

WELCOME TO CHICAGO!

To our fellow Guild members and allies,

On behalf of the Chicago Chapter, we welcome you all to the 2014 Law for the People Convention. It's been a crazy few years for the Chicago Chapter. From the creation of the local Next Gen Committee, to Occupy Chicago and NATO, our chapter's strength and numbers have really grown. So when the request came from the national organization to host this year's convention, we knew the chapter was up to the task. Also, with approximately 20 years since the last Convention in Chicago, we knew our number was up.

It is also a great honor to host the Convention while marking the 10th anniversary of The United People of Color Caucus (TUPOCC). The Chicago Chapter is committed to furthering the mission of TUPOCC as set forth in the Alabama Manifesto both locally and nationally. Chicago's TUPOCC is one of the most active of our chapter's subcommittees and caucuses and has been instrumental in planning many successful events, including several CLEs.

Our members have worked very hard to put this weekend together over countless e-mails and hours of phone calls and meetings. We are so happy to see you all here (mostly to have some new faces!). While we hope you are enjoying the Convention, we also hope you take a moment to enjoy our beautiful city and its inspiring people.

Chicago is not an easy city to live in, particularly if you are low-income or a person of color. Our city has a long history not only of social justice movements, but deeply entrenched racism and other forms of discrimination.

In 2012, Chicago was found to be the most racially segregated city in the United States. Our communities that are poor or primarily composed of people of color continue to face significant obstacles, including lack of economic development, underfunded and overcrowded schools, and dwindling affordable housing stock.

In the last few years under Rahm Emanuel's administration, our public library system's funding and local library hours have dramatically reduced. Half of the city's mental health clinics were shuttered. Chicago closed 50 neighborhood elementary schools at once.

(Continued on reverse)

Our local housing authority has admitted to issuing 13,000 less Section 8 vouchers than it could have between 2008 and 2012, instead hoarding the money in reserves that have grown to more than \$350 million. Meanwhile, private developers buy and flip SROs (single room occupancies), displacing residents (many of whom are low-income seniors or people with disabilities), resulting in losses to Chicago's already limited number of affordable housing units.

Despite these challenges, Chicago is a city full of strong people. When Emanuel took on the Chicago Teachers Union (whose President, Karen Lewis, you heard deliver the keynote address), the people of the city rose up to stand behind our teachers. We have repeatedly seen the streets filled in response to wide-ranging issues, from demonstrations against the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, to calls for compassionate immigration reform, to support for the Palestinian people during the recent attacks on Gaza. And these are only the visible voices, not including the everyday struggle of the marginalized trying to get by.

Our Chapter draws its strength from the people of the city of Chicago. Our members work on a wide range of issues: from criminal defense and police misconduct, to civil rights, immigration, school disciplinary defense, criminal records relief, family defense, defending subsidized tenants in eviction court, and many others. Our work brings us to the courtroom, the streets and the neighborhoods, empowering the people and educating them about their rights. It is our privilege to serve the people of this beautiful city.

The NLG Chicago Chapter Board

Law for the People Award Standish Willis

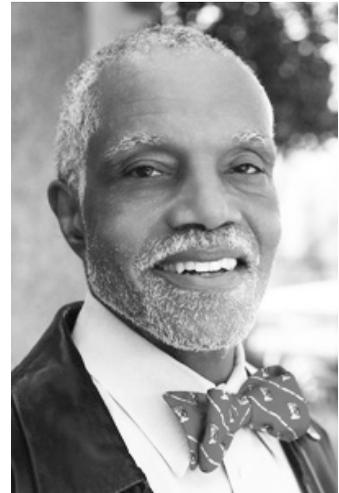
Standish "Stan" Willis is a civil rights attorney and lifelong Chicagoan. He is the founder of Black People Against Police Torture and has tried over 75 federal jury trials and several state jury and bench trials. He maintains an active public speaking schedule on issues related to the criminal justice system, the death penalty, police brutality, community-control of police, the prison-industrial complex, America's political prisoners, racism and the American legal system, and international human rights. In 1984, the Standish E. Willis Community Service Award was established at his alma mater, the Chicago-Kent College of Law, to recognize students for outstanding leadership and community involvement.



Each year the National Lawyers Guild gives the Law for the People Award to an individual or group whose work embodies the values that our membership holds dear. Previous recipients include Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noreste (PCUN) in 2005, civil libertarian David Cole (2003), the Eurofresh Tomato Workers, (2001), and Transport Workers Local 100 President Roger Toussaint (2006).

Ernie Goodman Award John C. Brittain

John C. Brittain is past president of the NLG and champion of civil and human rights. Professor Brittain was one of the original counsels in *Sheff v. O'Neill*, the landmark school desegregation case decided by the Connecticut Supreme Court in 1996. He is currently a part of a legal team representing private plaintiffs in a federal lawsuit against the State of Maryland for denying Maryland's historically black institutions of higher education comparable and competitive opportunities with traditional white universities. He serves as Chairperson of the Norflet Fund Cy Pres, a charitable organization created by settlement in a lawsuit involving John Hancock Life Insurance Company for racial discrimination against African Americans; the settlement will distribute approximately \$16 million in grants to benefit African Americans in education, health, and post-Katrina relief.



Each year the Ernie Goodman Award is awarded to a Guild lawyer who, within the past several years or currently, is engaged in legal struggle against financial, political or social odds to obtain justice on behalf of those who are poor, powerless or persecuted. The Goodman Award is given by the National Lawyers Guild Foundation.

Debra Evenson Venceremos International Award **Brian Concannon, Jr.**

Brian Concannon, Jr. is the founder and executive director of the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti and co-chair of the NLG Haiti Subcommittee. He co-managed the Bureau des Avocats Internationaux in Haiti from 1996-2004, and worked for the UN as a Human Rights Officer in 1995-96. He helped prepare the prosecution of the Raboteau Massacre trial in 2000, one of the most significant human rights cases in the Western Hemisphere. He has represented Haitian political prisoners before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and represented the plaintiff in *Yvon Neptune v. Haiti*, the only Haiti case ever tried before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. He holds an undergraduate degree from Middlebury College and JD from Georgetown Law.



Former Guild President Debra Evenson was one of the visionary architects of Cuba's legal system, and a staunch defender of the country at home. The award is presented by the International Committee in recognition of brave work to extend justice beyond borders.

C.B. King Award **Hannah Adams**

Hannah Adams is a 3L at Northeastern University School of Law. Hannah was inspired to become a movement lawyer by the five years she spent participating in advocacy for fair and affordable housing in New Orleans prior to law school.



As a member of the Northeastern chapter of NLG, Hannah co-directs the Northeastern/Suffolk Law chapter of Project No One Leaves, a group that canvasses properties in foreclosure to support the organizing of housing rights organization City Life Vida Urbana. She also helps to organize a critical legal thought lunchtime workshop series, a student-led critical legal theory reading group, and an annual anti-oppression training for students.

Hannah has interned at Greater Boston Legal Services doing foreclosure defense, and Southeast Louisiana Legal Services doing tenants' rights advocacy, and hopes to continue working on housing justice issues in New Orleans after she graduates. Hannah is also a theater artist excited about the role of art in social change movements.

C. B. King (Chevene Bowers King, 1923-1988) was one of the country's most prominent and courageous civil rights lawyers. For over 30 years he practiced law in Albany, Georgia, where he was a major figure in the civil rights movement. He was well-known for his bravery, courtroom eloquence, and legal skills in the face of tremendous adversity and even violent opposition. He also taught several generations of law students and young lawyers how to practice law with a commitment to the poor, the disenfranchised and the oppressed.

Carol Weiss King Award Mary Kenney

Mary Kenney has worked as a legal services attorney in West Virginia, as the executive director of the Texas Lawyers' Committee, and recently, as an immigrants' rights advocate and litigator at the American Immigration Council in Washington, D.C. Mary often takes on technical immigration law issues that are neither glamorous nor easily accessible—but her results have real life consequences, enabling thousands of families to stay together in the U.S. She is a leading immigration and litigation expert on a variety of topics, including “arriving aliens,” the meaning of “admission” in various provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act, adjustment of status, the Child Status Protection Act, FOIA litigation, the Administrative Procedures Act, and prosecutorial discretion.



The National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild awards the Carol Weiss King Award annually for excellence in the pursuit of social justice through organizing, litigating, and teaching. The award has honored dozens of individuals whose work has significantly advanced human and civil rights for all. Prominent U.S. lawyer Carol Weiss King (1895-1952) specialized in immigration law and the defense of the civil rights of immigrants, and was a founding member of the National Lawyers Guild.

Legal Worker Award Kris Hermes

Kris Hermes is a Bay Area-based activist who has worked for nearly 30 years on social justice issues. Organizing with ACT UP Philadelphia in the late 1990s spurred his interest in legal support work and led to his years-long involvement with the R2K Legal Collective, formed to support activists arrested protesting the 2000 Republican convention.



Since 2000, Hermes has been an active, legal worker member of the National Lawyers Guild and has been part of numerous law collectives and legal support efforts, including several quadrennial political conventions, the 2003 Free Trade Area of the Americas, and the 2012 NATO meetings. Hermes is currently engaged in media work to bring attention to the army spying case in the Pacific Northwest, *Panagacos v. Towery*, but he has also organized dozens of press conferences and spoken at numerous community meetings, political conferences, book fairs, and other similar events across the U.S. Hermes has written extensively in his professional career as a media worker and as a legal activist, publishing hundreds of commentaries, columns, investigative reports, press releases, articles and blogs. He has been quoted in countless mainstream and independent media outlets in the U.S. and around the world.

The annual NLG Legal Worker Award is given to a Guild member whose legal support work has demonstrated leadership in the organization, marked by one or more notable accomplishments, and recognized by her or his peers.

Welcome to our city of extremes,
from great beauty, diverse culture, and
rich history to seemingly unstoppable
poverty and violence.

Chicago remains a work in progress
and we pay tribute to our local
honoree and friend **STAN WILLIS**,
our adopted comrade **KRIS HERMES**,
and all Chicago Guild members who are
committed to representing the
under-represented and supporting the
courageous struggles of our local
communities fighting for survival.

And, we salute our keynote speaker
KAREN LEWIS for her and CTU's role in
helping to revitalize the labor movement in
Chicago and protecting the interests of
public school children, parents, and
teachers. **Run, Karen, Run!**

*Lee Tockman, Joanne Kinoy, Susan Kaplan,
Len Cavise, & Molly Armour*

Congratulations, Mary!

You are a true beacon of light to those litigating in the trenches. We thank you for all of your guidance and support as amicus in so many cases over the years, and we look forward to collaborating in the years to come!

Maria, Dan, Gretchen, and Kevin
Maria Baldini-Potermin & Associates, PC

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Fax. 312-368-9400
Email: maria@baldini-potermin.com

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With Love and Best Wishes to Heidi

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The NLG Faculty Network salutes this year's C.B. King award winner Hannah Adams, our 2014 Haywood Burns Fellows, and all the NLG students who represent the future of the Guild.

Frances Ansley, Professor Emerita,
University of Tennessee

Marjorie Cohn, Professor, Thomas
Jefferson School of Law and
Former NLG president



CAIR-CHICAGO
IS PROUD TO SUPPORT THE
NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD
ON ITS 77 YEARS OF FIGHTING FOR
"LAW FOR THE PEOPLE"

CONGRATULATIONS TO
THE UNITED PEOPLE OF COLOR CAUCUS
ON ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY



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TO ALL OUR HONOREES

Only organize and stand together. Claim something together, and at once; let the nation hear a united demand from the laboring voice, and then, when you have got that, go on after another; but get something.



- Wendell Phillips (1811-1884), abolitionist and advocate for women's and labor's rights

TOGETHER WE WILL WIN!

National Lawyers Guild
Labor & Employment Committee
www.nlg-laboremploy-comm.org

Congratulations Mary on your well deserved award
and your incredible work to advance immigrants' rights.

Your friends from the former
Texas Lawyers for Committee for Civil Rights

Javier Maldonado, San Antonio, Texas

Lee Teran, San Antonio, Texas

Barbara Hines, Austin, Texas

Robbie Greenblum, San Antonio, Texas

Albert Armendariz, El Paso, Texas

Lynn Coyle, El Paso, Texas



GREATER NEW ORLEANS
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Congratulations to Hannah Adams on
receiving the C.B. King Award!

We always knew that you're an
extraordinary fighter for justice and we're
so happy for you to get the recognition
you deserve!

— Your friends at GNOFHAC

Congratulations Stan Kwame!

You have taught me many lessons
in how to connect global and local
struggles, be a people's lawyer, and be
accountable to my community. I am
so grateful for your example and your
friendship.

-Tess Kleinhaus

Congratulations...

...and best wishes to the 2014 **Convention Honorees**
for their **outstanding contributions**
to ensuring **justice for all.**

National Police Accountability Project
499 7th Ave 12N New York NY
www.npapjustice.org

The NLG Task Force on the Americas
Congratulates

Brian Concannon

Recipient of the 2014 Debra Evenson Venceremos International Award

*We salute Brian for his tireless, skillful, creative, passionate, and courageous work
on behalf of the people of Haiti*

Congratulations to all the Honorees!

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We proudly honor our student

Hannah Adams

and

**Northeastern Law School's
NLG Chapter**

Karl Klare
Lucy Williams

In honor of Freedom Summer
and in recognition of the efforts
of Ernie and Bill Goodman in
the struggle for civil and human
rights

Terry Gilbert
Friedman and Gilbert
Cleveland, Ohio

Thanks, NLG, for your partnership!

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Liz Jackson

Dima Khalidi

Radhika Sainath

www.palestinelegalsupport.org
312 212 0448

**Congratulations to All the Honorees!
What an Amazing Group of People!**

In particular I want to congratulate TUPOCC for its Tenth Anniversary. Ten years ago the National Lawyers Guild was, like many progressive political associations in the United States, unfortunately a largely white organization.

Over the years, many lawyers, law students, and legal workers who were people of color had come to the Guild, taken a look, and often left because the organization seemed to have little to offer them. When the founding members of TUPOCC came, they were also concerned that the membership and culture of the Guild were predominantly white. But they decided to stay and to try to change that. They committed themselves to the Guild, worked to become part of its leadership, and developed a series of programs and initiatives to transform the organization. It wasn't easy, and it wasn't accomplished without conflict. There is still work to be done in this regard. But today the Guild is quite different from what it was in 2004. This has enriched us enormously and allowed the Guild to move closer to its ideals as an organization. Thank you to the members of
TUPOCC.

Michael Avery, Former President, NLG, 2003-2006
Boston, Massachusetts
mavery@suffolk.edu

Congratulations to all the honorees but particularly to my two longstanding friends, two great people's lawyers, John Brittain and Stan Willis!

We all need to do our best to keep the NLG strong and connected to people's movements here and around the world.



Steven Saltzman
200 S. Michigan, Ste. 201
Chicago, Illinois 60604
(312) 427-4500 (office)

With appreciation for the Guild's support of

Justice
for
Imam Jamil Al-Amin
(formerly known as H. Rap Brown)

and
**in solidarity with all
political prisoners**

*Karima Al-Amin, Kathleen Cleaver,
Ward Churchill, Natsu Saito
and the Human Rights Research Fund*

Heidi's brilliant leadership put the NLG at the forefront of 21st century movement legal support.

-With appreciation, FS



PHOTO: JEFFERSON SIEGEL

"I usually don't mention that I'm vegan but that has evolved. I think it's the right moment to talk about it because it is part of a revolutionary perspective - how can we not only discover more compassionate relations with human beings but how can we develop compassionate relations with the other creatures with whom we share this planet and that would mean challenging the whole capitalist industrial form of food production.... The food we eat masks so much cruelty." (Angela Davis).

Thank you, Angela Davis, and thank you, NLG, for this veg meal!

- NLG Animal Rights Activism Committee



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Congratulations to the 2014 Law for the People honorees!

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Congratulations to National Lawyers Guild and to its 2014 Awards Honorees for your tremendous work speaking truth to power in the name of Justice!



Louisiana Justice Institute
www.LouisianaJusticeInstitute.org

Congratulations' Evanson Award Honoree
Brian Concannon, Jr.

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Congratulations!

John C. Brittain

Recipient of the NLGF Ernie Goodman Award

and

Standish Willis

Mary Kenney

Kris Hermes

Brian Concannon, Jr.

Hannah Adams



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~ the Guild ~

*Saluting the continuing vigilance of the NLG
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CONGRATULATIONS TO
JOHN C. BRITTAIN
on receiving the
ERNIE GOODMAN AWARD

MARGARET P. LEVY
and the SCHOOLCHILDREN OF HARTFORD

Congratulations Hannah!



In class, clinic, court,
and on the street,
your ceaseless energy
is an inspiration
to us all.

*In solidarity... Your friends, colleagues, comrades,
and biggest fans in the NUSL NLG*

CONGRATS TO ALL THE
SOCIAL JUSTICE LAWYERS!

-BILL QUIGLEY, NEW ORLEANS NLG



**THE NLG ANTI-RACISM COMMITTEE CONGRATULATES ALL
THE 2014 HONOREES!**

Join us! ANTIRACISM@NLG.ORG



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Congratulations to all the honorees from
the Flynn Law Office!

R. Michael Flynn
Attorney at Law | *Abogado*

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website: www.flo-law.com

Employment, immigration, police misconduct

Congratulations To All of the Honorees!

Forward Ever, Backward Never!

Neil M. Fox
2003 Western Ave. Ste. 330
Seattle, Washington, 98121

In honor of Ernie Goodman, a mentor
to so many of us, as a lawyer and as a
principled leftist.

-Tom Meyer, Bay Area

Dear Heidi,

On behalf of all current and former National Office staff members, we thank you for your fifteen years of dedicated leadership of the Guild! You have been a mentor and friend to us all and a constant source of encouragement and support. The National Office will not be the same without you.



While we are very sorry to see you go, we wish you the best of luck in your new adventures!

Traci, Tasha, Rosemarie, and Abi

Congratulations to all the honorees. Thank you for all the work you do and the leadership you give.

Special thanks to Brian Concannon, winner of the Debra Evenson Venceremos Award. The work you and IJDH do is amazing and exemplary.

Jeanne Mirer, Rose Regina Lawrence and Ria Julien
Law Offices of Jeanne E. Mirer PLLC

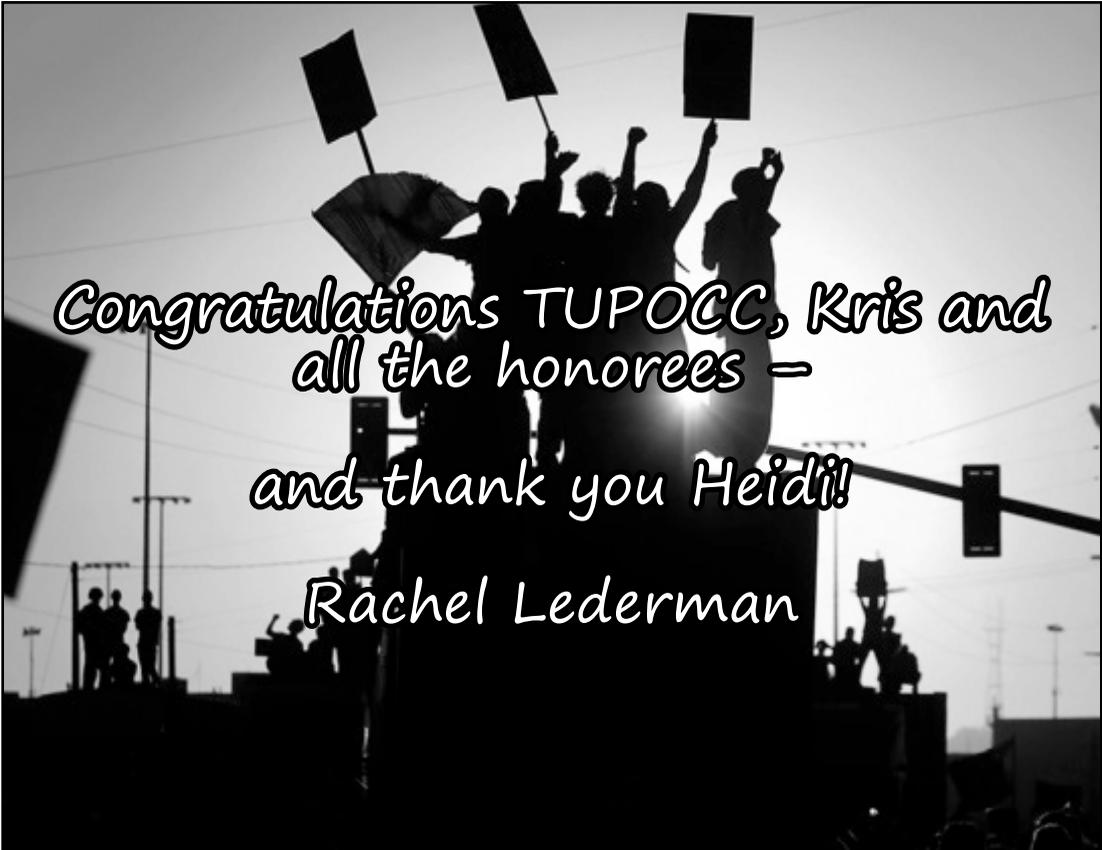
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HONOREES

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*Congratulations TUPOCC, Kris and
all the honorees -*

and thank you Heidi!

Rachel Lederman

I AMERICAN IMMIGRATION COUNCIL

All the staff at the American Immigration Council
would like to congratulate our very own

Mary Kenney

on receiving the ***Carol King Award*** from the
National Lawyers Guild



We're so proud of you!

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*Honoring our immigrant past;
Shaping our immigrant future*

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Welcomes the



Law for the People
Convention
to Chicago

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**We welcome all our NLG friends to Chicago!!
Congrats to all of the 2014 honorees!**

**Much love and respect to our brother
Stan Willis, an inspirational people's
lawyer, dear friend & comrade.**

**To our friend Kris Hermes,
We raise a glass - home brew, of course.**

**John Brittain, we honor your work for
education & racial justice.**

**In solidarity, Alexis, Ben, Brad, Flint, Jan, Jani,
Joey, John, Kris, Lourdes, Michael, Sarah**



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Congratulations Hannah! Thanks for being such a leader and asset in our community, from Boston to New Orleans. We are so lucky to know you, work with you, and call you a friend.

—PNOL, City Life / Vida Urbana, K-Sue & Amy

**PROJECT
NO ONE LEAVES**



**CITY LIFE
VIDA URBANA**

"Being a community lawyer requires us to immerse ourselves in our communities. Hannah Adams has marched, protested, researched, assisted, learned from, advocated with, and inspired and been inspired by our New Orleans community. She is one of our community advocates and one of our family." —Bill Quigley

Congratulations honorees!

We are grateful for your courage.



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WITH THE GUILD AT A CROSSROADS AS THE BOGHOSIAN ERA ENDS

**WE WISH HEIDI THE BEST AND THANK
HER FOR FIFTEEN EXTRAORDINARY YEARS
WE CONGRATULATE ALL THE AWARDEES
AND THANK THE NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF
AS WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE WITH OPTIMISM**

NO RETREAT, NO SURRENDER!

DAVID GESPASS

KATHY JOHNSON

"A lawyer's either a social engineer or he's a parasite on society..." A social engineer was a highly skilled, perceptive, sensitive lawyer who understood the Constitution of the United States and knew how to explore its uses in the solving of "problems of... local communities" and in "bettering conditions of the underprivileged citizens." - Charles Hamilton Houston

In the tradition of Charles Hamilton Houston, we are delighted to honor two of the most dedicated and prolific social engineers of our time, John Brittain and Standish Willis.

Jonathan Moore | Myron Beldock | Karen Dippold | Jonathan Pollack | Cynthia Rollings
Peter Matorin | Henry Dlugacz | Stephen Blumert | Joshua Moskovitz | Marc Cannan

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CONGRATULATIONS

to all the Honorees
and to
TUPOCC
for 10 years (and counting)
of incredible work.

- Ian Head

To our dear Mary Kenney:

For your devotion to assuring
immigrants' rights and due process;
For your brilliant legal analysis;
For your tenacity and humility,
We thank you, we salute you and we love
you.

Trina Realmuto and
Nadine Wettstein

**We Salute the NLG for Advancing Human Rights & Law for the
People! We honor our beloved brother & friend Pete Camarata &**

honorees Alice Peurala & Ed Sadlowski.

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CONGRATULATIONS

TO OUR DEAR FRIENDS JOHN BRITAIN, BRIAN CONCANNON AND MARY KENNEY and all the other honorees! Congrats to the guild for another year of fighting for the rights of immigrants and protecting the civil rights of all!

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PALO ALTO

Congrats & Thanks
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We are lawyers and licensed senior law students organized to provide free legal defense to people in Chicago police custody 24/7 for the last 20 years when someone calls 1(800) LAW-REP4. Join us! www.first-defense.org



Congratulations Hannah on receiving your well-deserved award!

—Your friends at GBLS

From everyone in the SLLS family we would like to congratulate you Hannah on receiving this award! You are intelligent, hard-working and dedicated and a true champion for our clients. We know wherever life takes you (we hope it is back to New Orleans!) that you will continue touching the hearts of so many and making a real difference in the lives of those in need. —Your Friends at
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA LEGAL SERVICES

Congratulations to all the honorees!

Kris, you have been amazing partner on the *Panagacos* (spying) case!

John, we admire you immensely. Thank you for all your advice and assistance.

Brian, We loved doing international work with you and look forward to many more years of it.

Larry Hildes and Karen Weill
Law Office of Lawrence A. Hildes

The NLG Indiana Chapter congratulates all the 2014 honorees!

**COMING SOON TO AN
ECONOMICALLY DISTRESSED
COMMUNITY NEAR YOU!**



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of public services

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policies in higher education

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federal Constitutions

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democratically elected officials

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Constitutional and contractual protections

Massive tax and property giveaways
to corporate despots

Inhumane denial of those most impoverished
by this crisis to access to **WATER!**

WE IN THE DETROIT/MICHIGAN NLG ARE WORKING FURIOUSLY, ALONG WITH LABOR, CIVIL RIGHTS, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND COMMUNITY BASED GROUPS, TO RESIST THIS PRE-FASCIST ONSLAUGHT ON OUR COMMUNITY.

THE DENIAL OF ANY WORKSHOPS OR PRESENTATIONS ON THESE CRITICAL ISSUES AT THE CONVENTION PREVENTS THE NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD FROM PLAYING A MEANINGFUL ROLE IN BUILDING A MASS MOVEMENT TO CHALLENGE THIS DANGEROUS TREND, TOWARD THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THIS COUNTRY.

A Shout-Out to the NLG National Office Staff

Abi Hassen

Tasha Moro

Rosemarie Stupel

Traci Yoder

***With a rousing Hooray for
Heidi Boghosian!***

From former NLG National Office Staffs and Collectives

Phyllis Bennis

Rick Best

Dana Biberman

Kevi Brannelly

Ian Brannigan

Kenneth Cloke

Barbara Dudley

Carol Grumbach

Susan Gzesh

Ian Head

Sarah Hogarth

Gerald Horne

Alicia Kaplow

Karen Jo Koonan

Jeffrey Kupers

Winifred Leeds

Joseph Lipofsky

Michelle Martinez

Daniel Mayfield

Carlin Meyer

Jamie Munro

Patricia Murrell

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Congratulations to the NLG's Next
Generation!

The Guild is in good hands!!

with love and respect,
Barbara Dudley, whose Middle Gen
benefited so much from the First Gen
who founded the National Lawyers
Guild 77 years ago!

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congratulates

Hannah Adams '13,

a relentless advocate for housing justice

and a shining example of both Northeastern

and the NLG's commitment to social justice.

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Congratulations to our 2014 NLG Haywood Burns Fellows!

The Haywood Burns Memorial Fellowship for Social and Economic Justice places NLG students with public interest organizations working to protect and further the civil rights of oppressed people in the United States. The program exists to help students apply their talents and skills to find creative ways to use the law to advance justice. Burns Fellowships provoke law students to question traditional notions of how one must practice law and to provide a summer experience that will enrich and challenge them.

Michelle Lewin, Common Law - Queens, NY

Sallie (Zhiyan) Lin, International Bridges to Justice - Beijing, China

Michelle Amelia Newman, Amazon Defense Coalition - Quito, Ecuador

Nadin Said, *Panagacos v. Towery* support

Amanda Schemkes, Civil Liberties Defense Center - Eugene, OR

Congratulations to all the honorees!

Let's continue to build the Guild.

-Karen Jo Koonan

All our thanks to

Heidi Boghosian

for 15 years of exceptional & dedicated leadership

Military Law Task Force
of The National Lawyers Guild



The NLG International Committee congratulates Brian Concannon, the 2014 recipient of the Debra Evenson Venceremos International Award, all of his colleagues and comrades in IJDH/BAI and the people of Haiti struggling for justice and human rights.

The IC also salutes special guest Karen Lewis, and the recipients of NLG awards: Standish Willis, John C. Brittain, Hannah Adams, Kris Hermes, Mary Kenney, and celebrates the 10th anniversary of TUPOCC!

Congratulations to all our honorees, especially to my good friend Stan Willis, whom I look up to as a father figure.

- Jim Fennerty



The United People of Color Caucus

Reflecting Back, Marching Forward: TUPOCC's Origins and Our First Decade

By Ranya Ghuma, Renée Quintero Sánchez, and Russell Bloom

What does it mean to work “for the people” when, as people of color, and women of color, we are working within a field disproportionately dominated by white males? It means our very presence is an act of resistance. [. . .] [W]e know from experience that the law is decidedly not race and gender neutral, and that the legal system in this country was founded on structures that enshrine racism and oppression. The language of the law perpetuates race, class, gender, [ability], and heterosexual privilege. [W]e often find ourselves challenging professors, fellow students, co-workers – and all too often, our comrades in the movement – calling on them to confront their own racism and other exclusionary practices.

- Ranya Ghuma and Renée Sanchez, "TUPOCC: Notes on Changing the Fabric of the Law and the Guild," *Guild Notes* Spring 2005.

THE BACKDROP

The National Lawyers Guild was founded in 1937 as an association of progressive lawyers dedicated to supporting the movement as its “legal arm.” From its inception, the Guild was committed to working in the service of the people and to the concept that human rights are more sacred than property interests. It was the first integrated bar association in the United States and the only integrated bar association at that time. Through the National Lawyers Guild, progressive legal activists challenged inequality and oppression by representing political dissenters, marching in the streets in support of movements for equality and liberation and countering the dominant narrative of the entrenched legal profession that perpetuated racism, ableism, classism, homophobia, gender privilege and other oppressions.



But the Guild, like all living organizations, is a function of the society in which it exists and, like all movements, is required to engage in struggle internally as well as externally to confront manifestations of inequality. Throughout its history, Guild members have pushed within the organization to challenge the absence of people of color, women, students and legal workers in positions of power. In the 1950s, Earl B. Dickerson was elected as the Guild's first African American president. The Guild's first woman president, Doris Brin “Dobby” Walker, was elected in 1970 – over

thirty years after the founding of the organization – and the Guild's first woman of color president, Azadeh Shahshahani, was elected in 2011 – close to seventy-five years after the Guild's founding. Law students did not become full-fledged members of the Guild until 1970.

Legal workers were not admitted as members until 1971, after many years of contested and heated internal discussion. Karen Jo Koonan became the first and only legal worker national president in 1997.

Learning about the various movements to transform the Guild internally is as important as learning about the Guild's activism in the courtroom and with communities. At various times throughout the Guild's history, Guilders have challenged exclusionary practices in the Guild. Similarly, at various times throughout the Guild's history, Guild members of color and their allies addressed the presence of institutionalized racism in the Guild and called upon Guild comrades to work to ensure that the organization reflected internally the principles to which it was committed.

We have learned of these, and other histories, through our conversations and reflections with numerous Guilders over the years, some of whom became increasingly less involved in the organization, believing that their efforts would be better focused elsewhere. We have learned through these conversations that Guild conventions, historically, were predominantly white. Guilders of color have shared with us their dismay at being at national conventions and noticing that they were one of only a handful of folks of color. It was not simply a question of numbers – it was a question of how the Guild approached its work. Were people of color viewed as equal comrades in the fight, informing and leading the agenda, or merely as “clients” or “communities” to be paternalistically advised and defended? They shared with us their profound disappointment at the response of some Guild comrades who, when approached on these issues, would justify the absence of leadership or meaningful input by people of color by cloaking themselves in their movement work or passing blame on to communities of color, who, according to some representations, were “not progressive” or “resisted” inclusion in movement work. Some long-time Guilders have shared with us that the issue of the Guild's “whiteness” has been around for decades, that others have attempted to address it, and that the institutionalized response was often the same: “We are not racist. We oppose racism. This conversation is divisive and diverting energy from our real work.” We, unfortunately, heard this same response after the founding of TUPOCC.

This is the contextual backdrop to the historic meeting of about twenty students of color at the Birmingham convention in 2004, and to the later formation of TUPOCC. All of this context and history matters. One cannot understand the formation of TUPOCC without learning about and appreciating the incredible righteousness of the Guild's work – the way in which Guild members have stood on the front lines of demonstrations, or have represented sisters and brothers when no one else would and when the full force of the government's repression was directed at silencing them and eradicating their movements. One cannot understand the formation of TUPOCC without recognizing that the Guild is an organization which, since its inception, has dedicated itself to supporting and defending the convergence of movements that strive for justice, self-determination and liberation for all oppressed people.

Similarly, one cannot appreciate the reasons for the formation of TUPOCC without understanding that the Guild has positively transformed over the years – not only in how it performs its external work, but also in how it acts internally – because Guild members have pushed for it to be that way. That beautiful struggle is fueled by love, admiration and a belief in the value of the Guild. It also emanates from the same motivation for justice and equality that drives us, as progressive legal activists, to expect nothing less from the Guild than what the communities demand on the streets. In other words, the Guild can only

evolve if we check and question *how* we do our work as well as *why* we do our work. We, as TUPOCC, emerged as a part of this history.

THE 2004 BIRMINGHAM CONVENTION

It was one decade ago, in Birmingham, Alabama, at the 2004 annual convention of the National Lawyers Guild, that the seeds of the United People of Color Caucus of the National Lawyers Guild were planted.

Many of us will never forget that Convention. In the heart of a city that stood as a living testament to the struggle to end apartheid in the United States, we were called upon to examine what it meant to be meaningfully engaged in the fight to dismantle racism. For the three of us, it was our very first Guild convention, made possible only through the support of a travel stipend for students of color.¹ We were humbled and incredibly moved by the powerful energy and politics of the place, and by new radical comrades.

On the last day of our weekend together, a group of around twenty student activists of color convened to caucus about our work and our future in the Guild. What brought us together, as new and seasoned activists, was a sense that we believed in the history, the work and the principles of the Guild. We discussed the history of the organization and the concerns regarding the absence of people of color in positions of leadership or at the convention. We also discussed whether it made sense to stay in the Guild and work for change, or to leave the Guild and devote activist efforts to another organization. Many of us wanted to continue to be a part of the Guild's principled legal activism in support of the movement. We shared an understanding, however, that we, as activists of color, could not authentically participate in the Guild unless we critically addressed what we



¹ Prior to the Alabama Convention, through the active efforts of Maunica Sthanki, the Student National Vice President of the Guild, her co-Vice President, Merrillyn Onisko, and the Guild's national Student Organizer, Laura Raymond, a Birmingham Travel Scholarship was put in place to bring students of color to the Birmingham convention. These comrades, along with Guild member Kenavon Carter, actively fundraised for and spread the word about this stipend. The fund was part of a conversation started by them with the NEC prior to Birmingham, challenging white privilege and normativity in the Guild and calling upon the leadership to critically ask whether the Guild was a truly anti-racist organization, where people of color could feel safe to voice concerns and were a meaningful part of the organization's work. They challenged the leadership to identify ways to push forward an anti-racist agenda within the organization and they built the foundation for so much of the subsequent anti-racism and anti-oppression organizing in the Guild. We salute you!

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. We wish to provide all people of color opportunities in support of these goals, and when such opportunities are not available, to work with our associates and allies to create them. We seek to unite ourselves, represent our communities, achieve our potential, and function as a powerful force within the NLG, our chapters, schools, communities, the United States of America and the global population.

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

1. Elect students of color and people of color into leadership positions within the NLG
2. 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: (a) Meeting as people of color regularly to deal with oppression and other issues we uniquely experience as people of color (b) Encouraging all members who are not of this caucus to regularly attend meetings of the Anti-Racism Committee, or preferably, to join such committees. (c) 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)
3. Alter the focus of the NLG by learning how to be accountable to the communities that it seeks to support and protect.

Membership is open to all members of the NLG community who self-identify as people of color. There will be no arbitrary exclusion from membership on the basis of sexuality, religion, gender, gender presentation or identity, sexual orientation, disability or age. All other members of the NLG are invited to work with and support TUPOCC as allies in the pursuit of true justice.

persistently experienced as a phenomenon not only in the Guild, but throughout the U.S. Left. As was the case in many justice-minded organizations, people of color far too often were viewed as “targets” of solidarity or “groups” requiring representation, rather than equal and active comrades defining and leading the agenda. People of color represented a distressingly low percentage of membership and an even lower percentage of the leadership of those organizations. In short, the Guild, like many organizations in the fight for

racial, social and economic justice, was overwhelmingly white. How could it credibly speak as the “legal arm of the movement” when it did not internally represent, or prioritize the input of, the communities it aimed to serve? What did it mean to work towards the elimination of racism and all forms of discrimination when whiteness as the “norm” was pervasive and unchallenged within the organization itself?

And so as we caucused, that group of around twenty of us, we pondered these and other questions. Was it worth the time, the effort and the fatiguing personal cost it would take to voice our concerns and organize for long-term, foundational transformation in the Guild? Did we think the Guild could become an organization where the authentic presence, participation and leadership of activists of color was no longer an exception to the norm or a happy accident, but rather an intentional result of an organization sincerely endeavoring to transform into an anti-racist institution?

For many of us, the answer was yes. The decision was made to stay, and to organize through a caucus of legal activists of color, in conjunction with allies, for things to change. At that early Sunday morning meeting, we elected our first co-chairs, Ranya and Renée. We attended the NEC meeting that afternoon and presented ourselves and our calls to action. Our founding document, the Alabama Manifesto, speaks to those initial calls to action. TUPOCCers and allies have worked together, since that time, to institutionalize an anti-racist and anti-oppression agenda – by guaranteeing positions on the board to TUPOCC representatives, by working to promote the meaningful leadership of people of color throughout the Guild, by actively dedicating funds to bring activists of color to the national convention – as active participants and as speakers – and by facilitating anti-racist organizational change through trainings locally and nationally that challenged the white normativity of the Guild.

TUPOCC’S FIRST YEARS: FOSTERING AN ANTI-OPPRESSION CULTURE

Shortly after Birmingham, we, as founding TUPOCC Co-Chairs, along with Russell Bloom, founding member and unofficial Minister of Art, proposed to change our name from the Student of Color Caucus to TUPOCC, *The United People of Color Caucus*, acknowledging that our movement necessarily requires the inclusion of all activists of color – students, legal workers and lawyers alike. We also drafted the Alabama Manifesto. Our new name and our declaration were reviewed and endorsed by the individuals present at that Sunday meeting.

As founding co-chairs, we spent the first three years as TUPOCC’s leadership organizing on two key fronts. The first front was to actively dedicate efforts towards the meaningful recruitment and retention of people of color in the Guild. At the first meeting of the NEC following the Birmingham Convention, TUPOCC advocated to institutionalize the travel stipend, to ensure that at least 25 students of color would be able to access travel funds to attend future “Law for the People” conventions. Our advocacy was successful. Today the stipend remains an institutionalized part of the NLG budget, as a commitment by the Guild’s leadership to make concrete, affirmative efforts to recruit and retain activists of color. Since its inception, TUPOCC has expanded eligibility for the stipend to legal workers and recent law graduates, in addition to students, with priority given to legal workers, the goal being to challenge class dynamics and to reach out to individuals for whom travel to the Guild convention would otherwise be economically impossible. Through TUPOCC and allied

advocacy by the Anti-Racism Committee, the Anti-Sexism Committee, the Queer Caucus, the Next Gen Committee, the Student Vice Presidents, and other allies, the NEC voted to allocate additional stipend funds each subsequent year, so that awards were granted to more activists of color to attend the convention. The change set into motion by the stipend has been historic. It represents a committed effort on the part of the NLG leadership to change the fabric of the Guild. Like us, many individuals who were awarded stipends over the last decade have not only remained active members, but have also stepped up and into leadership positions, bringing with them histories, perspectives, energy and a commitment to pushing forward anti-racist and anti-oppression organizational change that has transformed the Guild.

The second front to which we dedicated ourselves was related to fostering a culture within the Guild that internalized anti-racism and anti-oppression practices – one where the Guild’s work was not “presumed” to be helpful or important to people of color, but rather was informed by the communities themselves. We wanted to see a Guild that felt safe for people of color to voice concerns and thoughts and to contribute as equal comrades in the organization. To encourage others to join with us in organizing around anti-racism and anti-oppression, we asked the Guild – nationally, regionally, locally, and through committees – to endorse the Alabama Manifesto and to pledge to work internally on these issues. The NEC unanimously voted to sign on to this “TUPOCC Pledge” at the January 2006 NEC meeting. The San Francisco Chapter of the NLG also quickly signed onto our Pledge, followed by many other chapters and committees throughout the country. The NEC also voted to institutionalize anti-racism trainings at every “Law for the People” convention for white members of the Guild, calling upon them to critically examine how to confront white supremacy, to challenge how their privileges affect their work and activism, and to recommit to dismantling institutionalized racism. Dedicated funds, space, and time were also institutionalized for concurrent workshops for people of color in the Guild to caucus in a safer space, combat internalized racism, heal, strategize, and organize. The NEC itself also participated in yearly anti-oppression trainings at the NEC level. The objective of all of this was to weave solid anti-racism and anti-oppression tactics and approaches into all elements of our advocacy and organizing – how we define the work that we do, who leads the discussions around the work that we do and how we judge the impact of the work that we do.

MARCHING FORWARD

We would be misrepresenting TUPOCC’s impact during our first decade were we to focus only on the travel stipend, the Alabama Manifesto, the Pledge, and the anti-racism and caucus sessions at the annual conventions. The political impact TUPOCC has had in the Guild and beyond over the last decade goes much deeper than that.

The profound impact of all of this work is, in our opinion, the strong bonds of solidarity, the commitment to each other’s liberation and the sense of joint struggle that has developed amongst us – a network of activists growing and organizing together to seek change that reflects the principles we support. Through an anti-racist and anti-oppression lens, we demand, as a united front, that we end all forms of racism and injustice. We confront Zionism and support the Palestinian struggle for self-determination. We call for justice for the indigenous. We demand the human rights of all people in the LGBTQI community. We fight for the right of migrants and immigrants to live with humanity, dignity and justice. We

work to free political prisoners and confront the racist brutality of the criminal injustice system. We oppose war and imperialism. We organize to dismantle ableism, sexism and all forms of oppression. We confront homelessness and poverty, discrimination and apartheid. And by presenting our demands together, in solidarity, with an insistence that we, as the movement, do not get a pass on challenging any of these things internally, we have witnessed the evolution of the organization and ourselves as individuals, acting in coalition and within our communities. This is what TUPOCC represents.

In looking back over the last decade, we find it difficult to describe the ups and downs, the pains and joys, the victories and successes experienced by TUPOCCers in the journey from then to now. We feel an overwhelming sense of pride in TUPOCC. We cherish the relationships built and the progress achieved. We tend to wounds from battles. We heal and we mend. We know that the Guild today is, in so many ways, a very different Guild, because of the commitment made by TUPOCCers and our allies to ensure that the anti-racism and anti-oppression goals of the movement are reflected in both why we do our work and in how we do our work. We are heartened by the numbers of people of color attending conventions and meaningfully participating in the leadership of the organization. We stand as TUPOCC for anti-racism struggles worldwide, as we continue to commit ourselves to our universal goal of eradicating racism and all forms of oppression.

Like all struggles against oppression, we know that our work evolves and continues. We now watch as a new generation of TUPOCCers and allies take over and carry on, organizing nationally and locally, within committees, inside and outside of the Guild. We are fired up by this new generation, who challenges us to think in different ways and push for TUPOCC to grow. We are totally inspired and humbled by their work. We know that the struggle is one that will continue in the Guild, as it has existed in the past, and we will continue to push toward the realization of a National Lawyers Guild that represents a truly liberated organization. We know that it is not naïve or misguided to work to achieve that goal. As we look back at that early Sunday morning meeting of activist students of color in Birmingham ten years ago, we are reminded that the love we felt then for this work is the same love and gratitude we feel now. We remember fondly the laughter and joy we have all shared and we look with affection, admiration, gratitude and respect on those who marched forward with us believing that another world is possible.

In solidarity and peace, with love, towards justice, in struggle, and with respect,

Ranya, Renée and Russell

"TUPOCC was the reason why I joined the Guild. Without it, I never would have seen the NLG as a viable place for me to spend my energy, and I still believe that. TUPOCC remains one of the pivotal reasons for many if not most members of color to join and to remain in the NLG. With that I must say, that as I write this, NEC members have been fundraising online for the TUPOCC convention travel stipend for over two weeks, and there are less than 10 white contributors to the campaign. On this, the 10th anniversary of TUPOCC in the NLG, there could not be a more telling barometer of the continued need for TUPOCC's presence and push for anti-racist internal work within the Guild."

-Anne Befu, TUPOCC co-chair 2006-08

Local TUPOCC Chapters

New York

In the fall of 2012, National Lawyers Guild New York City Chapter members of color joined together to start our New York City regional chapter of The United People of Color Caucus. We as members of the NYC TUPOCC chapter had been discussing starting our own chapter for several years given the large under representation of members of color in the NLG's largest local chapter in the nation and given our various experiences in working in these circles as members of targeted communities the Guild purports to help. Specifically, we felt our voices in representing our targeted communities were not always welcome if not outright rejected, relegating us to a tokenized status and our communities' voices under represented in discussions about our own struggles. Further, our presence in general in the Guild, including New York, was not encouraged, anti-oppression analysis and trainings were met with hostility, and little to no racial analysis existed internally as to how members treated members of color, how they related to the communities of color they worked with, and their race politics generally. As a united front, we are pushing for our voices to be included and be central to this work, and for our communities and ourselves to have an equal seat at the table. We encourage other members of color to reach out and join us and our efforts. Please contact either Bina Ahmad at binaahmadesq@gmail.com or Natasha Lycia Ora Bannan at lyciaora@gmail.com.

Chicago

TUPOCC's Chicago Chapter had our first meeting on October 16, 2012 with the leadership of a couple of committed NLG-Chicago members. We hit the ground running with our first event in January 2013, which commemorated civil rights hero Fred Korematsu with a short film about his life and panel discussion about racial profiling during Mr. Korematsu's time and now. In May 2013, we sponsored "From Puerto Rico to Palestine: Colonial Domination and Political Prisoners," a CLE that explored the commonalities in the Puerto Rican and Palestinian experiences and the intersections between colonization and political repression. In June 2013, TUPOCC Chicago hosted a discussion and meal with Guild history maker Stan Willis about how to organize, lobby and legislate for social change.

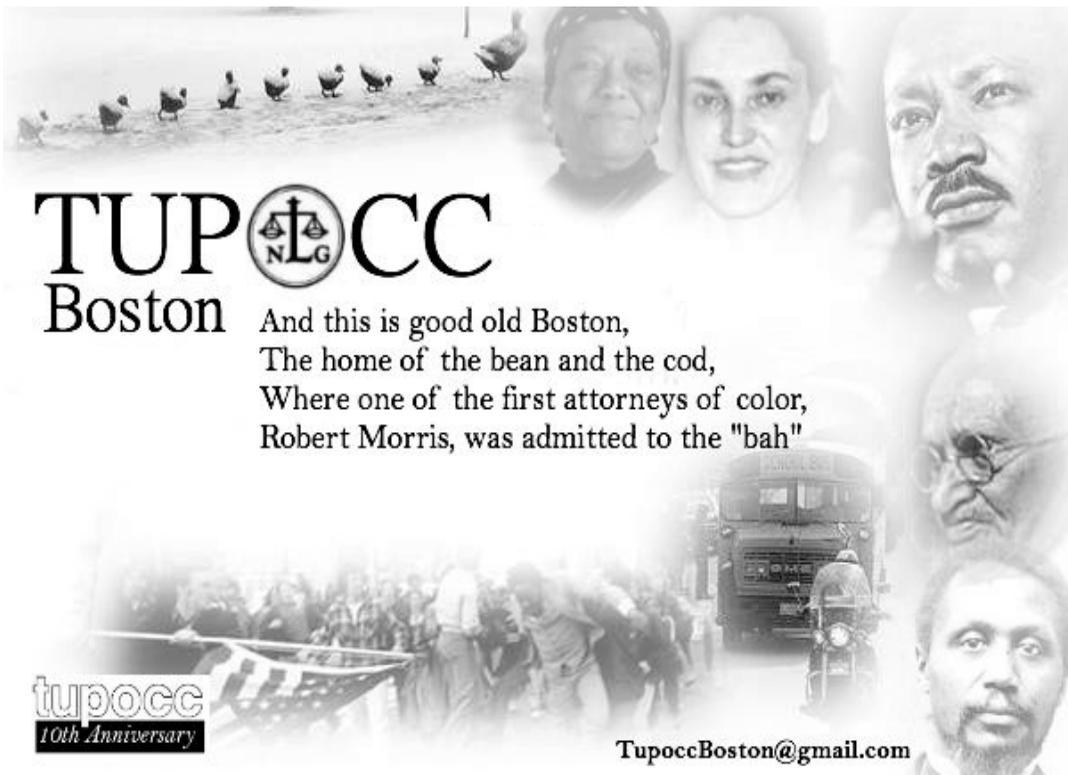
Since the fall 2013, TUPOCC Chicago has met every month to prepare for the 2014 Convention and ensure that the presence and voices of people of color at the Convention are strong. While preparing for the Convention, TUPOCC has also co-hosted and -sponsored many events with local organizations, such as Erie Neighborhood House, Mongolian American Student Association, Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Chicago, Sargent Shriver Poverty Law Center, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), and the Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation (CAASE). In January 2014 TUPOCC had the honor of again cosponsoring an event for Korematsu Day, especially made memorable

due to the fact that the event marked the first Korematsu Day recognized by the state of Illinois, thanks to the efforts of JACL. Most recently, TUPOCC worked with several organization to hold a successful DACA renewal workshop for the Mongolian and Korean communities. We are excited about continuing to organize events with local community organizations and being supportive of one another while working locally and nationally with other TUPOCC members! Contact us at: Chicagonigtupocc@gmail.com

Bay Area

TUPOCCers in the Bay Area have been meeting informally since 2008. In 2010 a group of TUPOCCers started a reading group around Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow*. Shortly after the reading group the chapter was formed. It's main event became a May Day fundraiser to fund the travel of the TUPOCC co chairs to the NEC meetings. In recent years, Bay TUPOCC has organized events with organizations, participated in direct actions, and functioned as a social and political organization for people of color in the Bay Area. This year Bay TUPOCC has planned quarterly events and is working in developing a Boycott Divestment Campaign with the Arab Resource and Organizing Center in San Francisco.

If you are interested in learning how to get involved with the Bay Area's TUPOCC chapter check out our Facebook page ("Bay TUPOCC") or email Gaby Lopez at gabacules@gmail.com or Aliya Karmali at aliya.karmali@gmail.com



TUP  **CC**
Boston

And this is good old Boston,
The home of the bean and the cod,
Where one of the first attorneys of color,
Robert Morris, was admitted to the "bah"

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