

# Guild Notes

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## NLG PDX SUPPORTING ANTI-RACIST MOVEMENTS WHILE PLANNING #LAW4THEPEOPLE CONVENTION

*LEARN ABOUT THE POLITICAL LANDSCAPE IN PORTLAND AND READ ABOUT WHAT'S  
PLANNED FOR THE 2018 CONVENTION!*

### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

NATASHA LYCIA ORA BANNAN BIDS FAREWELL AS NLG PRESIDENT • CHAPTER UPDATES  
NLG DELEGATION TO KOREA & JAPAN • POETRY BY JAILHOUSE LAWYERS • REMEMBERING  
JEFF SEGAL & LEE GOLDIN • REGIONAL CONFERENCE REPORTBACKS • & MORE

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NOTE: The views expressed in *Guild Notes* are those of the authors. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the NLG as a whole.

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Cover: Portland NLG Legal Observer documenting activity while DHS in riot gear take back formerly occupied ICE building by #OccupyICEPDX, June 28. (Photo: [@itsMikeBivins](https://twitter.com/itsMikeBivins)/Twitter)

**We want to hear about your NLG work—submit to the next issue of *Guild Notes*!**

Deadline for the Winter 2018 issue is:

Monday, November 12, 2018

See [nlg.org/submission-guidelines](http://nlg.org/submission-guidelines) to learn more. *Beyond Bars* guidelines available at the URL above and also printed in this issue's *Beyond Bars* column.

**For updates:  
[nlg.org/convention](http://nlg.org/convention)**

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# Bidding Farewell as NLG President

By Natasha Lycia Ora Bannan

As my time as President of the National Lawyers Guild comes to an end, I reflect on the many Guild stories I've heard from you, our members, and many others across the world. Whether in Havana, Palestine, Atlanta or the Bronx, the stories of how the NLG has showed up when it matters the most—when no one else would—are abundant and filled with gratitude. I have been stopped by activists who were provided legal defense by Guild lawyers who never blinked twice, by human rights defenders around the world who spoke first hand of what Guild solidarity with their struggles meant, and with law students who draw inspiration from 81 years of movement lawyering as they embark on their legal careers. The deep reverence and respect the NLG has around the world has showed up wherever I go, and more recently it is often accompanied by a request to do more. As our communities become increasingly under attack, they often look to us to stand with them. They are looking for allies and lawyers who will not question, hesitate or waiver. They are looking for the Guild.

I have learned a tremendous amount from our Guild elders about everything that they have seen and fought. I'm reminded that while we may feel this particular flavor of repression more intensely, it certainly isn't new. They remind me that we have been here before, and we came out on the other side. Neither state violence nor profit-driven state policy is new, and the Guild's principles of anti-imperialist, anti-capitalist lawyering have always fought to dismantle both. That should bring us all great comfort as we stand ready to fight with all we have against a morally bankrupt and abusive state.

The best place to connect (or reconnect), with this 81-year history is at our 2018 #Law4thePeople Convention, coming up October 31 – November 4 in Portland, OR. This year's convention features keynote speaker Kshama Sawant, the first Socialist member of the Seattle City Council, and for the third year in a row, the Arthur Kinoy Award goes



From the NLG-NYC Chapter: "NLG-NYC honored three Champions of Justice on June 8 at the Angel Orensanz Center for the Arts on Manhattan's Lower East Side. From left: Nancy Stearns, legendary feminist lawyer whose Center for Constitutional Rights cases led to ending restrictions on abortion in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Rhode Island before *Roe v. Wade*; Natasha Bannan, NLG president, attorney at Latino Justice PRLDEF, and a founder of Ayuda Legal Huracan Maria; and NYU Law student Kyle Barron, recipient of the NYC Chapter's Law Student Recognition Award for her work with the New Sanctuary Coalition." (Photo: Jefferson Siegel)

to a former political prisoner—this year to Herman Bell, former member of the Black Panther Party and Black Liberation Army. The Law for the People Award will go to the National Immigration Project of the NLG.

The convention is also where we refuel ourselves by connecting with colleagues and compañeros/as, develop our legal and political analysis, and hear from brilliant activists and lawyers about the work they're doing across the country and world, from housing rights to anti-colonialism to immigrant justice. And if you aren't familiar with our many national committees, you learn more about them here. Many committees meet during the convention where you can hear more about their work and see how you can get involved. Don't miss the chance to connect again with 81 years of radical lawyering! Register now at [nlg.org/convention](http://nlg.org/convention).

Thank you for the chance to work with you these past three years and to get to know your stories and struggles more intimately. As the concept of Ubuntu expresses, "I am because you are." I hope to see you all at the convention, and in these streets! ¡Pa'lante mi gente! ■

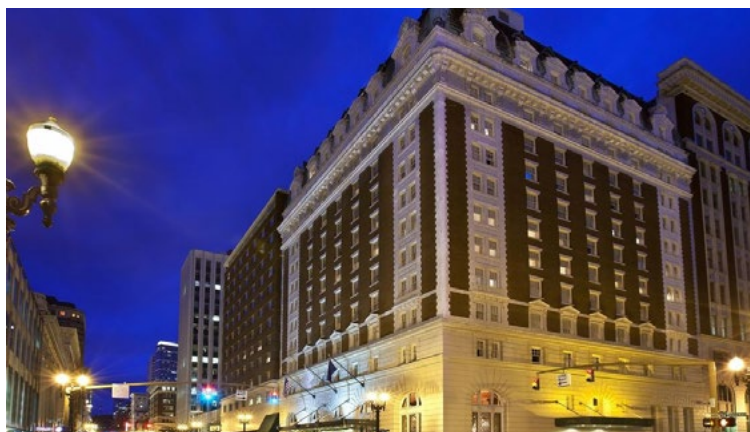
## Join the FRIENDS OF THE NLG to advance human and civil rights all year long!

Friends of the NLG is home to hundreds of donors who have committed to support our work month after month – with gifts from \$5 to \$500. Giving a recurring donation is an easy way to pledge your commitment to social justice while making a powerful and long-lasting impact! To learn more or to sign up, visit [nlg.org/friends](http://nlg.org/friends)!





## - THE VENUE/HOUSING -



### BENSON HOTEL

This year, the NLG returns to the Benson Hotel, where the Portland Chapter hosted the convention in 2005. *All major programming* will take place on-site. An historic hotel in Downtown Portland, the Benson is conveniently located by multiple MAX light rail stations, parks, restaurants, and more. We have negotiated a discounted rate of \$154/night (single or double rooms) for all bookings made at least 30 days prior to your arrival date.

Book your room online at [www.coa.st/qs98](http://www.coa.st/qs98) (select "Portland" under "Destination"), or call 888-523-6766 or 503-228-2000 and mention "National Lawyers Guild 2018 Convention" to receive the discounted group rate. *The Benson Hotel is ADA accessible.*

### ALTERNATIVE HOUSING

Since staying at a hotel is cost-prohibitive for some, Portland NLG members are volunteering space in their homes where convention attendees can stay at no cost.

To request alternative housing and stay with a local NLG member at no cost, or if you're a NLG member in the Portland area who would like to host an attendee, please fill out the online forms at [bit.ly/HousingRequests2018](http://bit.ly/HousingRequests2018) or [bit.ly/HousingOffers2018](http://bit.ly/HousingOffers2018), or go to [nlg.org/convention](http://nlg.org/convention).

NOTE: Because spaces are limited, we cannot guarantee alternative housing to everyone.

## - DINNER JOURNAL ADS -

Whether or not you'll be attending the convention, please support the NLG with a **sponsorship** (see opposite page) or **dinner journal ad**!



[nlg.org/dinnerjournal](http://nlg.org/dinnerjournal) and [nlg.org/sponsorships](http://nlg.org/sponsorships)



Above: Past (and one current!) NLG Presidents at the 2017 Awards Dinner. (Photo: Curtis McGuire)



## Show Your Solidarity with the 2018 NLG Honorees!

On November 3rd, the NLG will be honoring the outstanding work of this year's award recipients. Show your support for the Guild and reach hundreds of lawyers, organizers, and activists by becoming a sponsor. Your support makes a statement about what matters - to you and to justice!



KSHAMA SAWANT  
KEYNOTE SPEAKER



HERMAN BELL  
ARTHUR KINOH AWARD



BOB BOYLE  
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LAW FOR THE PEOPLE AWARD



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### Sponsorship Levels

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<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Mobilizer</b> \$2,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 Tickets to Awards Dinner</li> <li>Half-page Dinner Journal ad (6"w x 4.5"h)</li> <li>Promotion on NLG website</li> <li>Logo featured at event</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Activist</b> \$1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 Tickets to Awards Dinner</li> <li>Quarter-page Dinner Journal ad (3"w x 4.5"h)</li> <li>Promotion on NLG website</li> <li>Small logo featured at event</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Advocate</b> \$750	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 Tickets to Awards Dinner</li> <li>Eighth-page Dinner Journal ad (3"w x 2.25"h)</li> <li>Promotion on NLG website</li> <li>Small logo featured at event</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Friend</b> \$500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Ticket to Awards Dinner</li> <li>Eighth-page Dinner Journal ad (3"w x 2.25"h)</li> <li>Promotion on NLG website</li> <li>Name featured at event</li> </ul>

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To become a sponsor, please go to [www.nlg.org/sponsorships](http://www.nlg.org/sponsorships) or submit this form by mail to NLG, 132 Nassau St. # 922, New York, NY 10038. To purchase a dinner journal ad only, go to [www.nlg.org/dinnerjournal](http://www.nlg.org/dinnerjournal). Make your purchase and submit your camera-ready ad (PDF or JPEG, at least 150 dpi) to [dinnerjournal@nlg.org](mailto:dinnerjournal@nlg.org) by **September 15, 2018**.

## - WORKSHOPS -

### FRIDAY: Workshops I

Attacks Against the Labor Movement in the Americas and the Fight Back

Killing Gaza: A Man-Made Humanitarian and Human Rights Disaster

What it Means to do Movement Legal Support in Indigenous Communities

McCarthyism for Muslims: Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) in the US & UK

US History in Korea and Japan: Instability and the Power of Activism

### SATURDAY: Workshops II

Teacher's Strikes: Workers, Students & Our Communities

Blood Money: Profiteering Off Death and Violence in a Militarized America

Movement Lawyering for Racial Justice

State Violence Against Black, Indigenous, Immigrant, and Palestinian People

Due Process or Deportation: Rapid Response & Immigrant Defense

### SUNDAY: Workshops III

Colonial Debt: Puerto Rico and the Crisis of Capitalism and Colonialism

Land and Water Defense: Strategies for Resistance to Extractive Industries

Decolonizing Law from North America to Palestine and the Philippines

Dissent Under Attack: Infiltration and Anti-protest Legislation

The Confederacy at the Border: The Criminalization of Migration

### SUNDAY: Workshops IV

Human Rights of Children, Parents, and Families

Civil Rights for Deported Migrants

The U.S.-Duterte Regime and Their Three Wars Against the Filipino People

(+ 2 "hot topic" workshops TBA!)

*Many workshops and major panels have CLE credit pending.*

## - MAJOR PANELS -

### FRIDAY: Major Panels I

Global Compact on Migration: Causes and Patterns of Forced Migration

From Dirty Wars to War on Immigrants, Black Bodies: Sanctuary in Past & Now

Disaster Capitalism, Colonialism & Climate Change: Societies after Disasters

### SATURDAY: Major Panels II

Facing Fascism: The Role of the NLG in Defending Resistance to Fascism

Envisioning A World Without Police or Prisons: Shaping Goals for a Movement

The Law as a Tool Towards Liberation in the Trump Era

## - FULL / HALF-DAY CLES -

*NOTE: The following CLEs carry fees in addition to general convention registration. Many workshops and major panels also have CLE credit pending.*

**WEDNESDAY: Immigration Law CLE** Sponsored by the National Immigration Project Register at [nipnl.org/seminars.html](http://nipnl.org/seminars.html) or at the door.

**THURSDAY: Using International Human Rights Law to Address Two Crises of our Time: Climate Change and Voter Suppression** Sponsored by the NLG International Committee. Registration at [nlginternational.org](http://nlginternational.org) or at the door.

**Police Misconduct CLE** Sponsored by the National Police Accountability Project. Details TBA at [nlg-npap.org](http://nlg-npap.org).

## - BOOKS! -



We've partnered with our friends at PM Press as the official 2018 #Law4thePeople bookseller!

Stop by their table at the convention and pick up some radical reads—including books authored by NLG members!

## - TABLE WITH US -

Reserve a display/vendor table at the convention to promote your work to hundreds of attendees.

Go to [bit.ly/2018Tabling](http://bit.ly/2018Tabling) or [nlg.org/convention](http://nlg.org/convention) to reserve your table today!

(Tabling will be available Thursday - Sunday)

## – SPECIAL EVENTS –

**THURSDAY:**

Pre-Keynote Reception

Keynote Program w/ Kshama Sawant

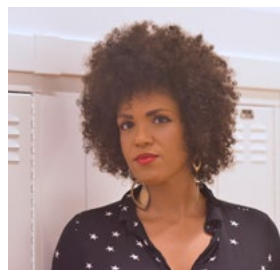
Inter-Gen Student Party

**FRIDAY:**

Plenary I

Smash the Patriarchy Luncheon w/ Walidah Imarisha\*

International and Labor &amp; Employment Committees Joint Reception

**SATURDAY**

Plenary II

Annual Awards Dinner\*

Left: Walidah Imarisha, activist, educator, spoken word artist and speaker at Friday's Luncheon. (Photo: Pete Shaw)

*\*Tickets to these events are for purchase and are not included with general convention registration. Tickets are available upon online registration or on-site, while supplies last.*

## Ahead of Convention, NLG PDX Provides Legal Support to Anti-Racist Movements



#OccupyICEPDX encampment in front of the Portland ICE building, June 25. The US flag was replaced with one that said "REFUGEES WELCOME." (Photo: [@itsMikeBivins/Twitter](#))

### By Ashlyn Ruga, Portland NLG Membership Coordinator

Like much of the country, Portland, OR has seen a massive influx of resistance to the overt and undeniable fascism and white supremacy that President Trump has re-legitimized since the 2016 election. The state has responded with repressive tactics, but that has not quelled the myriad ways anti-fascists and other leftists organizing for collective liberation have responded. Beyond the Women's March and other mobilizations where the state

is apprised of tactics beforehand, recent anti-fascist organizing has built a broad analysis of state and vigilante violence, and devised necessarily confrontational responses. Founded as a "white utopia," and being a state that rejected slavery because it didn't want Black people present at all, Oregon is a hotbed for white supremacist recruitment and organizing. The covert anti-Blackness prominent in white liberal Portland culture has been brought to the surface, emboldening white supremacists and white nationalists who were chased out of Portland by militant

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NLG Legal Observers document arrest during Patriot Prayer rally at SW 3rd Ave and Jefferson St in Downtown Portland, June 30. (Photo: [@itsMikeBivins/Twitter](#))

anti-racists in the 1990s.

As such, Portland has become the West Coast gathering site for groups duped by far-right ideologies. Most notable among those comprise Patriot Prayer (based just over the river in Vancouver, WA), and the Pacific Northwest Proud Boys.

Last spring Patriot Prayer held its first rally, which was met with anti-fascist counter-demonstrators. Notably, the Portland Police Bureau (PPB) commissioned a municipal bus to safely transport the far-right demonstrators back to their cars. Days later, May Day demonstrators couldn't have hoped to be so lucky. Mid-march, the PPB cancelled the march's permit, and immediately deployed "less-lethal" weapons indiscriminately on a march led by children, families, and disabled people.

As May came to a close, an open white supremacist who participated in the Patriot Prayer rally while wrapped in an American flag murdered two people and injured a third on the MAX train for defending two Black teenage girls he had been attacking with Islamophobic and racist slurs. This horrific incident set the tone for Patriot Prayer's next event, where they rallied at a federal plaza in downtown Portland mere days later (and did not have their permit revoked, thanks to the ACLU of Oregon).

First-time demonstrators and seasoned anti-fascist protestors alike showed up to showcase their opposition to Patriot Prayer's pro-Trump rally on June 4th, 2017. There

were three separate counter-protests, but police faced the counter-demonstration populated by those in Black Bloc the entire time. Coincidentally, PPB and Oregon State Police—working together and in full riot gear that day—decided that the anti-fascist demonstration across the street had become violent, just before the Patriot Prayer demonstration was scheduled to end. They announced that the square in which the vast majority of the day's counter-demonstrators were assembled was closed.

After a few announcements, they moved in, deploying flash bang grenades, pepper balls, rubber bullets, mace, and had physical confrontations with peaceful protestors to violently expel them from the park. As they funneled the confused group north, riot police kettled nearly 400 people, announcing they were being detained for the investigation of disorderly conduct. Police subsequently ordered them to disperse, but blocked off all egress. They eventually let most people go after photographing their IDs, but they did make arrests within and nearby the kettle. Of the 14 arrests that day, none of them were from the Patriot Prayer side, and it wasn't because they were more peaceful.

Two arrestees, Kelly Baur and Jeremy (Remy) Ibarra, decided to fight the charges. As part of the Portland NLG's mass defense work (called the "Protestor Support Project" locally), we appeared at their arraignments and explained their options, incorporating an analysis of the political

**Donate to the TUPOCC Travel Stipend**  
to help get law students, legal workers, and  
recent graduates of color to the convention!

[nlg.org/donate/tupoccestipends](http://nlg.org/donate/tupoccestipends)

Right: TUPOCC members at the 2015 NLG Convention in Oakland.





implications involved, rather than solely the legal and personal ones. Baur stuck with her court-appointed attorney, and Ibarra switched his counsel—who'd been advising him to take a plea deal—to myself and another NLG member, Crystal Maloney. The two then held a press conference proclaiming they were declining their plea deals, because “fighting fascism is not a crime.”

After several months and a few trial setovers, both cases were prepared to go to trial. Baur's charges were dropped, however, when her lawyer won a hearing requiring AP to turn over footage they have of the alleged incident that led to her arrest. That footage told a story that conflicted with officers' police reports.

It had become clear that there was pressure from the DA's office to win Ibarra's trial, as the prosecutor became increasingly difficult as trial dates approached. She turned over an 11-officer-long witness list for this single-count misdemeanor trial, but attempted to exclude all our witnesses and all video evidence on the grounds of relevance. We spent two days in pre-trial motions, and fortunately had the judge side with us on most of our motions in limine, though we lost the motion to exclude.

The prosecutor tried to paint our client as a violent “leader” of an organized group that had shown up to fight with cops. Her police witnesses described the Portland NLG's jail support hotline number that was written on his arm as evidence that he showed up intending to get arrested.

In reality, our client was hardly politically active before the MAX murders. He went to the counter-protest that day alone, intending to go to work shortly thereafter. Instead, he was pushed out of the park by riot police and kettled a few blocks later. Panicked, he attempted to flee through a five-foot gap in the riot police line, but was pushed back and shot multiple times with pepper balls. Through our witnesses, including an NLG Legal Observer, we were able to present a case that told the truth, which made the DDA pull some desperate moves like making the jury leave the room to discuss a line of questioning I'd started during our LO's direct examination. It took the jury a couple hours deliberation to return a unanimous verdict of not guilty.

That win, plus the lawsuits filed against the PPB for the kettle, have influenced the protest policing in Portland. Law enforcement was fairly hands-off during Patriot Prayer's one-year anniversary of the June 4th rally, de-

ploying significantly fewer crowd control weapons than the previous year. This approach also enabled more left-right skirmishes to occur on June 30th, when Patriot Prayer and the Proud Boys returned to march, where numerous clashes resulted in the bloodiest showdown I've seen and the most outwardly hostile treatment of our NLG legal observers in recent memory.

DHS officers mobilized to protect the federal plaza (and the fascist demonstrators there) had deployed significant levels of pepper balls and rubber bullets against the leftist demonstrators only. They appeared to be out for blood that day. This is likely because many of those officers had been “protecting” the Portland ICE facility for the preceding two weeks, and had been involved in clearing the building's entranceways of camped out demonstrators two days before.

#OccupyICEPDX began as a response to the Trump administration's “zero tolerance policy” which was tearing immigrant children from their parents at the U.S. border. The “occupation” of the facility started with a few tents the first night and swelled to over 100 after a few days, during which the facility became non-operational. Until riot police raided the tents and other structures obstructing the facility, Portland NLG provided 24/7 legal support, including our LOs and jail support hotline.

Following the raid, the tent city and prefigurative community that sprouted up on city property immediately adjacent to the facility has continued to flourish. Our hotline number is written on everyone's arms throughout the camp, and our LOs show up when the police aggress. As of July 12, 24 arrests have been made in four different incidents. The Portland NLG continues to watch closely as DHS grows increasingly intolerant with the constant presence of protestors and their vision of abolishing ICE. ■

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS YEAR'S  
CONVENTION HOST CHAPTER.  
CONNECT WITH NLG PORTLAND!**



WWW.PORTLANDNLG.ORG

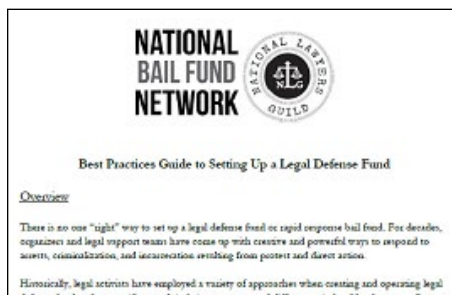


TWITTER @NLG\_PORTLAND



FACEBOOK.COM/NLGPORTLANDO

## NEW RESOURCE! *Best Practices Guide for Setting Up a Legal Defense Fund*



The NLG and National Bail Fund Network have teamed up to create the *Best Practices Guide for Setting Up a Legal Defense Fund* in order to address some challenges organizers may face in creating and implementing such funds, with considerations related to fundraising, eligibility, legal logistics, accountability, and more. Thanks to the Chicago Community Bond Fund for their assistance!

[Download the full guide](#) at [nlg.org](http://nlg.org) under “Resources.”

# Should Lawyers Be Allowed To Discriminate?

By Dianne Post, Central Arizona NLG Facilitator

The State Bar of Arizona has twice tried to change its ethical rule 8.4 to include non-discrimination against women, LGBTQ people, socio-economic status, gender identity, etc. Some years ago, the Bar submitted this suggested change to the Supreme Court. The pushback was immediate and vicious. Lawyers rose up to scream about the loss of their rights to discriminate against any group they choose. The clamor was so loud the Bar withdrew their suggestion.

A few years later, the Bar made another attempt. This time, they created a committee and put me on it as a NLG representative. We had representatives from every minority bar association (Hispanic, Black, Asian, LGBT, women), representatives from the religious lawyers including Alliance Defending Freedom (the pro-religion firm) and Thomas Moore (representing Catholics), and representatives from the county attorney's office. The meetings were long and bitter with the women and people of color arrayed against the religious fundamentalists and law and order crowd. The vote on whether to include the non-discrimination language in the Rule was tied at 8-8 until the chairperson sided with us.

A few years later, I noticed that the Bar didn't put the language into the Rule, but rather only included it in the comment section. So the entire process was a sham.

In January 2017, I read an article about the new ABA model ethical rule. I decided to try again and contacted every minority bar association to get support. None would support me. Not one. Shell-shocked, I decided to file it on behalf of the Central AZ NLG, which I did in February 2017. Unfortunately, I had missed the 2017 deadline so it was put off until 2018.

In January 2018, the Supreme Court posted their rules forum and invited comments before May 21. I noticed sometime in April that they had neglected to put my petition up on the website for comment. I debated whether to say nothing so they would be forced to approve it because they had not posted it or to point out the error. I decided that if I said nothing it could possibly be delayed until 2019, so I alerted them.

I was hoping that this error had perhaps ensured that there would be no comments and thus the rule would be adopted. No such luck. On May 3, the comments started pouring in. Negative comments came from the Christian Legal Society, the First Amendment Legal Association, two professors, the National Lawyer's Association, the National Legal Foundation and Congressional Prayer Caucus, the Goldwater Institute, the very same Maricopa county attorney who had been on the earlier committee, and the Arizona attorney general as well as individual attorneys. All wrote about the intrusion on their First Amendment right to talk about women and people of color and their religious right to discriminate against those they didn't like.

In spite of intense efforts, I got only five supporters: Lambda Legal, Los Abogados, and three well-respected attorneys—a former bar president, a former bar ethics counsel, and a former winner of a prestigious legal award. I was then able to file a reply after the submissions ended. I relied on the just-released federal judiciary study on sexual harassment and the Supreme Court ruling from Masterpiece Cake. The refusal of most minority bars to support the petition remains a mystery. The Supreme Court will consider the rule changes in August 2018. Third time's a charm? ■

## New Book Alert! *Follow the Money*

*"It is common for people, especially young people, to pine for the 'good old days' of the '60s. They often lament the lack of movements in the US today. No one can read Follow the Money and come to such a conclusion ever again, for the nation is bursting with movements."*

-Mumia Abu-Jamal, best-selling author and political prisoner

*Follow the Money: Radio Voices for Peace and Justice* is a compilation of 66 interviews by Dennis J. Bernstein on Pacifica Radio Network KPFA's Flashpoints that serves as "an encyclopedia of resistance as well as an invaluable reference for the myriad of challenges we face," according to Ralph Poynter of the Lynne Stewart Organization.

Edited by NLG SF Bay Area Chapter member Riva Enteen, it includes interviews by luminaries such as Alice Walker, Oliver Stone, Danny Glover, Laura Flanders, Phil Donahue, Helen Caldicott and Ramsey Clark, with a forward by Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Read the full review in [Black Agenda Report](#), then buy the book at a [20% discount through Lulu Press](#) (and avoid Amazon!).

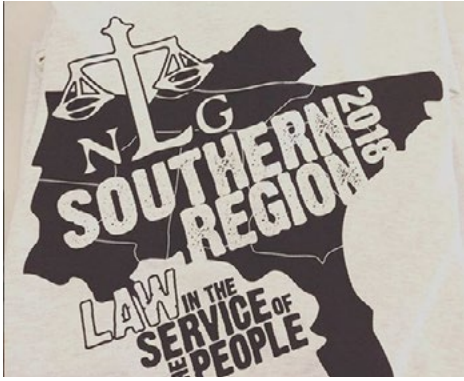


Pacifica Radio Network  
KPFA's Flashpoints Interviews  
by Dennis J. Bernstein

Foreword by Mumia Abu-Jamal  
Edited by Riva Enteen



# NLG Regional Deepens Radical Roots in the South



Conference T-shirt designed by NLG member Hannah Adams

By Amy Mei Willis, NLG Southern Regional Vice President

The 2018 NLG Southern Regional took place at Georgia State University College of Law in downtown Atlanta, March 23-25. The

three-day event brought together NLG members from TN, NC, LA, FL and GA, with the first day being a CLE on representing protesters in the South. This year aimed to incorporate more community building and hands-on activities rather than solely panel discussions. Given the short time we had together, folks were more interested in building and deepening connections with fellow leftist/radical attorneys, legal workers, students and community activists. It can feel especially politically isolating in the South, and given the large geographical size of the region, NLG chapters can be located hundreds of miles away from each other.

For Saturday, participants were able to choose from two

different volunteer activities. The first one focused on helping the sizable refugee population of Clarkston High School fill out citizenship/naturalization paperwork. While the applications are available online, it can be very confusing and hard to fill out on your own—especially if English is not your first language. Clarkston High School serves students from over 40 different countries, and naturalization is truly the only way to protect families from deportation.

The second event involved meeting with a local Iman and other male elders for the Ethiopian and Somali communities. The goal was to “train the trainers” on the importance of family law and provide practical tips on what to do if you or a loved one are detained or deported. Volunteers enjoyed coffee and donuts in the morning and in the afternoon both volunteer groups met up at a locally-owned Refuge Coffee to share in some delicious falafel or chicken shawarma sandwiches. Afterwards, everyone returned to Georgia State for an intensive Legal Observer training by the NLG Louisiana chapter.

Sunday closed out the event with a vegan brunch and roundtable discussion about organizing in the South. The conversation was facilitated by a local law student, and all panelists were Southern Black organizers, which is vital when learning how to work with community groups. We look forward to next year’s regional at Florida’s A&M college of Law (FAMU)! ■

## NLG SF Bay Area Chapter Launches “We Know Our Rights” Video Series

The NLG San Francisco Bay Area Chapter (NLGSF) and independent producers April Martin and Lucia Palmarini released the first installment of a new multimedia toolkit called We Know Our Rights to equip communities with critical information to help protect themselves in their interactions with law enforcement.

We Know Our Rights provides practical tools that are effective and legally sound and helps prepare vulnerable communities to fight back against intimidation by law enforcement. This series is being released at an important political moment when our civil rights, particularly for immigrant communities, are under serious and sustained attack by the Trump administration.

Derechos, the first installment of We Know Our Rights, is designed to explain the rights of immigrants when they are being confronted or questioned by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents.

“NLGSF is committed to providing legal support to immigrants who have been subjected to State repression and violence,” said NLGSF Executive Director Jay Kim. “We Know Our Rights is an important step in resisting the current Administration’s racist anti-immigrant policies and protecting the due process rights of immigrants.”

“Our hope is that this series will help as many people as possible, especially people who face these attacks on a regular basis,” said April Martin, Co-Producer of We Know

Our Rights.

The three short vignettes in Derechos depicts scenarios based upon actual encounters with ICE agents. Filmed with a cast and crew that is 80% Latinx, the vignettes portray tense interactions with ICE agents and illustrate how to best respond when faced with intimidating and/or threatening situations. “These situations can be very difficult to navigate, even when you know your rights,” said Derechos Director David Martinez. “It was important that we show the discomfort that can arise when exercising our rights and also the power that can come from it.”

We Know Our Rights is designed as a multimedia toolkit that can be used as an organizing and educational tool. “We welcome any and all community or home screenings, legal training workshops or other public presentations featuring We Know Our Rights,” said Co-Producer Lucia Palmarini. “We were intentional in creating a multimedia toolkit that is easy to use and accessible to all communities.”

More information about the films and on how to host a screening is available at: [www.weknowourrights.com](http://www.weknowourrights.com)



## Loyola New Orleans NLG Reflects on a Year of Resistance



Building community at the start of the year with a potluck. (Photo: Bill Quigley)

**By A'Niya Robinson, Outgoing Loyola NLG President, and Scott Mottola, Incoming Loyola New Orleans NLG President**

One of the most important parts of lawyering is reflecting—seeing what you did well and seeking new opportunities for improvement. In these times, when injustice attempts to shake our core, it's sometimes difficult to take a moment to reflect, check-in, and, in some cases, celebrate.

The immediate past Executive Board of the Loyola New Orleans NLG Chapter entered law school a few months before

the 2016 election. Of course, the challenges wrought by this administration expose a broader continuity of oppression that has been felt by so many for far too long. For many

of our members, the rea-

son we came to law school was to change the inequity we unfortunately already knew. After November, our passion transformed into urgency. When we settled into our board positions, we all had ideas about the critical issues threatening our beloved New Orleans, our state's incarceration epidemic, our country, and our world.

Keeping in touch with our mission of education and justice, we focused on intentionality and community. In addition to creating a job board for public interest law students and continuing our mentorship program, we were able to send five members to the 2017 NLG #Law4thePeople Convention, co-host two potlucks to establish ties with other public interest law students, facilitate safe conversation spaces for law students of color, and partner with pre-law students from local HBCUs

(Historically Black Colleges and Universities).

On the local and state level, we co-sponsored a panel on the housing issues faced by New Orleans' queer community and facilitated a conversation about our state's criminal justice reforms. On the first anniversary of the 2016 election, we hosted professors, community organizers, formerly incarcerated individuals, and the named plaintiffs of *VOTE v. Louisiana*, a case currently at the state Supreme Court that may restore voting rights to more than 70,000 formerly incarcerated individuals. We also were honored to host Mr. Albert Woodfox, one of the

Angola Three who spent more than 42 years in solitary confinement.

Finally, we assisted with a CLE focused on providing effective representation to Arab and Muslim-Americans, hosted Palestinian law-

yers as they taught us

movement lawyering skills; and co-sponsored a panel to explore intersectional gender equity. For our work, the National NLG Office invited our chapter to participate in a webinar and share organizing strategies.

As we move forward, the challenges will appear. On some days, it will seem as if they multiplied, hitting from every angle. When this happens, we will reflect on our past work. While we will acknowledge the intensity of injustice, we will also celebrate the bravery in our response.

The ironically beautiful thing about the struggle is that there is always an opportunity for learning, sharing, growing, and action. May we never forget to lean on each other, allowing the spirit of justice to invigorate and ignite us forward. ■



Students brush up their movement lawyering skills at the Movement Lawyering Teach-In (Photo: Tabitha Mustafa)



# Rest In Power: Remembering Longtime NLG Members

## JEFFREY "JEFF" SEGAL



From the NLG Military Law Task Force: *The MLTF is saddened to announce the death of long-time Task Force member Jeff Segal. A long-time Guild activist, Jeff joined the Task Force steering committee during the 1980's, serving as our treasurer for many years. He brought keen political insights*

*and a strong class perspective to our work, and he will be greatly missed. The following obituary was written by Jeff's friends and family.*

LOUISVILLE, KY – Jeffrey “Jeff” Segal, 76, passed away at home April 9, 2018. Jeff was born June 25, 1941, in Chicago, IL. He received a B.A. from Roosevelt University in 1964 and a J.D. from Rutgers University School of Law in Newark NJ in 1977. He was politically active in college, including leadership in the Students for a Democratic Society in Berkeley CA. His protests against the Vietnam War resulted in him and six others (the Oakland 7) being charged with, but found not-guilty of, conspiracy to commit misdemeanors, a felony. Later, Jeff served 27 months in federal prison for draft resistance. Upon his release, he

went to law school and began his long career championing labor rights and justice for disadvantaged people.

In 1978, Jeff became a founding member of the National Organization of Legal Services Workers (NOLSW), UAW Local 2320. He wrote NOLSW's original constitution and bylaws, and chaired the founding convention. He served in numerous positions nationally, regionally and locally over the course of more than 30 years of active membership. Jeff came to Louisville in 1981 to work as an attorney in the Community Development Unit at the Legal Aid Society. While there, he served many years as president of the local Legal Aid Workers Union (LAWU). Upon retirement from Legal Aid in 2008, Jeff continued to provide legal assistance to community groups working for social and economic justice.

Jeff was preceded in death by his mother, Mildred Lavin Segal, and his father, Max Segal, who were living in Los Gatos, CA when they died. Jeff is survived by his two brothers, Perry Segal, of San Jose, CA and Alan K. Segal, and his husband, Jerry Solomon, of Santa Cruz, CA.

A memorial and reception was held Sat., July 7 at the Louisville Urban League. We comforted each other, shared stories, and jointly honored Jeff and his remarkable life. Memorial gifts may be made to a charity or organization that honors what Jeff meant to you. For more information, [www.facebook.com/jeffrey.segal.71](https://www.facebook.com/jeffrey.segal.71). Written comments and memories may be sent to Soni Castleberry at [soni.castleberry@gmail.com](mailto:soni.castleberry@gmail.com) ■

## LEON "LEE" GOLDIN



Leon “Lee” Goldin, teacher, plumber, lawyer, life-long fighter for justice and equality, died Friday, June 8, 2018. He was just shy of his 91st birthday. Lee came to his activism naturally and directly, his legal career not so much.

Lee was born in the Bronx, NY. There he “burned Hitler’s house” (boxes he and his childhood cohorts set on fire in an empty lot. There were plenty of available empty lots in Depression Bronx). As a student at UCLA (yes, California has had free higher education: UCLA tuition was \$29/semester, including a mandatory \$4 activity fee), he may have missed early morning classes, but never shied from trying to integrate barbershops in Westwood village and

assuring free speech on campus. When Lee was a school teacher, he supported the improvement of public education and his fellow teachers through the teachers’ union—seeking better pay, working conditions, and health care. Fired from his teaching job (it was the McCarthy era, and the school board took umbrage when he refused to answer questions about his political views), Lee became a union plumber, just like his father. He was respected for his skill as a construction plumber and as a fighter for racial, ethnic and gender integration of the union, portal to portal pay, a shorter work week and a health and welfare fund, among other issues. Lee attended Southwestern law school nights, while working construction during the day (he was supporting his wife and three children at the time).

When Lee became a lawyer, he directed his efforts to improving society through the law and legal organizations. He never missed a State Bar meeting; he was active in the Conference of Delegates, supporting its resolutions seeking an end to South Africa apartheid, the death penalty, racism wherever it exists, gender equality,

always with an eye towards social justice. He was a proud member and eventually the Executive Director of the Los Angeles Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild. Lee actively opposed the Vietnam War and counseled dozens of young men seeking to avoid the draft. He was a volunteer lawyer for students and others who were arrested while seeking to integrate Van deKamp restaurants. He was on the ACLU Board of Directors and its lawyers committee. Not one to avoid more mainstream law related activities, Lee successfully ran for the State Bar Board of Governors as a representative of LA County. He served his three-year term always striving to assure that the lawyers of the state were truly serving the public and seeking social justice. For many years Lee practiced criminal defense law. Late in his career, he turned to conservatorships. It was the latter work he enjoyed most in his legal career. He continued that work into semi-retirement, but never

gave up social justice activities.

During his 18 years in the small Central Coast community to which he retired, Lee organized against our entry into the Iraq war, worked to decommission the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant, for an end to oil drilling in the area, and more. His favorite activity was with the Fire Safe Council, of which he was a highly respected member. While Lee was a life-long “activist,” he was also a loving husband, married to retired judge Martha Goldin for almost 70 years, father, grandfather, and booster of his nephews and extended family. Lee loved to organize trips to Europe and other parts of the world. Classical music was an important part of his life. He reluctantly attended opera from the inception of the LA Opera until his death. Until his dying days he looked forward to attending the SLO Festival Mozaic (formerly the Mozart Festival). His was a life well lived. ■

## 2018 NLG Weinglass Fellowship Recipient: Micheli Quadros



The NLG Foundation and NLG National Office are thrilled to announce the recipient of the 2018 Leonard I. Weinglass Memorial Fellowship, Micheli Quadros of the NLG Los Angeles Chapter!

As the 2018 NLG Weinglass Fellow, Micheli will work with Angelenos

Reunited, a project dedicated to reuniting American citizen-children from Los Angeles County with undocumented parents who have been deported to their country of origin. Additionally, Micheli will be conducting free weekly seminars to immigrants as well as low-cost legal assistance to deported parents seeking to reunite with their children.

Micheli is a motivated litigator with tenacious commitment to achieving justice and the best possible solution for her clients. Her practice areas include immigration, personal injury, employment law and criminal defense. A native of Brazil, Micheli is fluent in English, Spanish, and Portuguese.

Micheli earned her Bachelors Degree in Political Science with an emphasis on law and society at California State University, Northridge (CSUN). After earning her Bachelors Degree, she pursued a Master's of Public

Administration (MPA) – Public Sector Management and Leadership. At CSUN, she was the recipient of numerous awards, including the Jenniellen Ferguson Award for outstanding achievement in Political Science, the Lonnie S. Turner award, and the Department Award for Academic Excellence.

At Loyola Law School, Micheli served as staff editor of the International and Comparative Law Review. She was also an oral advocate in the Inter-American Human Rights Moot Court Competition, a trilingual (English, Portuguese, and Spanish) competition where she received the award for best English brief. Additionally, she was chosen as one of three best advocates from all participating American law schools.

Micheli is recognized as a published author and was most recently published in the Santa Clara Journal of International Law for “Secession: The Contradicting Provisions of the United Nations Charter – A Direct Threat to the Current World Order.”

We are so excited to honor such a devoted advocate who will tirelessly fight for her clients. Please join us in congratulating Micheli!

*The NLG Leonard I. Weinglass Memorial Fellowship is awarded annually to a NLG member and recent law school graduate. Fellows receive an award to spend 10 weeks working on a project in line with the mission of the NLG and the career of Leonard Weinglass. ■*

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analysis (and at [nlg.org/blog!](http://nlg.org/blog!))



# Guild Grant Revitalizes NLG Idaho Chapter

By Ritchie Eppink, NLG Idaho Chair

The [NLG Idaho Chapter](#) received a small grant from the [NLG Foundation](#) as part of the 2017 Guild Grants Program. In December, the chapter was awarded \$2,500 to aid local immigrant communities facing law enforcement and ICE targeting through trainings and Know Your Rights workshops. This grant to the Idaho chapter has had a huge impact on Guild work and movement legal support in Idaho.

At a basic structural level, the grant pushed the chapter to create sustainable practices for the first time: a credit union account, specific people responsible for handling money, regular meetings, a rotating facilitation schedule, meeting notes, and meeting rooms and technical capacity that now allow us to connect members by video in north and south Idaho—300 miles apart—for meetings. Having these structures in place has paid off. We got our first donation last week, for \$250, from a Legal Observer.

Programmatically, the grant allowed us to create a curriculum to cross-train Legal Observers and monitor ICE enforcement actions. In April, we held the largest Legal Observer training ever in Idaho, where we trained 30 new Legal Observers for both conventional LO work at protests and actions as well as LO monitoring of ICE. We based our ICE Watch program on programs that the NLG Central Valley (California) chapter and the ACLU of Oregon developed, as well as ideas from Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN) and the NLG's National Immigration Project (our NLG Idaho member Maria Andrade is on the NIP board).

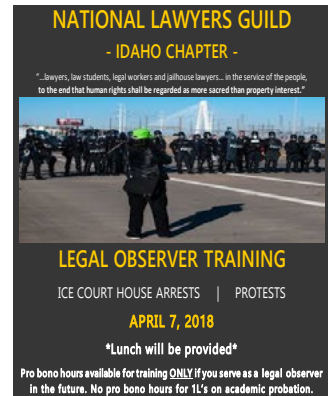
We designed the first phase of our ICE monitoring program to focus on reconnaissance of courthouse enforcement. After two months of LO work, we believe that ICE courthouse enforcement in the two Idaho counties we have covered so far is minimal. So we want to expand our courthouse reconnaissance to other counties. Our ICE watch work in northern Idaho, however, discovered ICE enforcement is aggressive on the Greyhound bus route between Moscow, Idaho, and Spokane, Washington. Based on this discovery, we've started to develop an LO and know-your-rights outreach program for Greyhound buses. We intend to place LOs on buses and at bus stations along the routes to distribute KYR information and

monitor ICE practices. We plan to use grant funds to cover transportation costs for this program, including bus tickets.

The grant has also allowed us to make our website ([nlgidaho.org](#)) available in both Spanish and English. We have also collaborated with the Idaho Organizing Project, Andrade Legal, the ACLU of Idaho, and PODER of Idaho to provide LOs and other legal support for immigrant-led and immigrant-focused protests and actions. Our expenses under the grant so far have been limited to expenses related to the April ICE watch LO training, which was held in both Boise (southwest Idaho) and Moscow (north Idaho, along the Washington border), with trainers in both locations and connected by video. The five-hour training included lunch which we covered using grant funds.

We anticipate using the remainder of the grant for expenses such as transportation for trainers to Driggs (in eastern Idaho, along the Wyoming border) to provide ICE Watch and LO training there, so that we can monitor courthouses in Teton County, Idaho, and Jackson, Wyoming. Based on the community's interests, we expect this training will just cover the ICE Watch program. That may allow us to shorten the training and hold it in the morning or afternoon without lunch, to reduce expenses. We also look forward to printing KYR materials for our Greyhound ICE Watch LO work, as well as covering transportation costs for LOs.

We are all extremely grateful for the grant, which has had an historic impact on our work in Idaho. For over a decade, the NLG in Idaho had been just three lawyers who rarely did any specific work under the Guild name. Now, and especially with the grant, we have a functioning NLG chapter spread across north and south Idaho that is meeting regularly, recruiting law students into the Guild, training dozens of new LOs, and monitoring ICE enforcement—work that nobody else is doing in Idaho. ■



NLG Idaho Legal Observer training flyer.

## 2018 Guild Grants

Does your NLG Chapter or Committee need support to launch a new campaign or strengthen an existing program?

Apply for a 2018 Guild Grant from the NLG Foundation!

Applications are due by September 30th.  
For more information go to [nlg.org/nlgf/grants](#)

# At NLG Mid-Atlantic Regional, West Baltimore Bus Tour Honors Freddie Gray

By Curtis Cooper, Co-Facilitator of the Maryland NLG

Prior to this year, the last time the [Maryland NLG Chapter](#) hosted the Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference was in April 2015. At that moment, 25-year-old Freddie Carlos Gray, Jr. lay in a coma, after being brutally apprehended and detained by Baltimore City Police (BPD). As protests and some unrest spread across the City following Freddie Gray's death, amazing organizing efforts and legal activism emerged, including the revival of the NLG chapter at the University of Baltimore School of Law. Fittingly, the UB Law School hosted this year's Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference, which featured a line-up of nine workshops, a keynote address, and a plenary session.

As anyone who has attended the #Law4thePeople Convention knows, hands-on activities like protests and tours are a welcome means for members to take political action into the streets. In this spirit, after an inspiring conference, a group of Guild members and friends filed onto a school bus for a tour of nearby West Baltimore to honor the legacy of Freddie Gray.

Our first stop was the intersection of Pennsylvania and North Avenues, where attorney Jason Downs described the largely peaceful protests at this location following Freddie Gray's death. Jason, a highly successful trial lawyer and former DC Public Defender, represented Freddie Gray's family in their legal claims against Baltimore City. He also represented Larry Lomax, a protestor pepper sprayed and dragged by his hair by police at this intersection during the Baltimore Uprising. In January of 2018, a jury in Baltimore City awarded \$75,000 to Lomax for his injuries.

The next stop was the [Tubman House](#), close to where Freddie Gray was violently apprehended by the police. We were greeted by Marshall "Eddie" Conway, President of the Tubman House, author, and producer for the Real News Network. Conway was active in Baltimore's Black Panther Party, and was incarcerated for 43 years and 11 months before winning his release with assistance from Guild attorneys on March 4, 2014. He guided us through vacant lots which the Tubman House has converted into organic gardens. Here, through the generosity of conference attendees who earmarked registration payments, we made a financial donation to the Tubman House.

A short distance away we gathered at the burned-out site of the Hae-Tteuneun market, owned by Grace Lyo, which was set ablaze on the night of Freddie Gray's funeral. Donggon Lyo, who watched with his mother as flames consumed the store, movingly reflected on the often close



Freddie Gray memorial mural. (Photo: Traci Yoder)

relationships of his mother with her customers, and why she as an immigrant chose to build her business in this location.

Our final stop was across the street from the Western District Police Station, where Freddie Gray was taken after his "rough ride" in the police van that caused his fatal injuries. The abusive treatment by police was hardly unusual, as documented in a 2016 report by the U.S. Department of Justice which led up to a consent decree with BPD.

Thanks to our welcoming presenters, we got a sense of the trials, tribulations, and triumphs which West Baltimore is facing—and what we can do to support the work of organizations on the ground like the Tubman House. At the same time, we tried to avoid the dynamic of being mostly white tourists gawking at sites in Freddie Gray's narrative, without concern for the community.

In a fine Guild tradition, here's to more events like this that build relationships with local communities in ways that build bridges and break down barriers. ■



Eddie Conway speaks to tourgoers about the Tubman House. (Photo: Eric Sirotkin)



# J20 Case Ends in Dropped Charges After Prosecutor Caught Hiding Evidence

By Jude Ortiz, NLG Mass Defense Committee Chair

On July 6, Assistant US Attorney Rizwan Qureshi quietly filed a motion to dismiss all 39 remaining inauguration day (“J20”) charges. The motion simply said, “After further review, the United States, in the exercise of its discretion, has determined that these matters should be dismissed without prejudice.” (“Without prejudice” means the prosecutors can re-file the charges at their discretion at any time within the statute of limitations, which appears to be six years for felonies in Washington, DC such as inciting a riot and destroying property.) The motion being filed on the Friday afternoon of a holiday week was not surprising since the prosecution had a lot of reason to want these cases to fade away—namely, the fact the lead prosecutor had been caught hiding evidence.

As I reported at the end of the second J20 trial, the prosecutors once again failed to secure any convictions at trial. These failures were despite the lead prosecutor, Jennifer Kerkhoff, making melodramatic claims that the participants in the anti-capitalist/anti-fascist march to contest Trump’s inauguration had acted as a “sea of black” to terrorize and destroy Downtown DC until the outnumbered and overpowered DC Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) finally contained them and saved the city.

These assertions were supported by cop after cop in both trials (November 2017 and May 2018) testifying about violence and destruction in the streets. The police testimony in each trial was given additional power with the ostensibly thorough testimony of the lead detective, Gregory Pemberton, who claimed to have watched hundreds of hours of video hundreds of times and to have personally tracked individuals by the items they wore or carried. This testimony was delivered through multimedia presentations including videos, still images from the videos presented on poster boards, and interactive PowerPoint presentations the jury would be able to view during deliberations.

All those attempts at persuading the jury failed, as no defendant who went to trial was convicted on any charge. Some jurors commented after delivering their verdicts that the prosecutors had not been able to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the individuals they alleged were the defendants were in fact the people sitting in front of the jury. Also telling was that the surreptitiously recorded video that the prosecution was relying on to establish their conspiracy charge did not convince jurors that there was anything more than political organizing going on.

This video is a crucial part of the state’s case crumbling. The video was recorded by one of several Project Veritas undercover operatives who had been infiltrating Disrupt J20 and other anti-inauguration protest planning meetings to discredit and expose organizers. Project Veritas

is known for these operations and much discredited for their unethical and often outrageous pursuits of their far right political agenda.

Kerkhoff repeatedly represented to the court and the defendants that this video was being shown in its entirety and it was the only one MPD had received. Pemberton testified that the video had not been doctored, although under cross examination during the first trial, he admitted that he had combined three files to play it as one continuous video and had also edited out the undercover operative when he was visible in a mirror. But that was it.

The prosecution maintained this story until pre-trial motions for upcoming trial blocks were heard in one courtroom while the May 14 trial was underway in another. These motions forced the prosecutors to admit facts that exposed their hiding of evidence, in violation of their Brady obligations. Turns out, they had also edited out a conversation that the undercover operative had with an unwitting activist about how the “leaders” didn’t know anything about the “upper echelon” stuff, which seemed to mean violence or property destruction. This statement clearly was not advantageous to the state’s claim that the video established the conspiracy to riot and commit property destruction.

What’s more, the prosecutor had to admit that they had an additional 69 recordings from Project Veritas that they had not shared with the defense in a timely manner (including before or during the first or second trials).

The judge was furious. He dismissed charges against a handful of defendants and ruled that the prosecution could no longer pursue the conspiracy charges. Apparently in an effort to appease the judge, the prosecutors also dropped some charges on their own. Yet they still proceeded to pursue the charges against 39 defendants until their motion to dismiss changed their tune from bombastic melodrama to trying to slink away into the shadows. There has been some speculation that this and other filings from the prosecution are designed to protect Kerkhoff from serious disciplinary actions given she was caught hiding evidence.

J20 defendants and supporters have called this result a victory, and rightly so. Not often are prosecutors caught hiding evidence (particularly while cases are happening instead of years or decades later), and rarely are they forced to abandon cases after threatening to send around 200 people to prison for more than 60 years each. Yet there are many legal fees to be paid and untold trauma for defendants to struggle through as they begin to put this ordeal behind them.

While we all continue with our struggles, keep up to date on how to remain in solidarity with the (former!) J20 defendants at [defendj20resistance.org](https://defendj20resistance.org) or on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) at @defendj20. ■

## NLG Delegation to South Korea and Japan



NLG delegation meets with Minbyun US Military Issues Committee

By Daniel McGee, NLG Foundation Managing Director

In this historic time of building peace in Northeast Asia, the NLG Foundation traveled to South Korea and Japan this May in a delegation sponsored by the [International Committee](#) and the Lawyers for Demilitarization and Peace in Korea. Continuing the Guild's long history of providing support and solidarity to social justice movements globally, our group of six NLG members spent nine days meeting with attorneys, professors, and activists working on peace, demilitarization, and human rights issues.

Just two weeks after the historic Panmunjom Declaration, our delegation landed in Seoul to support South Korean efforts at self-determination and peace. In meetings with the Institute for the People's Constitution and Minbyun, an association of human rights lawyers, we learned about the long-standing conflict on the peninsula, heard about local efforts for peace and reconciliation, and discussed the nuances of demilitarization.

On May 16th, as North Korea cancelled anticipated peace talks due to US military actions, we visited anti-US activists at Osan Air Force Base and Camp Humphries, where we witnessed firsthand the Max Thunder exercises roaring overhead. While visiting a peace church in the Civilian Control Zone and traveling to the Demilitarized Zone, we met activist Ahn Hak-Sop, who was convicted in South Korea under the National Security Act in 1953 and imprisoned for 43 years. Under the Act, non-violent political activities including praise of North Korea are criminalized. This law has been used to justify human rights abuses and has been viewed as a barrier to reconciliation.

A meeting with a former commissioner of the Korea Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Dong-Choon Kim, and human rights professors Hyo-je Cho and Francis Lee highlighted atrocities committed by various government agencies--including civilian massacres by US forces--and the subsequent official suppression of infor-

mation. This meeting underscored the importance of reconciling with the past in order to move toward a peaceful future.

Other stops on the delegation included a trip to a special museum exhibit on the Juju uprising and a visit to the Statue of Peace in front of the Japanese Embassy. The Statue memorializes "comfort women" who were forced into sexual slavery by the Japanese during occupation and has been under threat of removal. We were inspired by the activists working to protect the statue through a two-and-a-half year-long 24 hour vigil.

Our time in Seoul ended with a dramatic press conference in front of the US Embassy. Attempts to deliver our statement supporting peace and self-determination to the embassy were initially thwarted by police, who attempted to block our entry. However, we persevered and two representatives from the delegation successfully broke through to deliver the statement.

After leaving Seoul, the delegation traveled to Japan where we met with progressive lawyers in Osaka and Hiroshima, and attended the Japanese Lawyers Association for Freedom (JLAF) Conference in Yonago. In Hiroshima, we visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, met with members of the Hiroshima Bar Association, and heard moving testimony from plaintiffs in ongoing cases stemming from the US atomic bombing of Hiroshima in 1945 and against the noise pollution from the US military base at Iwakuni. In Yonago, we received a warm welcome at the JLAF Conference, where we learned more about JLAF efforts to fight the proposed revision of the war-renouncing Article 9 of their Constitution and shared various organizing and fundraising strategies.

The trip was so inspiring for the delegates, and really highlighted the globally destructive impact of US imperialism. We are grateful to our comrades in South Korea and Japan for taking the time to share with us and look forward to reconnecting with members of the JLAF at the 2018 NLG Convention! ■



# BEYOND BARS

## Voices of NLG Jailhouse Lawyers

### A Flicker Becomes a Flame

By Kinetik Justice Amun  
Bessemer, AL

With strength and optimism, I greet the Comrades and salute the Freedom Fighters!

It has been a long ride. We have come a long way, yet there is so much work we still must do. I pen this expression with those in mind, who have committed themselves to the process and dedicated the time to actually DO THE WORK.



Free Alabama Movement poster for the September 2016 national prison strike.

we wanted to see. From 2014 throughout 2015 and 2016 we worked tirelessly, fanning that flicker through networking, mobilizing, organizing and educating.

Two and a half years later, in a coordinated effort from Alabama to Ohio and all across the nation, that flicker turned into the National Prison Strike on the 45th anniversary of the Attica Rebellion.

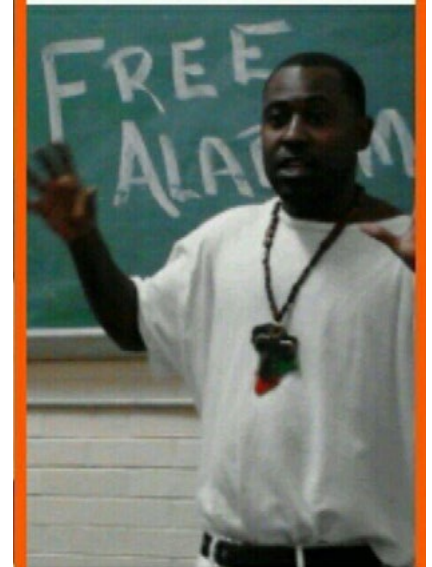
Our Unity, Our Message, Our Methods, Our Execution shook the economical underpinnings and exposed the continued inhumanities of America's dirty little secret: SLAVERY as a matter of law—the "Peculiar Institution" draped in the clothes of the American Policing and Criminal Justice System.

But, as historical analysis reveals, all attacks against the Institution will be met with extreme repression. True to form, many Comrades across the country are enduring the brunt of the repression: Ra'Salute to Comrade Malik, Bro Rashid, Iman Hasan, Bro Anthony Robinson, Bro Benu, and dozens of other Brothers and Sisters.

I can also be counted amongst that number, as many of my ordeals prior to and since the strike have been widely documented and publicized. To my extreme benefit, in the weeks leading up to the National Prison Strikes, I received a special visit from the law firm of Gespass & Johnson, representatives of the National Lawyers Guild.

Their timing was perfect, as due to extensive media

coverage the Alabama DOC targeted me as the "leader" of the strikes in Alabama and sought to neutralize me. First, I was Emergency Transferred from Holman to Kilby under investigation, then to Limestones Behavior Modification Unit, and eventually here to Donaldson Disciplinary Unit. They came with the pain, but the NLG provided a real cushion.



Kinetik Justice Amun. (Photo: [freealabamamovement.wordpress.com](http://freealabamamovement.wordpress.com))

I can honestly say that they "showed early and stayed late." From that day to this one, they have stood with me and brothers from FAM every step of the way.

During the Emergency Transfers...They were there. During the Hunger Strike...They were there. During the "Dry Cell"...They were there. During the Assault...They were there. During the Donaldson deprivations...They were there.

Recently, they filed a Habeas Corpus challenging my treatment and indefinite solitary confinement status. Since that filing in January 2018, I have been moved from my "illegal" Disciplinary Segregation placement to the Administrative Segregation Unit, which corresponds with my classification status. Two days later, I was given six months' worth of confiscated newspapers, periodicals, and other publications.

Based upon the move to Admin Seg, for the first time in over four years the Segregation Review Board is considering my release to General Population.

As should be evident by now, I acknowledge, respect, and appreciate the NLG for showing up on Day 1 and providing real legal assistance to the Brothers of the Free Alabama Movement. A special shout out to David, Kathy and Tiffanie.

Love & Solidarity ,  
Kinetik Justice Amun  
Free Alabama Movement

# This is Not Legal Advice, in Honor of René Magritte

By Eric Pepke  
Petersburg, VA

I am not an attorney so this cannot be legal advice. I have just learned a few things in the federal penal system. Here are some.

1. Always appeal: I had a gut feeling I should appeal. I used a free jail phone call to leave a message on my attorney's voicemail. This gave me ten extra months to prepare my \$2255 and more grounds for it.
2. Petition for certiorari with the Supreme Court: Doing this gave me an extra month for my \$2255 and some great legal practice.
3. Live in the law library: It was a chore at first, and reading law makes me take a lot of showers: it feels so filthy! But after time, I began to see things that give me a chance at justice. It is a great feeling, and we shall see if it works.
4. Go to the chapel: I am not very religious, but religious rights are protected in prison better than any. I also got free shower shoes, a soap dish, and some books there.
5. Always file grievances: I still find it pure annoyance, and most of the time it's futile. But now I have about six lawsuits in progress, which I can do because I exhausted grievances. Other prisoners tell me with fear in their eyes that they'll retaliate with "diesel therapy" but they haven't, and if they do, more lawsuits for me!
6. Write everything down: I keep several journals and timelines, I copy everything by hand if I cannot afford

copies, which is most of the time. It has saved me more than once.

7. Nobody responds to prisoners: I lost count after writing 250 addresses. I wrote scores of journalists, and none wrote back. At best, 5% of organizations wrote back, and those that did mostly were just frustrating. I find this more painful and discouraging than anything else. But the few who do write back are excellent, most notably Critical Resistance, Just Detention International, the Prison Activist Resource Center, the Prison Policy Initiative, the Cato Institute, and, of course, the National Lawyers Guild.
8. Accept free books-to-prisoners places: There are more than a dozen of these, and they're all good. Free books are nice, but what is really great is the feeling that someone spent some thought on me. It makes me feel almost human.
9. File your \$2255. Or \$2254 or habeas corpus or coram nobis or whatever your collateral attack is. It's collateral. Innocence or guilt doesn't matter. What matters is whether they violated rights, and the answer is they always do.
10. But maybe you are innocent: When I came to prison, I thought I was guilty. I was completely wrong, but it took me time and work to realize it. They are so good at making prisoners feel guilty, and nearly all just give up and don't even think of fighting.

They can't keep up wholesale mass incarceration without complacency and acquiescence. Don't help them. Know your rights and use them or they will go away.

## Suggested Reading for Pro Se Representation

By Jeffrey Vincent McGee  
Buford, GA

Dear Fellow Jailhouse Lawyer Members,

The purpose of this letter is to confer information about legitimate resource materials and their use.

Many incarcerated individuals who have decided to challenge their cases pro se face common obstacles: finding, understanding, and applying legit legal research and reference textbooks (and not just Citebook or Prisoners' Self-Help Litigation Manuals). My own informal legal education faced the same challenges. However, after nine years of study and inquiry, I'm not able to suggest "real" titles to those who are or strive to be serious litigators.

Initially, purchase, study, and complete a paralegal course (Blackstone Career Institute's course is adequate). The course will provide your legal foundation upon which you will build, and it contains an excellent legal research tutorial. Second, obtain a post-conviction remedies text

(see *State Post-conviction Remedies and Relief Handbook* by Professor Donald E. Wilkes, Jr.); the text is excellent for finding remedies with case cites that exist within your state. Third, obtain a trial advocacy treatise (See *Modern Trial Advocacy: Analysis and Practice* by Steven Lubet); it will reveal almost every "tool" an attorney uses to analyze, prepare for, and conduct a criminal or civil trial. Fourth, obtain an appellate advocacy course (See *Appellate Advocacy: Principles and Practice* by Ursula Bentele and Eve Cary); it will unveil the nuts, bolts, and procedures utilized by appeal lawyers. And fifth, obtain a refresher course on Standard English; legal writing requires a command of language that cannot be overemphasized.

Finally, pro se litigators want to prevail, not just participate. Incarcerated litigators want their convictions overturned, not just reviewed. My hope is that the above reading suggestions not only change your perspective about the law but also educate you.

Never lose hope. ■



# Education Key to Lower Recidivism

By Jeff Isabell-Taylor  
New Haven, MI

Education reduces crime and lowers recidivism, it's that simple. So why has there been so much resistance to educating prisoners? Money? The view education is a reward?

Let me be blunt, this isn't some bleeding heart, let's be nice to prisoners kind of article. I completely understand prison is punishment. However, most prisoners will someday be returned to the same community they left. Therefore it is in everyone's best interest to have a prisoner return a more productive member of the community. This isn't a treat, or reward; college is hard work and life changing. What would your life look like if you hadn't gone to college?

President Clinton mistakenly repealed Pell Grants for prisoners in 1994, in an effort to save money. President Obama saw the mistake in taking away education from prisoners and enacted a pilot program to give some prisoners Pell Grants in 2016. However, full access to Pell Grants is needed so all prisoners can better themselves and the community they will return to. Here in Michigan, prisoners much choose between education or moving away from family and not receiving visits. This is because classes are only offered at one prison in the whole state. With schools/organizations prisoners can take courses through correspondence classes, at any prison they may be housed at.

There is a phrase that states, "You get out what you put in." By simply warehousing prisoners, prisoners come home exactly like they were when they came to prison. Is there any wonder why many reoffend? We must change their path in life—education does just that. Many prisoners are literally begging for the chance to attend college through correspondence courses and become a better person, myself included.

Education means a great deal to me. Currently, I am paying \$30 per month out of my own pocket to participate in Blackstone's paralegal program. I work 40 hours a week in the prison kitchen making \$0.37 per hour, so the paralegal program is more than half of my monthly income. There are many prisoners out there like me eager to better

ourselves.

Now, you don't have to take my word that education works. The Federal Bureau of Prisons states, "there is an inverse relationship between recidivism rates and education. The more education received the less likely an individual is to be re-arrested or re-imprisoned. (1) There are many studies available, each confirming this conclusion. Prisoners who achieve a high school diploma or GED have less than a 54.6% recidivism rate, whereas 13.7% of prisoners who obtain an associate's degree reoffend, and only 5.6% of prisoners with a bachelor's degree reoffend. And the recidivism rate for prisoners with a master's degree is 0%. (2) The solution to recidivism is clearly education.

There is good news: the US Congress has heard the pleas of prisoners, and seen the results of study after study. The Pell Grant Preservation & Expansion Act bill is currently in Congress, which would allow incarcerated students full Pell Grants. In May 2017, Congressman Davis (D-CA) and Congressman Scott (D-VA) introduced HR 2451, and Senator Hirono (D-HI) and Senator Murray (D-WA) introduced S1136.

I am asking everyone to call or email your US Representatives and Senators to demand that they support HR 2451 and S 1136. PRISONERS ARE PEOPLE. They someday may be your neighbor, colleague, and possibly even your friend. We, the prisoners, are asking that you help open the doors to success. It's up to us, prisoners, to walk through the door and do the hard work to prove ourselves worthy to be part of the community once again.

Footnotes:

- (1) "Education as crime prevention" Open Society Institute, Criminal Justice Initiative, *Research Brief Occasional Paper Series No. 2* (September 1997); E.R. Meiners, "Resisting Civil Death: Organizing for Access to Education in our Prison Nation," *DePaul Journal for Social Justice*, Vol. 3, No. 1 (2009), H. McCarty 2006 op. cit.
- (2) Robert Allen, "An Economic Analysis of Prison Education Programs and Recidivism". Emery University, Department of Economics (2006) ■

## Have you read the *Jailhouse Lawyers Handbook*?

*This Handbook* is a resource for prisoners who wish to file a federal lawsuit addressing poor conditions in prison or abuse by prison staff. It also contains limited general information about the American legal system.

**Jailhouse  
Lawyer's  
Handbook**  
How to Bring a Federal Lawsuit to Challenge  
Violations of Your Rights in Prison  
Published by the  
Center for Constitutional Rights and the  
National Lawyers Guild  
5th Edition, 2010

Print copies are provided to prisoners  
upon request at no cost.

To get yours, write to:

NLG-Prison Law Project  
132 Nassau St Rm 922  
New York, NY 10038

Free PDF download at [jailouselaw.org](http://jailouselaw.org)

# Woe Please!

By Damion Wilson-El  
Cumberland, MD

My jumpsuit fit snugly  
For the thousands of people who've worn it  
Trying to figure out five years was a warning  
To teach my drug addiction and possession  
A lesson  
Two million people  
Counting on a blessing  
Hundreds of thousands  
Waiting on a suggestion  
Of right  
Mass souls  
Incarcerated tight  
Locked behind decisions made  
Through Congressional might  
Through Legislative insight of wrong  
And the wrong that some of us have done  
In spite  
Of the pun intended  
Through "Rehabilitation"  
The incarcerated nation  
Ain't feeling the participation  
Of rehabilitation  
Nope!  
Especially for the life sentence  
That you sentence to the one  
Who never touched the gun  
That was hidden beside the drugs  
That he was convicted of

Woe!  
To state mandatory sentences  
Federal guidelines  
And wrongful convictions  
A national okay with building more prisons  
Stock shares soar through sentences

Woe!  
To those in privately owned positions  
To the United States of Admissions  
Into a society of shackles  
Handcuffs and mat-rolls  
For those who have to sleep on the floor  
Trying to endure  
Mass incarceration  
And the schism  
Of recidivism  
Yup!

Woe!  
To recidivism  
And the false claim to  
Rehabilitate  
Our minds  
We don't want there to be another time  
We don't want there to be another crime  
Please! Don't mass incarcerate me  
And me!  
And me!  
And we!

Please!

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## JAILHOUSE LAWYER MEMBERS: VOTE NOW FOR THE "OUTSIDE" JAILHOUSE LAWYER VP!

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The NLG is holding an election for a formerly incarcerated, "outside" representative to hold the position of Jailhouse Lawyer Vice President (JLVP) of our Jailhouse Lawyer members. This person would hold a seat on the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the NLG. After the first representative is elected, we will send out a call for nominations for a currently incarcerated JLVP to work in conjunction with the outside person. The outside representative, who will have a handle on the logistical limitations of what can realistically be accomplished, will work with the inside representative to center the voices our 2000+ jailhouse lawyer members.

Nominees were asked to respond to the following questions:

1. How does your past experience qualify you for this role?

2. What do you hope to contribute as the Jailhouse Lawyer Representative of the NEC?

Here are the nominees and their responses:

### **Manuel Robert Lucero V, California, Law Student and Legal Worker**

1. I'm currently the Membership Coordinator for the NLG Mass Incarceration Committee. I was incarcerated for nearly two years in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the abhorrent conditions of which led to a Section 1983 suit just last year (Lucero v. Turco, et al. - 4:17-cv-40118-TSH) which is currently pending for trial in the federal district court and is under interlocutory appeal (for questions relating to preliminary injunction) in the Supreme Court of the U.S. (No. 17-9252). I was a Jailhouse Lawyer member as a pretrial detainee and have maintained membership since then.



2. I hope to bring to the National Executive Committee the general plight of today's incarcerated litigants and, more specifically, the obstacles which they face in correctional facilities. There exists a number of varied voices who feel that they have absolutely no way to be heard, or are unaware as to the methods by which the violation of their rights can be redressed, or are at the mercy of exhausted and jaded public counsel. This would give me the indubitably valuable opportunity to advocate for and work to implement an open and structured avenue of support to the many who need it behind those 40 foot walls and razor-wire fences. For some, it is likely to be the only means of getting it.

**Kevin Joseph Wong, New Jersey, Criminal Reentry Services Volunteer/Student**

1. I've spent years in the criminal justice system due to the ignorance of my youth. After spending a considerable amount of time in state prison, I came to the realization that I want a future helping individuals struggling through similar situations. We should be judged not by the faults of our youth, but by the actions we're proactively taking to rectify them.

2. I hope to serve as an example to those exiting the criminal corrections system, that one only needs the desire to do better to be better. In addition, I'd like to advocate for more momentum concerning the full restoration of voting rights for convicted felons.

**Michael Saavedra, California, Law Student**

1. I have successfully litigated several civil rights lawsuits against CDC in pro per while incarcerated. I was incarcerated for 19 years, 12 of those 19 years were spent in solitary confinement. I was just released in February of 2017.

2. To be able to give that lived experience both as an incarcerated individual and as an actual jailhouse lawyer.

**Mark Shervington, New York, Legal Worker**

1. I believe that my unique JL experience enables me to address and represent the aspirations of incarcerated NLG members who endeavor to use the law as a means of realizing social justice.

I would like to contribute my knowledge, skill and ability to the efforts of our incarcerated members to understand the law and its relationship to social justice.

**Diana Covarrubias, California, Legal Worker**

1. I am survivor of the prison industrial complex (Central California Women's Facility). During the past 20 years I worked primarily as a Law clerk providing Legal services, including for the Spanish speaking Community. I learned to advocate for myself, and help teach others to do the same (writs, 1983's, divorce, child custody, immigration, and 602's.) I believe that all of the injustices I endured, and overcame while incarcerated have shaped me to be the person who I have become today. A woman with patience, compassion, and understanding for those subjected to the dehumanizing living conditions of prison. A woman willing to advocate for those afraid, or not strong enough to speak, determined to help change the injustices incarcerated women are subjected to. With all that I learned inside, my journey outside is just beginning. I have much more to learn regarding the Law. I am determined to succeed in doing this.

2. The skills and knowledge that I have from my personal experience as a Jailhouse Lawyer, regarding the various challenges in the women's prison system (sentencing, medical, ADA, dental, and custody issues). At present, I am the Legal Services Coordinator for Justice Now, in Oakland, CA. I feel passionate about working to change the treatment, re-traumatizing and exploitation of abused women inside & outside of prison also. I am willing to do what is necessary to make a positive difference in the lives of others still in prison, especially help more people come home and succeed.

TO VOTE: Please detach, complete, and mail back this slip to: NLG - Attn: Elections: 132 Nassau St., #922, New York, NY 10038 by **October 31, 2018.**

Please vote for only ONE (1) of the following candidates:

- ☐ Manuel Robert Lucero V
- ☐ Kevin Joseph Wong
- ☐ Michael Saavedra
- ☐ Mark Shervington
- ☐ Diana Covarrubias

national lawyers guild foundation

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