

The Sugar Law Center for Economic & Social Justice invites you to

Advocacy
for
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ESSENTIAL:

THE AMERICA WE WANT

Awards & Fundraising Reception



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2017 - 6pm

Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit

MOCAD, 4454 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, 48201

Presenting the 2017 Maurice Sugar Voice for Justice Award to

BHAIRAVI DESAI

and

A DAY WITHOUT IMMIGRANTS PROTESTORS



Bhairavi Desai

Bhairavi Desai helped found the New York Taxi Workers Alliance (NYTWA) in 1998 with the goal, “To win justice, rights, respect and dignity through full unionization of all 100,000 licensed taxi workers in New York City.” She stands up in defense of the oppressed, and the now 19,000-member strong NYTWA was the first union to take collective action against Donald Trump’s immigration executive order in January, striking at JFK Airport in protest of the White House’s hateful Muslim ban.

NYTWA, working with Brooklyn Legal Services, recently won the first ruling of employee status of Uber drivers by the NYS Department of Labor. In 2013, NYTWA and the Taxi Workers Alliance of Pennsylvania became the founding chapters of the National Taxi Workers Alliance, the first union of non-traditional workers to be granted a charter by the AFL-CIO, becoming the federation’s 57th national affiliate. The same year, Bhairavi became the first Asian American voted to serve on the AFL-CIO’s Executive Council and received the Ford Foundation’s Leadership for a Changing World award. A woman who has never covered while fighting for her cause, Desai hopes that the NYTWA’s campaigns for policy changes will help to protect jobs for all.



A Day Without Immigrants Protestors

On February 16, 2017 immigrants across the U.S. stayed away from work as part of the protest “A Day Without Immigrants.” Employees and employers gave up wages and profits in protest of the immigration policies of the Trump administration, hoping to show American consumers what an economy without immigrant labor would mean for the services and goods many rely on. Every worker has the right to organize for better working conditions and policy. It is a privilege for our Sugar Law Center team to be representing a group of our immigrant neighbors in Michigan who organized around this day and were fired by the employer for doing so. We honor their courage and lift them as we fight for the America We Want.