

Dear NLG Comrades,

I am announcing my candidacy for President of the National Lawyers Guild (NLG). My motivation to run is rooted in a collective aspiration to build a strong, caring NLG and movement of lawyers and legal workers who can and must play a pivotal role in supporting social movements and advancing revolutionary struggle in the U.S. and around the globe.

I have served as the Co-Chair of the NLG International Committee for several years and in that capacity have played an active role in the National Executive Committee, working closely with the National Office, the Executive Committee and other committees to strengthen the Guild. I am an active member of TUPOCC, International Labor Justice, and Labor and Employment Committee. I also represent the NLG as a member of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, a role that has not only strengthened my creative skills as a lawyer but has exposed me to many models of progressive lawyering and legal movements.

I came to know the NLG as a community organizer working with an Arab community organization in Chicago in the post-9-11 era. Chicago NLG members provided consistent and invaluable support to our struggles and taught me a great deal, including the tenants and practice of restorative justice. They were a resource for our movement and a line of defense in the face of increasing racism and criminalization. My interactions with NLG in Chicago inspired me to go to law school.

My first legal internship was in Egypt. I found myself there again years later at the height of the Arab uprisings and I organized a 2012 NLG delegation to Egypt. After law school, I accepted a fellowship with the Global Law and Organizing Institute of the United Auto Workers, a role that would send me to India where I greatly expanded my knowledge of the world and social movements. India and Egypt were not my only international experiences, but they were key. I am an internationalist and anti-imperialist. I have also spent much of my life supporting the struggle for the liberation of Palestine. All of this I bring to my work. Today, my day job is as a co-director of a binational alliance of low-wage worker organizations in the food economy organizing for workers' rights along the food supply chain and building food sovereignty.

I bring to the role of NLG president, experience in the NEC and IC building relationships and learning the internal structures of the NLG. I bring many years of experience as an organizer and movement leader in various types of organizations and political spaces and as a co-director of a large member-based network.

I am committed to building a guild where all our members can feel supported in their work and find opportunities to grow. I am committed to supporting the leadership of lawyers and legal workers from Black, Indigenous, people of color, and working-class communities. I continue to be committed to building an institution that not only rejects anti-blackness, ableism, heteropatriarchy, and classism, but an institution that can orient us towards collective visions and struggles.

Our current crises have revealed to many the depth of racist state violence and the disposability of people under global capitalism, a reality that many here and throughout the global south have always known. This moment is critical for what it calls on all of us to do. To build organizations that will advance the struggle for social justice and liberation. The NLG can and must play a critical role in supporting and advancing this struggle.

