

# TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA

LOCAL 250-A AFL-CIO

1508 FILLMORE STREET, SUITE 211 • SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94115

TEL: (415) 922-9495 • FAX: (415) 922-9416



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release February 24, 2012

**Contact:** Jamie Horwitz,  
202/549-4921

[jhdcpr@starpower.net](mailto:jhdcpr@starpower.net)

## **MUNI Transit Operators File Legal Challenge to Undo Imposed Contract**

### ***Legal Filing Documents Violation of Law and Mishandling of June Arbitration in Contract Dispute Between TWU and Transit Agency***

**San Francisco** – Attorneys representing the 2,000 members of the Transport Workers Union Local 250-A have filed a petition in California Superior Court seeking to have the June 13, 2011 arbitrator’s decision that imposed a contract on Muni operators overturned. The union’s petition detailed a number of violations of law and procedure. According to the union’s filing:

- The makeup of the Mediation/Arbitration Board violated provisions of the city charter.
- TWU Local 250-A’s members were not given proper notice of the arbitration preceding.
- The Board failed to conduct evidentiary hearings.

Local 250-A’s new President Eric Williams, who was elected in December, said, “After we took office, it became apparent to union leaders and our lawyers that SFMTA’s Board didn’t follow the rules established by Prop G. The arbitrator and the

**-- more --**

## **TWU Local 250-A Files Legal Challenge to Undo Imposed Contract/Page 2**

Agency violated the city charter. Furthermore, management doesn't even have a signed labor agreement. Our lawyers believe we have a strong case for overturning the June ruling and we're going to pursue it."

Last year's labor negotiations between the San Francisco Municipal Transit Authority (SFMTA) and TWU were the first under guidelines established by Proposition G, a ballot measure that changed the collective bargaining rules for SFMTA and its transit operators. Proposition G had been approved by voters in November of 2010. The legality of Proposition G has been challenged by TWU and a hearing before the State of California's Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) will be held later this year.

"Prop G was a poorly written law that likely conflicts with state labor statutes," said Ronald Austin, Local 250-A's Vice President. "We want to see last year's arbitration overturned by the courts now and Prop G reversed later." The union's lawyers expect a decision by the court within 60 days.

"If we are successful in having the arbitrator's decision vacated, we're not looking to renegotiate the whole contract," said Austin. "We're primarily concerned about the work rules that were imposed. Many of the changes approved by the arbitrator created a work environment that is both unsafe and unfair."

"Prop G is a bad law," said the union's attorney Ken Absalom. "When an arbitration board along with the SFMTA's managers fail to follow Prop G guidelines, a bad law becomes even worse."

A copy of the union's legal petition can be found at the Local 250-A website at: <http://www.twusf.org>

###

***The Transport Workers Union of America (TWU) represents 200,000 workers and retirees, primarily in commercial aviation, public transportation and passenger railroads, including more than 2,000 workers at SFMTA. The union is an affiliate of the AFL-CIO.***