

Submitted by K. Ryann Zalewski: RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING THE NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD'S COMMITMENT TO THE GULF COAST REGION

WHEREAS we convene this year in the city of New Orleans,

WHEREAS the National Lawyers Guild has historically worked in solidarity with the people of the Gulf Coast states in their struggle for civil and human rights,

WHEREAS we are now more than five years after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita,

WHEREAS massive institutional failure in the aftermath of these storms at the municipal, state and federal levels created one of the largest human and environmental justice rights crises of a generation that brought thousands of lawyers, law students and legal workers to the region, many of whom were and are National Lawyers Guild members,

WHEREAS another human rights and environmental justice crisis has been occurring due to the April 2010 explosion of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Rig and subsequent three months of oil gushing into and dispersants poured into the Gulf Coast waters,

WHEREAS the oil drilling and oil exploration of private corporations off of the Gulf Coast results in corporate profits at the expense of the people of the region, by causing the erosion and eradication of the natural coastal barriers, which are vital to protecting Gulf Coast communities from natural disasters,

WHEREAS the environmental, human and cultural resources of the Gulf Coast region are wholly unique, priceless and irreplaceable,

WHEREAS these crises in the Gulf Coast are products of systemic injustices, and the Gulf Coast will always be vulnerable to natural disasters, the need for systemic social change in the Gulf Coast is vital to ensure sustainability.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Lawyers Guild reaffirms its commitment to the Gulf Coast and its residents to uphold their human rights by creating the Gulf Coast Working Group at this convention. The Gulf Coast Working Group will be open to all interested members and will monitor and address the immediate oil spill recovery and continuing Katrina recovery as well as issues of systemic injustice in the region.

Further, the National Lawyers Guild condemns the corporate and governmental malfeasances that led to human rights and environmental justice crises after the 2005 hurricanes and the 2010 oil spill. The Guild declares that corporations, local and federal government in the Gulf Coast and globally are accountable to the people of the region over their own bottom lines or convenience.

Finally, the National Lawyers Guild resolves to continue working in solidarity with the people of the Gulf Coast for human, civil and environmental rights both as an organization and through the Gulf Coast Working Group.

Submitted by the NLG Gulf Coast Working Group's founding members:

Lauren Bartlett, NLG Louisiana*, Sarah Erlinder, NLG Arizona*, Davida Finger, NLG Louisiana*, Will Harrell, NLG Louisiana*, Laila Hlass, NLG Louisiana*, Annette Hollowell, NLG Louisiana*, Carol A. Kolinchak, NLG Louisiana*, Joel Kupferman, NLG New York City*, Tracy Pratt, NLG Louisiana*, Jonathan Rhodes, NLG Louisiana*, Michael Schachtman, NLG Louisiana*, Katie Schwartzmann, NLG Louisiana*, Miles Swanson, NLG Louisiana*, Adrienne Wheeler, NLG Louisiana*, Alisha Williams, NLG Philadelphia*, Morgan Williams, NLG Louisiana*, K. Ryann Zalewski, NLG Chicago*

**Chapters listed for identification purposes only.*

This resolution is further endorsed by the following individuals, chapters and committees: NLG Louisiana Chapter and Marjorie Cohn, Past NLG President** ***Office and/or chapter listed for identification purposes.*