

## Why Join the NLG?



- Complimentary listing in our national Referral Directory
- Access to members-only discussions and legal skill sharing
- Subscription and publication opportunities for *Guild Notes* and *NLG Review* law journal
- Participate in the democratic governance of the NLG
- Discounted registration for the annual #Law4thePeople Convention and CLEs
- Media exposure for Guild-related work
- Opportunities for speaking engagements and presentations
- Developing connections with a community of radical legal professionals!



Become a member  
today!



[nlg.org/join](http://nlg.org/join)



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Cover: NLG Legal Observers in Ferguson, MO in 2014 (Curtis McGuire); Inside front: NLG-NYC members at a rally; Inner panels (LRTB): 2015 Northeast Regional Conference (Ester Serra Luque); NLG National Office staff; NLG and SNCC members in Atlanta, 1962; Albert Woodfox receives Arthur Kinoy Award at 2016 #Law4thePeople Convention (Shanna Merola); Lewis & Clark NLG and BLSA students on the 2015 Black Lives Matter Day of Action.



Join  
us!



National Lawyers Guild  
- est. 1937 -

A diverse legal community dedicated  
to using the law in pursuit of  
racial, economic & social justice



## Our Network



**150+ Chapters** covering law schools, cities, or states. Chapters carry out our mission in their local communities.

**20+ Committees**, projects, and task forces working on a wide range of legal and political issues.

**9 Geographic Regions:** Each holds an annual regional conference to discuss local and national issues and make organizational decisions at the regional level.

**1 Annual #Law4thePeople Convention:** The NLG's biggest event of the year features workshops, major panels, CLEs, officer elections, regional and committee meetings, member caucuses, plenaries, award ceremonies and social events.

## Where do my membership dues go?

A portion of your dues goes to supporting the NLG National Office, and these funds sustain the organization by helping us produce



publications, coordinate the annual convention, and organize national campaigns. The rest supports local chapters and regions to facilitate on-the-ground work, programming, and special events.

## Our History

Since the founding of the NLG in 1937 as the first racially integrated bar association, Guild members have been at the forefront of movements for social change. In the early decades of the organization, members organized labor unions, supported New Deal policies, prosecuted Nazis at Nuremberg, helped draft the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and pioneered storefront law offices for low-income clients. During the McCarthy era, Guild members represented victims of anti-communist hysteria. In the 1960s, the Guild organized thousands of volunteer lawyers and law students to support the civil rights movement in the South.



In the 1970s, Guild members represented Vietnam War draft resisters, antiwar activists, and GIs in Asia who opposed the war. NLG defended FBI-targeted members of the Black Panther Party, the American Indian Movement, and the Puerto Rican independence movement and helped expose illegal FBI and CIA surveillance, infiltration, and disruption tactics.

In the 1980s and '90s, NLG published resources on AIDS, represented Central American refugees, advocated for affirmative action, fought welfare reform, and supported living wage campaigns. After 9/11, the Guild mobilized to support Muslim communities and provide assistance to movements against war and U.S. imperialism.

More recently, the NLG has supported global justice, environmental, animal rights, and information activists, as well as whistleblowers and people arrested for their participation in the Occupy, Black Lives Matter and #NoDAPL movements.

## How does the NLG differ from other legal organizations?



The Guild's first commitment is to progressive structural change to the current political and economic system, emphasizing human rights over property interests. In addition to attorneys, our membership includes legal workers, law students, and jailhouse lawyers.

The NLG does not accept corporate or government funding. We rely on the generosity of our members and supporters, making us **100% grassroots** and **member-driven**.

Our work supports the efforts of communities organizing themselves for social change and self-determination. Our members work in diverse areas of law, including international human rights, labor, racial justice, mass incarceration, immigration, housing, and much more.

Guild members are leaders in civil and criminal law, in academia, in legal organizations and in the judiciary. Different sectors of the Guild sponsor CLEs and trainings to advance the skills of our membership. We host regional and national conferences and forums that address the legal and political issues related to our work.

The NLG publishes *Know Your Rights* handbooks in five languages, the quarterly *NLG Review* law journal, *Disorientation and Radical Law Student Manuals* for law school chapters, our newsletter *Guild Notes*, and original reports on issues such as policing, surveillance, and international delegations.

