



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LILLY LEDBETTER IN CHICAGO TO SPEAK TO 800 BUSINESS AND CIVIC LEADERS

On May 19, Women Employed Hosts The Working Lunch and Honors Ledbetter

CHICAGO — Today is Equal Pay Day, the day that marks how far into the year a woman must work on average to earn as much as a man earned the previous year. On May 19, Lilly Ledbetter will share the story of her fight for fair pay with business and civic leaders at The Working Lunch, Women Employed's annual fundraiser, which supports the Chicago-based group's work to improve the economic status of America's working women.

Despite many improvements in women's economic status over the past three decades, employment discrimination and unfairness in the workplace are still a fact of life for too many women. Regardless of education and experience, in nearly every occupation women are still paid less than men – only 78 cents for every dollar a man earns. On average, women lose \$434,000 in income over a lifetime due to the wage gap.

This year, The Working Lunch will honor Lilly Ledbetter and focus on equal pay and bridging the wage gap. Lilly Ledbetter became a household name when the Supreme Court ruled that, after suffering 20 years of wage discrimination at Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, she could not receive compensation. Ledbetter's struggle inspired the Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which reversed the Court's decision that limited women's ability to fight sex discrimination in the workplace. In January, President Barack Obama made the Ledbetter Fair Pay Act the first bill he signed upon taking office.

Ledbetter will be joined at The Working Lunch by Dr. Evelyn Murphy, president of The WAGE Project, a national organization aimed at ending wage discrimination. Murphy, author of *Getting Even: Why Women Don't Get Paid Like Men Do and What to Do about It*, will address strategies for making pay equity a reality.

The Working Lunch will be held from 12 - 1:30p.m. at the Hilton Chicago Grand Ballroom, 720 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago. Keynote speakers Ledbetter and Murphy begin at approximately 12:50 p.m.

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Women Employed works to strengthen legal protections and improve the enforcement of equal pay laws, promotes solutions like paid sick time and family leave, and advocates for increased participation in post-secondary education. To find out more about issues that affect working women, join WE's Action Network, and register for The Working Lunch 2009, visit www.womenemployed.org. Find Women Employed on Facebook and follow the organization on Twitter @WomenEmployed.

Founded in 1973, Women Employed's mission is to improve women's economic status and remove barriers to economic equity. Today, Women Employed focuses on the millions of women who are paid low wages, advocating for better workplace policies and increased access to and success in post-secondary education. The organization is also the creator of an innovative on-line career development and planning program, Career Coach.

For more information about Women Employed, call (312) 782-3902 ext. 222, or visit www.womenemployed.org.

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