

Media Contact: David Seligman, [david@towardsjustice.org](mailto:david@towardsjustice.org), 720-248-8426

## For Immediate Release

### **Boulder District Attorney Michael Dougherty Awarded Wage Justice Champion Award by Colorado Workers Rights Organization**

December 3, 2019: Today, the Colorado non-profit workers rights organization Towards Justice announced that it will be awarding one of its annual Wage Justice Champion awards to Boulder District Attorney Michael Dougherty.

Michael has been the District Attorney in Boulder County since 2018. Before that, he worked in the District Attorney's Office for the 1st Judicial District, the Colorado Attorney General's Office, the Colorado DNA Justice Review Project, and before moving to Colorado, as Chief of the Sex Crimes Unit in the Manhattan District Attorney's Office. Michael has been recognized as a leader in criminal justice reform efforts. He is a recipient of the Innocence Project's Award for Advocate for Innocence and Justice.

Since becoming District Attorney in Boulder, Michael has served as a statewide leader in the effort to protect low-wage workers from wage theft, including by supporting passage of legislation to increase penalties for wage theft and to make it easier for wage theft victims to pursue claims against their employers. He has been particularly active in protecting immigrant workers who are threatened by their employers when they come forward to report mistreatment. In 2019, for example, his office prosecuted an employer with criminal extortion after he threatened to report workers to immigration authorities when they complained about underpayment.

“At a time when so many workers, immigrant workers in particular, have every right to be dubious about whether their government will protect them, Michael has been a powerful example of the important role of public enforcement in protecting marginalized workers,” said David Seligman, Executive Director of Towards Justice. “We’re thrilled to honor him as one of this year’s Wage Justice Champions.”

**About Towards Justice:** Towards Justice is a nonprofit law firm that seeks to advance economic justice through impact litigation, strategic policy advocacy, and collaboration with workers, community groups, and governmental agencies.

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