



TEN THINGS THE national lawyers guild CAN OFFER YOU

1. NATIONAL CONVENTIONS & REGULAR LOCAL EVENTS

Every fall, join hundreds of other progressive lawyers and law students at our Law for the People Convention, showcasing a variety of work by the Guild, its members, and allies on cutting-edge legal issues. Many chapters also host local NLG events monthly and Regional Conferences take place every year.

2. INFORMATIVE PUBLICATIONS

NLG Review, the Guild's scholarly journal is published quarterly. It was ranked the #4th top constitutional law review in the country by ExpressO legal subscription service in 2013. *Guild Notes*, published digitally three times a year, is the National NLG Newsletter. *Disorientation Handbook*, published annually, is a student's guide to the Guild and radical lawyering.

3. COMMITTEES & SUBSTANTIVE LEGAL WORK

Work on cases with members about the issues you care about in one of our many committees. Broaden your legal experience, make valuable connections, and build your résumé: work with attorneys and others in clinics, on committees, delegations, as a researcher, and more.

4. CLE PROGRAMMING

Earn CLE credit at one of our many accredited workshops or panels.

5. SOCIAL & PROFESSIONAL LEGAL NETWORKS

Attend happy hours and other events with attorneys and law students at the local, national, or even international level.

6. LEGAL OBSERVER TRAINING

Protect First Amendment rights! Join other attorneys, students, and activists in legal observing at mass demonstrations and protests. Get trained, train others.

7. PUBLIC INTEREST FELLOWSHIPS

Haywood Burns Memorial Fellowships for Social and Economic Justice provide funding for law students to spend their summers working at a variety of public interest organizations located throughout the U.S.

Thomas Steel Fellowships provide an opportunity for law students to work with Equality California, a statewide legislative and civil rights organization that advocates for California's LGBTIQ community (all placements in CA).

8. MENTORSHIPS & PROGRESSIVE JOB LISTINGS

To foster the next generation of people's lawyers, many local chapters run mentorship programs that pair experienced NLG attorneys to law students and new practitioners. Access current job listings in regular emails from members and their networks.

9. LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

There are a number of opportunities to gain valuable leadership experience within the Guild: co-chair a committee, serve as a regional representative, or run for a seat on the national board.

10. FIRST RACIALLY INTEGRATED BAR ASSOCIATION IN THE U.S.

Join us today at nlg.org.

WHAT DOES THE NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD DO?

A Fact Sheet for Prospective Members

The NLG is a decentralized organization.

Almost all of the programmatic work of the NLG is done by local chapters and committees, national committees, and individual members. Three affiliated national projects are the National Immigration Project, the National Police Accountability Project and the Sugar Law Center. This fact sheet does not cover the activities of the projects, but each has a separate web site, accessible through nlg.org where information is posted about its activities. The crucially important work of coordination of our activities, communications, organizing, member services, publications, fundraising and many other tasks is performed by our National Office in New York.

One of the Guild's principal functions is providing a network for sharing information among its members regarding their legal and political work. The many NLG email lists, websites and publications that exist allow our members across the country to remain on top of the latest developments and strategies that affect the cutting edge legal work they are doing.

NLG members represent activists and others on a wide range of social justice issues. A sampling of lawsuits demonstrates the wide-ranging activities of NLG lawyers:

- Jim Fennerty (representing Chicago Palestinian community organizer Rasma Yousef Odeh, for allegedly not providing information on her citizenship application about a conviction in an Israeli military court more than 40 years ago)
- Brian McGivern and the Austin NLG (challenging Travis County Jail, and the private security firm Securus Technology, for illegally recording private conversations between attorneys and their jailed clients)
- Rachel Lederman and a team of Guild lawyers (securing \$4.5 million from the City of Oakland for Iraq veteran Scott Olsen, who was nearly killed and now suffers permanent brain damage after police hit him with a "non-lethal" projectile during a 2011 Occupy demonstration)
- Tom Nelson (challenging the government's secretive no-fly list in his representation of Yonas Fikre who says he was tortured overseas at the direction of the FBI and blocked from returning home to the US. Fikre had refused requests from Portland-based FBI agents in Sudan to act as an informant at the Portland mosque he attended)
- NLG Massachusetts Chapter (securing a policy change by the Essex County Sheriff requiring inmates to pay medical fees for health services in prison, and reimbursing prisoners for payments already made)
- Matthew Strugar, Matthew Liebman and others (filing suit against the anti-whistleblower "Ag Gag" law in Idaho)
- Larry Hildes and Karen Weill (challenging US Army and Fusion Center spying on and disruption of Washington State peace activists)

- New York City Guild attorneys (obtaining an \$18 million settlement for protesters falsely arrested during the 2004 Republican National Convention—the largest settlement for mass arrests ever.)

The Guild’s Amicus Committee files and signs on to “friend of the court” briefs on a number of issues, available at nlg.org. In 2014, the Guild, along with the Center for Competitive Democracy and Ralph Nader, filed an amicus brief in *Hedges et al., v. Obama et al.*, a constitutional challenge to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). We claim that the NDAA raises the chilling prospect that American citizens may be subject to indefinite military detention if they engage in speech or associational activity deemed to provide substantial support to groups engaged in hostilities against the United States.

In 2013, the Guild and the ACLU filed an amicus brief in support of the appeal in *Blum v. Holder*, a federal lawsuit filed in December 2011 by two Guild members, the Center for Constitutional Rights, and a professor at Cardozo Law School challenging the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act (AETA) as an unconstitutional infringement on free speech. Five animal rights activist plaintiffs claim their work has been chilled from fear of prosecution as terrorists under AETA.

The Guild filed an amicus brief in *Shelby County v. Holder* asserting that treaty obligations and international law necessitated the continued application of the entire Voting Rights Act.

The NLG protects our civil liberties.

The NLG works to preserve civil liberties in the face of government initiatives in the “war on terror” that violate basic constitutional rights. As a member of the National Security Surveillance Coalition—a group of privacy, civil liberties and human rights organizations—we support privacy and civil liberties protections in surveillance laws. National Mass Defense Coordinator Abi Hassen and Executive Director Heidi Boghosian speak frequently on mass surveillance, data collection and the history of terrorism law and its effect on political protest. Abi spoke at CUNY Law School’s Community Legal Resource Network’s CLE program on April 17, “Privacy and Your Practice: How to Keep Your Information Safe and Secure.” He also organized a standing room only panel, broadcast on CSPAN, at the 2013 Left Forum on Information Activism.

In conjunction with the Center for Constitutional Rights and other voices of freedom, we launched the Palestine Solidarity Legal Support initiative so that students and other community activists can contact attorneys to request legal services, seek advocacy support, or report incidents of repression related to their Palestine solidarity activism or other Muslim and Arab student activism.

In early 2014, the Guild submitted congressional testimony to the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Constitutional, Civil and Human Rights hearing on solitary confinement. In addition to calling for an end to the torturous practice, we called for a full-scale reevaluation of the discriminatory U.S. criminal legal system as a whole, offering alternatives and reforms to address the epidemic of mass incarceration. A month later, we submitted comments to the Bureau of Prisons calling for the closures of Communications Management Units.

In March 2014, we mobilized nearly 20 legal organizations to write Congress to emphasize the importance of safeguarding lawyers' obligation to represent clients absent fear of reprisal. The Fraternal Order of Police orchestrated a smear campaign against Debo Adebile for the Civil Rights leadership position at the Department of Justice using his position as Acting President and Director Counsel of the NAACP LDF, which represents Mumia Abu-Jamal, to vilify him.

The NLG organizes and sponsors significant international delegations.

A delegation from the National Lawyers Guild met with Ambassador Lisa Kubiske in Honduras in November 2013, and voiced its concerns for the safety of human rights defenders, and in particular members of the Libre party. After the murders of attorneys José Nicolás Bernárdez and Judge Lenin Castañeda in March, we wrote to Ambassador Kubiske urging the embassy to conduct investigations into targeted killings, given that practicing law is a high-risk profession in that country and that only nine cases, out of 67 killings of lawyers from 2010 to 2013, have gone to trial.

Two delegations to Venezuela, with NLG election monitors, witnessed the election of Chavez's successor, President Maduro, and the audit of those results. NLG observers found the elections to be free and fair. We called on Secretary of State John Kerry to recognize Maduro as the legitimate President of Venezuela.

This year, the National Lawyers Guild sent a five-member election delegation to El Salvador to witness the fruits of the FMLN efforts at reform, and observe the national elections. Delegates visited a number of government agencies and facilities, and met with the nation's progressive bar and activists. Judy Somberg and William Leavitt also met with the U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador Mari Carmen Aponte, to lobby for a statement of neutrality in the election. Following the election, the delegation issued a press statement declaring a free and fair process that included the implementation of a residential voting system and additional checks and balances; and a high degree of transparency, fairness and efficiency.

The NLG issues regular publications on issues of legal and political significance.

The *NLG Review*, the Guild's scholarly journal, is read by lawyers, scholars, legal workers, jailhouse lawyers and activists, and includes articles that address and respond to the interests and needs of the progressive and activist communities. Named by Espresso Legal Subscription Service as a top ten law review, in 2013 it was ranked #4 in the Constitutional Law category. Members, law libraries and other subscribing institutions receive the *NLG Review* each quarter.

Guild Notes is the organization's quarterly e-newsmagazine of members' work and NLG advocacy, litigation and activist initiatives. Members and subscribing institutions receive *Guild Notes* three times a year.

The National Office issues reports on a range of topics. Our most recent report, *Breach of Confidence: Spying on Lawyers in the United States* (2014), brings to light the government's long history of covert surveillance of attorneys and their activist clients. Other reports include:

High Crimes: Strategies to Further Marijuana Legalization Initiatives (2013) and Developments in the Policing of National Special Security Events: An Analysis of the 2012 RNC and DNC (2013).

The NLG protects the rights of military service members.

The NLG Military Law Task Force (MLTF) defends the rights of GIs, and most especially, those who are resisting the military's imperial mission, at home and abroad, providing crucial legal resources to members of the military and their families and friends.

In 2014 the MLTF is issuing "Military Sexual Violence: A Guide to Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Policies in the U.S. Armed Forces."

The MLTF website, housed on the NLG's website (nlgmltf.org) receives over 12,000 hits per month. As one Marine, facing his fourth deployment to Iraq, stated, "It's my favorite website in the world." Its law digests and memos include "The Legality of Counter-Recruitment Work," and others on conscientious objection, command influence, military contractors, discharges and habeas petitions. As a founding member of the GI Rights Hotline, the MLTF assists in handling the over 3,000 calls per month coming into the Hotline and directly to its member organizations. It provides training for lawyers and counselors representing service members actively involved in GI Resistance, seeking discharges, as well as those wanting to challenge sexual harassment and assault. The MLTF is at the forefront of challenging extensions of tours and length of duty.

The NLG represents the interests of working men and women.

In addition to the work done by Sugar Law Center, many NLG members represent the interests of workers and labor unions through our Labor & Employment Project. A large number of NLG lawyers are employed as counsel to labor unions. For example, the Los Angeles Chapter of the Lawyers Guild has established a special expertise in working with local labor unions and local workers' movements. The Chapter trains union picketers in tactics of legal and militant picketing; serves on the advisory boards for union and union/community organizing efforts; aids workers in negotiating their grievances with employers; and represents workers arrested in the course of labor disputes. The chapter has been honored by several unions for its work in this regard.

The NLG engages in trainings and public education about legal rights.

Several local Guild chapters engage in a variety of programs to educate members of the public about their legal rights. Student chapters at a number of law schools are involved in "street law clinics" that conduct public workshops on immigrant rights, landlord tenant law, constitutional rights with respect to search and seizure and other topics. The National Office publishes a series of Know Your Rights booklets in English, Arabic, Spanish and Urdu and operates a hotline for individuals contacted by the FBI. And the National Office conducted a two-part training for over 70 attorneys on representing Keystone XL pipeline protesters.

Jim Lafferty and the Los Angeles Chapter of the Lawyers Guild host a weekly public affairs

radio show on KPFA. The show is designed to educate the public on legal matters, on public issues having a legal component, and on other issues of national and local importance. It provides community activists from Southern California, who are generally unable to receive air time on commercial stations, with an opportunity to share their views on the issues with the general public. The show is one of main ways in which the progressive community in Southern California learns about upcoming public meetings, government hearings, and progressive political movements for social change.

NLG Executive Director Heidi Boghosian, past NLG president Michael Ratner and NYC member Michael Smith host a weekly civil liberties program, “Law and Disorder,” on WBAI radio in New York. The program is also carried on over 60 other stations nationally, and covers issues of domestic and international legal concern, with guests who are actively involved in challenging human rights violations firsthand. On the show’s website, lawanddisorder.org, each program is available for download or on podcast.

NLG law students are engaged in important political and legal projects that carry out the work of the Guild.

The NLG has over 100 student chapters that operate autonomously at their law schools and are supported by local attorneys and legal workers, the National Office, and staffed chapters. There are representatives from most chapters on a national student listserv run out of the National Office, which serves to share resources and ideas among all the chapters. Some examples of current Guild student chapter work are:

In the **Secure Communities Project**, NLG law students have synthesized the legal and activist interventions that have been attempted thus far and are developing a workshop curriculum and other training materials. An **Expungement Project** with Community Legal Services is run by Temple NLG students. **Immigration Court Observations** are ongoing at law schools in New York City and Los Angeles. A **Notario Project** at Villanova Law School identifies unscrupulous individuals purporting to be immigration attorneys, as well as lawyers acting unethically in the performance of their duties representing immigrants. And this March, approximately 35 NLG student chapters organized events at their law schools to honor the Guild’s **“Student Week Against the Death Penalty.”**

Students continue to act as Legal Observers at local protests and mass assemblies and to organize petitions on issues of controversy, such as Suffolk University’s selection of Abe Foxman as commencement speaker and UC Hasting’s selection of Janet Napolitano.

The NLG conducts internal education and other activities to become a more diverse organization and to strengthen the anti-oppressive work of the Guild.

At the 2004 NLG Convention in Birmingham, the United People of Color Caucus (TUPOCC)—an alliance of legal workers, law students, lawyers, and jailhouse lawyers of color within the NLG—formed out of a recognition that meaningful racial, social, and economic justice can only be achieved when people of color and all other beleaguered communities are more than mere afterthoughts. Since then, Guild leadership and TUPOCC have worked to change the

predominantly white culture of the Guild, to promote an anti-racist culture and to strengthen the Guild's anti-racist work. In furtherance of this effort, various chapters, committees, and regions have signed onto the "TUPOCC pledge," committing to undertake anti-racist work, challenge racism internally, and increase efforts to meaningfully recruit and retain legal activists of color. The Guild institutionalized a scholarship for law students of color to attend Guild conventions and substantially increased its budget for inviting speakers representing communities of color and other constituencies to speak at Guild conventions. The Guild has conducted anti-oppression trainings for Guild members at national and local meetings, and TUPOCC has facilitated a meeting and political education space at the Guild's national conventions. A number of TUPOCC members have been elected to leadership positions within the Guild.

JOIN THE NLG

Membership in the National Lawyers Guild is open to attorneys, law students, jailhouse lawyers, and legal workers. Legal workers are defined as anyone who has worked in any office, collective or other institution which has as its primary function the provision of administration of legal services, information or education.

Each membership payment entitles members to four issues of NLG Review and three issues of Guild Notes, delivered either digitally or in the mail, as well as the right to vote in any NLG national election taking place during the period of membership, which lasts one year.

Members of bar associations of color need only pay half of the suggested rate for their income. This rate does not apply to committee dues.

We also offer firm and family memberships. If you join or renew as a firm or family you need only pay 75% of the total cost of membership dues for all members to join as individuals. Thus, if you have two lawyers in a family or firm who would normally pay \$300 each, you only need pay \$450 together. This also doesn't apply to committee dues.

Questions about membership? Contact membership@nlg.org.



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 132 Nassau St., Rm. 922
 New York, NY 10038

212-679-5100 (phone)
 212-679-2811 (fax)
 www.nlg.org

Membership Form

MEMBER INFORMATION

Name: _____ **Home#:** _____
Address: _____ **Cell#:** _____
 _____ **Work#:** _____
 _____ **Email:** _____
 (Please provide email even if requesting paper publications.)

Member type: Attorney Jailhouse Lawyer Law Student Legal Worker

Law School/Year of Graduation: _____

***Description of practice and fields of concentration:**

* I would like to receive legal referrals. **YES / NO** I want to join the NLG email listserv. **YES / NO**

The default method for distributing Guild publications is digital. Check the box below if you wish to receive paper copies instead.

Yes, I want to receive my Guild publications in paper form.

PAYMENT INFORMATION	COST
Membership Dues (see back for recommended amounts based on financial ability)	
* One Year Listing in the Online Referral Directory (\$50 fee, \$35 for recent law school graduates)	
Donation to send the Jailhouse Lawyer's Handbook to Prisoners (\$2 fee)	
Donation to the Student of Color Travel Stipend, for the NLG Convention	
▪ Donation to the Haywood Burns Memorial Fellowships Program for Social and Economic Justice	
▪ Donation to the NLG	
Committee Dues: See back. Please check the committees you wish to join and add their cost here.	
Make Checks Payable to National Lawyers Guild . To pay by Visa or MasterCard fill out the section below.	TOTAL:

Visa/MasterCard (circle one) **Card #:** _____ **Exp. Date:** _____

Amount: _____ **Signature:** _____

* If you choose to be listed in our **online Referral Directory**, please provide your work address, fields of concentration and, if you'd like, a brief description of your practice. If you are a legal worker, this will be noted in the directory.

▪ Donations to the NLG or to the **Haywood Burns Memorial Fellowships Program** for Social and Economic Justice which are made payable to the National Lawyers Guild Foundation are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

NLG Dues Schedule

Dues are suggested. We are honored to accept whatever you can afford. If you cannot pay your dues, please contact the National Office to maintain your membership free of cost. If you did not pay dues in previous years, you do not need to pay back-dues, only dues for the current year.

Suggested Dues	Income/Category
\$ 600 or more	\$200,000+
\$ 500-600	\$100-200,000
\$ 375-425	\$75-100,000
\$ 325-375	\$65-75,000
\$ 275-325	\$50-65,000
\$ 220-275	\$40-50,000
\$ 165-220	\$30-40,000
\$ 100-165	\$25-30,000
\$ 75-100	\$20-25,000
\$ 60	New Member Atty/Legal Worker
\$ 20-50	Law Student/First Year Lawyer
No Dues (\$7.50 to receive "Guild Notes")	Jailhouse Lawyer

We also offer firm and family memberships. If you join or renew as a firm or family you need only pay 75% of the total cost of membership dues for all members to join as individuals. Thus, if you have two lawyers in a family who would normally pay \$200 each, you only need pay \$300. Members of minority bar associations need only pay half of the suggested rate for their income. This rate does not apply to committee dues.

Committees of the NLG

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Amicus Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Animal Rights Activism Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Anti-Racism Committee (\$12) <input type="checkbox"/> Anti-Sexism Committee (\$0-\$15) <input type="checkbox"/> Center for Democratic Communications (\$25) <input type="checkbox"/> Disability Rights Committee (\$15) <input type="checkbox"/> Drug Policy Project <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Justice Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Housing Committee <input type="checkbox"/> International Committee (\$25) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Africa Subcommittee <input type="checkbox"/> Cuba Subcommittee (\$15) <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Human Rights Subcommittee <input type="checkbox"/> Free Palestine Subcommittee <input type="checkbox"/> Haiti Subcommittee <input type="checkbox"/> Korean Peace Project <input type="checkbox"/> International Labor Justice Working Group <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous Rights Subcommittee | <p style="text-align: center;">International Committee (continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Iran Subcommittee <input type="checkbox"/> Philippines Subcommittee <input type="checkbox"/> Puerto Rico Subcommittee <input type="checkbox"/> Task Force on the Americas <input type="checkbox"/> UN Subcommittee <input type="checkbox"/> Labor/Employment Committee (\$35; \$15 for students) <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Workers Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Mass Defense Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Mass Incarceration Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Military Law Task Force (\$25, includes newsletter) <input type="checkbox"/> Next Generation Committee (Recent Graduates) <input type="checkbox"/> Prison Law Project (\$10-40; free for Jailhouse Lawyers) <input type="checkbox"/> Queer Caucus <input type="checkbox"/> The United People of Color Caucus (TUPOCC – Open to all members who self-identify as people of color; sliding scale fee \$15- 30.) |
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