



Marién Casillas-Pabellón Executive Director, New Labor

As Executive Director of New Labor since 2009, Marién Casillas-Pabellón leads a unique, democratically governed worker center that offers Latino immigrants a voice in their workplace and community. New Labor has become a statewide leader, mobilizing thousands of immigrant workers to fight for their rights in their workplaces and communities.

Under Marién's leadership last April, New Labor and WEC together organized one of our state's largest and most successful Worker Memorial Day actions, with a rally and march involving 300 workers and allies in New Brunswick demanding safety and health for all workers.

Under Marién's leadership, New Labor's innovations in health and safety training for low-wage Spanish speaking workers has been shared with worker centers across the country.

The daughter of a politically engaged Baptist reverend and librarian, Marién's interest and experience as an organizer is longer than her youth would suggest. At the age of 21, Marién began working for the Seafarers International Union of Puerto Rico several months before she graduated from the University of Puerto Rico in 2003 with a Bachelor of Arts in Labor and Employment Relations. Representing 8,000 seafarers, she led bargaining efforts, handled grievances and mediation, and ran a successful organizing campaign. She also developed workshops and developed a quarterly newsletter. Interested in better understanding labor relations, Marién arrived in New Brunswick, New Jersey in 2005 where she spent the next two years earning a Masters degree in Labor and Employment Relations. She began working with New Labor as a graduate research assistant.

After graduation, she became an organizer for the Teamsters assigned to ports. In 2008, she returned to NJ to become a New Labor organizer. She became the Executive Director of New Labor in 2009. She serves on WEC's Board of Directors.

Under Marién's leadership, New Labor has helped many immigrant workers collect unpaid wages. For example, in 2010, New Labor assisted about 60 American Bindery employees recuperate almost \$200,000 of unpaid wages.