

Center for State Innovation

Work-Family Balance Briefing
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Rachna Choudhry

Rachna Choudhry is a Policy and Advocacy Coordinator for the National Partnership for Women & Families. In this role, she works to build support around state and national work & family legislation, including paid sick days and paid family leave. She also provides technical assistance to organizations working on these issues.

Prior to joining the National Partnership, Rachna served as program director for the AFL-CIO's Working America program. Previously, she coordinated the AFL-CIO Working Women program, which promoted working women's issues within unions and their political efforts.

She earned a Master of Public Policy from Georgetown University and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from UCLA.

John de Graaf

John de Graaf is the national coordinator of Take Back Your Time, an organization challenging time poverty and overwork in the U.S. and Canada (see www.timeday.org) and a frequent speaker on issues of overwork and over-consumption in America. He is often a guest lecturer on college campuses. John is the co-author of the best-selling *Affluenza: The All-Consuming Epidemic* (2001/2005). He is the editor of *Take Back Your Time* (2001) and of the children's book, *David Brower: Friend of the Earth* (1992). His articles have been published in dozens of magazines. John has worked with KCTS-TV, the Seattle PBS affiliate, for 25 years, as an independent producer of television documentaries. More than 15 of his programs have been broadcast in Prime Time nationally on PBS. He is also the recipient of more than 100 regional, national and international awards for film-making, including three Emmy awards.

Karen Minatelli

Karen Minatelli is the Director of Work and Family Programs at the National Partnership for Women and Families. At the Partnership, she manages the National Partnership's broad work and family agenda, which includes campaigns to establish a minimum labor standard for paid sick days, provide paid family and medical leave for all workers, and expand and build on the foundation created by the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). Prior to joining the National Partnership, Karen spent five years at the D.C. Employment Justice Center (EJC), most recently as its Deputy Director and Director of Policy. At the EJC, she developed and oversaw the office's policy plan of action on legislative efforts to improve the wages, benefits, and working conditions for low-wage workers. While there, Karen led a coalition of organizations, unions, and individuals to successful passage of D.C.'s Accrued Sick and Safe Leave Act -- the nation's second paid sick days law, and the first such law to include paid safe days for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Before joining the EJC in 2003, Karen was

Legislative Director for Congresswoman Linda T. Sánchez and Legislative Assistant/Counsel for Congresswoman Maxine Waters. She also worked as a staff attorney in the domestic violence unit at Ayuda, Inc., and spent two years as a fellow through the National Association for Public Interest Law (now Equal Justice Works) with the Camden Center for Law and Social Justice in Camden, NJ, providing family and immigration legal services to low-income individuals, most of whom were Spanish-speaking immigrants