

UCA Meeting Minutes

03/19/2015

CWA Local 1180 Offices, 6 Harrison Street, New York, NY 10013

Meeting began at 7:30

Report-backs:

- UCA Miami: While on a project in Miami, spoke with colleagues at Miami Lex and FTI Consulting who were interested in organizing. Some Miami contract attorneys received the survey link and completed it. One contract attorney had a Miami Herald reporter interested in her story, but because she did not want her name in the article, the reporter could not publish the story. Another colleague suggested that the UCA speak to the reporter on her behalf. The local CWA could not facilitate a meeting in Miami due to their main location in Fort Lauderdale and lack of capacity. However, some contract attorneys expressed interest in following the work of the UCA and meeting further. Next steps: add them to the listserv.
- Health Insurance: We're in the process of obtaining information to determine if a group-rate for health insurance for contract attorneys would be possible and to see if such a group could carry that insurance from agency to agency. At this time, however, it seems as though ACA rates might already be lower than any group rate we could get. Further information is still being sought out.

Minimum Wage:

Thank you to everyone who participated in our pay rate survey! If you haven't taken it yet, we are still interested in your feedback, so please respond to our survey here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2FCGJL2>

After analyzing the results of the survey, we have decided to post job notices that are paying a minimum of \$32.00 per hour. We also do not post job notices that do not pay overtime after 40 hours. One of the main goals of our organization is to push for a fair wage for contract attorneys and at this time we feel this pay rate is a good place to start. Any further input you have to offer is welcomed.

Share Your Story:

At our meetings, we frequently hear about agencies trying to get out of paying bonuses, sick time, or other money promised or required by law. We are interested in hearing stories about your document review experience. Send us an email at contract.attorneys.united@gmail.com or share your story at one of our meetings. We intend to get a sense of what people are experiencing and post some resources where people can go file complaints for issues such as the Commission on Human Rights with the City or DCA when it comes to sick leave issues

Communications Proposal:

A proposal was submitted to submit a proposal to organize a panel to speak at the Left Forum on contract attorneys' and their organizing efforts. We can generate broader societal interest in the injustice of our condition by linking the issue to increasing concentration of wealth, or the 1%, where firm partners make massive amounts of money by billing contract attorneys for \$500.00, who

themselves are paid \$32.00 an hour. The Left Forum is a popular conference focusing on social justice issues held at Pace University in the late spring.

THE NEXT MEETING IS Wed, Apr 22 @ 7:30pm

The general meeting adjourned at 8:30pm