

**Investigative**Post

# At Issue

A thought-provoking event series by Investigative Post

Presented by

*WILLIAM C.*  
**BERNHARDI**  
**LAW OFFICES**  
*PLLC*

Sponsored by



**THE PUBLIC**

# DIVERSIFYING THE CONSTRUCTION TRADES

Charlotte Keith & John Goldstein

# ABOUT INVESTIGATIVE POST

- Non-profit
- Partners
- Funders
- Events



# WHY NOW?

- Construction boom
- Major publicly funded projects
- Unfinished business from schools project



# UB MEDICAL SCHOOL





# HARBORCENTER





# SOLARCITY





# SOLARCITY





# DEMOGRAPHICS

- “Minorities” are the majority in Buffalo
- 18 percent of Erie County’s workforce
- Around 11 percent of building trades membership



# EXISTING POLICIES

- City, county, and state set workforce diversity goals
- City & county apprenticeship laws
- MWBE



# BUT...

- Different agencies, differing goals
- Lack of guidance over how to follow state rules
- Lack of transparency around participation
- City has failed to enforce local laws



# WHY?

- Disconnect
- History of mistrust
- Apprenticeship rules
- Barriers



# WHY UNIONS?

- Existing training programs
- Wages & benefits
- Job quality
- History of work on public projects



# IT'S NOT JUST BUFFALO

Cities across the country face similar problems...

But change is possible:

- Los Angeles
- Minnesota & Vikings stadium
- Milwaukee

# IT CAN BE DONE

- Pre-apprenticeship programs with unions
- Enforcement/improvement of existing laws
- More transparency
- Major projects as catalysts



# At Issue

A thought-provoking event series by Investigative Post

Presented by

*WILLIAM C.*  
**BERNHARDI  
LAW OFFICES**  
*PLLC*

Sponsored by



**THE PUBLIC**

# **Investigative**Post.org

Facebook.com/InvestigativePost

Twitter @iPostNews