



NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD — MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER

Mass Dissent

Digital Monthly Newsletter

...To the end that human rights shall be regarded as more sacred than property interests...

JUNE 2023 MASS DISSENT

In this issue of *Mass Dissent*, we recapture the 2023 NLG Annual Dinner through impressions and insights of two attendees – **Lipou Laliemthavisy & Dave Runkle**. Lipou graduated from Roger Williams University School of Law (Bristol, RI) in 2013 and was an NLG Student Honoree the same year; Dave is this year's graduate of Suffolk Law School.

This year's Annual Dinner was held on May 19th at a new for us beautiful venue – the Arts at the Armory in Somerville. We honored Makis Antzoulatos and Josh Raisler Cohn (*Lawyer Award*), Housing Practice Group of Mass Law Reform Institute (*Rob Doyle Award*), Ronald Fox (*Lifetime Achievement Award*), Extinction Rebellion (*Legal Worker Award*), and Nick Adams from Suffolk Law School and Ruchi Ramamurthy from Northeastern University School of Law (*Student Award*). The event was smoothly emceed by Rep. Jennifer Stewart (Rhode Island House of Rep.) and Benjamin Evans (criminal defense attorney, Forensic Justice Fellow with the New England Innocence Project).

Thank you to all NLG members, friends, and allies who attended the Dinner and celebrated with us the Honorees and the NLG!

With comments and questions, please contact Urszula Masny-Latos at nlgmass-director@riseup.net.



This year the NLG Testimonial Dinner was held on Friday, May 19, 6:00-9:00 pm, at the Arts at the Armory in Somerville.

Makis Antzoulatos, Josh Riesler Cohn, Ronald Fox, MLRI Housing Group, Extinction Rebellion, Ruchi Ramamurthy, and Nick Adams were honored at the dinner for dedication to and advocacy for social justice.

[WATCH THE HONOREES' ACCEPTANCE SPEECHES HERE](#)

NLG-Mass members and dinner attendees, Lipou Laliemthavisy and Dave Runkle, shared their experiences at the dinner.

[READ ABOUT LIPOU LALIEMTHAVISY'S EXPERIENCE](#)

[READ ABOUT DAVE RUNKLE'S EXPERIENCE](#)

NLG-Mass members, Lisa Gordon, Sara Malley, and Jonathan Messenger, documented the dinner by taking pictures before, during, and after the event.

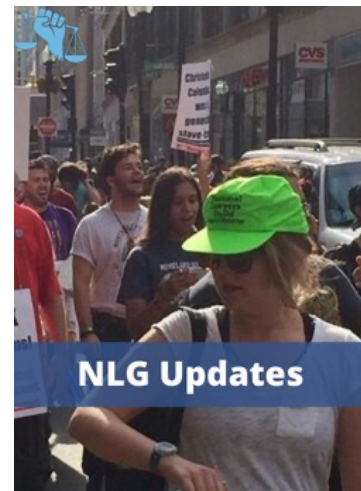
[VIEW THOSE PHOTOS HERE](#)

Mass Defense Committee Report:

Heavily armed police raided a music festival in a forest near Atlanta and indiscriminately detained and arrested dozens of people on March 5, 2023.

<https://theintercept.com/2023/03/08/atlanta-cop-city-protesters/>

Twenty three of those arrestees have been charged under a Georgia state domestic terrorism law, an overly broad law passed in the wake of the 2020 uprising to criminalize dissent and keep activists out of the streets.



Street Law Clinic and Legal Observing Report:

NLG's Street Law Clinic project conducts clinics to educate people and communities about their legal rights. Our goal is to empower people with the knowledge they need to exercise their rights in rising up against systems of oppression -- but we need YOUR help to provide these trainings. [**READ MORE**](#)



Litigation Committee Report:

As a result of our latest (and third) lawsuit against the Boston Police Department under the Massachusetts Freedom of Information Act, we received a list of every complaint against BPD officers from 2011 to present. Each complaint provides the officer's name, the date and description of the complaint, and the disposition. [**READ MORE**](#)

Abortion Justice Task Force Report:

AJTF CALL TO ACTION!

NLG-Mass' Abortion Justice Task Force (AJTF) was established in response to the *Dobbs* decision. The AJTF is currently researching the most pressing legal questions for those seeking an abortion, helping with accessing an abortion, and performing abortions in Massachusetts. [**READ MORE**](#)



Establishing a Human Rights Nonprofit in Prison

NLG-Mass received a letter from Larry Watkins, a prisoner at MCI Shirley, sharing his desire to establish a human rights nonprofit in prison and asked that his thoughts and ideas be shared.

[**READ MR. WATKINS' LETTER HERE**](#)



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