

NLG Disorientation Planning Guide (2023)

It's almost time for the law school year to begin, which means it is NLG Disorientation Season! To help law students at your school learn about the NLG, consider some of the suggestions below to set up Disorientation events. *(These suggestions are for already established NLG chapters. If you would like to start a new chapter, please see the [Start a Chapter](#) page of the NLG website for resources and a [checklist of tasks](#). Email Director of Research and Education Traci Yoder at traci@nlg.org for more information!)*

Preparation!

Here are some steps to get ready for Disorientation:

- **Order materials:** As a NLG law school chapter, you get access to print copies of the [NLG's Disorientation Manual](#). Please contact Traci to find out how to order copies and other materials for tabling and recruitment.
- **Membership:** Get a list of current NLG members at your school by emailing Traci and make sure all your members are up to date.
- **National Student email list:** Check to be sure all members in your chapter are subscribed to the members-only NLG national student email list.
- **Contacts:** Make sure your chapter is listed on the [NLG Student page](#) of the NLG website along with current social media accounts. Email Traci with any updates.

Tabling!

Most law schools have an organization fair in August or early September to highlight student orgs. Make sure someone from your NLG chapter reserves a table and orders materials for tabling. Figure out who from the chapter can table and have a list of talking points about the organization to share with interested students! Some materials from the website you can use to prepare include:

- [10 Things the NLG Can Offer You](#)
- [Script to Introduce 1Ls to the NLG](#)
- [Our Work page of the NLG website](#)
- [Why Join page of the NLG website](#)

Disorientation Events!

There are many ways to hold Disorientation events at your law school, depending on the size and capacity of your chapter. Here are some ways NLG students have organized DisO events:

- **Meeting:** The simplest option is to hold an open meeting of your NLG chapter and invite anyone interested in learning more about the Guild and movement lawyering. You can invite local or national NLG members to attend in person or

virtually to talk about the NLG's work and mission. See the list of resources below for other content to help with planning!

- **All-day Disorientation:** If you have enough members and resources, your law school chapter can plan a longer event that includes a meeting as well as panels, trainings, and social events. Examples include events on movement lawyering or progressive career paths, Legal Observer or Know Your Rights Trainings, and happy hours. Consider partnering with other student groups at your school!
- **City-wide Disorientation:** If you are located in an area with other law schools nearby, the local NLG chapter may assist by planning a citywide Disorientation event over a day or weekend. Cities that often plan collaborative events include NYC, LA, Detroit, Chicago, Boston, Washington DC, Philadelphia, and the Bay Area. Reach out to your local chapter to see if there is a plan for a citywide DisO in the works!

Beyond Disorientation!

After Disorientation, the NLG also has resources to help you set up your chapter, organize at your law school, and participate in national campaigns! Check out some of these resources to start planning your yearly calendar:

- [Beyond Disorientation Guide](#): A guide that covers NLG chapter structure and leadership, recruiting members, project ideas, fundraising, best practices, and an organizing calendar.
- [Radical Law Student Manual](#): An analysis of contemporary legal education as well as concrete strategies to change the culture of law school using examples from other NLG students.
- [National Week of Abolition](#): Held every year in March by all NLG law schools! A specific theme is chosen by NLG students in Nov/Dec. More information will be sent out over the NLG national student email list about the WOA.

Further Resources!

- NLG [Student Chapters](#), [Local Chapters](#), [National Committees](#), and [Scholars](#)
- [NLG Letter to Incoming Progressive/Radical Students](#): Slideshow created by the Stanford Law NLG Chapter! Download and edit to fit your law school context.
- [Staying Radical in Law School \(2020\)](#): Webinar produced by the NLG National Office which can be screened in part or whole during Disorientation.
- [Legal Education and the Legal Profession](#): List of readings and other resources analyzing the curricular, pedagogical, and institutional commitments of the legal education institution and, ultimately, the legal profession.
- [DisO Deprogramming 1Ls](#): Resource created by the NLG UC Davis NLG Chapter, including discussion questions to facilitate small group discussions.
- [Disorientation Flyers/Zines/Slides](#): Folder of past Disorientation materials.