



Labor Honoree

Lilia Garcia Brower

Executive Director

Maintenance Cooperation Trust Fund

Lilia Garcia-Brower is the Executive Director of the Maintenance Cooperation Trust Fund (MCTF). For the past 19 years she has worked diligently to expose rampant and systemic labor exploitation throughout California while strengthening enforcement mechanisms for low wage and immigrant workers in California. She works tirelessly to help women in the industry find their voice and gain their will to thrive.

The MCTF investigates cleaning companies for employment law violations and works with government agencies and private bar lawyers to hold unscrupulous employers accountable. MCTF has grown into one of the most effective watchdog organizations, helping win more than \$80 million in back wages and guiding more than 8,000 jobs out of predatory underground status. MCTF is nationally recognized for its public-community enforcement partnerships and productive relationships with District Attorneys throughout the State referring more than 40 illegal operators for criminal prosecution.

In 2001, Ms. Garcia-Brower spearheaded the formation of a statewide coalition of worker advocates who represent mainly immigrant workers suffering wage theft. This coalition continues today with membership of an estimated 60 organizations throughout California. Since 2007, Ms. Garcia-Brower was appointed to the Fraud Assessment Commission of the California Department of Insurance where she was reappointed by two governors and has served for 12 years.

In 2017, she collaborated with current and former janitors, many survivors of sexual violence, to form the !Ya Basta! self-defense group. Since its inception, !Ya Basta! has trained 160 women in self-defense and will open new Chapters in other California cities with a goal to reach 1,000 women a year. Ms. Garcia-Brower was born and raised in East Los Angeles and is the proud mother of her daughter Maya.