

# Jewish Labor Committee

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October 2, 2015

Mark Lee  
Chief Executive Officer  
Barneys New York, Inc.  
575 Fifth Avenue #11  
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Lee,

We write to you in support of Barneys New York associates in Chicago, a significant majority of whom have signed cards expressing their desire to join Workers United. We were distressed to learn that, despite this, Barneys New York refused to recognize the union, and instead has attempted to intimidate the associates and has created an adversarial environment.

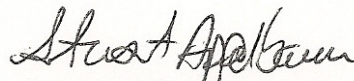
As you know, Barneys New York associates in New York City have been union for more than 50 years. And over 500 Barneys employees in New York, New Jersey, and Philadelphia are Workers United members, including sales and shipping employees, tailors, warehouse and restaurant workers.


We are concerned that, in recent years, employment conditions have deteriorated drastically at Barneys New York in Chicago. For Barneys associates, gone are the days of family ownership and long term commitment; here are the days of greedy private equity opportunists and short term investment. For employees this has meant doing more work for less pay and enduring arbitrary disciplinary policies. Moreover, Barneys management has foisted upon Barneys associates tasks tangential to selling retail items, random pay and raise practices, as well as a culture of fear.


We were particularly surprised and concerned to learn that Barneys New York management requires sales associates to push high-interest credit cards on store customers or else face disciplinary action leading to possible termination.

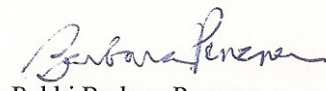
Barneys New York associates in Chicago want a union and the power to negotiate better conditions at their workplace and they have our full support. We demand that Barneys New York recognize associates' demand for justice, fairness, respect, and a union.

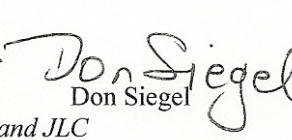
Sincerely,

  
Stuart Appelbaum  
President  
Jewish Labor Committee

  
Lynne Fox  
Chair, Philadelphia JLC

  
Michael Perry  
Chair, Chicago JLC

  
Rabbi Barbara Penzner  
Co-Chairs, New England JLC

  
Don Siegel

