

Proposed Amendment to Article 2.1, section (c): Legal Worker Definition

Proponent and presenter: Peter Blaiklock, madhettie@riseup.net

WHEREAS some NLG chapters exclude volunteer legal worker members on the grounds that they are not employed in the legal profession, in violation of the spirit and letter of the definition of legal workers in the constitution, I propose that the legal worker definition be amended to prohibit this practice.

Original text: (c) Legal workers, any person who is currently working, or who has worked, or who is training to work in any office, collective or other institution, which has as its primary function the provision of administration of legal services, information or education; or who, as an individual, provides or administers legal services, information, or education as a major component of her or his work; and

Proposed language (changes in all caps): (c) Legal workers, any person who is currently working, or who has worked, or who is training to work, FOR PAY OR AS A VOLUNTEER, in any office, collective or other institution, which has as its primary function the provision OR administration of legal services, information or education; or who, as an individual, provides or administers legal services, information, or education as a major component of THEIR PAID OR VOLUNTEER work; and

Implementation: The amendment would be implemented by the national office staff, who would update the constitution with the new language, and by the chapters (except law school chapters) who would ensure that they allowed volunteer legal worker members the full privileges of Guild membership, making whatever local policy changes are necessary.

Endorsed by the following NLG bodies:

Buffalo chapter
Detroit/MI chapter
Cascadia chapter
Colorado chapter
DC chapter
Pittsburgh chapter
Rochester chapter
New Mexico chapter
Massachusetts chapter

TUPOCC
Mass Incarceration Committee
Mass Defense Committee