

The header image is a collage. On the left, there's a blue sign that says 'STOP' and another that says 'BRING THEM HOME'. In the center, there's a crowd of people holding various signs, including one that says 'I AM A JAIL'. On the right, there's a circular logo for the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) featuring a scale of justice and the letters 'NLG' below it.

National Lawyers Guild SEATTLE CHAPTER

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For Immediate Release

Seattle National Lawyers Guild Condemns Trump Attack on Perkins Coie

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The Seattle Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild condemns the Trump Administration's recent Executive Order¹ attacking Perkins Coie, a large international law firm that represents the Democratic Party in addition to major corporations. Trump's Order exemplifies his complete disregard for the rule of law and his contempt for core American democratic values. The Order explicitly links Perkins Coie's legal efforts to protect the rights of voters to participate in our democracy to George Soros, which is nothing more than thinly veiled antisemitism,² not surprising given the Trump Administration's fondness for right-wing extremists in this country and abroad.

Lawyers cannot ignore the implications and risks that this Order presents. If Trump is successful in attacking a well-respected, major, and essentially centrist law firm, Trump will only be emboldened to continue his attacks on the legal system in general, including judges, other lawyers, and state and federal government officials who stand up to his bullying. We also know that if Trump is successful in attacking a pillar of the Democratic Party establishment, he will continue his path of destruction by persecuting others on the left.

Established in 1937, the National Lawyers Guild is the nation's oldest and largest progressive bar association and was the first one in the US to be racially integrated. Our mission is to use law for the people, uniting lawyers, law students, legal workers, and jailhouse lawyers to function as an effective force in the service of the people by valuing human rights and the rights of ecosystems over property interests.

We know well the tactics of lawless right-wing bullies like Trump. In the late 1940s and 1950s, during a prior wave of repression, the federal government unsuccessfully tried to ban the NLG as a "subversive organization," attacks that led to the jailing and disbarment of many of our members. Given our history, we recognize Trump's current campaign against Perkins Coie as being in the same mold as what we as an organization endured in the 40s and 50s.

We therefore call on all supporters of the rule of law to condemn Trump's attacks on Perkins Coie. We must stand up against the rising tide of fascism before it is too late.

¹ "Addressing Risks from Perkins Coie LLP," March 6, 2025 (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/addressing-risks-from-perkins-coie-llp/>).

² See Alon Milwicky, "Far Right Uses Antisemitic George Soros Trope To Attack Campus Protests," May 16, 2024 (<https://www.splcenter.org/resources/hate-watch/far-right-uses-antisemitic-george-soros-trope-attack-campus-protests/>).