

May 12, 2017

Wage theft from care providers

Workers sue for unpaid minimum and overtime wages

Michael Chapman cared deeply about his work providing care for people with physical and mental health disabilities in group homes. For more than seven years, he helped residents perform basic daily tasks like dressing and drove them to and from adult day care centers. Although he enjoyed working with the residents, the hours were grueling. He alleges that he regularly worked a 72-hour weekend shift and often worked 12-hour overnight shifts on weeknights, too. He was the only care provider on duty during his shifts and was awake for most of the night. Worse yet, Mr. Chapman alleges that he was paid just \$225 for each 72-hour shift—the equivalent of just \$3.13 per hour—and his employers never paid an overtime rate for overtime hours. He also alleges that his employer at Uhh Wee, We Care Assisted Living threatened him with a criminal background check when he complained about his working conditions. In February, the Public Justice Center filed suit in federal court on behalf of Mr. Chapman and a coworker to recover thousands of dollars in wages they earned but were unlawfully denied. [Read more about Mr. Chapman's case here.](#)

Welcome, Saskia!

We're pleased to welcome Saskia Sanchez as a paralegal in our Human Right to Housing Project. Before she came to the PJC, she served in a similar capacity at the Law Office of Victor Ramirez, a Maryland State Senator. Prior to moving to the United States in 2015, Saskia worked in several different capacities as a lawyer in her native Panama, including with Customs and Border Protection, and in the private sector with intellectual property law. [Read more about Saskia here.](#)



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Tell Gov. Hogan to sign the Healthy Working Families Act

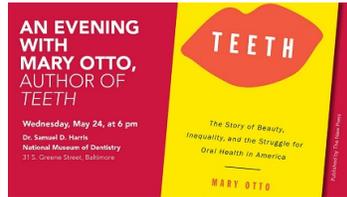
Everyone gets sick. The Healthy Working Families Act will help more families earn paid sick days to get better. Call Governor Hogan at 410-974-3901 and tell him to sign HB 1.



An evening with Mary Otto, author of *Teeth*

Wednesday, May 24, 2017 6 pm

National Museum of Dentistry
31 S. Greene St.
Baltimore, MD 21201



We welcome journalist Mary Otto to discuss her new book, *Teeth: The Story of Beauty, Inequality, and the Struggle for Oral Health in America*. Otto is the oral health topic leader for the Association of Health Care Journalists. She began writing about oral health at the *Washington Post* where she covered the tragic story of Deamonte Driver, the Maryland boy whose death from a tooth infection launched a massive reform effort in Maryland. Otto's book exposes for the first time the extent and meaning of America's silent epidemic of oral disease. The evening will include a discussion about current efforts in Maryland and the nation to address the problem. We will have copies of the book for sale and a reception following Ms. Otto's presentation. [Learn more here.](#)

RSVP: Jennifer Pelton, peltonj@publicjustice.org or (410) 400-6953



PJC's e-newsletter is an occasional public notice to join, share, celebrate, or commiserate with the Public Justice Center's efforts to "pursue systemic change to build a just society." Please forward this information to others. To subscribe or unsubscribe to future e-newsletters, please send an email to info@publicjustice.org stating your preferences.

Right to counsel win in Pennsylvania Supreme Court

In March, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania issued a landmark ruling in *In re L.B.M.* that clearly established the right to counsel for children in termination of parental rights cases. The National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel assisted several local advocates with an amicus brief that influenced the court's decision. [Read more here.](#)