Steve Hitov
Coalition of Immokalee Workers

ICAR and the Gwynne Skinner Human Rights Award Selection Committee are pleased to announce the inaugural recipient of the Gwynne Skinner Human Rights Award, Steve Hitov.

The Gwynne Skinner Human Rights Award recognizes the work of an individual or organization that has made a significant contribution to corporate accountability that year.

Steve Hitov has devoted his career to representing low income clients and has served as a staff attorney, managing attorney, and litigation director in legal services programs in New York, Massachusetts, Florida, and Washington, D.C. Through individual client representation, class action litigation, community development work, and legislative support activity on Capitol Hill, Steve has used his legal training to promote social change. Steve has also been active in clinical legal education, having supervised clinical programs and placements at Harvard University, Western New England College, and the University of Maryland.

Since 1994, Steve has represented the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), a human rights organization based in Immokalee, Florida. As General Counsel for the CIW, Steve has negotiated agreements ensuring supply chain accountability with over a dozen of the largest corporate purchasers of produce in the world. He has also negotiated agreements that form the foundation of the Fair Food Program, a unique collaboration among workers, buyers, and growers that works to create a better and more sustainable agricultural industry.
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Professor Gwynne Skinner was a Professor of Law at Willamette University. Professor Skinner also worked as an ICAR Advisor for over six years, serving as a resource, guide, mentor, and friend to the ICAR community. Her work litigating on the front lines of corporate accountability, producing scholarship, and thought-leadership on access to remedy, parent company accountability, and a range of other issues put her at the forefront of the agenda on business and human rights.