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HISTORY

At the 2004 Convention, two courageous students, Maunica Sthanki and Kenavon Carter, organized a caucus for students of color. At this first convening, fewer than twenty students of color were at the convention. Conversation gave rise to the Student of Color Caucus. The first two Co-Chairs were Ranya Ghuma and Renée Quintero Sánchez.

The Caucus was renamed by founding member Russell Bloom, *The United People of Color Caucus*. That year TUPOCC secured a seat on the National Executive Committee (NEC). In 2005, the Tex-Oma Region awarded TUPOCC a \$1,000 seed grant, allowing us to engage in organizing and recruitment of legal activists of color.

Using the TUPOCC PLEDGE as an organizing tool, the NEC and San Francisco chapter pledged their support of TUPOCC's mission and joined us in our work for racial justice. Since then, many chapters and committees have also signed on to the Pledge. In 2005, the NEC voted to institutionalize the TUPOCC Travel Stipend, ensuring legal activists of color would be able to attend each convention thereafter. In 2006 two NEC seats were constitutionally guaranteed to TUPOCC. Since 2005, our base has grown from 20 students to hundreds of members.

THE UNITED PEOPLE OF
COLOR CAUCUS—
NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD

❖❖❖ (TUPOCC)



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ALABAMA MANIFESTO

The United People of Color Caucus (TUPOCC) of the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) is an alliance of law students, legal workers, attorneys and other people of color within the NLG community. The necessity of such an organization is borne from the historical context of the capitalist United States where economic prowess is dependent on the furthered and continued subjugation of people of color, women, the poor, queers and other oppressed people. We are dedicated to fostering and supporting the growth and empowerment of all people of color, particularly within the organization of the NLG. We believe that meaningful social change and actual justice can only be attained when people of color and all other beleaguered communities are more than mere afterthoughts. Equality must be woven throughout the fabric of the organization. We seek to further educate ourselves and inform the larger NLG community about the issues that affect us and investigate the relationship of these issues to social justice. We strongly believe that this work cannot be done unaided, and we encourage support from our allies throughout the NLG in furtherance of our goals.



TUPOCC MEMBERS AT THE NLG CONVENTION IN DETROIT



ANTI-RACISM SEMINAR AT THE NLG CONVENTION IN PHILADELPHIA

The United People of Color Caucus (TUPOCC) of the NLG has a multi-point strategy that we shall use to advance our mission:

- Elect students of color and people of color into leadership positions within the NLG
- Demand that white and privileged Guild members take accountability for their racism and other oppressive behaviors by joining us in examining and effectively changing the culture of the NLG.
- Together we believe that we can accomplish this goal by:
 - Meeting as people of color regularly to deal with oppression and other issues we uniquely experience as people of color
 - Encouraging all members who are not of this caucus to regularly attend meetings of the Anti-Racism Committee, or preferably, to join such committees.
 - Institutionalize an anti-racist agenda by creating policies in favor of and beneficial to eliminating racism and other oppressions. (e.g. making anti-racism an active and prioritized component of the National Convention)
 - Alter the focus of the NLG by learning how to be accountable to the communities that it seeks to support and protect.