

Judge orders Edwards to rehire fired workers

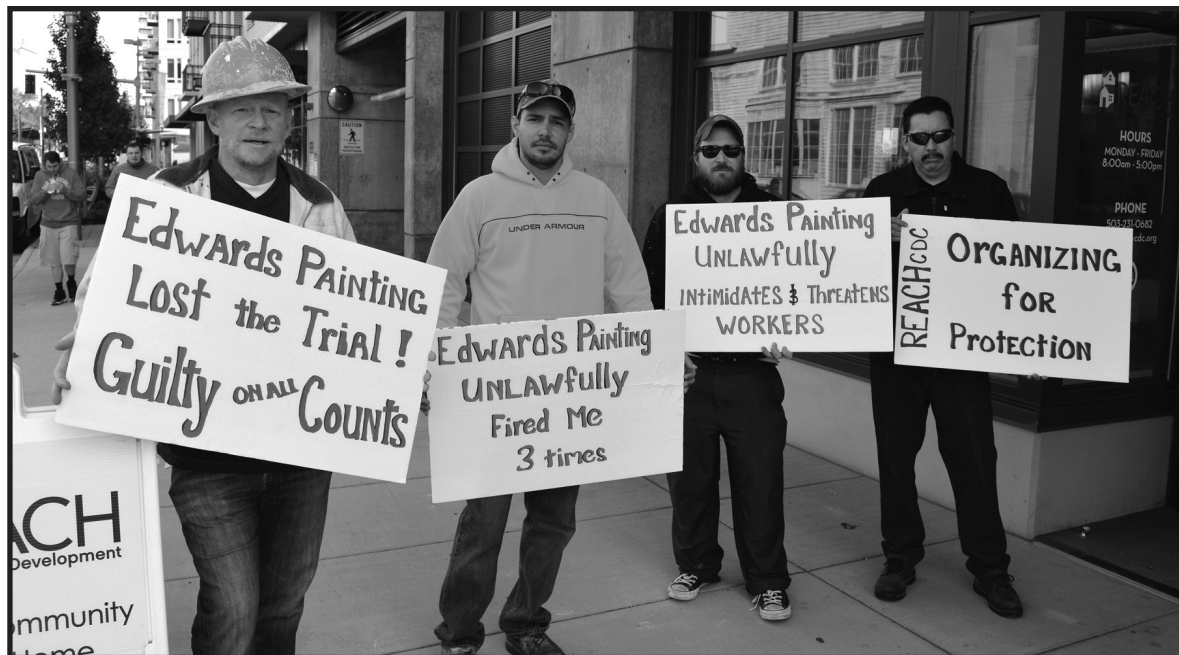
(From Page 1)

working conditions would improve if they removed their union t-shirts. They told workers the union is mafia, an organization trying to steal their work, and ordered workers not to hand out union fliers at a work site. They called the police because employees were distributing union fliers, ordered union supporters off the property while other employees stayed behind, and told workers the company is not and would never be a union shop. They told job applicants that the company doesn't hire union painters. They hired less-qualified nonunion applicants after refusing to hire qualified union applicants. They isolated pro-union workers, failed to assign work to them, and terminated four employees for engaging in union activity. They even opposed a fired employee's claim for unemployment benefits, after swearing he wasn't fired, just laid off for lack of work. And that doesn't even touch on the drug use accusations and the death threat and biker gang connections, none of which the Edwards were accused of but which featured in the case.

The story began in the summer of 2013 when the vehemently anti-union business — and low-road employer — unwittingly hired a union organizer and three other union members. The whole saga is detailed in the 48-page legal decision.

You might be tempted to feel bad for the Edwards clan. They did a bad thing or 18, but they're not bad people. They didn't know the law. They're a construction firm without a written drug policy. They don't keep any formal attendance records or even personnel files or written records that document the reasons for employee discharges.

But in court, ignorance of the law is no defense. And the Edwards' lawlessness continued well into the courtroom. Gene Edwards shredded a document he was subpoenaed to provide. He lied under oath to a federal judge, or rather, as that judge politely put it: "I found Gene Edwards to be a particularly hostile witness whose testimony was marked by inconsistency with his Board affidavit and his own testimony at the hearing."



On Oct. 13, union painters hold signs outside the South Waterfront headquarters of Reach CDC, a non-profit developer of low-income housing. Reach hired general contractor R&H, which hired Edwards Painting.

But the son outdid his father:

"I found Grant Edwards to be one of the most incredible witnesses I have observed in over 29 years as a judge," McCarrick wrote. "His testimony was given in a painfully halting manner with minutes passing between question and answer, giving the observer the impression that he had no recollection of events whatsoever. He repeatedly looked to his father, who was sitting at counsel table, as if to have him provide the proper response. His testimony

lacked any specificity and was characterized by his inability to recall events of even a few days past."

As of press time, Edwards Painting had not complied with any elements of the judge's order. All seven fired workers or discriminated-against applicants told the NLRB they want reinstatement or instatement.

Edwards works for prominent general contractors including R&H, Walsh, and KeyWay. Members and staff of the Painters Union District Council 5 re-

acted to the order with a stepped-up campaign to inform developers that they're employing a company that violates federal labor law. On Oct. 13, union painters chalked the sidewalk and held signs outside the South Waterfront headquarters of REACH CDC — a non-profit developer of low-income housing. REACH hired general contractor R&H, which hired Edwards Painting as a painting subcontractor.

IRS PROBLEMS?

- Haven't filed for ... years?
 - Lost records?
 - Liens - Levies - Garnishments?
 - Negotiate settlements.
 - Prepare offer in Compromise.
- Call Nancy D. Anderson
Enrolled Agent
NPTI Fellow/America's Tax Expert
LTC-1807
www.nancydanderson.com
503-244-2577

Low Prices!

WHITE & WESCO
"Always the best Quality!"
10" SMOKE JUMPER
16" LINEMAN
HUGE SELECTION WATERPROOF BOOTS
SIZES IN NARROW, MEDIUM & WIDE
AI'S SHOES
5811 S.E. 82ND • 771-2130
Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat 9:30-5:30, Sun 12-6

Your Oregon & Washington Union Mail House.

MORE LINK
Print anything, mail anywhere.
Formerly Witham and Dickey

Proud Mailers of the
Northwest Labor Press
www.morelink.biz | 503-736-0111 ext. 140

Carpenters, Electricians, Laborers, Glaziers, Sheetmetal Workers, Floorcoverers, Bricklayers, Cement Masons, Roofers, Asbestos Workers, Millwrights, Painters, Elevators, Plasterers, Family

Don't Let The Holiday Season Creep Up On You Shop Early With A Holiday Loan From IBEW & United Workers Federal Credit Union

Apply Online, In Person, Or Over The Phone

Easy & Quick Approval

Easy Repayment..\$1200.00 Over 12 Months At 12.00%



IBEW AND UNITED WORKERS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

9955 SE Washington Street * Portland, OR 97216
(503) 253-8193 * (800) 356-6507

Carpenters, Electricians, Laborers, Glaziers, Sheetmetal Workers, Floorcoverers, Bricklayers, Cement Masons, Roofers, Asbestos Workers, Millwrights, Painters, Elevators, Plasterers, Family



(International Standard Serial Number 0894-444X)
Established in 1900 at Portland, Oregon
as a voice of the labor movement.
4275 NE Halsey St., P.O. Box 13150,
Portland, Ore. 97213
Telephone: (503) 288-3311

Editor: Michael Gutwig
Staff: Don McIntosh, Cheri Rice
Published on a semi-monthly basis on the first and third Fridays of each month by the Oregon Labor Press Publishing Co., Inc., a non-profit corporation owned by 19 unions and councils including the Oregon AFL-CIO. Serving more than 80 union organizations in Oregon and SW Washington. Subscriptions \$13.75 per year for union members.

Group rates available to trade union organizations.
PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID
AT PORTLAND, OREGON.
CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOTICE: Three weeks are required for a change of address. When ordering a change, please give your old and new addresses and the name and number of your local union.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
NORTHWEST LABOR PRESS, P.O. BOX 13150,
PORTLAND, OR 97213-0150

