

Biographical Sketch of Garrett D. Brown, MPH, CIH

Garrett Brown has an undergraduate degree in U.S. history from the University of Chicago, a Master in Public Health degree from the University of California at Berkeley, and is a Certified Industrial Hygienist in comprehensive practice, as certified by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene. In March 2009 was awarded the “Fellow” designation by the American Industrial Hygiene Association.

Brown currently works as a compliance officer in the Oakland District Office of the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA). In his sixteen years with Cal/OSHA, Brown has conducted more than 600 inspections in Alameda County and as part of statewide teams inspecting California’s Central Valley agricultural fields and garment sweatshops in Los Angeles and Orange County.

Since 1993, Brown has served on volunteer basis as Coordinator of the Maquiladora Health and Safety Support Network (MHSSN), which includes more than 400 occupational health and safety professionals in Canada, Mexico and the United States. The Network provides information, technical assistance and Spanish-language trainings, all *pro bono*, to Mexican workers in maquiladoras on the U.S. border, as well as ongoing projects in Central America and Asia.

In December 2004, Brown authored two major reports issued by the MHSSN on the failure of the NAFTA trade agreement to protect Mexican workers’ health, and what is needed in international trade and investment treaties to effectively protect workplace safety and health in the global economy.

The Asia projects began in 2000, and have involved two trainings with a dozen labor, women’s, human rights and community-based NGOs and six trade unions in Indonesia. In China, health and safety projects have involved labor rights groups in Hong Kong and mainland China to protect migrant workers in the huge factories producing consumer goods for the United States.

In October 2003, Brown was a guest co-editor of a special issue of the *International Journal of Occupational and Environmental Health (IJOEH)* on occupational safety and health in China. Brown’s latest China project – evaluating the health and safety impacts of “lean manufacturing” in China’s sports shoe factories – was published in an article in the July-September 2007 issue of the *IJOEH*.

Brown has also worked in Central America, with two trainings with independent monitoring groups, trade unions, womens’ and human rights organizations from the six Central American republics conducted in Guatemala in 2003 and 2004.

In October 2007, Brown headed a multi-national team of occupational health professionals who performed health surveys with the striking union miners in Cananea, Mexico. The OHS team also conducted a site visit of the giant open-pit copper mine. The eight-member team, whose travel funds were covered by the United Steel Workers union, issued a report documenting numerous serious health hazards in the mine and the

adverse health effects already being experienced by members of Mexican Miners union in January 2008. The results of the project were published in January 2009 in the *IJOEH*.

Brown has also published articles on global workplace health issues in professional, trade and mass circulation magazines. He has published articles in *New Solutions*, *Multinational Monitor*, *EHS Today* (formerly *Occupational Hazards*), *Social Justice*, *The Synergist*, and *Industrial Safety and Hygiene News*.

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