

Guild Notes

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NLG Gathers to Celebrate 75 Years of Law for the People



Inside: Convention Photos, RNC/DNC Protest Report, Student Roundup



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Cover: Images from the 75th anniversary Law for the People convention in Pasadena, California. Clockwise from top left: Ian Head, Angela Davis, Natasha Bannan, Jim Lafferty, and Erica Rothman. Photos by Roxana Orrell.

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From One President—



David Gespass, Kathy Johnson, Nancy Stroll, and Dick Engle at the NLG's Military Law Office in Yokosuka, Japan. 1974. Photo courtesy of David Gespass

By David Gespass

When I joined the Guild in 1969, the older generation was being replaced by those of us who came of age not in the Great Depression, World War II, and the McCarthy era but as part of the civil rights and anti-Vietnam War movements. We both demanded control and had it thrust upon us, as so few older members remained at the tail end of the Red Scare. There were bumps in the road, ebbs and flows, but I daresay we justified their trust.

It has been clear since my election that I would be the last of my generation to be president and it is fitting that, as we celebrate our 75th anniversary, we witness the completion of another generational shift. In my time as part of the Guild's young guard I learned that those things which brought us together were far more significant than those which divided us. The survivors who remained with the Guild through the McCarthy era were tested in ways I never have been, in large part because of their heroic work.

Enshrined in our constitution is the commitment to act in service of the people. We do this best neither by putting aside our differences nor by being consumed by them. If we ignore them altogether, we will not grow to meet the

demands of changing times. If we become so absorbed in them that we do not serve the people as an organization, we will betray our most fundamental principles. Growth can sometimes be painful but all of us must strive to move forward together, even if the pace is too slow for some and too rapid for others.

For the last three years, I have had the distinct honor and privilege of being a public face of the Guild. The work that our members have done—representing the poor, the oppressed, the people who fight for a better society for us all—made my task easy. In that time I was always conscious that the critical importance of the Lawyers Guild was not what I said but what all of you did.

I think I speak for all of my generation as we pass the torch. We are not going quietly into that good night and we remain your friends and comrades, but the next 75 years are in your hands. We will be there with you, in flesh and in spirit, just as Ernie Goodman, Dobbie Walker, Tom Emerson, Victor Rabinowitz, George Crockett, and so many others are with us now. I know you will make us as proud.

Adapted from David's valedictory speech given at the 75th anniversary Law for the People convention in Pasadena, California.

To the Next



Azadeh Shahshahani. Photo courtesy of Gustavo Martinez, Mundo Hispanico

By Azadeh Shahshahani

I draw inspiration from our history every day. That is why it is such a great honor to start my term as NLG president in this historic 75th anniversary year. From representing immigrants under attack for their activism to providing legal support to GIs in the Philippines, our history is one of unwavering commitment to serving movements.

I also draw strength also from the work our members are doing right now. Our members in New York City are pitching in to help their neighbors meet FEMA deadlines in the wake of Hurricane Sandy. Others are providing legal support to Muslim communities targeted by law enforcement across the country. In San Diego, NLG members are working to establish a Free Speech Clinic.

These initiatives and countless more like them are why we must secure another 75 years of the NLG. In that spirit, I would like to offer a vision for growth and sustainability over the long haul. It is heartwarming to see that so many of the aspirations I laid out in my candidate statement have already been achieved thanks to the work of our National Office, the NEC, and members nationwide.

We now have an amazing Student Organizer, Traci Yoder, who is expanding our presence on campuses. We have a new website which makes it easier to spread the word about our work. And the NEC has established a fundraising committee to support our future.

Moving forward, we need to engage in critical reflection and strategic planning. Where do we see our-

selves as an organization in 10 years? What does it mean to be the legal arm of the movement in the 21st century?

In this process, we must be led by the Queer Caucus, the Disability Rights Committee, TUPOCC, the Anti-Sexism committee, the Anti-Racism Committee, NextGen, and our legal workers and students. It is only through active and persistent nurturing of new leadership that our organization will have a vibrant future.

With this in mind, it is crucial that we offer mentorship and skills training to our members. In addition to the CLEs conducted at the annual convention, I would like for our various constituencies to consider providing member webinars throughout the year. We should also maximize mentorship opportunities at the local chapter level.

In the larger progressive legal community, the Guild is uniquely situated to initiate and lead coalition efforts. Possible focus issues include achieving a more progressive judiciary and holding the U.S. government accountable to human rights standards in realizing economic justice for all Americans. We should also make a concerted effort to publicize our legal thinking through online CLEs, white papers, and our blog.

I look forward to working with you to realize the vision of strengthening our organization over the next three years. It's not quite 75, but it's a start.

Adapted from Azadeh's introductory remarks delivered at the 75th anniversary Law for the People convention in Pasadena, California.

Montana's Coal Export Action and the Need for an Increased Guild Presence in the Fossil Fuel Hinterlands



NLG Legal Observer[®] Lindsey Schromen-Wawrin (background, with notebook) documents protest arrests from inside Montana's capitol building, where anti-coal activists staged a weeklong series of sit-ins.
Photo courtesy of Coal Export Action

By Lindsey Schromen-Wawrin, Robert Gentry, Larry Hildes, and Karen Weill

Montana contains over one-quarter of the coal reserves in the United States. Coal companies which are already actively mining throughout the state plan to capitalize on the growing global energy shortage by ramping up extraction, expanding rail lines to the Pacific coast, and shipping coal to Asia. The prospect of increased coal extraction and shipping has mobilized environmental activists throughout the Northwest and NLG members are supporting them every step of the way.

Activists in Washington and Oregon are challenging the proposed coal ports along the coast while communities along the railroad lines are doing their part to oppose the project, which would have huge health and environmental impacts. Activists are using a variety of tactics, from municipal resolutions to civil disobedience. Guild members Larry Hildes and Karen Weill began by working with protesters focused on the proposed coal terminal at Cherry Point, in the pair's home state of Washington, but Montana legal support proved harder to organize.

Montana has little in the way of visible Guild presence,

so anti-coal organizers contacted Guild chapters in neighboring states months ahead of a planned week of civil disobedience in August 2012. Fortunately, with support from the National Office, Northwest members were able to assemble a legal team including Montana Guild lawyers Bob Gentry, Summer Nelson, and Craig Shannon.

Montana doesn't make it easy for out-of-state attorneys to appear in court. The state's *pro hac vice* rules require an out-of-state attorney to pay \$345 per case, making local counsel necessary not only for meeting the requirements, but also for maintaining the meager funds of grassroots activists. The rules also limit a *pro hac vice* attorney from appearing more than twice without major cause so, in the long run, legal support for these kinds of actions should really be home grown.

Nevertheless, the idea of stopping the coal at its source drew activists from 16 U.S. states and two Canadian provinces to Helena, Montana's capital, to pressure the State Land Board (SLB) to stop leasing public land to coal companies. Hosted by the Montana-based Blue Skies Campaign and supported by several national climate justice groups, the Coal Export Action promised eight days of civil disobedience at the offices of (*continued on page 5*)

NLGers Converge to Support RNC/DNC Protests

By Abi Hassen

This year's RNC and DNC presented a demanding set of circumstances for NLG protest support efforts. Both conventions were held in cities with no NLG chapter and with few or no NLG members. Drawing on the expertise, time, and passion of members across the country, as well as a phenomenal group of new student members from Charlotte Law School, Mass Defense Coordinator Abi Hassen and a team of volunteers provided Legal Observers® at every major protest and 24-hour legal support hotlines in both Tampa and Charlotte.

Tampa

In a matter of days in mid-August, law enforcement crews transformed downtown Tampa into a fortified, militarized, "event zone." As the RNC approached, checkpoints, blast walls, and 10 foot fences appeared everywhere. While the police were training to quell "anarchist extremists," NLG members were busy conducting daily Know Your Rights and Legal Observer® trainings and setting up a legal office in preparation for the chaos to come.

The chaos never came. What did come was a near-miss from a hurricane and a huge police presence. The hurricane turned many protesters away, leaving Tampa with demonstrations that approached a 5:1 police-to-protester ratio. Law enforcement delivered the "overwhelming force" promised by Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn, but mostly as an implied threat: the entire convention saw only two arrests. Tampa police even declined to arrest activists who had chained themselves together at the entrance of a power plant.

Charlotte

"Bank Town" took a different tack than Tampa for its DNC preparations. While city and police officials there proved far less transparent when it came to security spending and policies, they attempted to maintain a level of openness within the city, going so far as to allow protesters to create an Occupy camp in a city park.

Where Tampa had physical fences and walls protecting the fortress, Charlotte had walls of police surrounding all

protests and a constant, shadowy presence of undercover officers following anyone who looked like a protester.

Charlotte also used its (now permanent) event ordinance to declare an "extraordinary event," giving police the power to search people with almost no constraints.

Unsurprisingly, searches during the convention seemed only to be performed on protesters, though not the Christian anti-abortion protesters who came out in droves.

Charlotte police proved less dedicated to low arrest numbers. The NLG team saw significant police harassment, including one protester who was arrested for asking if she was being detained. The convention ended with only about 30 arrests and by the time the NLG team had broken down its office there were no protesters left in local jails.

The National Office is issuing a report about how law enforcement tactics at the RNC and DNC reflect new trends in National Special Security Event policing. The report will be available online at www.nlg.org.



Nancy Farage (left) and Alistair Mackenzie legal observe at the front of a labor march through downtown Tampa on the opening day of the RNC. Dozens of NLG members volunteered. Photo by Nathan Tempey

Reborn Chapter Puts the Phoenix in Central Arizona



An NLG Legal Observer® (background, center left) monitors a civil disobedience action during a 2010 protest against Arizona's SBI070 legislation. Photo by Thom Cincotta

By Dianne Post

The Central Arizona Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild has risen from the desert dust. Vera Steismeyer performed the thankless task of keeping the chapter's institutional memory alive for 20 years; now Dianne Post has stepped into the coordinator position and Toby Zimbalist has volunteered to be treasurer. An initial interest meeting in April drew 10 prospective members.

Since then, chapter members have been busy. They submitted comments to the Supreme Court about a requested

ethical rule change regarding lawyer discrimination, sent an open letter to media outlets regarding Border Patrol's roadside detention of former Arizona Governor Raul Castro, and issued a press release regarding a Flagstaff judge who made disparaging remarks about a victim of sexual groping by a police officer.

The student chapter at Arizona State University (ASU) is active as well. James Sena, the ASU student chapter chairperson, organized a welcome meeting at the beginning of the school year. The chapter sponsored a Legal Observer® training, building on collaboration with area lawyers and legal workers begun by the Occupy move-

ment a year ago. In late October, the two chapters extended that partnership to a joint meeting and happy hour.

The local Guild's past has also been the subject of renewed attention. The Arizona Historical Society has expressed interest in the chapter archives because the NLG was so central to social movements in the area. Members are searching through materials, while keeping an eye out for potentially compromising material. Given the track record of state repression being leveled against the Guild and its members, that is one part of history the new chapter hopes to avoid repeating.

Montana Coal, cont'd

(from page 3) the governor and secretary of state, both SLB members.

During the protests, the legal team put in long days, acting as Legal Observers® at marches, conducting Know Your Rights briefings for each group of arrestees (the week saw 23 people arrested and charged with misdemeanor trespass) and handling jail support and arraignments. Fortunately, the activists staffing the jail support line were incredible. Also, the Helena Police Department's incident commander for the week appeared to respect the right to political expression, as evidenced by the limited police presence at the protest site.

Issues did not arise until the third day of civil disobedience, when one of the activists declined to give employment and marital status information during booking in the county jail. The following day, the county jail staff forced

the issue again, this time by requesting social security numbers during booking, which new arrestees refused to give. Jail staff told arrestees that they could not see the judge until they were booked and that they could not be booked until they gave this information.

In hindsight, the legal team should have tracked the information that booking officers requested from each group of arrestees in order to brief subsequent groups on what to expect to during booking, and to monitor any change in booking protocols as the week of protest went on.

All 23 activists who sat in pled not guilty. They plan to put the coal companies and the State Land Board on trial. Organizers from several of the national climate justice groups were among the accused, hopefully ensuring continued national support for the Montana activists. Rick Bass, a Montana author, also participated and the saga of his criminal case will likely continue to draw media attention to the need to resist Big Coal.

Student Chapters Build Guild Presence on Campus

Compiled by Traci Yoder

NLG law students are active at over 100 law schools across the country. Below are some recent and ongoing student chapter projects.

Villanova University

Villanova NLG kicked off the semester with an introductory meeting hosted by Philadelphia Chapter Chair Steve Gotzler. The chapter signed up many new students at the Villanova activities fair with the help of Earl Grey tea and raspberry cream cheese cupcakes. The chapter currently has two major projects.

One, called Keep It Fair, is a petition drive calling on Villanova to lift its restrictions on funding for externships and summer fellowships at reproductive justice organizations. The restrictions stem from the school's Catholic belief in the sanctity of life but the rules do not bar externships or fellowships with offices that advocate for the death penalty such as district attorney's offices. Led by Villanova NLG member Susan Stanton, the chapter has formed an 18-member taskforce and obtained signatures from over 220 students, which is almost one third of the student body.

The second project is the Notario and Immigration Attorney Fraud Project, which brings together students from Philadelphia area law schools to fight against notaries public (notarios) and lawyers who are taking advantage of immigrants. Led by Guild student Vanessa Stine, student members have conducted research on the legal remedies available to fraud victims, set up a fraud hotline, and set up trainings. Trained students will conduct interviews, identify possible remedies, and join in the larger movement to combat notario and immigration attorney fraud.

For more information about the Villanova NLG chapter, visit villanovanlg.blogspot.com.

Vanessa Stine

Gonzaga University

Students have re-booted the Guild chapter at Gonzaga Law School in Spokane, Washington. In October, the chapter partnered with four other student groups to bring Oregon Guild member Eric Sirotkin to Spokane to speak about

international human rights. The following month, the chapter hosted a Legal Observer[®] training led by Guild members Larry Hildes and Karen Weill. The student chapter is also connecting Spokane attorneys with area activists, particularly members of Occupy Spokane, which has developed a new focus on the proposed regional

expansion of coal train operations, as well as foreclosure and eviction defense.

Lindsey Schromen-Wawrin

Northwestern University

Students at Northwestern University Law School (NU) were proud to start their own NLG chapter during the 2011-2012 school year. In its first year, the chapter sent Legal Observers[®] to Occupy Chicago protests and led a demonstration protesting the killing of Trayvon Martin, the first demonstration at NU in 20 years. NU student members hosted an NLG welcome meeting for 1Ls at the end of orientation and followed up with a Chicago-wide DisOrientation, which drew more than 60 law students. Speakers at the Dis-O included Bernardine Dohrn, Juan Perea, and Owen McCartin as well as a number of NLG lawyers. Chicago's Next Gen Committee hosted a happy hour after Dis-O, bringing the Chicago NLG community together under one roof. The NU student chapter looks forward to being a lasting part of the NLG.

Vikko Otero and Katie Feeley



Villanova Law School members collect signatures as part of their Keep it Fair campaign, which seeks to end the school ban on funding for reproductive justice work.

New York University

The NYU Law NLG chapter gives students the unique opportunity to engage in grassroots organizing, teaching, and court observation. The chapter carries out its Legal Observer® and Street Law Programs in coordination with the New York City NLG chapter. Both projects are particularly relevant in New York City, where police harassment is enshrined in the NYPD policy of stop and frisk and brutality at protests is a regular occurrence. A third project is administered exclusively by students. The NYU chapter's Immigration Court Observation Project trains law students to attend immigration proceedings and document their observations, with an emphasis on identifying lapses in due process. Also, for the past several years, NYU has been host to the city's annual DisOrientation. In 2012, NYU joined NLG chapters from Brooklyn Law School, New York Law School, Fordham, Columbia, Cardozo, and CUNY for the event, which drew nearly 100 students. Dis-O workshops and panels covered topics including stop and frisk, maintaining ideals when faced with the demands of private practice, and law school advocacy and organizing.

Geoffrey Wertime

University of Colorado

The UC Law (CU) LG chapter has seen incredible growth over the last year. During the summer, CU's new leaders spent time networking with local social justice organizations, legal observing, and planning the fall DisOrientation. But first, the chapter successfully shoehorned a Legal Observer® training into the school's 1L orientation, drawing about 30 people to learn the ways of the green hat. At DisOrientation, another 25 students heard from faculty sponsors and local Guild attorneys about their work, signed up for the chapter reading group and the

national convention, and attended a short discussion about critical thinking in doctrinal classes. Between orientation and DisOrientation, the CU NLG chapter signed up a fifth of the 1L class. Since then, the chapter has hosted about three events per month on topics such as health care, civil rights, and peace building. The chapter is also coordinating with the Denver University chapter to create a law student mentorship program and to plan the Southwest Regional Conference, which will be held March 2013 in Denver.

Whitney Leeds

University of District Columbia

The newly energized UDC NLG chapter was the largest contingent at the 2012 D.C. DisOrientation. Chapter members sat on a panel about staying radical in law school and facilitated the keynote panel on radical lawyering. In October, the chapter held a workshop at UDC titled "Women's Rights, United Nations Measures and Effective Advocacy," which offered an introduction to international human rights law and inspired several 1Ls to seek internships abroad in 2013. In November, the chapter observed the Day of the Dead and celebrated Hispanic Heritage month by screening *Precious Knowledge*, a documentary about the ethnic studies programs at Tucson High School, and connecting with some of the program's teachers by Skype after the screening. Also in November, the chapter held a care package drive for military women on mission in Afghanistan, hosted a vegan Thanksgiving celebration, and raised awareness around the international Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers.

Elisabeth Fernandez

Traci Yoder is the NLG's new Student Organizer. Contact her at traci@nlg.org.

CONTRIBUTE TO THE NLG REVIEW

The *National Lawyers Guild Review* (NLGR) is seeking articles and other writings.

The NLGR, one of the oldest law reviews in the country, aims to combine scholarly and practitioner perspectives to approach, discuss, and take action on justice-related issues aligned with NLG's mission. The NLGR, formerly the *Guild Practitioner*, is dedicated to publishing high quality work from lawyers, students, legal workers, and academics. Our recent issues can be found on the National Lawyers Guild website at nlg.org under "Publications."

NLGR is particularly interested in articles and other writings that directly contribute to law practice and advocacy. We strongly encourage practitioners and legal workers to submit their work or inquire about publication opportunities.

Send submission inquiries to nlgreview@nlg.org.



Election Results



From left to right: National Vice President Camilo Romero, Executive Vice President Nadia Kayyali, and Student National Vice President Whitney Leeds.

At this year's convention, two candidates for seats on the NLG's National Executive Committee (NEC) ran unopposed. NLG members at the plenary voted to pass four resolutions. Camilo Romero won the position of National Vice President in a race against Urszula Masny-Latos that closed December 1.

Also on the ballot, a proposed constitutional amendment concerning the ability of local chapters to discipline members **passed**.

For the full text of the amendment and resolutions, visit www.nlg.org/member/bylaws-resolutions.

To see the full list of NEC members, including committee and regional representatives, visit www.nlg.org/about/board-staff.

New National Officers

Executive Vice President: Nadia Kayyali
Student National Vice President: Whitney Leeds
National Vice President: Camilo Romero

Resolutions Passed

“Resolution in Opposition to the Scheduled Execution of John Ferguson, A Mentally Ill Florida Death Row Inmate”

“Resolution Calling for the Release of Oscar Lopez Rivera and All Puerto Rican Political Prisoners”

“Resolution Condemning the Attacks on the Independent Trade Union Movement and Freedom of Association in Mexico and the Proposed Labor Law Reform”

Mass Defense Committee Bids Longtime Co-Chairs Goodbye, Begins Restructuring

Carol Sobel and Mara Verheyden-Hilliard stepped down this September after a decade of service as Co-Chairs of the NLG's Mass Defense Committee. The committee thanks Carol and Mara for their amazing contributions. Their work has been inspirational and their leadership and mentorship has set a high bar for present and future committee members. Their resignation set in motion a process of committee restructuring, which is ongoing. For the latest committee news, visit nlg.org/mass-defense-committee or contact Mass Defense Coordinator Abi Hassen at abi@nlg.org.

Pasadena Law for the People Convention in Photos



Keynote speaker Angela Davis greets Guild members in the lobby of the Pasadena Hilton.



Los Angeles Guild member Neidi Dominguez prepares to receive the Legal Worker Award at the convention banquet.



Amy Lien Cross holds the CB King Award presented to her by Meredith Jones.



Outgoing Mass Defense Committee Co-Chairs Mara Verheyden-Hilliard (left) and Carol Sobel swap war stories in the hall.



Judy Somberg (center) joins Colegio de Abogados de Puerto Rico President Irma Rivera Lassen (left) in celebration.



David Gespass unwinds after an eventful three years as NLG President. Photos by Roxana Orrell

Moving Toward Safer Spaces in the NLG: Convention Marks Beginning of New Sexual Harassment Policy

By Aliya Karmali, Anti-Sexism Committee Co-Chair

As Guild members, we stand up for social and economic justice, for racial justice, for gender and LGBTQ justice, and for the rights of people with disabilities. Because of our dedication to these issues, we must continually take action to address oppressive dynamics within our own organization. NLG founders made anti-discrimination a central principle of the because they lived and worked in a time when racial apartheid and gender discrimination were explicit in the laws of the United States.

With this in mind, the National Executive Committee (the NLG's board of directors) voted unanimously to adopt a sexual harassment complaint policy this October at the 75th annual Law for the People Convention in Pasadena, California. The existence of such a policy is long overdue in our organization. It is, however, only one of many steps necessary to make the NLG a safer and more welcoming place for lawyers, legal workers, and students who identify as women.

The sexual harassment policy and procedure is available on the NLG website at www.nlg.org/sexual-harassment-policy. The policy covers a range of forms of harassment, including but not limited to unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual and/or coercive nature. Other forms of harassment covered include but are not limited to gender harassment, sexualized behavior, seductive behavior, sexual bribery, and sexual assault.

Part of making the sexual harassment policy a positive tool for social change within the Guild is the creation of an Anti-Harassment Complaint Board. This entity consists of former NLG President Karen Jo Koonan, National Vice President Teague Gonzalez, and NLG-SF Secretary Ming Wong. Each of these individuals comes to the board with years of experience in conflict resolution, mediation, and facilitation, and brings a commitment to building a Guild that is free of harassment and discrimination. The Board is charged with reviewing and resolving confidential complaints arising under the policy if they cannot be resolved between parties informally and seeking the help of local Guild leadership if necessary.

Within 30 days of receiving a complaint, the Board will issue a written report containing findings, conclusions, and recommendations. A copy of the report will be sent to the complainant and to the alleged harasser. If the board determines that sexual harassment occurred as defined

by the policy, a recommended resolution may take the form of an oral or written reprimand, mediated survivor-harasser conflict resolution, counseling or other support services, and/or suspension of participation in committees or projects, depending on the severity and pervasiveness of the harassment. Any decision regarding the membership of a person accused of sexual harassment is ultimately controlled by existing NLG Constitutional provisions on discrimination and discipline (Articles 2 and 8 respectively, the latter of which provides a process for suspending or terminating membership).

The Anti-Sexism Committee looks forward to working with Guild members to equip the NLG with the tools it needs to address sexual and gender based harassment and other forms of oppression. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact the Anti-Sexism Committee at antisexism@nlg.org.

Harassment Hotline Makes Inaugural Run

The Pasadena convention saw the first ever peer support hotline for attendees to confidentially report sexual and gender harassment. Inspired by members of the NLG-NYC Feminist Caucus, TUPOCC, and the Queer Caucus, a group of Anti-Sexism Committee members set up and publicized a free 24-hour hotline which operated throughout the convention.

Hotline workers were equipped with a basic script to receive information from callers, direct them to local sexual abuse resources in the Los Angeles area if needed, and/or provide safer spaces within the convention hotel itself in cases of emergency. Those who operated the hotline in Pasadena are now planning ways to improve it for future conventions and to expand it as part of a larger safer spaces program for Guild events. The intent behind these initiatives is to change the culture of the Guild into one that is more cognizant of the ways oppression can be enacted inter-personally in order to prevent and manage harm.

A Membership Coordinator's Farewell

By **Jamie Munro**

In January, I'll be leaving the Guild's National Office to finish off a Master's degree in political science. It has been an amazing three and a half years and I wanted to say goodbye by sending an organization-wide thank you note to all the Guild members who have made my time here so fulfilling. There are too many of you for me to list individually, but it's safe to assume I'm referring to you.

When it's time for me to immerse myself in the academic world once again, I will take with me many important lessons from the Guild. From you I've learned a great deal about political commitment. In conversations with many of you, I've learned what it means to center one's life around social justice. The Guild has shown me that this practice can take infinite forms, many of which are not at all obvious. Thanks to all of you who have shown me this through your work and through your lives.

I've also learned a lot about how different generations of committed activists can teach each other. From hours spent combing the NLG archives at the NYU library, from long interviews with Guild members for our 75th anniversary video project (check our website soon!), and from wide-ranging conversations at NLG happy hours, it has become clear to me that sharing knowledge is the most important thing the NLG does. Not many organizations can trace a clear line of institutional wisdom from the CIO sit-down strikes to the Occupy movement. Watching this important tradition continue, and learning from it myself, has been a real privilege.

Thanks to those who let me learn about your current work and hear about what things were like back in the day.

Lofty statements aside, you are all awesome. I'll miss hearing about your successes, your frustrations, and your



Jamie Munro legal observes at Zuccotti Park in the early days of Occupy Wall Street. Photo by Heidi Boghosian

everyday ramblings. I'll even miss the incendiary email list arguments.

Finally, I want to thank Heidi and National Office staff past and present. I've not only been able to do interesting work at the Guild, I've been able to do it with top notch people.

I wish you all a happy and healthy 2013 and wish the Guild the best for another 75 years of law for the people.

Please keep in touch! My email is jamunro6@gmail.com.

Warm wishes from the National Office

Over the years, many wonderful National Office staff members have contributed their talents to realizing our collective mission. We

say goodbye to Jamie Munro with the consolation that his imprint on the NLG is indelible. In addition to the projects which he spearheaded that will endure for years to come, including written histories and video interviews with longtime members, Jamie leaves our organization with strength, having used his sound judgment to steer us through challenging moments. Guided by a clear moral compass, Jamie has always comported himself with understated dignity. His writing (which you've read in dues letters, Guild Notes, and many other outlets) reflects his thinking: clear, elegant, nuanced, and political.

It is a testament to Jamie's character that so many NLG members and colleagues love and admire him. Suzanne Ross of the Free Mumia Coalition emailed me to describe his kindness in meeting her outside the NLG office one day to save her from making a trip upstairs. This small gesture, and many more like it, provide a glimpse into Jamie's integrity as a human being. We will miss you and we wish you the very best, Jamie!

Heidi Boghosian

In Remembrance

Ward Morehouse

Ward Morehouse was a longtime Guild member and an inspiration to many around the world. As an attorney, scholar, author, and publisher, he worked to provide tools for people to understand the causes of oppression and to take action for social justice.



Ward graduated from Yale University and held teaching positions in New York, Sweden, and India. In 1976, he took over as president of the Council on International and Public Affairs, a nonprofit human rights organization he helped found in 1954.

Along with Richard Grossman, Ward founded the Program on Corporations, Law, and Democracy (POCLAD) to educate people about the need to abolish corporate personhood long before the concept was popularly understood in the United States. He also founded and led the NLG's

Committee on Corporations, Democracy, and Human Rights, which was dedicated to fighting the corporatization of everyday life and investigating the impact that corporations have on our constitutional and human rights.

Ward was a leader in the national and international democracy movement, perhaps best known for his work with the victims of the Bhopal disaster. He fought to hold Union Carbide and other corporations accountable for their crimes. He published several books on the disaster, including *The Bhopal Tragedy: What Really Happened and What It Means for American Workers and Communities at Risk* and *The Bhopal Reader*.

Ward wrote and edited some 20 books about the political causes which were his passion. He lived by example and embodied the principles of democracy and justice through his actions.

In addition to his wife and two sons, Ward leaves a sister, two stepdaughters, three step-grandchildren, seven granddaughters, and three great-grandchildren. His memorial service was held on September 29 in Northampton, Massachusetts.

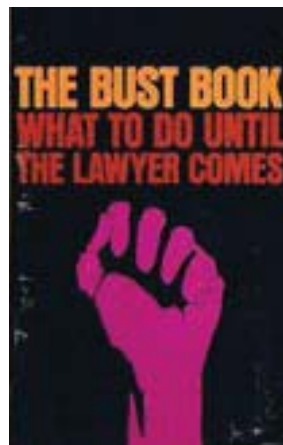
Traci Yoder

Gus Reichbach

Obituaries are by definition news stories that inform readers generally about noteworthy lives that have come to an end. The death of Gustin Reichbach, a justice of the Kings County Supreme Court, prompted several, each of which denoted some of his important accomplishments, including giving HIV education and condoms to prostitutes in lieu of jail terms. But no article can truly capture the essence of this larger than life, smart, courageous activist who brought passion and commitment to everything he did.

In his earliest days as a law student in the turbulent late 1960s, Gus sided with the nearby community in its struggle with Columbia University. His actions led one professor to vow that he would prevent the Character and Fitness Committee from ever allowing Gus to practice law. Fortunately that campaign failed, as did most others that aimed to stop him from using his formidable skills to advance social justice.

As a tenants' lawyer in the beginning of loft conversions, a co-author of the legendary *Bust Book*, and a leader for decades in the National Lawyers Guild, Gus's accomplishments pre-dated his ascent to the bench. Once he



was a jurist, his scholarly opinions made new law even as he enforced existing ones. He was a mentor to many, some of whom are themselves judges today. He never gave up the good fight, taking the bench daily up to the end, despite debilitating pain. He will be sorely missed.

Daniel Greenberg

Guild Members Monitor Historic Venezuela Election



NLG election accompaniers (from left to right) Mana Barari, Erik Sperling, Susan Scott, Natasha Bannan and Azadeh Shahshahani. *Photo courtesy of David Gespass*

By David Gespass

In early October, eight NLG delegates joined an international team accompanying election officials in Venezuela during the historic race which saw President Hugo Chavez reelected in the most contentious campaign of his presidency. In the months leading up to the election, the opposition had united around a single candidate, Henrique Capriles, who garnered the support of many among the country's elite and who enjoyed favorable coverage in the private media. Both sides waged vigorous campaigns. Chavez has been reviled by the U.S. government and media as a dictator, but his real sin, in the eyes of the U.S., has been his leadership in unifying Latin America in opposition to imperial domination.

Election accompaniers in Venezuela are similar to election observers in other countries, reviewing the process and reporting back on the character of the particular election, but they are part of the electoral process itself, rather than outside critics. The distinction emphasizes Venezuela's sovereignty. Nevertheless, the National Election Council (CNE), an independent branch of government charged with insuring free and fair elections, relies on the suggestions and criticisms of the accompaniers to refine the electoral process.

Contrary to media reports of fear and intimidation, the NLG team encountered no reluctance among voters to

express their opinions. Venezuela's advanced electoral system is designed to ensure the secrecy of ballots and confidence in the count. In contrast to the U.S., where Guild members and many others are fighting voter suppression efforts, the CNE works to engage the citizenry in the electoral process. As a consequence, over 95 percent of those eligible to vote are registered and 81 percent of those turned out for this election.

Following the announcement of a Chavez victory, Capriles thanked the millions who voted for him and accepted the vote as reflecting the will of the Venezuelan people. Within a few days, he and Chavez reported that they had spoken and were planning to meet.

The reports of virtually all the accompaniers, including our delegation, can be summarized by saying that democracy is thriving in Venezuela. The electorate is engaged and eager to participate and candidates are free to campaign as they wish. While the accompaniers all had suggestions for tweaking the system, including adding machines to decrease long lines and using taller screens to increase privacy, they were unanimous in finding no flaws that could have affected the legitimacy of the results.

The reports of all NLG delegations to Venezuela, along with articles concerning this most recent one, are available on the International Committee website at www.nlginternational.org.

Want to get noticed?

Take a listing in the new and improved NLG Referral Directory.

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For more information email communications@nlg.org.



The NLG's **Know Your Rights** booklet is now available online in Arabic, Urdu, and Bengali.

Visit nlg.org/resource/know-your-rights.

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Do you value the work of the National Lawyers Guild? Has a Guild attorney helped you or someone you know? For the past 75 years, the Guild has fought to defend civil and human rights. Reach out and help the Guild continue its work, so that as long as we're needed, we'll be there.

To ensure that the Guild continues when you are gone, please consider the following: remembering the NLG in your will or living trust, naming the NLG as a beneficiary on your life insurance, or establishing a charitable gift annuity.

For more information about opportunities to support the Guild through planned giving, contact Marjorie Suisman, Esq. at (617) 589-3869 or msuisman@davismalm.com.

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Guild Notes is missing one thing: your voice. Now it can travel farther and faster thanks to the new NLG blog. Make yourself heard.

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SAVE THE DATE

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