Powell, **Jaime Castaneda** National Milk Producers Federation, **Luis Ricardo Fraga** University of Washington, **Chris Helm** Davis Wright Tremaine, **Kevin Lederman** Cowan Miller & Lederman, **Louis Moffa Jr.** Montgomery McCracken, **Robert Overell** PhaseRx, **Joel Paget** Ryan Swanson & Cleveland, **Cristina Quinn** Wild Ginger, **David Ramey** Ramey Wine Cellars, **Tom Roach** ImmigrationWorks Washington, **Renee Sinclair** U.S. Chamber of Commerce, **Greg Siskind** Siskind Susser and **Bonnie Stern Wasser** AILA Washington chapter.

STAND UP AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE. MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD.

FLYER

AGENDA

SPEAKERS