

Full Bios for “Using the State Against the State” Closing Plenary

Claude Marks is a formerly US held political prisoner and the co-director of the Freedom Archives.

Jalil Muntaqim, Anthony Bottom, is currently on parole after being incarcerated for half a century at Attica Correctional Facility and Southport Correctional Facility. He was convicted alongside Albert Washington and Herman Bell for the alleged killings of two police officers and, as a result, has faced numerous attempts of retaliation by the state—including routine denial of parole. Before he was incarcerated, he was a member of the Black Panther Party and the Black Liberation Army. He is also the author of *We Are Our Own Liberators: Selected Prison Writings*, a collection of essays that he wrote while in prison.

James Burch is the Policy Director for the Anti Police-Terror Project and the Justice Teams Network, and the President of the National Lawyers Guild, San Francisco Bay Area Chapter. In 2007, he worked for the Southern Center for Human Rights where he investigated human rights conditions in GA and AL prisons, jails, and court systems. James left in 2009 to study civil rights law at Georgetown. After graduating, James moved to the Bay Area where he worked with the Frisco 500 before joining APTP’s Black Leadership Committee and assuming the role of Policy Director. He lives in Oakland with his partner and child.

Azadeh Zohrabi is a natural leader who has experienced the intergenerational impacts of imprisonment and has a deep conviction to advocate for the underdog. With extensive experience in public policy, leadership development, community organizing, and management, she is devoted to ending mass incarceration and supporting formerly incarcerated leaders into new lives within their communities. She is currently the Director of the Underground Scholars at UC Berkeley—a program that provides recruitment, retention, and advocacy support to incarcerated and formerly incarcerated students.

Kali Akuno: Kali Akuno is a co-founder and director of Cooperation Jackson, which is an emerging network of worker cooperatives and supporting institutions. Cooperation Jackson is fighting to create economic democracy by creating a vibrant solidarity economy in Jackson, MS that will help transform Mississippi and the South. You can find more information about Cooperation Jackson at www.CooperationJackson.org. Kali served as the Director of Special Projects and External Funding in the Mayoral Administration of the late Chokwe Lumumba of Jackson, MS. His focus was supporting cooperative development, sustainability, human rights and international relations.

Kali Akuno is an organizer, educator, and writer for human rights and social justice. He is the former Co-Director of the US Human Rights Network. Kali also served as the Executive Director of the Peoples' Hurricane Relief Fund (PHRF) based in New Orleans, Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina. And was a co-founder of the School of Social Justice and Community Development (SSJCD), a public school serving the academic needs of low-income African American and Latino communities in Oakland, California.

Kali is also the co-editor of "*Jackson Rising: the Struggle for Economic Democracy and Black Self-Determination in Jackson, MS*", and the author of numerous articles and pamphlets including the Jackson-Kush Plan: the Struggle for Black Self-Determination and Economic Democracy", "Until We Win: Black Labor and Liberation in the Disposable Era", "Operation Ghetto Storm: Every 28 Hours report" and "Let Your Motto Be Resistance: A Handbook on Organizing New Afrikan and Oppressed Communities for Self-Defense".

Natali Segovia is a staff attorney with the Water Protectors Legal Collective and on the International Committee of the NLG.

EmilyRose Johns is a Senior Associate at Siegel, Yee, Brunner & Mehta and a NLG-SFBA chapter legal support co-coordinator. She fights tirelessly for her clients and has amassed numerous victories in the areas of prisoners' rights, police misconduct, discrimination in employment, education, athletic opportunities, and criminal defense. EmilyRose is an active member of the National Lawyers Guild and serves on several local committees, including the Demonstrations Committee, the Right to Shelter Committee and the NextGen committee. She also serves on the Legal Committee of the Anti Police-Terror Project.

Anita De Asis Miralle, better known as Needa Bee, is a Filipina, single mother, entrepreneur, educator, artist, activist and organizer. She is a co-founder and interim Executive Director of The Village in Oakland - a grassroots organization providing direct services and support, opportunities for media and policy advocacy, education programs, and arts programs by and for unhoused residents of Oakland, Berkeley & San Francisco. The Village in Oakland has been providing know your rights trainings, eviction defense, and adverse possession to unhoused Oakland residents since 2017. In Spring 2017, to help document the conditions and government interventions (or lack of) in shanty towns, favelas, and slums around the world, The Village in Oakland co-hosted the United Nations Rapporteur on Adequate Housing. In the final UN report, Oakland and San Francisco were named the top two cities in the world where the Special Rapporteur documented the most human rights violations of unhoused residents.

Sirine Shebaya is the Executive Director of the National Immigration Project. She is a longtime immigrant rights advocate who focuses on combining litigation and public campaign strategies to defend and advance the rights of immigrant communities of color. She was one of the lead attorneys litigating COVID-related detention issues nationwide. She also co-led a movement of lawyers, organizers, translators, and concerned citizens doing rapid-response work at Dulles Airport in the aftermath of the Muslim Ban. She has litigated several high-profile cases alongside and on behalf of communities impacted by family separation, discriminatory police practices, immigration detention and enforcement issues, and the Muslim Ban. In partnership with local community groups, she led a campaign that resulted in eliminating ICE holds in most jurisdictions in Maryland. Sirine previously worked at the Capital Area Immigrant's Rights Coalition and at the ACLU of Maryland. She has experience in litigation, public education campaigns, and advocacy focused on immigration detention and criminal legal system issues.

Sirine's work with immigrant communities has been honored with the Capital Area Muslim Bar Association Award for Outstanding Pro Bono Service and Commitment to Advancing Justice, the Americans for Democratic Action Winn Newman Equality Award, and the National Immigration Project Daniel Levy Award.

Abraham Paulos is a seasoned communications expert, journalist, and movement leader who has advocated for human rights for more than a decade. Abraham is currently the Deputy Director of Communications and Policy of the Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI). He develops and implements BAJI's overall communications strategy nationwide in collaboration with BAJI members and staff. Before joining BAJI, Abraham was the Executive Director of Families for Freedom (FFF), a position he held after facing immigration detention at Rikers Island and becoming a member of FFF.

Earlier in his career, Abraham was a researcher at Human Rights First, focused on immigration detention. He also served as Program Director at Life of Hope, a community-based organization

in Brooklyn, which provides services to low-income immigrants and as the Communications Coordinator for WHY Hunger, a global NGO that tackles issues of hunger and poverty. As a journalist, Abraham reported on urban policy and human rights for City Limits, the NYC civic affairs magazine, and for the Foreign Policy Association, writing about foreign policy and global issues. Abraham is a Stateless Eritrean refugee, born in Sudan and raised in Chicago. He is a graduate of George Washington University with a degree in International Affairs and a Masters at the New School University.

Suzanne Adely: Suzanne Adely is the incoming president of the NLG and a labor and community organizer and human rights attorney who has worked in New York, Chicago, Egypt, India and other locations on a spectrum of labor and human rights initiatives. A graduate of CUNY School of Law, she joined the Food Chain Workers Alliance (FCWA) in 2017 and supports several of their organizing and policy initiatives. FCWA is a coalition of 33 worker-based organizations organizing at the frontlines of the food supply chain in the U.S. and Canada. She is the founder of the Global Worker Solidarity Network, a social media site that has facilitated bottom-up support for worker campaigns around the globe. She is the co-chair of the International Labor Justice Working Group and International Committee of the National Lawyers Guild, bureau member of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers and a long time Arab-American community organizer.

Sara Kershner: After her father tested positive for HIV, Sara became involved in ACT-UP and started a life-long commitment to social justice activism and organizing. Sara has a background in reducing drug-related harm, transformative justice, prisoner solidarity and anti-racist organizing. She was part of building two youth centers – Youth Uprising in East Oakland and RYSE Center in Richmond. Sara has been involved in the NLG-SFBA for over a decade as a Board member and legal worker. She’s a founder of the International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network and GenerationFIVE (an organization committed to preventing and responding to child sexual abuse through transformative justice approaches). Sara is currently the Executive Director of the NLG-SFBA and a queer mother of a six-year old.