



**Commissioner Brad Avakian**  
Bureau of Labor and Industries

**Press Release**

For Immediate Distribution

December 1, 2010

CONTACT: Bob Estabrook, 503-709-0730

**Avakian Honors Outstanding Oregon Employers**

*BOLI chief names champions of civil rights, fair workplaces and workforce development*

PORTLAND- Today, State Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian, head of the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI), presented BOLI Business Leadership Awards to four Oregon employers for their significant contributions to our communities. The champions of civil rights, fair workplaces and workforce development were chosen for their embodiment of BOLI's mission: to protect employment rights, advance employment opportunities, and protect access to housing and public accommodations free from discrimination. This year's honorees are:

**Civil Rights Champion – VERDE of Portland**

**Fair Workplaces Champion – Continental Mills of Pendleton**

**Fair Workplaces Champion – MaPS Credit Union of Salem**

**Workforce Development Champion – Columbia River Bar Pilots of Astoria**

“Many of this year's nominees, and the majority of the winners, were nominated by their own employees,” Avakian noted. “Our champions represent a very diverse pool of nominees from around the state, which includes many small or mid-sized businesses that are doing really good things for their workers and communities. In relation to their resources, Oregon's small businesses are going to great lengths to take care of their employees.”

Avakian created the BOLI Business Leadership Awards, now two years old, to recognize the good work that Oregon employers do every day for the community, their workers, and the future of Oregon's economy. Nominations from throughout Oregon were received and reviewed by agency staff and the Commissioner for commitment and successes in the area of nomination, taking into account the size and location of the business.

See attached document for more about the award categories and each of this year's winners.

BOLI defends the rights of workers and citizens to equal, nondiscriminatory treatment in workplaces, housing and public accommodations and encourages and enforces compliance with state laws relating to wages, hours and terms and conditions of employment. The bureau also partners with business and labor organizations to build a skilled workforce in Oregon and trains employers to understand and comply with civil rights and other labor and employment laws. For more information, visit <http://www.oregon.gov/boli>.

#####

*The mission of the Bureau of Labor and Industries is to protect employment rights, advance employment opportunities, and protect access to housing and public accommodations free from discrimination.*