

NLG National Membership Policy

Membership in the NLG is limited to lawyers, law students, legal workers, and jailhouse lawyers.

Becoming a member of the NLG requires:

- Filling out a membership form—online at nlg.org/join or hard copy— through NLG National Office or through a local staffed chapter (Los Angeles, Michigan, Massachusetts, New York City, and Bay Area)
- Paying dues (sliding scale) or requesting a dues waiver* for one year from national or local staff
NOTE: There are no exceptions to this policy; anyone who has not gone through this process is not considered a NLG member in good standing

Renewal of membership:

- Required on an annual basis by either paying annual dues or requesting a yearly waiver
- Must take place within 3 months of the last membership to maintain “current” status
- Must be done through the NLG National Office or a local staffed chapter (Los Angeles, Michigan, Massachusetts, New York City, and Bay Area)
- Members who do not renew in 3 months are no longer eligible for any of the benefits of members listed below.

Membership in the NLG includes:

- Eligibility to run in local, regional, and national elections (sometimes after being a member for a certain period of time depending on the position or the Guild entity)
- Eligibility to vote in local, regional, and national elections
- Ability to bring organizational resolutions to the membership for voting
- Inclusion in the NLG online referral directory
- Eligibility to apply for NLG fellowships
- Addition to NLG National and local committees
- Addition to all free NLG email lists (NOTE: some email lists are run by committees that require an additional fee for their members)
- Discounted registration at the NLG national convention
- Access to members-only content on the NLG website (nlg.org)

*Dues waivers are requested on an annual basis- they can be a complete dues waiver (\$0) or an amount lower than the lowest amount on the membership form. Waivers must be approved by the NLG national Director of Membership or the staff of a local staffed chapter.

As a membership organization, benefits of membership are only provided to those current in their membership. This includes involvement in NLG committees, subscription to NLG listservs, access to members only content, eligibility to vote in Guild elections and propose organizational resolutions, and eligibility to apply for fellowships, such the Weinglass and Haywood Burns Memorial. Lapsed members need to renew their membership in order to gain back access to these benefits.