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The National Conference of Black Lawyers (NCBL) stands with the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) in denouncing Republican Texas House member, Lance Gooden's October 16, 2025, letter requesting a federal investigation of the organization. The letter was sent to the United States Attorney General, Pamela Bondi, and copied to the Director of the FBI, Kash Patel; Frank Bisignano CEO, Internal Revenue Service; and, the Republican Attorneys General Association. This request on its face, if granted, would violate NLG's First Amendment rights and set a dangerous precedent for organizations advocating for civil and human rights. The letter suggests that these rights are only for those organizations that do not provide support for groups that are critical of the Administration. Representative Gooden suggests that because NLG is a "public welfare organization" [501(c)(4)] its constitutional rights can be restricted.

Representative Gooden's letter is further evidence of the growing threats to democracy posed by efforts to restrict support for anti-fascist and anti-racist movements. Recent actions by the current administration have demonstrated its lack of commitment to anti-racism by terminating federal diversity, equity, and inclusion programs (DEI). The Administration is also jeopardizing anti-racism initiatives by pressuring state and local governments to do the same under threat of losing federal funding. A similar threat to anti-racism programs encountered by NCBL is the threat to withdraw federal funds from state and local governments that are deciding to provide reparations for continuing legacies of slavery that violate the statutory, constitutional and human rights of Black people of African descent. These measures undermine efforts to address the continuing legacies of slavery and systemic discrimination.

Targeting NLG for its support of organizations such as Black Lives Matter and anti-fascist activist groups strikes at the core of the First Amendment and the Civil Rights

Amendments, including the 13th and 14th Amendments. Challenging NLG's representation of Black Lives Matter members charged with criminal offenses for involvement in anti-racism activities, undermines the Sixth Amendment right to counsel, which guarantees legal representation regardless of a client's ideology.

Finally, the accusation that NLG, after its founding, "has since been taken over by radical left-wing and communist organizations and causes" is reminiscent of "red-baiting," used to undermine the perception of legitimacy. These same tactics were used to discredit legitimate advocacy for equality and justice. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and other civil rights organizations were maliciously accused of being taken over by communists when they engaged in organized efforts to end the government created and enforced second class citizenship of Black people, frequently accompanied by violence against Black people by private actors protected by the government. This accusation seems to arise when those who support the oppression of a group based on its status, whether race, class, gender or ideology, want to dissociate the advocate from a legitimate act of support for civil and human rights.

NCBL supports NLG's commitment to standing in its truth. NLG has been a strong advocate for human and civil rights since its founding. The attempt to silence it is violative of the United States Constitution and a threat to all who stand up for people who are denied civil and human rights based on race, gender, or political ideology.