

# NWJJP

NORTHWEST WORKERS' JUSTICE PROJECT

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January 13, 2023

To the Management-Labor Advisory Committee,

The Northwest Workers' Justice Project is glad to see that MLAC has identified worker intimidation and retaliation as priority issues in your 2023 [work plan](#). NWJP provides legal representation to low-wage workers throughout the economy in sectors like construction, building maintenance, landscaping, hotels, restaurants, food processing, agriculture and forestry. All of our clients work in low-wage jobs. The large majority of our clients are people of color, and almost all are immigrants. We represent many workers who have experienced retaliation as a result of a workplace injury and/or using the workers' compensation system.

NWJP would like to be considered a stakeholder in this important discussion on retaliation in the workers' compensation system. We can share what we have seen about the nature and extent of the problem over the 20 years we have been hearing from and representing workers in low-wage, high-injury jobs.

We would like to work with insurers, self-insured employers, employer associations, BOLI and others to identify methods to address this pressing and ongoing problem, including increased education to employers and workers.

We would like to see a fast-track solution for workers who are facing this type of retaliation. We currently file many complaints with the Bureau of Labor and Industries, but that process takes many months and only rarely results in a real dent in this entrenched problem.

Please call on us to be part of this important work, and thank you for recognizing injured worker retaliation as the significant, ongoing problem that it is. Sincerely,



Kate Suisman, Attorney