

Submitted by Aaron Frishberg

Resolution Affirming the National Lawyers Guild Commitment to Hold Its Convention and Other Meetings at Fully Accessible Sites

Whereas the National Lawyers Guild adopted over a decade ago, at a plenary at its Boston Convention, a resolution requiring all National Lawyers Guild entities holding conventions, regional meetings, or other forums, to conduct these meetings in spaces accessible to people with disabilities, and to insert a clause into any contract for the leasing of space for an event to have the owner of the space guarantee its accessibility, and

Whereas the National Lawyers Guild has in a recent convention plenary adopted a by-law amendment which becomes effective in 2012, which mandates that the National Lawyers Guild show a preference for not-for-profit entities in holding conventions, as well as sites where the staff is unionized, as well as where disability access is available, and

Whereas the effect of this elevation of a preference for not-for-profit entities to the status of a principle equal in its importance to using a unionized facility and one that is disabled-accessible detracts from the focus on disability access, at a time when the National Lawyers Guild is still in the infancy of learning how to comply in practice with the selection of sites which are in fact disabled-accessible, as distinguished from sites which their owners claim are accessible, and

Whereas, by definition, a by-laws amendment, to the extent that it is in conflict, trumps an earlier plenary resolution, and

Whereas having an organization whose meetings are accessible to persons with disabilities is a more fundamental principle of this organization than seeking to take our business to corporations which are nominally organized without profit as their purpose, although they frequently are indistinguishable in their conduct and in the salaries paid to their executives from their profit-making cousins,

Be it Resolved that the National Lawyers Guild affirms the principles of the Boston Convention plenary of making the organization available to people with disabilities and it is further resolved that The Disability Rights Committee of the National Lawyers Guild shall draft language to be offered at the 2011 convention, amending the National Lawyers Guild Constitution and/or By-Laws to mandate that meetings of the convention, and of other National Lawyers Guild public functions and business meetings be held in venues which are equally accessible to persons with disabilities.

Implementation by the Disability Rights Committee and all individuals and entities charged with choosing site locations for NLG conventions.

Submitted by Aaron David Frishberg, member of the Disability Rights Committee