



FELLOW PROFILE

Fellow's Name:

Mark Scaggs

Fellow's Partner Organization:

Towards Justice

What are your main responsibilities as a PIFP fellow?

At Towards Justice, the core of my work centers around the organization's Access to Justice Program, in which I speak to workers, learn about their experiences with wage theft, and help connect them to resources that can assist them in their case.

What's the most interesting thing you've learned in your fellowship so far? Perhaps one of the biggest take-aways so far at Towards Justice has been how unchecked of an issue wage theft is across Colorado and the United States. For example, I had no idea that workers in Colorado were entitled to paid ten-minute breaks every four hours, or that being registered as an independent contractor denies me rights to overtime pay. We as workers have a myriad of rights on a federal, state, and a municipal level, and this summer will be well spent getting to know them better!

Why did you want to become a PIFP Fellow?

PIFP was the perfect option for me because it not only offered an opportunity to enact so much of the values of justice I learned in the classroom, but also helped to deepen my understanding of Colorado's non-profit field. I firmly believe that being able to make an effective change depends upon knowing the people and policies unique to this state, and being a Fellow has given me exactly that opportunity to learn about the work being done here on the ground.

What activities outside of your work do you enjoy?

The World Cup and trivia nights around Denver have been the main staples of my summer so far (though "Marky Mark and the Funky Bunch's" team rankings might suggest otherwise).

What is something most people would be surprised to know about you?

I am currently growing an in-home herb garden, featuring cilantro, basil, and mint!