

Read the E-CHIEF



Search



Log in

Subscribe



# The Chief

A VOICE FOR WORKERS

GOOD PAY  
SAFETY  
OPPORTUNITY  
EQUITY

NEWS ▾ OPINION ▾ NATIONAL LABOR NEWS CHIEF JOB CENTER THIS WEEK'S ADS ▾ LEGAL NOTICES ▾ CONTACT US ▾



**City Employees:**  
Access top doctors and hospitals for \$0.\*



\*\$0 benefits, depending upon plan of eligibility. \$25 for urgent care copay. \$100 copay for ER visit; waived if admitted. MKT 23.054 MetroPlus Health Plan, Inc.

## UAW lawyers' local fights congressional subpoena

### House committee seeks details on Gaza cease-fire vote



Members of the Association of Legal Aid Attorneys, Local 2325, at the Legal Aid Society picketed outside of their downtown Manhattan offices in April 2023. This week, the ALAA refused to comply with a congressional subpoena related to members' vote on a resolution calling for a cease-fire in the Gaza Strip in December.

DUNCAN FREEMAN /THE CHIEF

Posted Thursday, March 28, 2024 1:08 pm

**City Employees:**  
Feeling ignored by your health plan?  
It's time to switch and pay \$0.\*



**Switch today**

\*\$0 benefits, depending upon plan of eligibility. \$25 for urgent care copay. \$100 copay for ER visit; waived if admitted. MKT 23.054 MetroPlus Health Plan, Inc.

### E-edition



March 29, 2024  
FREE

[View this issue](#)

[Browse other issues](#)

### Trending stories

Adams, Kavanagh express support for EMS pay parity **FREE**

## BY DUNCAN FREEMAN

A United Auto Workers local representing public defenders in New York declined to comply with a congressional subpoena this week, arguing in a letter to the House of Representative committee that its demands exceed its jurisdiction and threaten workers' free speech rights.

Congresswoman Virginia Foxx (R-North Carolina), chair of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, subpoenaed the Association of Legal Aid Attorney's Local 2325 on March 11 for information regarding a vote that ALAA members took in December on a resolution calling for a cease-fire in the Gaza Strip. Foxx initially requested a bevy of information on matters related to the resolution in a January letter to ALAA's president, Lisa Ohta. When the union failed to respond to the request, Foxx subpoenaed the union.

In conjunction with lawyers from the New York Civil Liberties Union, the union on Monday responded to Foxx, writing in a letter that it objects to the subpoena and that Foxx's requests for information were "vague and overbroad."

"The ALAA and Ms. Ohta object to the subpoena on the ground it exceeds the lawful and legitimate jurisdiction of the Committee," the response reads. "The Committee's true interest in this matter arises out of the Committee's hostility to the content of the ALAA resolution, which not only renders the subpoena beyond the Committee's legitimate authority but also violates the United States Constitution."

In a statement, Leah Duncan, the ALAA's financial secretary-treasurer, wrote that the union stands behind its resolution and the process that led to its passage.

"We are proud to be part of the growing movement of unions calling for a ceasefire in Gaza and an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestine," Duncan said in a statement. "We continue to condemn all forms of antisemitism and Islamophobia and reject the harmful rhetoric that conflates anti-zionism with antisemitism. Our membership will not be intimidated into abandoning our core principles, including advancing the interests of working people worldwide, by this blatant attack on organized labor."

The ALAA represents more than 2,700 workers at The Legal Aid Society, Neighborhood Defender Service and other legal service providers.

Instead of providing the detailed information, including the minutes of internal union meetings, Foxx requested, the ALAA will furnish the congressional committee only publicly available documents, the union said in a press release.

A spokesperson for the House Committee on Education and the Workforce did not respond to a request for comment on the union's defiance.

### 'Clear government overreach'

The resolution, "Calling for a Ceasefire in Gaza, an End to the Israeli Occupation of Palestine, and Support for Workers' Political Speech," passed in a 1,067-570 vote by the members of the Association of Legal Aid Attorneys, Local 2325 of the UAW. It calls for an end to "Israeli apartheid and the occupation and blockade of Palestinian land, sea, and air by Israeli military forces," and refers several times to Israel's incursion into the Gaza Strip as genocide.

The resolution was discussed by ALAA members in the months before its passage, but an earlier vote was blocked when four union members at the

City attorney, judge joust on Medicare matter **FREE**

CUNY union pledges to fight proposed changes that threaten adjunct job security **FREE**

Teamsters, Laborers target waste hauler's independent union **FREE**

Feds propose new safety standards for rail workers **FREE**

The advertisement for NYC Municipal Credit Union (MCU) features a blue and white color scheme. At the top left is the MCU logo with the text 'MUNICIPAL CREDIT UNION'. To the right is an icon of a key with a house and a dollar sign. The main text reads 'Explore Loan Options Dedicated to NYC's Heroes.' Below this is a yellow button that says 'BOOK AN APPOINTMENT TODAY'. At the bottom left is the NCUA logo, and at the bottom right is the website 'nymcu.org' and the NMLS ID '184286'.