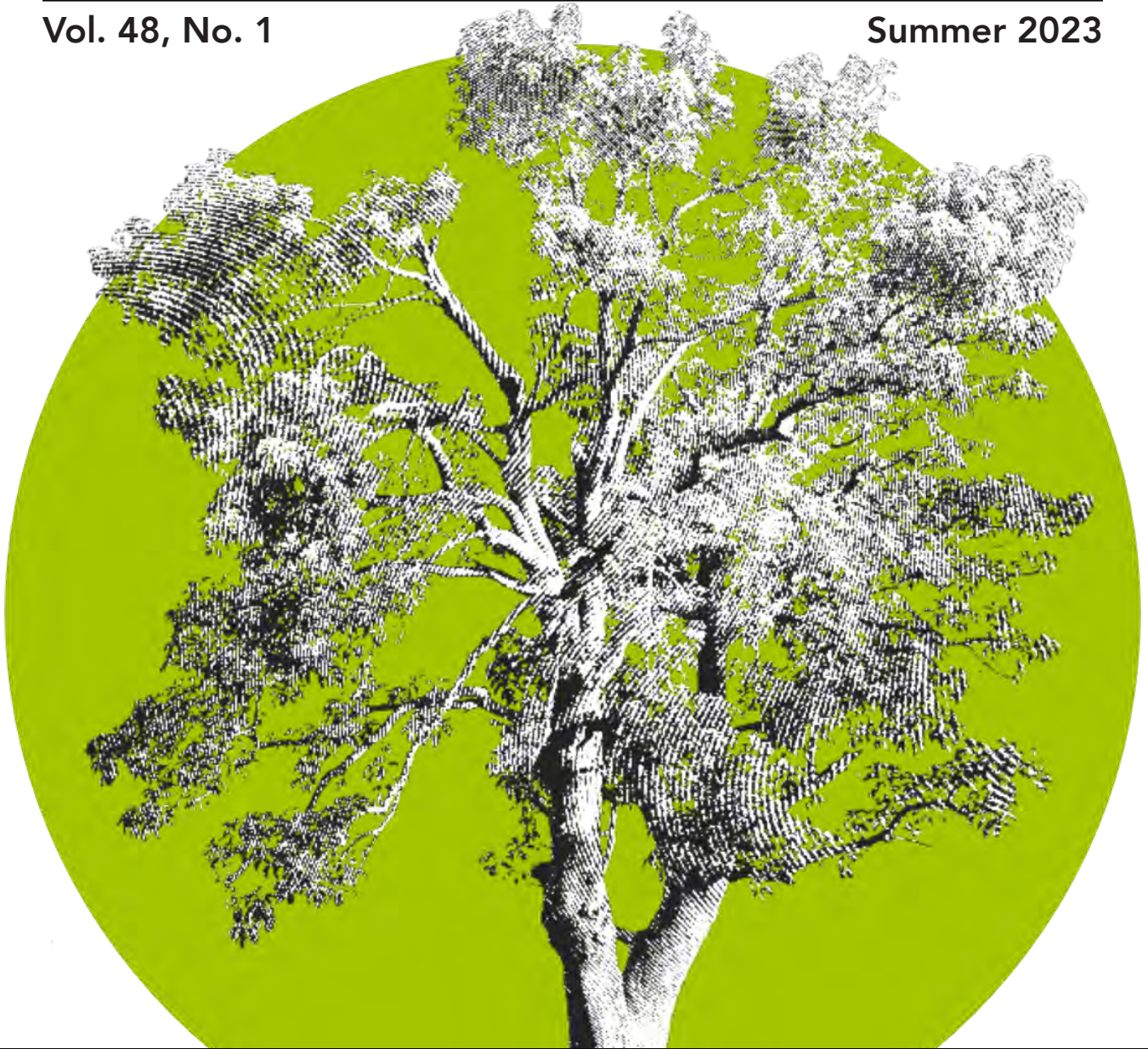


Guild Notes

Vol. 48, No. 1

Summer 2023



In this issue: *How to order the Jailhouse Lawyers Manual | 2022 NLG voting results | NLG statement in solidarity with Atlanta Forest Defenders | & more!*

Letter from the NLG Executive Director

To our members, supporters, and allies,

Thank you for taking the time to read this issue of Guild Notes. We're grateful for the opportunity to let you into our work, share resources, and platform the writing of our wonderful jailhouse lawyer members.

For those of you who don't know me, my name is JML Santiago and it is my deep honor to serve as the National Lawyers Guild's next Interim Executive Director. For the past 86 years, movements have put their faith in the Guild as the legal line of defense in the face of ever-worsening socioeconomic and political repression. I am humbled to be entrusted to steward us through this vital work in this vital time. As the late activist Lean Alejandro said, "The struggle for freedom is the next best thing to actually being free."

I am eternally grateful to the working class, diasporic, queer, disabled, femme of color communities that continue to uplift me to visions that I often do not see even for myself. I am grateful to be surrounded by a robust support system as we build more collective leadership, sharper shared political analyses, and stronger unities within the Guild. The utility and future of the Guild is contingent upon our ties to communities on the ground and we must systematically build the Guild to strengthen our contribution to this collective struggle for our peoples' freedom.

It brings me great joy and purpose to fight for liberation alongside each of you. I hope you find something in this issue that inspires you as we struggle onward together.

In solidarity,
JML Santiago (They/She)

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

Deadline for the next issue:
Monday, August 7, 2022

Visit 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.

Previous and current issues of *Guild Notes* are available for download online at nlg.org/guild-notes

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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National Lawyers Guild

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NLG-MIC Solitary Victory for 9 Prisoners, Including Jailhouse Lawyer and Abolitionist Sundiata Jawanza

By Adrian Noll of Roc's House Inc., NLG Mass Incarceration Committee

On October 28, 2022, Member of the Mass Incarceration Committee (MIC) of the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) and Jailhouse Lawyers Speak's Co-Founder, Sundiata Jawanza's fight against SCDC's Kirkland Correctional Solitary Housing Unit and Officers immediate outlook remained bleak. Oct 28th marked the 7th day classification had failed to meet with him after being unconstitutionally placed on their Restrictive Housing Unit.

Prior to Mr. Jawanza's unjust transfer to the RHU, he had been a target of Kirkland Correctional Institution due to the recent prison strike in Alabama - despite the fact Mr. Jawanza is incarcerated in South Carolina]. On September 26th the day the Alabama prison strike began, Mr. Jawanza was aggressively searched, stripped naked, and placed in solitary confinement with absolutely no charge. As a Politicized Prisoner, Mr. Jawanza frequently endures the gross practice of retaliation against politicized prisoners.

On October 23rd, members of the Mass Incarceration Committee (MIC) of the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) got the call regarding Mr. Jawanza being in RHU and needing immediate medical attention - they swiftly mobilized networks for Mr. Jawanza. Jenipher Jones, Co-Chair of the MIC, submitted a request for a legal call that same day, which went unanswered for 7 days. Adrian Noll, long-time political activist and a new and active member of the MIC, led massive phone zap campaigns and outside advocacy. After SCDC failed to respond to any legal call requests, Jenipher sent a legal letter to the SCDC, which outlined the MIC's

concerns regarding the constitutionality of this treatment, particularly denial of access to any form of legal communications and she made repeated requests. Mr. Jawanza also triggered inside processes to challenge his placement in solitary confinement and the loss of his property. The Co-Chairs of the MIC moved with urgency and diligence to equip Mr. Jawanza with legal advice and collectively fight against Kirkland Correctional Institution's inadequate demands.

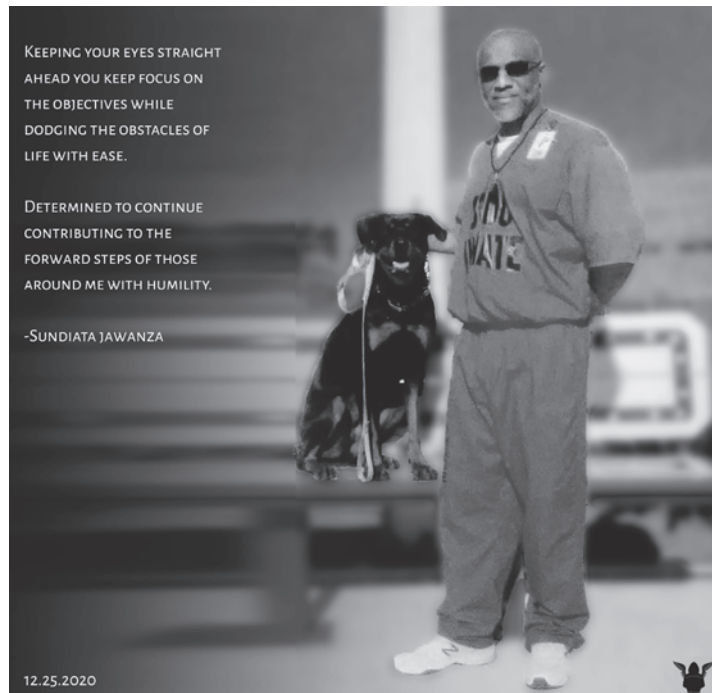
On Friday, November 4th, Mr. Jawanza and the MIC's immediate outlook no longer looked so bleak, as Jenipher Jones was notified by SCDC general counsel that she would be permitted to finally have a legal call and Mr. Jawanza was to be released from solitary confinement. What's most notable in this fight to victory is the courageous act of Mr. Jawanza using his time in solitary to urgently educate as many other prisoners in solitary that would listen when he encouraged them to speak up for their rights, and to understand a prisoner's human rights even in the darkest of places. As he led by example, eight other prisoners who were held in solitary without charge were released due to the above efforts.

We invite you to support Jailhouse Lawyer and Abolitionist Sundiata Jawanza by donating to the Mutual Aid Fund set up to help replace his collection of law books built up over many years as well as study materials, commissary and other essential items that were lost, confiscated and damaged during this time. Donations



National Lawyers Guild

can be made here: <https://givebutter.com/SJMIC>



Mr. Sundiata Jawanza and a dog

Photo credit: SCDC prison photo/
photo edits. Graphic design credit:
Adrian Noll of Roc's House Inc

NLG Issues Letter to Co-Sponsors of ABA Resolution 514 on Antisemitism

By NLG International Committee

On January 18, the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) joined more than 40 organizations in expressing strong opposition to ABA resolution 514 and its call to employ the discredited and malicious International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism.

The letter, co-written by the American Civil Liberties Union, Americans for Peace Now, Center for Constitutional Rights, Foundation for Middle East Peace, and Palestine Legal, notes that "the clear objective behind the promotion of the IHRA definition is the suppression of non-violent protest, activism, and criticism of Israel and/or Zionism – a fact that is so well-documented as to be beyond reasonable dispute."

On January 30, NLG issued a supplemental letter to the Co-Sponsors of

resolution 514, elaborating that the resolution "could have drastic consequences on the legal profession, in that it would greatly affect education at law firms, legal organizations and law schools across the country, chilling anti-racist speech."

The letter reiterates the importance of fighting antisemitism, but points out that the proposed resolution "would provide no new protections for Jewish people who are subjected to hatred or discrimination." NLG further urges advocates to consider "the true source of the current resurgence of hateful and often violent antisemitism: white supremacist groups," and to act in solidarity with Palestinian as well as Jewish liberation. ABA resolution 514 achieves neither goal.

Welcome to our new Jailhouse Lawyer members!

If you have received this, then you are now listed in our system as a member, which entails a subscription to our bi-annual *Guild Notes*, and a 2021 version of the Jailhouse Lawyer Handbook (how to bring a federal lawsuit to challenge violations of your rights in prison - for information on challenging criminal charges, you can order the Jailhouse Lawyer Manual, which is not one of our publications).

If you would like a handbook, you can write to: National Lawyers Guild, PO Box 1266, New York, NY 10009 (handbooks usually take up to a few months to be sent). Please note: we cannot provide any legal representation or referrals so please do not send any of your legal documents to us as we will not be able to return them.

NLG Co-Launches International People's Tribunal on U.S. Imperialism

By NLG International Committee

On Saturday, January 28, the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) co-launched the International People's Tribunal on U.S. Imperialism: Sanctions, Blockades, and Economic Coercive Measures. The Tribunal is an international effort to challenge U.S. imperialism and to build structures of accountability both within and outside the law.

"Sanctions are inherently violent measures designed to maintain hierarchy and inequality in the international economic and political system. They cause direct material harm not only to the people living on the receiving end of these policies, but to those who rely on trade and economic relations with sanctioned countries. " said Suzanne Adely, NLG President and People's Tribunal Steering Committee member. "The legal community needs to push

back against the narrative that sanctions are non-violent alternatives to warfare."

The Tribunal was conceived with the understanding that sanctions are a legal tool that enforces the underdevelopment in the Global South, enabling material exploitation, political subordination, and cultural domination in order to maintain the global supremacy of the United States.

The Tribunal interrogates sanctions from the perspective of those most impacted, not from the perspective of international legal organizations such as the United Nations or policymakers, both of which have been complicit in executing sanctions regimes. Sanctions are inherently violent measures designed to maintain hierarchy and inequality in the international economic and political system.



National Lawyers Guild

National Lawyers Guild Statement Condemning the Attempted Coup in Brazil

By NLG International Committee

The National Lawyers Guild (NLG) condemns the attempted coup d'état in Brazil on Sunday, January 8. Supporters of former president Jair Bolsonaro, including election deniers and pro-fascist coup mongers, invaded the Brazilian Congress, Supreme Court and Presidential building causing significant damage to the buildings and their contents including national artistic treasures. The coupists actions were an attempt to spur the support of the Brazilian military, which so far has not occurred.

In an echo of the aftermath of the 2020 U.S. election and the January 6 violence, the anti-democratic forces in Brazil have taken a page from the Trump playbook in claiming, without any proof, that the presidential election was fraudulent and that President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva is not Brazil's legitimate president. However, President Lula ordered the national military and civil police to clear the buildings and arrest those present. So far, there have been over 1,200 arrests with more pending. President Lula has ordered an investigation into the sources of financing and why the Federal District's police forces failed to act to prevent the attempted coup. There is substantial evidence the governor of the Federal District and his security minister were complicit in the coup actions of January 8, so much so that President Lula has ordered the federal security forces to take control of the Federal District.

The National Lawyers Guild supports the condemnations of the attempted coup from the U.S. President Biden and many members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, but we remain

very concerned about the continuing role of U.S. officials and members of Congress in promoting, fomenting, or sponsoring coup attempts not only in Brazil but throughout Latin America. Further, we condemn the silence from House Speaker Kevin McCarthy and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell on these events, further evidencing the undemocratic forces in control of the Republican Party. There is substantial evidence that allies of Trump have been advising Bolsonaro and his supporters on the course of action that resulted in the coup attempt.

Further, the National Lawyers Guild demands that the U.S. State Department cease to provide Bolsonaro and his family refuge in the United States and to deport him back to Brazil where he will face Brazilian justice for his actions in fomenting the coup attempt. The U.S. must cease to be a haven for every dictator or would-be dictator at the same time that it denies asylum to those fleeing political repression.

NLG offers its solidarity and support for the democratic forces in Brazil in their struggle to prevent a fascist coup.

NLG International supports legal work around the world "to the end that human rights and the rights of ecosystems shall be regarded as more sacred than property interests." As lawyers, law students, and legal activists, we seek to change U.S. foreign policy that threatens, rather than engages, or is based on a model of domination rather than respect. NLG provides assistance and solidarity to movements in the United States and abroad that work for social justice in this increasingly interconnected world.

NLG Iran Subcommittee Statement on Iranian Liberation

By NLG Iran Subcommittee of the International Committee

We are lawyers and legal workers committed to collectively abolishing oppression and helping build the liberation of all people.

We support the will of Iranians and their movement for liberation. We stand with them as they demand, design, and implement their future and reality.

We see Iranians from all corners of Iran demanding liberation and facing militant state violence. We see Iranians

capitalist, anti-patriarchal Kurdish women's battle cry of women, life, freedom. We honor the shared struggle and solidarity of all women who want to live free from control and oppression.

We reject invasion, war, and exploitation of Iranians. We recognize the pattern and practice of the global north and its appetite for control and exploitation. We condemn the harm inflicted upon Iranians through exploitation, extraction of resources, coups, and sanctions. We reject the orientalist narrative that Iranians cannot progress without western involvement.

We demand the release of all protesters and political prisoners in Iran and the termination of any executions. More than 15,000 protesters have been arrested and detained while awaiting trials. Prisoners are subjected to inhumane and abusive conditions, including torture, rape, and forced confessions. In addition, many imprisoned youths are held in psychiatric facilities for reeducation. Those facing the death penalty are journalists, students, artists, workers, activists, advocates, medical professionals, and those who have expressed their displeasure with the regime. Recently, 227 members of Iran's parliament demanded that the Judiciary issue death sentences for protestors.

We call on our local and global community of lawyers and legal workers to join us in demanding the release of all protesters and political prisoners. Furthermore, we demand that the Iranian Judiciary eliminate the death penalty.

“ We recognize the pattern and practice of the global north and its appetite for control and exploitation.

disappearing, the death count growing, and the jails and prisons filling up. We see young people, older people, and people from different cities and provinces openly opposing the existing Islamic Republic regime, its policies, and infrastructure.

We honor the solidarity shared by marginalized people worldwide with Iranians and their liberatory efforts. Indigenous and first nation women of Turtle Island cut their hair as a statement of solidarity, the women fighters of Nubar Ozanyan statement of solidarity, the Afghan women marching in the streets chanting the anti-imperialist, anti-



NLG Statement in Solidarity with Atlanta Forest Defenders

By NLG National Office

On Wednesday, January 18, Georgia State Patrol murdered Manuel "Tortuguita" Teran, who was camping in a public park to defend the Weelaunee Forest and stop the construction of Cop City. Over the weekend, six protesters were arrested and charged with domestic terrorism. In solidarity with the protesters, the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) calls for an end to the construction of Cop City and the ongoing police brutality against demonstrators.

NLG National joins our Atlanta and University of Georgia Chapters and comrades in mourning the devastating loss of a beloved community member. Tortuguita was a kind, passionate, and caring activist, who coordinated mutual aid and served as a trained medic. The Atlanta Community Press Collective is compiling memories and accounts of their life, and we encourage everyone to honor and remember Tortuguita through the words of those who love them.

As radical movement legal activists, NLG recognizes that this horrific murder and the related arrests are part of a nationwide attack on protesters, land defenders, and marginalized folks, especially Black, Indigenous, and other activists of color. Labeling these demonstrators "domestic terrorists" is a harrowing repetition of No DAPL activist Jessica Reznicek's terrorist enhancement last year, and both are clear indicators that the people in power view protesters and environmental activists as enemies of the state.

Though Atlanta city officials continue to insist that Cop City will keep the

community "safe," the destruction of the Weelaunee Forest will undoubtedly exacerbate the climate crisis and expand the policing of Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color in Atlanta. The ongoing arrests and brutalization of demonstrators opposing the deforestation of stolen Muscogee land proves that policing is the true threat to our collective safety.

We reject the various attempts by the Georgia State Patrol and Atlanta officials to disregard these community members as "outside agitators." This kind of language attempts to discredit the very important, justice-oriented goals of the community members defending the Forest.

“ People in power view protesters and environmental activists as enemies of the state.

Our comrades defending the Weelaunee Forest are advocating for racial, environmental, and economic justice. In solidarity with their efforts, NLG encourages everyone to support the movement in whatever way is most accessible to them.



DEFEND THE FIRST AMENDMENT DEFEND THE ATLANTA FOREST

NLG, HRW, and 40+ Human and Environmental Rights Organizations Condemn the State Repression Against Cop City Protesters

By NLG National Office

On Monday, April 10, the National Lawyers Guild (NLG), Human Rights Watch, Southern Center for Human Rights (SCHR), and more than 40 other human and environmental rights organizations co-issued a statement condemning the prosecution of activists and forest defenders in Atlanta, Georgia.

"Prosecutors in Georgia are launching a terrifying attack on our First Amendment rights to free speech and assembly," said NLG President Suzanne Adely. "The legal community must join together in solidarity with the activists in Atlanta. This kind of state repression threatens our collective ability to advocate for justice."

"The Southern Center for Human Rights has for decades supported the right to dissent by representing and coordinating defense for protesters," said SCHR Public Policy Director, Tiffany Williams Roberts. "This dangerous escalation by the state

toward the community, inclusive of aggressive prosecution of lawful protest, underscores the harm that would be perpetuated by Cop City."

Read the full letter below:

At bond hearings recently held for people arrested while protesting the planned environmental degradation and increased policing in Atlanta, Georgia, prosecutors have made a number of alarming and specious arguments that function to criminalize not only constitutionally protected rights to speech and assembly, but also the exercise of various rights to legal counsel, support, and education. Notably, prosecutors argued that having a jail-support phone number written on one's body constitutes evidence of criminal intent. This assertion is especially concerning given the escalating efforts by law enforcement and legislators to



National Lawyers Guild

criminalize protest in the United States and, more specifically, to exact punishment of Cop City protesters, up to and including the police murder of forest defender Tortuguita.

Writing a jail support hotline number on one's arm is not evidence of criminal intent; in fact, it is conduct protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. Moreover, there is a long and well-documented history of law enforcement using indiscriminate arrests as a means of disrupting entirely lawful protest activity. That a person has written a legal-support hotline number on their arm is significant of their awareness that their own civil rights may be violated based on their participation in protest activity, however lawful.

Jail-support hotlines offer necessary, constitutionally protected resources to anybody who might have unwanted interactions with law enforcement; it is common practice to encourage protesters to access these hotlines for purposes of helping legal support to track arrests, inform arrestees of their legal rights and responsibilities, and connect detainees with legal counsel, to which they are entitled under the Sixth Amendment. People write these numbers on their arms in preparation for demonstrations precisely because they know they may be unjustly detained, and because they know that police use mass arrest as a form of crowd control that is calculated to disrupt protected speech.

All persons arrested are entitled to reach out to community support and legal counsel, regardless of the evidence of their guilt. Here, police arrested 23 individuals at a music festival — conduct entirely protected by the First Amendment — and held many in pretrial detention, punishing people for

involvement in activist movements without conviction of any crime. Prosecutors have charged them, astonishingly, with domestic terrorism. It appears that prosecutors have endeavored to substitute evidence of constitutionally protected activity for probable cause or meaningful evidence of unlawful conduct. This is legally insupportable and an exercise in extreme bad faith.

For prosecutors to suggest that using a jail support hotline is evidence of criminal intent is a legally unsound argument, which falls afoul of the First Amendment prohibitions on state interference with political expression and association, as well as Sixth Amendment guarantees to counsel. These arguments operate to disrupt and chill legally protected speech and assembly, and to criminalize the practices of criminal defense, community support, and popular legal education.

In defense of the constitutionally protected speech and assembly outlined above, we are calling for the state of Georgia to drop all domestic terrorism charges against activists and festival attendees defending the Atlanta forest. Further, we are calling for an end to the alarming arguments against legal support hotlines.

That these arguments are being shamelessly made and uncritically accepted signals a crisis of the legal system that puts activists and allies under direct threat and scrutiny from the government. This trend warrants immediate, widespread condemnation by all members of the legal community, and all those who take seriously the constitutional obligations of the state and its agents.

Results of 2022 NLG Voting

By NLG National Office

Thank you to everyone who participated in our 2022 voting process. Each proposal passed! The full results, including the total vote count, are included below.

- **Legal Worker Amendment**
 - YES: 406
 - NO: 124
- **Resolution to Revoke Delaware-New Jersey NLG Chapter Charter**
 - YES: 389
 - NO: 67
- Article 8 Amendments
 - **Amendment to Article 8.1**
 - YES: 395
 - NO: 102
 - **Amendment to Article 8.2**
 - YES: 381
 - NO: 112
 - **Amendment to Article 8.3**
 - YES: 389
 - NO: 104
 - **Amendment to Article 8.4**
 - YES: 386
 - NO: 106
 - **Amendment to Article 8.5**
 - YES: 386
 - NO: 104
- **Amendment to Bylaws Section 2 – Dissolution of Chapters**
 - YES: 110
 - NO: 85
- **Amendment to Constitution Article 3.2 – Regions**
 - YES: 112
 - NO: 80
- **Amendment to Update Constitution Article 7 – Referenda**
 - YES: 126
 - NO: 41
- Article 5 Amendments
 - **Amendment to Article 5.2(a)**
 - YES: 132
 - NO: 43
 - **Amendment to Article 5.1**
 - YES: 134
 - NO: 42
- **Resolution to include Buffalo in the Northeast Region**
 - YES: 166
 - NO: 26



- **NLG Resolution Calling for a Reinvigorated Solidarity Campaign with the Cuban People**
 - YES: 421
 - NO: 41
- **Challenging Empire: National Lawyers Guild Resolution in Support of Anti-Colonialism, Anti-Racism, and Indigenous Sovereignty**
 - YES: 412
 - NO: 54
- **Emergency Resolution: In Support of Palestinian Liberation and Berkeley Law Students Confronting Repression**
 - YES: 401
 - NO: 59
- **Resolution on Corporate Constitutional Rights**
 - YES: 353
 - NO: 70
- **Amendment to Change Bylaws Section 1.6 and 1.7 – Progressive Dues Schedules**
 - YES: 186
 - NO: 12
- **Amendment to Change Bylaws Section 1.7 – Dues Schedules**
 - YES: 159
 - NO: 21
- **Amendment to Change Bylaws Section 8.12 – Vote Timing**
 - YES: 153
 - NO: 21
- **Amendment to Change Bylaws Section 8.3 – Sending Proposed Resolutions and Amendments**
 - YES: 151
 - NO: 24
- **Amendment to Change Bylaws Section 15 – Convention Evaluation and Survey**
 - YES: 140
 - NO: 23
- **Amendment to Change Constitution Article 2.2(c) – At-Large Membership**
 - YES: 155
 - NO: 21
- **Amendment to Change Constitution Article 3.1(c) – Geographic Chapters**
 - YES: 135
 - NO: 36
- **Amendment to Change Constitution Article 3.4 – Denial of Chapter Application**
 - YES: 138
 - NO: 36
- **Amendment to Change Constitution Article 5.11 – Travel Expenses**
 - YES: 164
 - NO: 20

A Message from Voices of the Experienced (VOTE) and Abolitionist Law Center (ALC)

Submitted by VOTE and ALC

No New BOP Prison in Letcher County, Kentucky

The Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) announced last September that they were beginning the administrative process required to clear the way for the construction of a new medium security prison in the coalfields of eastern Kentucky. This is a pork-barrel prison, which has been explicitly justified as a tool of economic development for the impoverished congressional district of Representative Harold Rogers. The Department of Justice has stated publicly that the prison is unneeded because of the large decline in the BOP's incarcerated population. The prison would be sited on a Mountain-Top-Removal (MTR) coal mine, raising health concerns for people incarcerated and working there. It is also an extremely isolated location, hundreds of miles away from major urban centers and transportation hubs, making visitation by the family members of incarcerated people practically impossible.

They tried to build this prison once before. From 2015-2019, the BOP attempted to get through the administrative process required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). A coalition of local residents, federal incarcerated individuals, environmentalist and abolitionist organizations successfully forced them to abandon the project in 2019, after years of advocating against the prison and finally filing a lawsuit to force the issue. We aim to repeat this success, but we need your help. When the BOP publishes its Draft Environmental Impact Statement later this year, we need people incarcerated in the federal system to send in comments opposing their plan. If you are incarcerated in a federal facility and are interested in making sure this prison is not built, please reach out to our campaign at:

Emily Posner
Attn: No Letcher Prison
4930 Washington Ave Suite D
New Orleans, La 70118
(225) 746-8820
emily@voiceoftheexperienced.org



National Lawyers Guild

Announcing the 2023 NLG Haywood Burns Fellows

By NLG National Office

The NLG National Office is thrilled to introduce our 2023 Haywood Burns Fellowship recipients!

The Fellowships sponsor law students and legal workers to spend the summer working for public interest organizations across the country in order to build their legal skills, strengthen their long-term commitment to social justice, and provide much-needed legal support to under-served communities.

This year we will send five fellows to work on projects focusing on environmental justice, immigration, right to housing, Native criminal defense, and representing social justice activists. More information on the fellowships and full bios of fellows are included below!

All images submitted by Fellows.



Sarina Larson is a 2L in Jackson, Mississippi, in training to become a movement lawyer. As a Haywood Burns Fellow, she will support a radical defense attorney who has defended movements around the world for over four decades: Stanley Cohen. Sarina founded and co-organized the NLG chapter at her law school in Jackson and is an active member of the NLG Mass Defense Committee (MDC).



Charlotte Colantti is a mother and 1L at Mitchell Hamline School of Law in Saint Paul, Minnesota, where she is pursuing a certificate in Native Law and Sovereignty. Through the Haywood Burns Fellowship, Charlotte will be working at the [Regional Native Defense Corporation](#), a non-profit criminal defense firm in rural northern Minnesota that represents tribal members from Leech Lake and White Earth reservations charged with crimes in state court.



Stephanie Chavez is a first generation Latina, born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona by Mexican Immigrants. As a Haywood Burns fellow, Stephanie is dedicating her time at [Colectiva Legal Del Pueblo](#), a local Seattle non-profit committed to providing low-bono/pro-bono legal services, community education, advocacy and organizing. Currently, Stephanie is a law clerk for the Washington State Bar Association APR 6 Law Clerk Program. This program is a four-year alternative to law school designed for law clerks to learn through practical experience and traditional studies.



Alyssa Meurer is a 2L at the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law. Through the support of the Haywood Burns Fellowship, Alyssa will be spending the summer with the Racial Justice team of the [Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area](#), fighting for the right to housing, the end to police brutality, and the empowerment of communities impacted by the criminal penal system.



Michael Ohora is a 2L student at the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University, interested in environmental law. As a Haywood Burns fellow, he will be working with the [Environmental Justice Initiative / New York Environmental Law and Justice Project](#). He is committed to public interest law and holding capitalists responsible for climate change while helping vulnerable communities adapt to future climate threats.



Correction to Guild Notes Vol. 47 No. 1 'Funding Opportunities for Jailhouse Lawyers'

By Ursula Curiosa

A number of people wrote to the Breaking Point Project address included in *Guild Notes Vol. 47 No. 1*, and reported that the address didn't work.

Please see below for the corrected mailing address of the Breaking Point Project:

Breaking Point Project
271 Cadman Plaza East
P.O. Box 22513
Brooklyn, NY 11202

NLG Blog: Student Loans Must Go

By Christopher Chavis, former [NLG-LA](#) Executive Director

President Joe Biden recently announced a plan to cancel a limited amount of student loans for borrowers making under \$125,000 per year. The plan calls for \$20,000 in cancellation for those who received Pell Grants and \$10,000 for all other eligible borrowers. This plan is a critical first step in addressing the student loan crisis, but there's still a lot to be done. This plan does not fully address the systemic inequities that fuel the student loan crisis and does not establish a plan to prevent further escalation. As students return to campuses around the country, we must ensure that this issue remains at the top of everyone's priority list.

The existence of tuition—and by extension, student loan debt—is problematic. It commodifies knowledge and creates barriers to education, a fact that leads to the insidious idea that higher education is only a means to find employment. Students are being pushed into certain majors or fields because the status quo presents college as an investment that is meant to "pay off," rather than a personal or intellectual experience. This is classist. A student from

a lower socioeconomic background is expected to select a "lucrative" major or attend graduate programs that filter into higher-paying fields. However, a student from a wealthier socioeconomic background can "afford" to major in whatever they wish because their families can absorb the cost of their education. Their family's financial circumstances should not dictate a student's academic experience.

Higher education is meant to be an experience through which a student can



broaden their horizons, learn new things, meet people from different backgrounds, and have experiences that contribute to personal development. The Yale Report of 1828 captured this historical mission when it plainly stated, “[t]he course of instruction which is given to the undergraduates in the college, is not designed to include professional studies. Our object is not to teach that which is peculiar to any one of the professions; but to lay the foundation which is common to them all.” At its core, higher education is meant to be a way to lay a foundation of knowledge that will be beneficial in a person’s professional and personal endeavors.

When the Yale Report was written, there were only a handful of colleges, and access to higher education was almost exclusively limited to the financially well-off. As access to higher education has grown, however, this mission has been applied inequitably. The fact that your college experience depends on parental income is an outgrowth of the classist idea that college should cost money. A student should not be sentenced to years of debt just because they dared to explore an area of personal interest. They should also not be subjected to debt for pursuing a well-rounded curriculum instead of specialization. Those who do go on to professional programs should not be saddled with debt for pursuing a less lucrative field within that profession, such as public interest law.

As the Los Angeles chapter of the National Lawyers Guild noted in our press release on this matter, student loan debt disproportionately impacts Black, Indigenous, and other people of color. Generations of intentionally racist policy decisions caused BIPOC to collectively hold less wealth than white households.

“Separate but equal” was a myth propagated by white supremacists. BIPOC around the country saw their communities decimated and destroyed by white supremacist politicians who would rather sentence these communities to a lifetime of poverty than see them thrive. As opportunities to attend colleges have increased for students of color, so has tuition. As new highways to knowledge are being built, toll booths are being made right in front of them.

Tuition is also rising at a pace that far outpaces inflation. According to Law School Transparency, attending a public law school would have only cost \$4,763 in 2019 dollars per year in 1985. By 2019, the average tuition was \$28,186. In essence, law school is almost six times more expensive (when adjusted for inflation) than it was nearly four decades ago. The ability to attend law school with low or no debt is a privilege increasingly reserved for the wealthy or those fortunate to receive a scholarship. However, students who do receive scholarships are also often subjected to strict GPA requirements. If a student fails to meet those criteria, they either abandon law school or go into further debt to complete their studies. Neither is an optimal choice, especially considering how factors like holding a part time job, maintaining familial obligations, and facing institutional discrimination can negatively impact GPA at no fault of the student themselves.

This affordability crisis results in low-income students being disadvantaged regarding career options. While programs such as Income-Based Repayment (IBR) and Pay As You Earn (PAYE) exist to lessen the burden of monthly payments, they do not erase the debt in the short term. Further, they are a band-aid that leads



graduates deeper into debt. Even if students make their payments on time, negative amortization will lead them deeper into debt as interest compounds. The fact that a student can pay their loans on time and still accrue more debt represents a structural inequity designed to benefit the federal government. When interest compounds on existing debt, that is additional money that the student must pay to the federal government or private lenders, who profit from the pain inflicted upon low-income people and their families. The government should never profit from the hardships of its citizens.

This crisis has direct impacts on public interest community work. A low-income student may find it prohibitively difficult to return and serve their community and may feel pressured to take a higher-paying job, to pay down their student loan balance. While the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program exists to mitigate that concern, it does not fully encapsulate the myriad of ways that a person can serve their community. For example, a student who returns to serve their community by working for a small law firm would not be eligible for PSLF

because they are not working for a non-profit entity. Additionally, PSLF requires ten years of qualified employment before forgiving the debt—a timeframe that may be especially daunting for students from low-income backgrounds.

It is unconscionable that higher education is hidden behind an increasingly expanding paywall. Recognition of this fact is gaining traction among lawmakers, and what was once a fringe idea is moving into the mainstream. President Biden's limited cancellation is a step forward but more needs to be done. This issue is a matter of equity and justice. As students accumulate astronomical amounts of student loan debt, the avenues through which they can serve their communities are closing.

Americans collectively hold \$1.75 trillion in student loan debt. In 2019, President Donald Trump signed a \$1.9 trillion tax cut into law, which disproportionately favored corporations and high-income earners. We know that this is possible and the Biden Administration must stand on the side of equity and justice. Student loans must go.

Want to be featured in the NLG blog?

NLG members with experience with or expertise on a particular movement-related topic are encouraged to submit their writing to the NLG blog! We're especially excited about publishing work that responds directly to current events.

Blog pieces should be under 1,000 words in length and written to be as widely accessible as possible.

To pitch an idea, email communications@nlg.org and education@nlg.org explaining your topic and perspective. These pitches don't need to be long—just give us a sense of what you're hoping to write and why!

Accepted blog pitches will be published and promoted with support from NLG National Office staff.

In Memoriam: Sheila O'Donnell

By Andrea Biren



Sheila O'Donnell

Photo submitted by Andrea Biren

In Loving Memory of Sheila O'Donnell (January 9, 1945 – October 10, 2022)

Our dear friend Sheila Frances O'Donnell, died on October 10, 2022, in Marin County, California, after valiantly fighting cancer for decades. Her determination and insightful, loving and supportive spirit continue to inspire and sustain us. She will live in our hearts.

Sheila was born on January 9, 1945 in Melrose, Massachusetts to Anne and Walter, Sr. O'Donnell. She is survived by her sister Anita O'Donnell of Portland, Maine. Her brother, Walter, Jr. died in 1963.

Following her graduation from Mt. Alvernia High School in Newton, Massachusetts, Sheila completed college courses in elementary education, paralegal and secretarial studies. With the rise of the civil rights and peace movements of the 1960s and 70s, she moved to Washington, DC, where she

became a nationally known legal activist and an internationally respected private investigator. She worked closely with renowned Virginia civil rights attorney Phil Hirschkop and colleagues in the National Lawyers Guild on the defense of antiwar protestors, including those arrested at the November 1969 March on Washington and the 1971 May Day protests.

Sheila lent her exceptional investigative and organizational skills to the antinuclear power movement, initially with the Clamshell Alliance in the mid-1970s, which successfully opposed the construction of the Seabrook Station nuclear power plant in New Hampshire. In the post-Watergate era Sheila became a known critic and investigator of US and state intelligence agencies, cofounding and publishing the journal "The Public Eye," and working closely with "Covert Action Information Bulletin" and Political Research Associates. Among her publications was "Common Sense Security," common-sense-security for social change activists and organizers. She was also a co-founder and editor of Propaganda Review magazine in San Francisco.

In 1985 Sheila moved to Marin County, California, and joined attorney Beverly Axelrod in the progressive firm Ace Investigations. She worked internationally for environmental and animal rights groups like Greenpeace and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), as well as in aid of wrongfully charged defendants and grassroots activists. In the course of her career, she participated in the legal appeals of death row prisoners, many



National Lawyers Guild

young men of color; joined in the criminal defense of leaders of the American Indian Movement following their 1973 stand at Wounded Knee; and was critical in the successful lawsuit of environmental activist Judi Bari against the FBI and the Oakland Police Department. In February 1995, Mother Jones magazine featured Sheila as "Hellraiser of the Month!"

During the many years Sheila lived in Bolinas, California, she served on the boards of the Bolinas Fire Department and KWMR - community radio, and volunteered as an educational docent for the Audubon Canyon Ranch in Stinson Beach. Having learned the importance of being a strong advocate for her own health, she helped run the Center for Attitudinal Healing counseling program for cancer survivors' partners and created a support group for survivors with metastasized cancer, sharing medical knowledge and healing strategies. Some six years ago, she fell and lost the use of

her right arm at the shoulder. She made the courageous decision to have an amputation. Then she taught herself to write with her left hand and continued her life's work.

Sheila will be remembered for her immense energy and positivity, wisdom and generosity – as a wonder woman who devoted her life to seeking justice and helping others in myriad ways. Her special keen sense of humor and raucous laughter rings in our ears. She will be sorely missed by all who knew her and benefited from her singular help.

Contributions in Sheila's honor and memory can be made to:

- The National Lawyers Guild Mass Defense Fund
- Commonweal Cancer Help Program
- or, in Sheila's generous spirit of support, to any organization that is meaningful to you.

In Memoriam: Walter Gerash

Submitted by NLG Colorado, written by Mike McPhee

Denver's Defender

Walter Gerash died on May 7, 2023. More than anybody else, he was the city's premier attorney during the last half of the 20th century. In countless cases, he was in court defending political radicals and people accused of sensational crimes. Often extremely outspoken and eccentric, he blazed a trail for an alternative community.

Born to Russian Jewish immigrants in the Bronx on November 24, 1926, he joined the Army at age 17 to fight fascism. After getting out of the service, he moved to Los Angeles where his family had been economically successful.

Originally, he hoped to become a history professor, gaining a master's in the subject from the University of Chicago. By that time, he embraced dissident opinions about the Soviet Union and essentially found himself red-baited out of the doctoral program.

Back in Los Angeles and recently married, he entered the law program of UCLA in 1953. He found it sterile while snitches accused him of being a member of the Communist Party. In contrast, he found a welcoming spirit when he transferred to the College of Law of the University of Denver in 1955.

On joining the bar the next year, Gerash went to work for a veteran criminal defense attorney Francis P. O'Neill. In no time, he was in the courtroom, representing defendants in highly publicized cases. Often unorthodox in his approach, the attorney quickly established an amazing winning record. He was a well-known member of the bar by the time he established an independent practice in 1958.

Gerash was anything but a conventional lawyer. He constantly came up with innovative approaches. At times, he appeared totally befuddled before springing into action. A trial, he repeatedly insisted, was not just a matter of evidence, but also of the sentiments of the community. This came out when he represented people accused of breaking in the law when they crusaded for civil rights and opposed the war machine. With other members of the National Lawyers Guild, a progressive association of attorneys, Gerash was constantly in court in the 1960s and 1970s representing civil rights protestors, members of the Black Panthers Party, student radicals, those crusading for peace, and the Chicano Crusade for Justice.

Typical of Gerash's commitment to free speech and a democratic community was how he rushed out of his house near midnight in late 1966 when he learned that the police had arrested members of the San Francisco Mime Troupe while staging a politically charged play at the old Phipps Auditorium in City Park. The drama mocked the military establishment and the Vietnam War. The city waged a vindictive prosecution against the actors before Gerash convinced a jury that the



Walter Gerash

Photo submitted by Mike McPhee

defendants were not guilty of breaking any laws. He continued such political defense work, most of which was pro bono, until his retirement in the early 21st century.

Gerash also took on the defense of clients accused of sensational crimes. Among them was Ross Carlson, a troubled teenager who murdered his parents. He showed the defendant was suffering from what was then known as multi-personality disorder. In another case, he successfully represented heavyweight boxing contender Ron Lyle against murder charges after Lyle had shot an associate. In a case broadcast on Court TV, he was the counsel for retired Denver police sergeant Jim King who was charged with murdering four bank guards and stealing \$200,000 in the so-called Father's Day on June 16, 1991. Additionally, Gerash was most successful as a personal-injury attorney, winning



National Lawyers Guild

numerous large verdicts and settlements for clients harmed by corporate negligence. In the process, he showed lawyers can be leaders of the drive to impose a slight responsibility on the business establishment.

Both in court and on a personal level, Gerash often appeared as if he were highly confused. Critics accused him of having a selective memory. This was something of a guise. Suddenly, he sprung alive, tearing apart witnesses during cross-examinations. In his highly publicized trials, he came across as both a relentless fighter for his clients and something of a field marshal mobilizing his witnesses as he often ran rings around the prosecution.

Gerash was very much committed to the city's history. For years, his law office was in the only surviving 19th-century house in the center of the Central Business District, a personal statement of his love of the community in which he succeeded. Simultaneously, he was a devotee of mid-century modern architecture while he collected art. Though not religiously observant, Gerash was proud of his Jewish heritage. Additionally, he was an extremely devoted chess player.

At times, Gerash clashed with associates and family members. He went through three marriages. In recent years, he was in assisted living. He leaves behind sons Douglass and Daniel and grandchildren.

In Memoriam: Karen Jo Koonan

Submitted by NLG SF-BA Chapter



Karen Jo Koonan speaking at the 2018 NLG
#Law4thePeople Convention

On Monday, June 5, we said goodbye to the indomitable Karen Jo Koonan. The enormity of this loss weighs heavy on those in the National Lawyers Guild who knew her, who worked with her, and who loved her. As the first legal worker to serve as national NLG President, Karen Jo's compassionate, bold leadership played an immeasurable role in making the NLG what it is today.

In honor of her life and legacy, the annual NLG Legal Worker Award will now be the Karen Jo Koonan Award. We hope that creating this space to celebrate her life will inspire us all to carry her memory forward.

To those who had the privilege of knowing her, Karen Jo was so many things—leader, mentor, advocate, friend. Her absence leaves a hole that is hard to fully grasp.

Karen Jo was diagnosed with cancer in the fall of 2022. After learning of her diagnosis, she refused to slow down, consulting from the hospital while getting chemotherapy and sharing a part of her incredible story with the Guild at a special webinar in February of this year, a recording of which can be found at this link. We encourage you to take the time to listen to her life in her own words.

When chemotherapy did not prevent the cancer from spreading, Karen Jo entered hospice still determined to dedicate what hours she could to her work. Throughout it all, she sent messages of love and care to those she held dear, sat with her friends and loved ones to hold their grief with them, and expressed her joy over the wonderful legacy she would leave.

When our comrades at the SF-BA Chapter spoke with Karen Jo towards the end of her life, she said that she was at peace with the end of her time on this Earth. She reflected on the two amazing daughters she had raised, Camisha and Taima, and the many other women she cared for like family. She spoke with pride about the accomplishments of her grandchildren and the incredible futures they had ahead. She treasured the ways both big and small that she contributed to this world. And she passed with the certainty that she made the biggest and best impact that she knew how.

In the coming months, both NLG National and the SF-BA Chapter will be honoring and remembering Karen Jo and her extraordinary contributions to our work. In the meantime, know that Karen Jo would not want you to wallow in sorrow over her loss. She would want you to press on, love one another, and carry



1999 Allen Pogue

Karen Jo Koonan with Arthur Kinoy at a demonstration

her with you as you fight injustice with the ferocity that she showed every day.

"Be kind, generous and make the world a better place."

Karen Jo Koonan August 7, 1945 - June 5, 2023.

This letter is adapted from the SF-BA announcement of Karen Jo's passing, originally written by EmilyRose Johns and Camilo Perez-Bustillo



Beyond Bars: My Story

By Clifton Eugene Neely
Houston, TX

How it all started for me, like most others who are incarcerated, the people who seem out of the box, weird, usually stick to themselves or, like myself, "a socially awkward person." I've come to find out from people who were some of the few who either understood or took the time to be reasonable to understand me. It was brought to my attention that I was "socially awkward," cause when it came to conversations, it was hard for me. I'd have something in mind and if I waited even barely 10-30 seconds to speak on it, it would vanish. I never knew it was bad until I was forced to be around all types of personalities.

The worst part for me, when it comes to arguments or proving things, is I don't usually have any issues. As we know, when you're not incarcerated, you can do things like get your phone, Google, or YouTube to answer or fact check simple arguments. For anything stronger, you can have access to your possessions, witnesses, etc. However, being incarcerated, there is a simple first move like in war: "cut off communications or limit it." I was cut off from not only the world where I might be able to ask bosses, friends, or companies, but from direct access to where I can get my resources from. In a war, direct access to your resources or communications is key. That's what a prosecutor does, that's what incarceration does: to be able to disengage the target.

I've come to find out that incarceration is only the beginning. The next thing is, if you're in a county jail, much like prisons, is to keep you uneducated or uninformed.

The biggest thing is being incarcerated and becoming what is known as "unwary." There's two parts to being an unaware person, after release or as a defendant.

Regarding the unwary defendant, I feel like it's kind of messed up when a defendant can't get info or resources, including known information from his or her witnesses. I've heard, read, and seen where a person commits to bring something up, but it was rather "too late," not brought up in the beginning, or not challenged, so there is nothing to object to, consider, or even appeal. Basically, being unwary, there's nothing to provide you with what you should do next or be prepared for, and even a lot of innocent people are caught in that trap and end up losing or pleading.

A person can only go so long being innocent and taken away from everything, losing your kids if you have any, your significant other, and all of the things that supported or made you. Your job, car, sometimes friends, and even family. It becomes too hard on a person when each court is reset, or no attorney shows up, or no matter what you say to your attorney about your defense, they seem to forget or ignore it. Again, "you are incarcerated." Every court date is extended, sometimes 2 or 3 months out. If you're lucky, it can be extended within a few days or weeks, but in most cases, a person usually is incarcerated anywhere near 8 months to sitting for over 4-5 years. Then everyone hears things about how attorneys don't show, how the justice system is screwed up, how to sign and

stay out of the way, and then hearing a judge make statements about being lenient to scare a person into signing [a deal].

Imagine all the pressure of bad news, feeling like nobody is on your side, and you're losing everything. The emotional stress builds up with anger, hate, loneliness, hurt, and fear as people lose themselves and end up signing a plea deal. I had a friend who took 20 years on his first offer. He had defenses, but he was so scared.

The majority suffer a great deal. Not understanding the law and your defenses makes you unwary, your ineffective

attorney going to trial without being prepared, taking a plea deal because you're losing support, loved ones, possessions, or even going insane and committing suicide. And if someone doesn't like you or wants to bully or threaten you, a judge can use your defense as a reason why you're not ready for release, bond, probation, or parole.

To the world that doesn't know, this is what a person goes through. Protection will be very slim and incarceration doesn't help. Thank you very much for reading my story. A lot is what I've gone through myself or have witnessed others go through.

Beyond Bars: Book Review: The Texas Citebook by S. Brandeis-Ruiz (2022)

By Jeremy Adler
Abilene, TX

I don't often get too excited by legal books — they are often extremely dry and excruciatingly boring. The Texas Citebook by S. Brandeis-Ruiz on the other hand was actually inspiring and gave me a sense that I could actually master the intricacies of the law. Over the years, I have had numerous citation books, but The Texas Citebook is the first Texas-specific legal citebook that I have ever seen. It has over 1,400 Texas case laws on 100 different legal topics. I could not think of a topic it did not cover. The author has obviously done his research to present the best Texas cases that are essential to any meaningful endeavor to learn the law.

A lot of legal books can be large, chunky books that are a hassle to carry through shakedown. The Texas Citebook seems deliberately designed to eliminate that problem while not compromising valuable content. It is easy to use and I

spent literally hours skimming through the treasure trove of case laws and always found gems. It has made my legal research so much easier, so much so that I don't know how I ever researched without it.

The Texas Citebook is the first in a series that has the potential to revolutionize legal reference books in Texas – which, until now, have been dishearteningly void of any really valuable books accessible to incarcerated people. Forbidden Books Library (the publisher) intends to expand the series to include books on PDR, DNA motions, and others. I really can't wait.

The Texas Citebook is available on Amazon or directly from the publisher. For more information, send a SASE to:

Forbidden Books Library
RE: ORDER FORM
P.O. Box 534
Schererville, IN 46375



National Lawyers Guild

Beyond Bars: A Poem

By Adrian Francis Williams
Malone, FL

Being a National Lawyers Guild team/family member...
Is something I like to remember...
Knowing its good people that want me free...
So I can float on a boat made out of steel and timber...
Doing good things, helping the righteous remember...
Then you always have something to thank God for...
Every day especially December and November...
Jehovah and Jesus loves us if we keep our focus on...
We will not only do bigger and bigger things...
But those who are in bondage will soon go home...
No matter if it looks like they are stuck by some steel or stuck by a stone...
Freedom is knowledge, wisdom, and understanding of knowing what's going on!
Thank God for blessing us with that kind of throne...

Beyond Bars: Humanity

By Nicka Ray
Milledgeville, GA

Since former President Richard Nixon with his "tough on crime" rhetoric and "war on drugs," they have used a criminal-justice approach when they should have used a public health approach.

They've created a whole matrix for imprisoning, arresting, condemning, and marginalizing millions of people in this country (the land of the free). America is the most punitive country in the world. (Sweet land of liberty?) Where is criminal justice inequality most evident? This system treats you better if you are rich

and guilty than if you are poor and innocent.

Well, as a proud NLG Jailhouse Lawyer, I'm compelled to share this point of view: when the prison gates slam behind an inmate, he does not lose his humanity; his mind does not become closed to ideas; his intellect does not cease to feed on a free and open interchange of opinions; his yearning for self-respect does not end; nor is his quest for self-realization concluded. If anything, the need for self-respect and identity are more compelling in the demeaning prison environment.

Information about the Jailhouse Lawyers Manual

Full table of contents for the latest Jailhouse Lawyers Manual:

- Chapter 1:** How to Use the JLM
- Chapter 2:** Introduction to Legal Research
- Chapter 3:** Your Right to Learn the Law and Go to Court
- Chapter 4:** How to Find a Lawyer
- Chapter 5:** Choosing a Court and a Lawsuit
- Chapter 6:** An Introduction to Legal Documents
- Chapter 7:** Freedom of Information
- Chapter 8:** Obtaining Information to Prepare Your Case: The Process of Discovery
- Chapter 9:** How to Attack Your Conviction or Sentence
- Chapter 10:** Applying for Re-Sentencing for Drug Offenses
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- Chapter 12:** Appealing Your Conviction Based on Ineffective Assistance of Counsel
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- Chapter 20:** Using Article 440 of the NY Criminal Procedure Law to Attack Your Unfair Conviction or Illegal Sentence
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- Chapter 23:** Your Right to Adequate Medical Care
- Chapter 24:** Your Right to be Free from Assault by Prison Guards & Other Incarcerated People
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- Chapter 26:** Infectious Diseases: AIDS, Hepatitis, Tuberculosis, and MRSA in Prison
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- Chapter 40:** Plea Bargaining
- Chapter 41:** Special Issues of Incarcerated Women

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WHAT PUBLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE?

The *Jailhouse Lawyer's Manual* offers four publications designed to explain the legal rights of incarcerated people and help incarcerated people navigate the justice system to secure those rights. All of our publications are softcover books that are stamped "direct from publisher" when shipped. Due to institutional restrictions, we cannot offer any materials from other sources or publishers.

A Jailhouse Lawyer's Manual, 12th Edition (2020) – The main volume of the *JLM* is a book containing basic self-help litigation information, including information on conducting legal research, seeking legal representation, choosing a court, and filing a lawsuit. The main *JLM*, which is over 1,400 pages, also contains specific chapters on habeas corpus, parole, DNA, the Prison Litigation Reform Act, religious freedom in prison, infectious diseases, mental disabilities, the rights of LGBT prisoners, and more. The *JLM* does NOT contain information on substantive law (such as the elements of crimes or degrees of a crime). It covers both federal and state law, with an emphasis on New York State law.

JLM Louisiana State Supplement (2018) – The Louisiana State Supplement is a 387-page supplement to the main *JLM*, containing information specific to incarcerated people navigating the justice process in Louisiana courts and institutions.

JLM Immigration & Consular Access Supplement (2018) – The Immigration & Consular Access Supplement is a 110-page supplement to the main *JLM* containing information about the immigration consequences of criminal convictions for people who are not U.S. citizens, as well as information about the right of non-U.S. citizens to access their countries' consulates.

JLM Texas Supplement (2013) – The Texas Supplement is a 392-page supplement to the main *JLM* containing information specific to incarcerated people navigating the justice process in Texas courts and institutions.

A Jailhouse Lawyer's Manual (JLM) and all supplemental publications are written and updated by law student members of the *Columbia Human Rights Law Review*. The law prohibits us from providing any legal advice to incarcerated people. The information contained in any of the *JLM's* publications is not intended as legal advice or representation nor should you consider it as such. Additionally, your use of the *JLM* should not be construed as creating an attorney-client relationship with the *JLM* staff or anyone at Columbia Law School. We have attempted to provide information that is up to date and useful. However, because the law changes frequently, we cannot guarantee that the information in our publications and on our website is current or correct.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

JLM publications may be ordered together, or each book may be ordered separately. All prices include the cost of shipping. Payments may be made by check or money order and must be received in full before an order can be processed. **Overpayments will be considered donations and processed as such.** If you are incarcerated or if you are ordering for a person who is incarcerated, please follow the pricing for incarcerated people.

For organizations, institutions, and people who are not incarcerated: The 12th Edition of the main *JLM* is \$140; the Louisiana State Supplement is \$100; the Texas Supplement is \$70; and the Immigration & Consular Access Supplement is \$50.

For incarcerated people, and their loved ones (friends and family): We are able to provide a significant discount to incarcerated people due to the generosity of donors and alumni. For incarcerated persons, the 12th Edition of the main *JLM* is \$30; the Louisiana State Supplement is \$25; the Texas Supplement is \$20; and the Immigration & Consular Access Supplement is \$15.

If you are indigent, and do not have family or friends who can afford a copy of the JLM: If you would like to receive a copy of the *JLM* or one of the supplements, please send us a letter with a short explanation of your financial need, including indigent status and whether or not your family or friends are able to buy a copy for you. We have *extremely* limited ability to offer free manuals and an explanation is required to qualify for a free copy. If you have a library at your facility, you can also try asking the librarian whether they can order a copy of the *JLM*.

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To place an order by mail, complete the order form below and send it to Columbia Jailhouse Lawyers' Manual, Attn: JLM Order, 435 West 116th Street, New York, NY 10027, along with a check or money order for the proper amount. Please print clearly and legibly!

Please make your check or money order payable to "*Columbia Jailhouse Lawyers' Manual*." Unfortunately, we cannot accept postage stamps as payment, and cannot accept credit card payments by mail. Overpayments will be considered donations and processed as such. If you are ordering for an incarcerated person, please follow the pricing for incarcerated people.

Please keep a record of your order, especially if you pay by money order, in case there is a problem with receiving or processing your order. The *Jailhouse Lawyers' Manual* is not responsible for any lost or delayed mail or payments. Please inform us of any restrictions on incoming mail that your facility may have (for example, no padded envelopes, or first class mail only).

We send all shipments to incarcerated people via USPS Priority Mail. If your facility does not accept mail from USPS, please let us know, and please tell us which other carrier(s) your facility accepts. The *Jailhouse Lawyers' Manual* is not responsible for any delays resulting from your facility's refusal to accept our delivery of the *JLM*, nor for any deliveries of the *JLM* that are lost or destroyed. **Due to the nature of the institutional mail systems, we request that you allow up to twelve weeks from the date of your order for delivery. Because our office is student-run, your order may not be processed as quickly over school breaks**

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To our wonderful jailhouse lawyer comrades:

We would love to feature your writing in an upcoming issue of *Guild Notes*!

To have your writing and artwork considered for publication, mail us your work at:

National Lawyers Guild
PO BOX 1266
New York, NY 10009-8941

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