

## **Proposed Amendment to the Constitution Regarding the Composition of the Executive Council of the National Executive Committee**

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**Purpose:** to add a Legal Worker Vice President to the National Officers that comprise the Executive Council

Article 5.8 of the National Lawyers Guild Constitution, entitled “Executive Council Actions Between Meetings” shall be amended as follows:

### Article 5.8 Executive Council Actions Between Meetings

The Executive Officers and the Executive Director are authorized as the Executive Council (EC) to govern the business of the organization between meetings of the full National Executive Committee and to take any action on behalf of the organization that the full National Executive Committee is entitled to take. "Executive Officers" refers to the President, Executive Vice Presidents, Treasurer, *Legal Worker Vice President* and the senior Student Vice President. The national officers shall report to the full National Executive Committee all actions taken by the Executive Council between meetings; important decisions shall be reported within 15 days.

**Rationale:** The National Lawyers Guild preamble states : “We seek to unite the lawyers, law students, legal workers, and jailhouse lawyers of America in an organization which shall function as an effective political and social force in the service of the people, to the end that human (rights shall be regarded as more sacred than property interests.

Furthermore, Article 2.1 of the Constitution, entitled “No Discrimination,” states “No member or other person qualified to participate (including, for public events, members of the public) shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity of the organization based on sex, sexual preference, age, color, race, religion or political belief or affiliation, disability, formal educational level, or condition of restraint within any institution.”

One of the National Lawyers Guild’s strengths is its inclusion of non-attorney members, including legal workers. Legal workers contribute an incredible amount of experience, knowledge, expertise, and passion to this organization. Their full inclusion also has the potential to break down the hegemonic model of the practice of law, which is oppressive and hierarchical.

However, Legal Workers as a group with the National Lawyers Guild remain less visible than our Constitution implies. They seldom serve as the President- in fact, we have only ever had one legal worker serve as President. Their interests are oftentimes not strongly represented at conventions and in chapters. Their work on landmark legal cases in demonstrations and other areas is under recognized.

The Executive Council makes important decisions in between the quarterly NEC meetings. It also occasionally deals with sensitive or confidential matters. Thus, the EC serves an important function, and yet excludes legal workers from that work. It is time to ensure the full inclusion of legal workers in the National Lawyers Guild. While this will not address the entire issue, it is a good start.

***This amendment is endorsed by the Legal Workers Caucus.***