

FAQs About Joining the National Lawyers Guild!

Why should I join the NLG?

The Guild is a grassroots organization that depends on member dues to help us support social movements! Each dues contribution helps us to maintain our national office staff, pay for all our materials and publications, provide timely political education and analysis, hold an annual convention, and maintain mass defense and legal observer programs nationwide to respond to rapid response protest situations.

More importantly, if you don't become an official member then you will miss out on all the benefits of being part of the NLG, such as access to our members-only webinars and materials, ability to join national committees and caucuses, and internal discussions and mentorship with NLG members.

How long does my membership last?

Membership is annual, on a rolling basis, meaning that every year you need to renew if you still want to continue on as current!

What do my membership dues get used for?

We are proudly 100% membership funded, which means we are grassroots and member-driven. 50% of dues get used to sustain the National Office, which keeps our organization going by supporting the efforts of members nationally. The other half goes to funding our local [chapters](#) so they can support local movements in their locations. [You can learn more here!](#)

Am I eligible to join if I am not an attorney or law student?

Yes! Our "Legal Worker" category applies to all types of "Legal Work", whether it's paid or volunteer. Being a current or potential **legal observer** for your chapter qualifies you to join as a legal worker member! **In fact, we encourage all legal observers to join as members!** Legal worker members have the same membership status as everyone else.

If I organize with my law student chapter, and I haven't actually signed up through the NLG website, am I a member?

Unfortunately, no! You are not recognized as a member by us if you have not signed up at nlg.org/join. We ask for only \$25/year for law student members, or you can sign up using a fee waiver if needed (no questions asked). Once you do, you become eligible for student resources like the national student email list and our fellowship program.

What if I don't fit into any of the membership categories and don't plan to become a Legal Observer or do any type of legal work with a chapter?

You can sign up as a [Friend of the Guild](#)! Friends of the Guild help ensure the future of the NLG by committing to ongoing monthly donations. Memberships and donations are the majority of the NLG's funding, allowing us to not rely on government or corporate grants that limit our work and political activity.

What if I want to join but I don't have money to pay?

You can email membership@nlg.org for a fee waiver link (no questions asked). Please don't let money be a reason to not become a member! We welcome anyone who wants to and is eligible to join, whether they can contribute monetarily or not.

I'm a member and I want to start a NLG Chapter in my area - what do I do?

You can email Director of Membership Lisa Drapkin at membership@nlg.org for a consultation and to receive access to our NLG Chapter Resources Guide!

I'm a law student member and I want to start a NLG Chapter at my law school - what do I do?

You can email Director of Research and Education Traci Yoder at traci@nlg.org for a consultation and resources to find out how to do so!

I am a chapter representative and I want to connect with other chapters in my area or nationally. How do I do so?

We have both a "chapters representative" email list in addition to "regional" email lists. If you would like to be on either and are not, email membership@nlg.org!

How do I join a national committee?

You can sign up to join a national committee when you register to become a member. If you're already registered and would like to join a national committee, [you can sign up here](#).