

NLRB POSTS TO UNION ATTORNEYS

President Obama nominates union attorneys Craig Becker and Mark G. Pearce to fill two of the three current vacancies on the five-member National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). If confirmed by the Senate, they would join Chair Wilma B. Liebman (D) and Member Peter C. Schaumber (R) and create a Democratic majority on the board for the first time since December 2001.

Becker has been associate general counsel for the Service Employees International Union for 17 years and also holds the same position at the AFL-CIO. He has practiced and taught labor law for 27 years. He argued before the Supreme Court in a Fair Labor Standards Act case on behalf of home health care workers in *Long Island Care at Home Ltd. v. Coke*, 551 U.S. 158, (2007). Becker was a professor at the UCLA School of Law from 1989 to 1994 and also has taught at the law schools of University of Chicago and Georgetown University. He has published numerous scholarly articles on labor and employment law. After graduating summa cum laude from Yale College in 1978, Becker earned his law degree in 1981 from Yale Law School, where he was an editor of the Yale Law Journal. He later clerked for Judge Donald P. Lay of the 8th circuit.

Pearce currently practices labor and employment law at Creighton, Pearce, Johnsen & Giroux in Buffalo, N.Y. He represents private and public sector unions in collective bargaining, contract compliance, and arbitration and individual employees in employment discrimination litigation and the negotiation of employment, partnership, and severance agreements. Pearce practiced labor and employment law at Lipsitz, Green, Fahringer, Roll, Salisbury & Cambria in Buffalo from 1994 to 2002 and was an attorney and trial specialist at the NLRB regional office in Buffalo from 1997 to 1994. He earned a bachelor's degree from Cornell University and a law degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Law.

Former New York Gov. Elliott Spitzer appointed Pearce in 2008 to serve as a member on the New York State Industrial Board of Appeals, which is an independent, quasi-judicial agency responsible for reviewing certain rulings and orders by the state department of labor. He has served on other state commissions and on the boards of many community, professional, educational, and arts organizations and is the recipient of numerous awards. He also is an accomplished oil painter. Pearce has taught several courses in the labor studies program at Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations and is a member of New York State United Teachers Local 37-950, an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers that represents Cornell adjunct faculty.

(Source: BNA, *Daily Labor Report*, No. 79, April 28, 2009, p. A1.)