

Global Labor Justice - International Labor Rights Forum

PRESENTS

## 2021 Labor Rights Defenders Roundtable

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# Women Leading Change: From Forced Labor to Freedom of Association

November 8, 2021  
at 12:00 P.M. EST



# 2021 Roundtable Program

This event offers simultaneous interpretation in English, Spanish, Chinese, Russian, and Burmese.

## 12:00 WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

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**Jennifer (JJ) Rosenbaum**

**Executive Director**

Global Labor Justice - International Labor Rights Forum (GLJ-ILRF)

## 12:05 ROUNDTABLE

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**Julie Su**

**United States Deputy Secretary of Labor**

United States Department of Labor

**Mrs. Ma Moe Sandar Myint**

**Chairwoman**

Federation of Garment Workers Myanmar (FGWM)

**Allison Lee (Lee Li Hua)**

**Secretary General**

Yilan Migrant Fishermen Union (YMFU)

**Roza Agaydarova**

**Founder**

Adolat Sari Olg'a (Onward Toward Justice)

**Iris Munguía**

**Secretaria de la Mujer (Secretary of Women)**

Federación Sindical Agrícola (Federation of Industrial Agriculture Unions) (FESTAGRO)

## 12:55 CLOSING THOUGHTS & THANKS

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**Valery Alzaga**

**Deputy Director**

Global Labor Justice - International Labor Rights Forum (GLJ-ILRF)

Music by Los Jornaleros del Norte (The Day Laborer Band)

# Panelists & Presenters

## Panelists

### Julie Su

**United States Deputy Secretary of Labor**  
**United States Department of Labor**

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Julie Su was appointed by President Biden to serve as the deputy secretary of labor and confirmed by the Senate on July 13, 2021. The deputy secretary serves as the de-facto chief operating officer for the department, overseeing its workforce, managing its budget and executing the priorities of the secretary of labor.

Prior to joining the U.S. Department of Labor, Deputy Secretary Su served as the secretary for the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency. The LWDA enforces workplace laws, combats wage theft, ensures health and safety on the job, connects Californians to quality jobs and career pathways, and administers unemployment insurance, workers compensation and paid family leave.

Su is a nationally recognized expert on workers' rights and civil rights who has dedicated her distinguished legal career to advancing justice on behalf of poor and disenfranchised communities and is a past recipient of a MacArthur Foundation "genius" grant.

As California labor commissioner from 2011 through 2018, Su enforced the state's labor laws to ensure a fair and just workplace for both employees and employers. A report on her tenure released in May 2013 found that her leadership resulted in a renaissance in enforcement activity and record-setting results. In 2014, she launched the first "Wage Theft Is a Crime" multimedia, multilingual statewide campaign to reach out to low-wage workers and their employers to help them understand their rights and feel safe speaking up about labor law abuses.

Prior to her appointment as California labor commissioner, Deputy Secretary Su was the litigation director at Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Los Angeles, the nation's largest non-profit civil rights organization devoted to issues affecting the Asian American community. Su is known for pioneering a multi-strategy approach that combines successful impact litigation with multiracial organizing, community education, policy reform, coalition building and media work.

Frequently named to top-lawyer lists such as the Daily Journal's "Top 75 Women Litigators" in California and California Lawyer's "Super Lawyers," she was the first labor commissioner to be included among the Daily Journal's "Top 75 Labor and Employment Lawyers." She has also been named one of the 50 most noteworthy women alumni of Harvard Law School and one of the 100 most influential people in Los Angeles in Los Angeles Magazine.

Su has taught at UCLA Law School and Northeastern Law School. She is a graduate of Stanford University and Harvard Law School and began her career with a Skadden Fellowship. Su speaks Mandarin and Spanish.



## Panelists & Presenters cont.

### Roza Agaydarova

#### Founder

#### Adolat Sari Olg'a (Onward Toward Justice), Uzbekistan

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Roza Agaydarova, from Syrdarya region, Uzbekistan, worked in the human resources department of Indorama, a cotton plantation and spinning company with investments from the IFC. She was transferred to the accounting department after raising concerns about lack of contracts and poor working conditions. After she reported concerns about financial irregularities and possible corruption, she was fired. In January 2021, she successfully sued for reinstatement. In March, Roza led the formation of the first democratic union election in Uzbekistan's history, organizing more than 200 workers at Indorama. Today, the union, Adolat Sari Olg'a, has more than 600 members and is negotiating for permanent contracts and better conditions for farmworkers at Indorama.



### Allison Lee (Lee Li Hua)

#### Secretary General

#### Yilan Migrant Fishermen Union (YMFU), Taiwan

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Allison Lee is a co-founder and the Secretary General of the Yilan Migrant Fishermen Union, Taiwan's first labor union composed of and led by foreign workers, and is a leading voice in demanding stronger protections for fishing crew members and accountability for human traffickers. Ms. Lee spearheaded the establishment of the union after working for 16 years for Taiwan NGOs focused on labor rights issues and handling labor disputes for four years at the municipal level as an employee of Taipei's Labor Affairs Bureau. Since founding the Yilan Migrant Fishermen Union in 2013, Ms. Lee has advocated for the rights of foreign fishermen working on Taiwan-flagged vessels and documented hundreds of accounts of exploitation, abuse, and underpayment. By serving as a voice for these often unseen and unheard foreign fishing crew members, Ms. Lee has raised international and domestic awareness of exploitative working conditions, including instances of forced labor. In one case, she successfully pushed to reopen an investigation into the death of an Indonesian fisherman on a Taiwan-flagged vessel. Ms. Lee and her advocacy partners drive change from the grassroots level through sustained pressure on officials and direct engagement with under-represented communities, including victims of human trafficking. She continues to engage local labor bureaus, fisheries associations, and law enforcement to seek justice and compensation for crew members who are exploited at the hands of their employers and labor brokers.



## Panelists & Presenters cont.

### Iris Munguía

**Secretaria de la Mujer (Secretary of Women)**  
**Federación Sindical Agrícola (Federation of Industrial Agriculture Unions) (FESTAGRO), Honduras**

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Iris Munguía is the Secretary of Women for Honduran union Federation FESTAGRO (Federation of Agroindustrial Unions of Honduras) and former Coordinator of COLSIBA – the Coordinating Body of Latin American Banana and Agro-Industrial Unions, a coalition of unions representing 55,000 workers across eight countries, the largest transnational federation of private sector unions in the Americas.



### Mrs. Ma Moe Sandar Myint

**Chairwoman**  
**Federation of Garment Workers Myanmar (FGWM), Myanmar**

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Mrs. Ma Moe Sandar Myint is chairwoman of the Federation of Garment Workers Myanmar (FGWM). Mrs. Ma Moe Sandar Myint is a union organizer and former garment worker who has led more than 20 pro-democracy protests since the military takeover of Myanmar on February 1, 2021, including during the February 22 general strike. Mrs. Ma Moe Sandar Myint organizes in a context of ongoing state harassment and intimidation, including arrests of trade unionists including herself.



## Presenters

### Valery Alzaga

**Deputy Director**  
**Global Labor Justice - International Labor Rights Forum (GLJ-ILRF)**

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Valery Alzaga is a labor and migrant rights campaigner and organizer with more than 20 years of organizing experience across a range of different sectors - including property services, care, transport, health, retail, IT, renewable energies and auto-manufacturing. She started as an organizer with the Justice for Janitors campaign before becoming the Property Service Director at Local 105 in Denver, where she also was the president of the Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition. She then worked for SEIU's global department helping win and implement breakthrough global cleaning and security organizing agreements (ISS, Securitas, G4S). From 2008 to 2015 she was the European organizing

## Panelists & Presenters cont.

coordinator with the Change to Win European Organising Centre (CTW-EOC) based in Amsterdam, working with many European unions and sectors to help them develop their own strategic organizing campaigns and programs - including FNV (NL), UNISON and Unite (UK), IG Metal and ver.di (DE), 3F (DK), Solidarnoc (PL), SATAWU (SA) and GUFS (ITF and UNI). Since 2015 she has worked in UK public sector unions organizing anti-privatization and EU and non-EU migrant rights campaigns. From 2018 to 2021 Valery was a field campaign strategist and advisor to Barcelona and Catalunya en Comu in Spain. She has a B.A. in International Studies from the University of Denver, and the Libera Università Internazionale Degli Studi Sociali (LUISS) in Rome, and studied at the Graduate School of International Studies (GSIS). She is a proud mom of two and a great fan of the arts, philosophy, quantum physics, and the beautiful game.

### Jennifer (JJ) Rosenbaum

#### **Executive Director**

#### **Global Labor Justice - International Labor Rights Forum (GLJ-ILRF)**

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JJ is an attorney, organizer, and human rights strategist advocating for human rights, decent work for all, and fair migration. For over two decades, JJ has used legal, policy, and advocacy strategies to win access to rights and collective power for low-wage workers and advised workers' centers on transnational grassroots collaborations. Global Labor Justice follows a more than a ten-year record in the post-Katrina Gulf Coast where JJ created a new model of movement lawyering as the founding legal and policy director for the National Guestworker Alliance and the New Orleans Workers' Center for Racial Justice. JJ has litigated cases before trial and appellate courts and led the human, labor, and migrants rights strategy for campaigns including the Signal workers, who exposed labor trafficking from India to the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina, and the Justice @ Hershey's campaign, where hundreds of foreign students won new regulations for the cultural exchange visa program.

JJ has extensive experience with human rights investigations, legal strategies that build collective power, and advising worker, immigrant, and community organizations. She has testified before Congress, writes and speaks globally, and is regularly consulted by national and global media. She is the co-chair of the American Bar Association's International Labor and Employment Committee and lectures on labor migration and comparative social justice lawyering approach at Harvard Law School. She previously held a Robina Fellowship at the Orville H. Schell, Jr. Center for International Human Rights with a focus on the intersection of global supply chains and labor migration. JJ is a graduate of the University of Tennessee and the Harvard Law School. Follow her on twitter at @rosenbaumjj.

## About Los Jornaleros del Norte (The Day Laborer Band)

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The Los Angeles California based Day Laborer Band was created by community members and musicians after an ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) raid that took place in the City of Industry, California in 1995 while a mobile health clinic of the Los Angeles County Health Department was providing HIV and other STD testing to Latino workers and families. Omar Sierra, one of the main vocalists of the band, was present during the raid and decided to write a Corrido (ballad) about the incident.

As time went on, the Day Laborer Band expanded and became a fundamental tool in the organizing effort for day laborers. The band's purpose is to inform, educate, organize, and mobilize migrant day laborers, sensitize the general community about day labor related issues, and denounce the abuses committed against them. The band has performed for day laborers at corners and centers, for local unions, for students, for activists, for teachers, and more.



For more information on Los Jornaleros Del Norte, their website is [losjornalerosdelnorte.com](http://losjornalerosdelnorte.com)



# About GLJ-ILRF

Global Labor Justice-International Labor Rights Forum (GLJ-ILRF) is a newly merged organization bringing strategic capacity to cross-sectoral work on global value chains and labor migration corridors. GLJ-ILRF holds global corporations accountable for labor rights violations in their supply chains, advances policies and laws that protect decent work and just migration, and strengthens freedom of association, new forms of bargaining, and worker organizations.

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