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## The 10th Distinguished Labor Leader Lecture

Monday, March 24, 2014 | 4:00pm-5:00pm



# Chicago Federation of Labor and The Institute for Law and the Workplace

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Randi Weingarten  
President, American Federation  
of Teachers, AFL-CIO

 IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law  
ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

**Randi Weingarten**

**President  
American Federation of Teachers,  
AFL-CIO**



Randi Weingarten is President of the 1.5 million-member American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, which represents teachers; para-professionals and school-related personnel; higher education faculty and staff; nurses and other healthcare professionals; local, state and federal government employees; and early childhood educators.

Prior to her election as AFT President in 2008, Ms. Weingarten served for 12 years as President of the United Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 2, representing approximately 200,000 educators in the New York City public school system, as well as home child care providers and other workers in health, law, and education. In 2013, the NEW YORK OBSERVER named Ms. Weingarten one of the most influential New Yorkers of the past 25 years. WASHINGTON LIFE MAGAZINE included her on its 2013 Power 100 list of influential leaders.

Ms. Weingarten has launched major efforts to place real education reform high on the nation's and her union's agendas. She created the AFT Innovation Fund, an initiative to support sustainable, innovative and collaborative education reform projects developed by members and their local unions. At Ms. Weingarten's direction, the AFT developed a model to transform teacher evaluations from a way of simply rating teachers to a tool for continuous improvement and feedback, and is using this model to align tenure and due process so that tenure serves as a guarantee of fairness, not of a job for life.

Additionally, Ms. Weingarten oversaw the development of the AFT's Quality Education Agenda, which advocates for reforms grounded in evidence, equity, scalability and sustainability. She promotes what she calls "solution-driven unionism"— an approach to collective bargaining and collective action that unites the interests of union members and those they serve in the pursuit of solutions that benefit students, schools and communities.

In 2012-13, Ms. Weingarten served on an education reform commission convened by New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, which made a series of recommendations to improve teaching and learning. She was appointed to the Equity and Excellence Commission, a federal advisory

committee chartered by Congress to examine and make recommendations concerning the disparities in educational opportunities that give rise to the achievement gap.

Ms. Weingarten's column *What Matters Most* appears in the NEW YORK TIMES' SUNDAY REVIEW the third Sunday of each month. She holds degrees from Cornell University's School of Industrial & Labor Relations and the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, and is an active member of the Democratic National Committee as well as numerous professional, civic and philanthropic organizations.



Founded in 1896, the Chicago Federation of Labor is the umbrella organization for Chicago and Cook County's labor unions. The CFL and its 320 affiliated unions comprised of half a million members represent a diverse group of working people in a variety of industries throughout the area. Led by President Jorge Ramirez and Secretary-Treasurer Robert G. Reiter, Jr., the CFL defends a middle class of hard-working men and women, pursues aggressive legislative and political strategies, and helps working people remain a highly-skilled, sought-after workforce in the changing economy of the 21st Century.



The Institute for Law and the Workplace at IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law is a national center for research, training, dialogue

and reflection on the law that governs the workplace. Founded in 1996, the institute serves as an intellectual home for the labor and employment law community, both in the Chicago area and nationwide. The institute pools the resources of leading academic scholars and the practicing professional community to train students and professionals, monitor policies and trends, and study issues confronting the labor and employment law community in a neutral setting.

IIT Chicago-Kent's Certificate Program in Labor and Employment Law is the centerpiece of the institute. The certificate program entails a logical, carefully paced sequence of course work and practical skills training that provides comprehensive, rigorous preparation for the field of labor and employment law.

**Organized Labor Scholarship Fund**

The Organized Labor Scholarship Fund at IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law was established by the unions and union law firms who are members of the Institute for Law and the Workplace, including:

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The fund provides scholarship support to IIT Chicago-Kent students specializing in labor and employment law who have significant ties to organized labor and to IIT Chicago-Kent students serving as student externs to unions and union law firms. A complete list of scholarship recipients is available from the Institute for Law and the Workplace.

Contributions to the Organized Labor Scholarship Fund are welcome and are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

**Program Details**

The lecture is free and open to the public. No registration is required. For further information call 312.906.5090, or visit our website at [cle.kentlaw.edu](http://cle.kentlaw.edu).

If you have any special needs please contact a CLE staff member at 312.906.5090.