



ALBERT SHANKER INSTITUTE

**THE FINANCIAL CRISIS AND WORKER RIGHTS IN CHINA:
WHAT HAS THE RECESSION DONE TO PROSPECTS
FOR TRUE WORKER REPRESENTATION?**

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PRESENTERS

Stuart Appelbaum

Stuart Appelbaum, President of the Retail, Wholesale, and Department Store Union (RWDSU) since 1998, is an International Vice President of the 1.4 million-member United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW). He is also the President of the Jewish Labor Committee, a Vice President of the Consortium for Worker Education, and an officer of two global union federations: IUF (International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations) and UNI (Union Network International). Prior to the disaffiliation of UFCW from the AFL-CIO, Appelbaum served as a Vice President of the national AFL-CIO and a member of the federation's executive council from 1998 until 2005. He also serves as a Vice President of the New York State AFL-CIO and the New York City Central Labor Council. Appelbaum previously served as Chief House Counsel of the Democratic National Committee, as Executive Assistant to the Connecticut Secretary of the State, and as a staff member of the Michigan State AFL-CIO.

Earl Brown, Jr.

Earl Brown is Asia Regional Labor and Employment Law Counsel for the American Center for International Labor Solidarity (the Solidarity Center), a worker rights NGO affiliated with the AFL-CIO. In this capacity, he creates technical programs with legal aid organizations, lawyers' associations and civil society groups to enhance enforcement of labor, discrimination and employment law standards in South and South-East Asia and China. Brown is also Of Counsel at O'Donoghue & O'Donoghue, specializing in labor, discrimination and employment law, and international law. He has also served as General Counsel for the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, and as Associate General Counsel for the United Mine Workers of America. He has been an Adjunct Professor at Thammasat and Chulalongkorn Universities in Bangkok, and at Villanova University School of Law. He is the author of numerous papers and publications and has lectured extensively throughout South-East Asia and China.

Leo Casey

Leo Casey is Vice President of Academic High Schools for the United Federation of Teachers (UFT), New York City's 200,000 member teachers union. Casey began his teaching career in 1984 at Clara Barton High School in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn, where he taught classes in Civics, American History, African-American Studies, Ethical Issues in Medicine, and Political Science for fifteen years. For ten years in a row, his classes won the New York City championship of the national *We The People* civics competition, winning the New York State championship four times and placing fourth in the nation twice. Casey became a full-time UFT Special Representative in 1999, and was elected Vice President of Academic High Schools in 2007. In addition, he continues to teach a class in Global Studies at Bard High School Early College in Manhattan. Casey also led the design team for the UFT's Secondary Charter School, and served as the liaison between the Board of Trustees and the school. He has worked with teacher unions and teachers in Russia, Tanzania, and China on the development of civics education. Casey has written extensively on civics, education, unionism and politics, and is a frequent contributor to the UFT blog, Edwize.

Gordon G. Chang

Gordon G. Chang is the author of *Nuclear Showdown: North Korea Takes On the World* (Random House, 2006). *Showdown* focuses on nuclear proliferation in general and the North Korean crisis in particular. His first book is *The Coming Collapse of China* (Random House, 2001). He is a columnist at Forbes.com. He lived and worked in China and Hong Kong for almost two decades, most recently in Shanghai as Counsel to the American law firm Paul Weiss, and earlier in Hong Kong as Partner in the international law firm Baker & McKenzie. His writings

on China and North Korea have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, the *Far Eastern Economic Review*, the *International Herald Tribune*, *Commentary*, *The Weekly Standard*, *National Review*, and *Barron's*. He has spoken at many universities, institutes, before industry and investor groups, and has appeared before the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission. Chang has appeared on CNN, Fox News Channel, CNBC, MSNBC, the BBC, and Bloomberg Television and on The Daily Show with Jon Stewart. He has served two terms as a trustee of Cornell University.

Han Dongfang

Han Dongfang is Founder and Executive Director of China Labour Bulletin (CLB), a Hong Kong-based labor rights group. CLB sponsors and supports a diverse range of activities aimed at improving the lives of Chinese workers and fostering the development of independent labor organizations. Han also serves as a correspondent for Radio Free Asia, where he presents thrice-weekly radio program from Hong Kong, focusing on workers' struggles in mainland China. He has written numerous books and articles. Over the past 15 years, Han has been an advocate for workers' rights and trade unionism in China and a frequent speaker at international labor movement, NGO, and government-sponsored conferences around the world. In May 1989 he was co-founder and spokesperson of the Beijing Autonomous Workers Federation, China's first independent labor organization since 1949. He headed the Chinese government's "most wanted" list of worker activists, issued after the June 4 crackdown in Tiananmen Square, and was imprisoned without trial for 22 months. He was released in April 1991, suffering from tuberculosis contracted in prison. In September 1992 he received a year of medical treatment in the U.S., with support of the AFL-CIO and Human Rights Watch and had most of one lung removed. In August 1993 he returned to China to continue independent labor movement work and was detained in Guangzhou by the police and expelled to Hong Kong, where he continues to reside today. He has received numerous awards, including the AFL-CIO George Meany Human Rights Award and the Democracy Award from the National Endowment for Democracy. Han sits on the board of Human Rights in China.

Virginia Harper Ho

Virginia Harper Ho holds a J.D. from Harvard Law School and is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor at the Indiana University Maurer School of Law-Bloomington, where she teaches courses on corporate law and Chinese law. She is the author of *Labor Dispute Resolution in China: Implications for Labor Rights and Legal Reform* (Institute for East Asian Studies, University of California-Berkeley: 2003), which examines legal channels for mediating labor conflict in China. Her current research, based on fieldwork in Guangdong province, is forthcoming in the *Columbia Journal of Asian Law*. It explores the effect of recent regulatory changes in Chinese labor law on corporate compliance, local regulatory strategy, and labor conflict. Her other research interests include corporate social responsibility, corporate governance, and shareholder activism.

Xiaorong Li

Xiaorong Li is a Research Scholar at the Institute for Philosophy and Public Policy at the University of Maryland. Dr. Li joined the Institute in 1993. Her main interest is in political/moral philosophy and ethics, with a focus on human rights, cultural diversity/pluralism, and the ethics of globalization. She has taught the graduate seminar on philosophy, politics and public policy at the university. She has written on an array of related subjects, including human rights and cultural relativism, international justice, reproductive rights, and gender issues in developing countries. She is the author of *Ethics, Human Rights and Culture* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2006) and many articles. Her research projects have won support from the National Endowment for Humanities, the MacArthur Foundation, the U.S. Institute of Peace, and the Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton.

Eugenia Kemble

Eugenia Kemble is Executive Director of the Albert Shanker Institute. During the course of a long career in the labor movement, Kemble served as Special Assistant to Albert Shanker, the late president of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT); Director of the AFT Educational Issues Department; and Executive Director of the AFL-CIO's Free Trade Union Institute (FTUI), a non-profit organization that supported unions struggling for democracy around the world, most notably Solidarity in Poland. Leading up to her service with FTUI, Kemble served as the AFL-CIO representative to the Democracy Program, a coalition effort including the Democratic Party, Republican Party, U.S. Chambers of Commerce, and AFL-CIO, which recommended the creation of the National Endowment for Democracy. In 1998-99 she organized the start-up of the Albert Shanker Institute.

Yan Sun

Yan Sun, a Professor of Political Science at Queens College in New York, received her degrees from Nanjing University, the University, Beijing School of Foreign Affairs, and the Johns Hopkins University. Her research interests include the post-socialist political economy and transitional politics of China; East Asian development; and comparative economic transition in China, Russia and India. She is the author of *The Chinese Reassessment of Socialism 1976-1992* (Princeton, 1995) and *Corruption and Market in Contemporary China* (Cornell, 2004). She has also published numerous papers and articles on Comparative Politics, Communist and Post-Communist Studies, Current History, Asian Survey, Crime, Law and Social Change, and other topics.

