Ruth has been a mentor, a partner, and an inspiration to us at Worksafe. We are extremely fortunate to have Ruth on our side, to guide and to support us when the challenges we face are most daunting. In her many roles, her passion and strength always shine through. And she has taken on many roles over her impressive career so far.

Ruth is the Supervising Attorney of the Workers’ Rights Clinic at the Katharine & George Alexander Community Law Center, an Adjunct Professor at the Santa Clara University School of Law, Special Counsel for the Legal Aid Society—Employment Law Center in San Francisco, and a partner at the Law Office of Silver & Taube. She has been instrumental in helping to lower the backlog of retaliation cases at the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement through her legal clinic at the Santa Clara University School of Law, which investigates retaliation claims filed with the Labor Commission.

She has also partnered with the Vietnamese American Bar Association of Northern California, the Filipino Bar Association, and the Pilipino Association of Workers and Immigrants to establish regular community law clinics for Vietnamese and Filipino American workers. She is the Coordinator of the Santa Clara County Wage Theft Coalition, a founding member of the Bay Area Equal Pay Collaborative, Legal Services Chair of the South Bay Coalition to End Human Trafficking, and an alternate delegate to the Santa Clara County Human Trafficking Commission.

What you may not know is that Ruth has direct experience with the health and safety challenges that many workers face on the job, because she was a tradeswoman before law school. Ruth worked as a journeyman machinist who rose to become the President of IAM Local 547 in District 93 and a Senior Field Representative for SEIU 535.

After law school, she served as a law clerk to the Honorable Ronald M. Whyte, District Court Judge, Northern District of California, San Jose Division, and worked as a federal mediator for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and as a panel mediator for the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division.

In addition to being recognized by Worksafe, Ruth is a recipient of the Unsung Hero Award from the Santa Clara County Victim Support Network, and the Commitment Award from the Alexander Community Law Center. Worksafe and many others have benefitted enormously from Ruth’s tireless advocacy, and we are so thankful to her.