The Authors

Avner Ahituv is CEO of Kibbutz Ramat Yohanan. Formerly he taught economics at Hebrew University and Haifa University, and he has published in the areas of human capital and labor economics.

Ernesto Cortés Jr. is on the National Staff of the Industrial Areas Foundation and the executive director of the Interfaith Education Fund. Under Cortés’s supervision, the organizations of the Southwest IAF network have developed successful initiatives in the areas of job training, economic development, citizenship, and education. Cortés first encountered Vernon Briggs while attending graduate school at The University of Texas at Austin and, since then, his work has been influenced by Briggs’s practical applications of economic theory.

William P. Curington is a professor of economics and senior associate dean for academic programs and research in the Sam M. Walton College of Business at the University of Arkansas. He holds a bachelor’s degree in economics and history from The University of Texas at Austin, a master of labor and industrial relations from Michigan State University, and a master’s degree and PhD in economics from Syracuse University. His primary areas of research are the economics of occupational illness and injury, disability, and employee compensation systems. Journals in which his publications have appeared include the Journal of Human Resources, Industrial and Labor Relations Review, Industrial Relations, and Southern Economic Journal. He was an undergraduate student in Briggs’s labor economics course at The University of Texas at Austin and credits Briggs with inspiring him to pursue a career in labor economics teaching and research.

Michelle Bellessa Frost, formerly of Princeton University, is currently self-employed. Her research has focused on race and ethnic differences in the transition from high school to college.

Robert W. Glover is a research scientist at the Ray Marshall Center for the Study of Human Resources, Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at The University of Texas at Austin, where his research focuses on various aspects of work and learning, especially apprenticeship, industry training practices, and school-to-career transition. Vernon Briggs introduced him to the field of labor economics and human resource development. Briggs’s enthusiasm for teaching and genuine concern for workers and the less fortunate in American society motivated Glover to choose the field as a career. Vernon Briggs has been his mentor, teacher, colleague, and friend.

Seth D. Harris is deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor. He is currently on leave from New York Law School, where he served as a professor of law and director of Labor and Employment Law Program, while also
serving as research associate of New York University School of Law’s Center for Labor and Employment Law. Harris writes about the economics of labor and employment law with a particular focus on the Americans with Disabilities Act. He was a senior policy advisor to both Secretaries of Labor under President Bill Clinton, and is one of Vernon Briggs’s most appreciative students.

V. Joseph Hotz is the Arts and Sciences Professor of Economics at Duke University. He has published extensively in the areas of labor economics, applied econometrics, and the evaluation of social programs.

Christopher T. King is director of the Ray Marshall Center for the Study of Human Resources and a lecturer at the University of Texas at Austin’s Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, where he holds the Mike Hogg Professorship in Urban Management. He has written widely on education, workforce development, and social policy and has served in policy positions in federal and state government. He has a BA in economics from the University of Texas at Austin and an MA and PhD in economics from Michigan State University. He was a student in Vernon Briggs’s labor and manpower economics classes at the University of Texas in the late 1960s, where he was inspired by Briggs’s passion for and commitment to improving the lives of people lacking adequate access to economic opportunity.

Ray Marshall holds the Audre and Bernard Rapoport Centennial Chair in Economics and Public Affairs at The University of Texas at Austin. From 1977 to 1981 he was U.S. Secretary of Labor. His current research interests are education, labor economics, and immigration, and he has written widely on these subjects. He has served on a number of commissions and boards and currently chairs the board of trustees of the National Center on Education and the Economy and is a founding board member of the Economic Policy Institute. He and Vernon Briggs were colleagues at the University of Texas during the 1960s, where they worked on various projects related to minority representation in apprenticeship programs and authored a number of publications on that subject. They also coauthored a labor economics textbook.

Philip L. Martin is a labor economist and professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of California, Davis (UCD). After graduating from the University of Wisconsin–Madison, he worked at the Brookings Institution and at the White House on labor and immigration issues. He has worked for the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and United Nations agencies such as the International Labour Organization and United Nations Development Programme. He is the author of numerous articles and books on labor and immigration issues. Martin’s research focuses on farm labor and rural poverty, labor migration and economic development, and immigration policy and guest worker issues; he has testified before Congress and state and local agencies numerous times on these issues. Martin is the edi-
tor of Migration News and of Rural Migration News (http://migration.ucdavis.edu) and received UCD’s Distinguished Public Service award in 1994. He and Vernon Briggs have crossed paths many times since the late 1970s.

Larry Nackerud is a professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Georgia. His teaching and research focus primarily on social welfare policy, including courses and writings on immigration and political refugee policy. In the late 1980s he studied for his PhD at Cornell in the College of Human Ecology, and Dr. Briggs served as an external member of his committee. It was Dr. Briggs who inspired Dr. Nackerud to select political refugee policy as the focus of his dissertation.

James T. Peach is Regents Professor of Economics and International Business at New Mexico State University (NMSU), where he has been a member of the faculty since 1980. He is also co-director of the Office of Policy Analysis at NMSU’s Arrowhead Center. Peach is past-president of the Association for Evolutionary Economics, the Western Social Science Association, the Association for Borderlands Studies, and the Rocky Mountain Council on Latin American Studies. His research interests include demographic and economic change along the U.S.–Mexico border, U.S.–Mexico economic relations, energy economics, and the economics of sports. Peach and William M. Dugger are coauthors of Economic Abundance: An Introduction. Peach first met Professor Briggs in 1964, when he took Briggs’s labor economics course at The University of Texas at Austin.

Marta Tienda is Maurice P. During ’22 Professor of Demographic Studies and Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs at Princeton University. She has published extensively about race and ethnic inequality, the demography of higher education, and the U.S. Hispanic population. She first met Vernon Briggs in 1972, as an auditor in his introductory economics course at The University of Texas at Austin.

Charles J. Whalen is executive director and professor of business and economics at Utica College and a visiting fellow at Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations. He served as a resident scholar at the Levy Economics Institute of Bard College in the mid-1990s, taught in China as a Fulbright Scholar in the late 1990s, and worked as associate economics editor at BusinessWeek in the early 2000s. He has written extensively on worker insecurity and economic stabilization, as well as on the history of economics and its relevance to understanding contemporary employment challenges. He first met Vernon Briggs while studying as an undergraduate at Cornell in the early 1980s, and Briggs’s influence continues to animate his teaching and research.