

## NEWS RELEASE

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### Statewide “Wage Theft is a Crime” Campaign Opens the Doors to California Labor Commissioner’s Office

**Los Angeles**—California Labor Commissioner Julie A. Su today hosted members of the press to discuss partnerships with worker advocacy and industry groups and to highlight recent achievements in fighting wage theft.

The event was held in the Los Angeles wage claim office as part of the [“Wage Theft is a Crime”](#) public awareness campaign, launched last year by the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) and its Labor Commissioner’s Office. Bilingual staff members were present at today’s event to provide information on how workers can report wage theft to the Labor Commissioner’s Office.

“Our department’s mission is to protect California’s workers with comprehensive labor



*California Labor Commissioner Julie A. Su talks with members of the media at the Los Angeles Division of Labor Standards Enforcement office.*

laws and enforcement focused on businesses that intentionally skirt the law,” said DIR Director Christine Baker. “A critical part of that mission is the outreach and education to the public we serve.”

“We’ve taken significant steps to increase access to the Labor Commissioner’s Office

and the resources available to fight wage theft,” said Labor Commissioner Julie A. Su. “This award-winning campaign is one of the ways that we continue to remove barriers and push back on the unfair practices of the underground economy.”

The “Wage Theft is a Crime” campaign, which won the 2014 HPRA National ¡BRAVO! Award for Public Education Campaign of the Year, is grounded in multilingual outreach

to workers, employers and over 800 community based organizations. Educational materials distributed at local events as well as through mailings, digital and print media emphasize prevention of wage theft in low-wage industries and encourage victims to report labor law violations.

Since its debut in May 2014 with the website [WageTheftsACrime.com](http://WageTheftsACrime.com) (in Spanish [RoboDeSueldoEsUnCrimen.com](http://RoboDeSueldoEsUnCrimen.com)), the campaign has prioritized communication in the languages spoken in California's immigrant communities. The campaign includes multilingual print and outdoor advertising as well as radio commercials on ethnic stations in English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Hmong and Tagalog.

The Labor Commissioner's office, also known as the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement, is a division of DIR. Among its wide-ranging enforcement responsibilities, staff inspect workplaces for wage and hour violations, adjudicate wage claims, enforce prevailing wage rates and apprenticeship standards in public works projects, investigate retaliation complaints, issue licenses and registrations for businesses and educate the public on labor laws.

Information on California labor laws is available on DIR's [website](#) as well as on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages. Employees with work-related questions or complaints may call the toll-free California Workers' Information Line at (866) 924-9757 for recorded information, in English and Spanish.

For media inquiries, contact Erika Monterroza at (510) 286-1164 or Kathleen Hennessy at (510) 286-1163.



The [California Department of Industrial Relations](#), established in 1927, protects and improves the health, safety, and economic well-being of over 18 million wage earners, and helps their employers comply with state labor laws. DIR is housed within the [Labor & Workforce Development Agency](#). Non-media inquiries can contact DIR's Communications Call Center at 1-844-LABOR-DIR (1-844-522-6734) for help in locating the appropriate [division or program](#) in our department