

ABOUT NETSY FIRESTEIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Netsy Firestein is founder and Executive Director of the [Labor Project for Working Families](#). Ms. Firestein is recognized as a national expert on labor and work family issues. For over 25 years, Ms. Firestein has worked with the labor movement to ensure that work family issues are an integral part of labor's organizing, bargaining and advocacy efforts. She has guided several unions to develop collective bargaining language and negotiate for work family programs.

Ms. Firestein has also helped forge important partnerships between labor and community groups to advocate for statewide and national work family policies. She led the [California Work & Family Coalition](#) that successfully advocated for the passage of the nation's first Paid Family Leave law in 2002. The Coalition is committed to raising awareness about and advancing work family policies including paid sick days, expanding family leave and preventing caregiver discrimination. In 2003, Ms. Firestein helped to organize Family Values @ Work, a Multi-State Consortium of sixteen states working to advance statewide work family policies. In 2011, she received a fellowship from the Kalamantovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working Poor at Georgetown University to do research on a national campaign for paid family and medical leave. Ms. Firestein has co-authored and contributed articles in several publications including:

- "A Guide to Implementing Paid Family Leave: Lessons from California" with Berkeley Center on Health, Economic & Family Security, UC Berkeley School of Law, 2011.
- "Family Friendly Workplaces – Do Unions Make A Difference?" with Jenifer MacGillvary, UC Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education, 2010.
- "Union Strategies for Work-Family Issues: Collective Bargaining and Public Policies" in *Work-Life Policies* edited by Ann C. Crouter and Alan Booth, The Urban Institute Press, 2009.
- "Unions Fight for Work and Family Policies – Not for Women Only" in *The Sex of Class, Women Transforming American Labor* edited by Dorothy Sue Cobble, Cornell University Press, 2007.
- "Paid Family Leave in California, How We Won" and "Learning from Union Programs" in *The Motherhood Manifesto* by Joan Blades, 2006.