



**ROOSEVELT  
HOUSE**  
PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE  
AT HUNTER COLLEGE

## The Taylor Law in Perspective at 50

A Program Examining New York's Public  
Sector Law in Historical Context and Exploring  
the Future of Public Sector Unionization  
and Collective Bargaining

September 26, 2017

3:30pm

**HUNTER**  
The City University of New York

**NATIONAL CENTER**  
for the Study of Collective Bargaining in Higher  
Education and the Professions

The Murphy  
Institute

CUNY School of  
Professional Studies





**ABOUT THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE PROFESSIONS:**

The National Center is a national labor-management research center at Hunter College dedicated to studying unionization and collective bargaining primarily in higher education and the professions.

**ABOUT THE JOSEPH S. MURPHY INSTITUTE FOR WORKER EDUCATION AND LABOR STUDIES:**

The Joseph S. Murphy Institute for Worker Education and Labor Studies offers higher education programs for working adults and union members, and serves as a resource center to labor, academic, and community leaders seeking a deeper understanding of labor and urban issues.





3:30pm

**Welcoming Remarks**

William A. Herbert

Executive Director, National Center for  
the Study of Collective Bargaining in Higher  
Education and the Professions

John Wirenius

Chairperson, New York State Public  
Employment Relations Board

3:45-5:15pm

**Panel Discussion:**

The Taylor Law and Public Sector  
Unionization in Historical Context

5:30-7:00pm

**Panel Discussion:**

Public Sector Collective Bargaining:  
Where Do We Go From Here?

7:00pm

**Reception**





**Joshua B. Freeman**, Distinguished Professor at Queens College, the Graduate Center, and the Joseph S. Murphy Institute, CUNY, is an authority on the history of New York City's labor unions. His books include *In Transit: The Transport Workers Union in New York City, 1933-1966* and *Working-Class New York: Life and Labor Since World War II*. His newest book, *Behemoth: The Factory and the Making of the Modern World*, will be published by W.W. Norton in February 2018.

**Ben Gordon** joined the national staff of Metro IAF, part of the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), in 2016. Prior to the IAF, Gordon was Director of Organizing at the Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA) in New York.

**William A. Herbert** is Executive Director of the National Center for the Study of Collective Bargaining in Higher Education and the Professions, and a Faculty Associate at Roosevelt House.

**Stephen Lerner** is a labor and community organizer, and architect of the groundbreaking Justice for Janitors campaign. Over the past three decades Lerner has worked on campaigns that organized hundreds of thousands of janitors, farm workers, garment workers, and other low-wage workers into unions. Currently, he's a fellow at the Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working Poor at Georgetown University.

**Martin H. Malin**, Professor of Law and Co-Director of the Institute for Law and the Workplace at the Illinois Institute of Technology. Professor Malin has served as a consultant to the Illinois public sector labor boards for whom he drafted the regulations that implemented Illinois's public employee relations statutes; as a reporter for the Association of Labor Relations Agencies' Neutrality Project, a mini-treatise on labor board impartiality; and, most recently, by appointment of President Obama as a member of the Federal Service Impasses Panel.

**Joseph A. McCartin**, Professor of History and Director of the Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working Poor at Georgetown University. His writing focuses on the intersection of labor organization, politics, and public policy. He is the author of *Collision Course: Ronald Reagan, the Air Traffic Controllers*, and *the Strike that Changed America and Labor's Great*

War: The Struggle for Industrial Democracy and the Origins of Modern American Labor Relations, and co-author of Labor in America: A History.

**Terry L. Melvin** is President of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) and NYS AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer. He graduated from the Rochester Center for Theological and Biblical Studies with a Bachelor's Degree in Ministry. He was elected CBTU president at its 41st International Convention, succeeding William (Bill) Lucy, who had held the position since he co-founded CBTU in 1972.

**Kimberly Phillips-Fein**, Associate Professor –NYU Gallatin School; B.A. History, University of Chicago, 1997; Ph.D. American History, Columbia University, 2005. Kimberly Phillips-Fein is a historian of twentieth-century American politics. Her most recent book Fear City: The New York City Fiscal Crisis and the Rise of the Age of Austerity was published earlier this year. Her first book, Invisible Hands: The Making of the Conservative Movement from the New Deal to Reagan, was published by W. W. Norton in 2009.

**Marilyn Sneiderman** directs the Center for Innovation in Worker Organization at Rutgers' School of Management and Labor Relations, bringing with her 30 years of experience in labor, community, faith based, immigrant and racial justice organizing. For 10 years, Sneiderman directed the National AFL-CIO's Department of Field Mobilization, where she helped launch the national "Union Cities" initiative.

**Ashwini Suthankar** is Secretary/Treasurer, International Commission for Labor Rights. Ashwini researches and advocates on international labour rights and transnational labour regulation. Her work has included projects with the ILO, USAID, foundations, global union federations, and national unions. She is a graduate of Harvard Law School.

**John F. Wirenius** was nominated by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate as the Chairperson of the Public Employment Relations Board ("PERB") in June 2016, after having served as PERB's Deputy Chair and General Counsel for two years.



**ABOUT HUNTER COLLEGE:**

Hunter College, located in the heart of Manhattan, is the largest college in the City University of New York. Founded in 1870, Hunter is also one of the oldest public colleges in the country. It is famous for the diversity its 23,000 students, many of whom are the first in their family to attend college.

**ABOUT ROOSEVELT HOUSE:**

Roosevelt House was the home of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt before they moved to the White House. It has been part of Hunter College since 1943, and reopened in 2010 as a public policy institute honoring the Roosevelts' distinguished legacy. Roosevelt House's mission is to educate students in public policy and human rights, support faculty scholarship, and foster productive dialogue. Here, Hunter students analyze critical issues and pursue civic engagement; faculty members research, teach, and write about matters of historical importance; and leading scholars and public audiences gather for high-profile lectures, seminars and conferences.

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