

# Mass Dissent

Massachusetts Chapter

National Lawyers Guild

14 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108

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## NLG Massachusetts Chapter in 2013

Over 40 years on the scene and has not slowed down! That's what we all in the Massachusetts Chapter of the NLG can proudly claim. We continue building our unique community of legal professionals and providing a platform for radicals to voice their opposition to political wrongs.

This past year, the chapter members and committees tackled hot issues.

The **Advisory Committee** provided a space and advice for activists who work on rights for tenants, domestic workers, LGBT community, and prisoners. The **Litigation Committee** spent the year on pending cases including the surveillance of activists by the Boston Police Department and Boston Regional Intelligence Center and on research and exploration of new potential cases. The Committee also advised and represented the Students for Justice in Palestine at Northeastern University who were targeted by the school administration (page 5). The **Mass Defense Committee** worked non-stop with well-established as well

as ad-hoc activist groups and conducted trainings in civil disobedience and legal observing, provided legal observers at demonstrations, and represented those who were arrested and charged for their protests (page 6-7). The **Lawyer Referral Service** Committee welcomed a new coordinator and new members, and continued its essential service for the community. NLG members who are on the referral panel often are the last resort for desperate low and moderate-income people in need of legal help (page 8). The **Street Law Clinic** Project is entering its 25th year in operation and it's as strong as ever. We now offer seven legal clinics which are conducted by law students we trained and by NLG members. We receive requests for clinics and trainings from all over Massachusetts, and also from Rhode Island and Vermont, and our members don't mind travelling for several hours to deliver what's needed (page 8). The "**NLG Presents...**" Committee put together very exciting and

*Continued on page 4*

## BOARD MEETING

**December 17, 6:00 pm**

14 Beacon St., 1st Fl.  
Boston

**NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD  
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## *Join a Guild Committee*

**Street Law Clinic Project:** The Street Law Clinic project provides workshops for Massachusetts organizations that address legal needs of various communities. Legal education workshops on 4th Amendment Rights (Stop & Search), Landlord/Tenant Disputes, Workers' Rights, Civil Disobedience Defense, Bankruptcy Law, Foreclosure Prevention Law, and Immigration Law are held at community organizations, youth centers, labor unions, shelters, and pre-release centers. If you are a Guild attorney, law student, or legal worker interested in leading a workshop, please contact the project at 617-723-4330 or nlgmass-slc@igc.org.

**Lawyer Referral Service Panel (LRS):** Members of the panel provide legal services at reasonable rates. Referral Service Committee members: Makis Antzoulatos, Benjamin Dowling, Sebastian Korth, Douglas Lovenberg, and Jonathan Messinger. For more information, contact the LRS Coordinator at 617-227-7008 or nlgmass@igc.org.

**Foreclosure Prevention Task Force:** Created in June 2008, the Task Force's goal is threefold: (1) advocate for policies that address issues that homeowners and tenants of foreclosed houses face, (2) to provide legal assistance to these homeowners and tenants, *and* (3) to conduct legal clinics for them. If you are interested in working with the Task Force, please call the office at 617-227-7335.

**Mass Defense Committee:** Consists of two sub-committees: (1) "Legal Observers" (students, lawyers, activists) who are trained to serve as legal observers at political demonstrations *and* (2) "Mass Defense Team" (criminal defense attorneys) who represent activists arrested for political activism. To get involved, please contact the office at 617-227-7335.

**Litigation Committee:** Established in 2010, the Committee brings civil lawsuits against large institutions (such as government agencies, law enforcement, banks, financial institutions, and/or large corporations) that engage in repressive or predatory actions that affect large numbers of people and that serve to perpetuate social, racial and/or economic injustice or inequality. To get involved, please contact the Guild office.

**NLG National Immigration Project:** Works to defend and extend the human and civil rights of all immigrants, both documented and undocumented. The Committee works in coalitions with community groups to organize support for immigrant rights in the face of right-wing political attacks. For more information contact the NLG National Immigration Project at 617-227-9727.

**NLG Military Law Task Force:** Provides legal advice and assistance to those in the military and to others, especially members of the GIRights Hotline, who are counseling military personnel on their rights. It also provides legal support and helps to find local legal referrals when needed. For advice and information, GI's can call 877-447-4487. To get involved, please contact Neil Berman (njberman2@juno.com) or Marguerite Helen (mugsm@mindspring.com).

# GUILD NEWS

## NLG HAPPY HOUR

You are invited to the "NLG Presents..." Happy Hour - an event held quarterly on the **2nd Wednesday of January, April, September, and November**. See below information about the next event (a report from the most recent Happy Hour is on page 4 of *Mass Dissent* issued the following month.) If you have ideas for a presentation or would like to be a speaker, please call the NLG office at 617-227-7335.

## NLG HOLIDAY PARTY

All NLG members are invited to the NLG Massachusetts Chapter annual Holiday Party. This year's party will be on **Friday, December 6, from 5:30pm to 9pm**. Once again, we'll be hosted by our good friends at **Stern, Shapiro, Weissberg & Garin** (90 Canal St. 5th Floor, Boston). Among the party attractions, we will offer great food, a lot of refreshing beverages, and many wonderful raffle prizes. Raffle tickets (\$10) are for sale now.

## Street Law Clinic Report

*The following clinics and trainings were conducted for members of Boston area community organizations and agencies:*

**October 5:** *Legal Observing* at a protest against Lynn Police department for killing of Denis Reynoso, by Northeastern law students **Charles Flewelling** and **Mark McMahon**, and **David Nathanson** and **Rahel Sommer-Hays**.

**October 6:** *Legal Observer and Civil Disobedience trainings* for activists involved in the Keystone Pipeline Pledge of Resistance, by **Jeff Feuer** and **Josh Raisler Cohn**.

**October 7:** *Legal Observing* at a protest at the Tip O'Neill Federal Building, organized by the Keystone Pipeline XL campaign, by **Melinda Drew**, **Jeff Feuer**, **Lee Goldstein**, **Benjie Hiller**, **Josh Raisler Cohn**, and **Mark Stern**.

**October 18:** *Legal Observer* training for students at Roger Williams University School of Law in Bristol, Rhode Island, by **Christian Williams**.

**November 3:** *Legal Observer* training for the Keystone activists and for LO trainers, by **Melinda Drew** and **Jeff Feuer**.

**November 5:** *Bankruptcy Law and Consumer Protection* training for law students at Harvard Law

*NLG Happy Hour*

**The CAMPUS ASSAULT ON  
PALESTINIAN SOLIDARITY WORK**

*an evening with*

**Max Geller & David Kelston**

**Wednesday, January 8, 2013**

**6:00 - 8:00 pm**

**Red Hat Cafe** (9 Bowdoin St., Boston)

The NLG Litigation Committee has been providing assistance to the Northeastern University Students for Justice in Palestine organization who has been targetted by the university administration and punished for its political organizing. We will hear from SJP students and members of the NLG Litigation Committee.

School, by **Neil Berman**.

**November 9:** *Legal Observer* training for Keystone activists in Springfield, MA, by **Beverly Chorbajian**.

**November 16:** *Civil Disobedience and Legal Observer* trainings for Keystone activists and other groups active in Randolph, Vermont, by **Neil Berman**, **Melinda Drew**, and **Jeff Feuer**.

## ARTICLES FOR MASS DISSENT

The February issue of *Mass Dissent* will focus on militarization of police force.

If you are interested in submitting an article, essay, analysis, or art work (cartoons, pictures) related to the topic, please e-mail your work to [nlgmass-director@igc.org](mailto:nlgmass-director@igc.org).

**The deadline for articles is January 15.**



## NLG Massachusetts Chapter in 2013

engaging programs for our almost-monthly Happy Hours where we “think & drink” (page 9).

In 2013, we organized several discussion panels. In February, we hosted an NLG member from Vermont for a series of talks at all local law schools about the findings of an NLG



(Top, center l.-r.) NLG members Michael Avery, Benjamin Falkner, Mara Verheyden-Hilliard, and Susan Church lead the first in a series of conversations on “The Lockdown: April 2013 & Beyond” at Harvard Law School.



(Left, l.-r.) NLG Sustainers Judy Somberg, Marjorie Suisman, Roger Geller, Michael Avery, David Kelston, Jonathan Messinger, Marty Rosenthal, and Mark Stern joined at a Sustainer Fall Party by (center & front row l.-r.) Carl Williams, Urszula Masny-Latos, Ariel Oshinsky, and Negar Mortazavi.

(Below) The new Lawyer Referral Committee: (l.-r.) Jonathan Messinger, Ariel Oshinsky, Doug Lovenberg, Benjamin Dowling, and Makis Antzoulatos.

(Photos by Ariel Oshinsky, Amy Willis, and McKenzie Walter)

humanitarian delegation to Gaza. We cooperated with NLG student chapters and brought panelists to talk about police and government surveillance of political activists. We observed and evaluated the government’s response to the aftermath of the Boston Marathon tragedy, and are holding a discussion series in various local communities that were affected by the city lockdown and police manhunt; in the Fall, we were at Harvard and in Watertown; in January - we will be at Northeastern and in Cambridge. The Chapter also co-sponsored a panel on immigration law at the Boston Latino International Film Festival.

At this year’s NLG Gala, we honored Noam Chomsky and post-humously Emily Novick, two of the most beloved and respected friends of the Guild.

Our members in Western Mass are energizing legal comrades in their part of the state to do more Guild work, and our members in Rhode Island



feel strong enough to establish their own NLG chapter there. We wish them many successes.

We are getting ready for the new year and challenges ahead of us. And we know we are prepared. With our members, sustainers, and supporters, there aren’t obstacles we won’t be able to overcome.

- Urszula Masny-Latos & David Kelston -

## *Busy Year for the NLG Litigation Committee*

by *Negar Mortazavi & Urszula Masny-Latos*

**2013** has been as busy for the NLG Massachusetts Chapter's Litigation Committee as ever. In addition to the Committee's core members – **Mimi Brown, Christine Bustany, Jeff Feuer, David Kelston, Urszula Masny-Latos, Jonathan Messinger, and Kristin Wekony** (2012-2013 legal intern) we've welcomed legal fellow **Negar Mortazavi** (BU School of Law 2013 graduate), and **Stephanie Marzouk** who will be working on our projects. Other Guild members who have participated in the Committee's work include **Nadine Cohen, Benjamin Falkner, Lee Goldstein, Sebastian Korth, Jeff Petrucelly, and Jeff Thorn.**

The Committee was established just two years ago, but it has already achieved significant victories.

### **Surveillance of Activists:**

Following a successful FOIA lawsuit, the Committee filed a number of FOIA requests on behalf of Boston activists and followed up on the status of previously filed requests that were denied. The Committee met with officers of the Boston law enforcement fusion center – the Boston Regional Intelligence Center (BRIC) - to present our concerns and objections to the surveillance tactics the Center uses when dealing with political activists. We plan to follow up with further requests for the BRIC to expunge their records of all surveillance of peaceful political activities that they have conducted since BRIC was formed.

### **Essex County Prison:**

The Committee has continued its

lawsuit against the administration of the Essex County Prison who illegally demanded mandatory fees from prisoners to cover medical costs. After almost two years of litigation, the prison administration is ready to settle, and the case might be resolved by the end of the year, with the re-payment of the challenged fees.

### **Protecting Tenants Against Large Financial Institutions:**

Since last year, the Committee has been representing tenants who face eviction by banks and other investors from buildings that were subjected to foreclosure. In November, the Committee submitted a motion to the Boston Housing Court requesting the court to assess fines against Fannie Mae for wrongfully attempting to evict two tenants living in a post-foreclosure building. The court has already determined that Fannie Mae violated state law in bringing those eviction actions, has dismissed those actions, and has awarded possession to the tenants, while also allowing the tenants' counterclaims for damages to proceed.

Currently, the Committee has added several new projects:

- We are looking into reports about a very troubling practice of restraints and shackling used on female inmates during child labor in Massachusetts prisons.
- We are reviewing the status of prisoners' access to law libraries to determine whether all prisoners in Massachusetts state and county prisons have constitutionally guaranteed access to the legal system.
- We are examining the conduct of all law enforcement agencies involved in the pursuit of the

Boston Marathon bomber suspect to determine if all strategies used were proper and within legal bounds.

- We are also researching the possibility of challenging marriage as an institution that promotes the inequitable distribution of key public benefits and rights. In particular, the federal government has identified 1,138 federal statutory provisions that use marital status as a determinative factor in qualifying for federal rights and benefits. This alone raises a number of issues concerning discrimination against the unmarried, including Social Security survivorship rights, income tax deductions and credits, and the right to care for a loved one under the Family and Medical Leave Act.

As you can see, the Committee has very ambitious plans for 2014. If you would like to get involved - even if only in one project - please contact the NLG office (617-227-7335) and let us know. The Committee is also interested in hearing from any Guild member about any legal issues that might have widespread impact which could be the possible subject of a lawsuit. We are always interested in exploring new institutional or systemic issues or problems that could be addressed through aggressive litigation.

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*Negar Mortazavi is the 2013-2014 NLG Litigation Committee Fellow and recent graduate of Boston University School of Law. Urszula Masny-Latos is the Executive Director of the NLG Massachusetts Chapter.*



## NLG Mass Defense Committee Rocks!

by Jeff Feuer

The Massachusetts Chapter's Mass Defense Committee (MDC) has had an extremely successful year in providing significant legal support to a number of diverse progressive campaigns and groups throughout 2013. The year began on a high note when, in February, the MDC lawyers (Susan Church, Kevin Barron, Andrew Fischer, and Jeff Feuer) representing the remaining Occupy Boston criminal defendants, after extensive preparations to begin the trial of the first five defendants, had all charges against all 26 remaining OB defendants completely dismissed on the eve of a hearing (on the first scheduled day

of trial) on the defendant's motion to dismiss, based on constitutional grounds. That dismissal meant that the MDC was successful in insuring that no one arrested during any of the Occupy Boston protests and marches was found guilty of any crime, as most other OB defendants had already had their cases dismissed either upon payment of a small amount of court costs or after a short period of pre-trial probation.

To celebrate the MDC's significant legal work throughout the Occupy movement, a victory party was held in March at Jillian's, which attracted more than 50 people and raised almost \$10,000.00 in contributions to the Guild, with a large portion of that

money coming from Occupy movement participants.

The MDC's successes continued in our work with City Life/Vida Urbana (CLVU) in the anti-eviction/anti-foreclosure movement and with the Mass Senior Action Council (MSAC) in fighting the disproportionate MBTA fare increases for disabled and elderly residents also continued throughout 2013. MDC lawyers and law students served as Legal Observers for numerous CLVU

inal defense representation to all participants in organized anti-foreclosure/eviction blockade actions.

The MDC has also become increasingly involved with environmental activists fighting to close the Brayton Point coal plant and in the National Pledge of Resistance campaign to stop the construction of the environmentally-destructive Keystone XL Pipeline. In July, some 20 Guild Legal Observers participated in

one of the largest climate change demonstrations in recent years when more than 350 demonstrators (ranging from people involved in 350.org to union leaders to local residents) rallied against the pollution-spewing Brayton



Rahel Sommer-Hays (r.) legal observing at an October protest against the killing of Denis Reynoso in Lynn (all legal observers listed on page 3 under Street Law Clinic report.)

and MSAC demonstrations and CLVU eviction blockades throughout the year, which helped to limit greatly the number of arrests that occurred at these events. When some of these demonstrators did get arrested, MDC lawyers stepped forward to represent them in court, which resulted, in every single case, in the charges being dismissed outright or converted to a civil infraction with the payment of either no or a nominal fine. Both organizations credited the Guild with supplying the legal support necessary for them to engage in effective public demonstrations and civil disobedience (CD) actions. The MDC has continued to honor the Guild's commitment to provide pro bono crim-

Point coal plant in Somerset, Massachusetts, even though they were faced with an overwhelming police presence (more than 100 heavily armed police officers from more than 11 different local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies). Forty-four committed activists (trained in the legal consequences of CD by members of the Guild) were arrested for engaging in non-violent civil disobedience. A cadre of MDC attorneys represented the arrestees during five days of arraignments in the Fall River District Court, which resulted in all of the charges being dismissed or converted to civil infractions upon the payment of

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## NLG Mass Defense Committee Rocks!

Continued from page 6

\$100.00 court costs per person. In addition, MDC Attorney Ken Diesenhof is representing two activists who are alleged to have attempted to block the delivery of coal to Brayton Point by a giant coal cargo ship with their small fishing boat. Their case, using a necessity defense, is expected to go to trial some time next year, as the defendants, out of principle, have rejected any plea bargaining. As a result of the Guild's support of this well-planned event, participants in the action made donations totaling \$4,000.00 to the Guild. More importantly, the new owners of the Brayton Point coal plant recently announced that the plant would be closed for good within the next two years!

MDC members have continued to provide Legal Observers and successful legal representation for demonstrators at the headquarters of Trans-Canada (the builder of the Keystone XL Pipeline) in Westborough, MA, and for a large anti-pipeline demonstration at the O'Neill federal building in downtown Boston. In



Charles Flewelling observes at the Lynn protest.

addition, the Guild has been conducting clinics to train legal observers and potential CD participants involved with the National Pledge of Resistance at sites in Cambridge, Worcester, Springfield, and Brattleboro and Randolph, VT, in anticipation of a nationwide CD action that will take place if (or when) the Keystone XL Pipeline is approved.

Nationally, some 76,500 people have signed the pledge to commit an act of non-violent civil disobedience to try to stop the building of this disastrous pipeline.

The MDC continues to train and provide legal observers for a variety of pro-

gressive political events and demonstrations throughout Massachusetts, whenever we are requested to do so by activists and progressive groups. In addition to providing legal observers for demonstrations, MDC lawyers provide free clinics on legal rights/civil disobedience to groups and individuals who are planning on engaging in direct political action that could result in arrests.

Currently active members of the MDC include Makis Anzoulatos, Kevin Barron, Dan



Jeff Feuer and Josh Raisler Cohn (center) keeping their eyes on cops that surrounded Keystone protesters at Brayton Point.

Beck, Neil Berman, Beverly Chorbajian, Susan Church, Ken Diesenhof, Melinda Drew, Benjamin Evans, Hillary Farber, Jeff Feuer, Andrew Fischer, Lee Goldstein, Stefanie Grindle, Benjie Hiller, Myong Joun, Ursula Masny-Latos, Josh Raisler Cohn, Deborah Roher, Mark Stern, Carl Williams, Chris Williams, and Shawn Jarecki (from the Vermont NLG chapter).

*Jeff Feuer is the Coordinator of the Massachusetts Chapter NLG Mass Defense Committee. He also serves on the NLG Board of Directors.*



Legal observing at a protest against Brayton Point coal company in Somerset (l-r.) Jim Vita (New Bedford CPCS), NLG members Chris Williams and Makis Anzoulatos, and Marcus Swift (Rodger Williams School of Law student). (Photos by Benjamin Evans)



## NLG Street Law Clinic Project

by kt crossman

After a brief summer hiatus, the Street Law Clinic Project is up and running and off to a strong start. Beginning in mid-October, we've had three student trainings in a row: students from Boston College, Boston University, Harvard Law School, New England School of Law, Northeastern School of Law, and Suffolk Law School attended Workers' Rights and Consumer/Bankruptcy Law trainings presented by Mark Stern and Neil Berman at Harvard, and a Stop & Search training presented by Makis Antzoulatos at NESL. We are excited to begin scheduling clinics, and have already begun outreach. One of the students at Suffolk will present a Stop & Search clinic with Ben Evans at a local high school as part of a class. As of right now, we're nearing 70 students in the Boston area trained in Workers' Rights, Tenant/Landlord Law, Foreclosure & Eviction, Consumer Law, and Stop & Search; we're looking forward to a busy clinic schedule. Keep an ear to the ground!

We're also excited about a few potential partnerships across the state. Western New England University School of Law is working with us to put together a series of Street Law trainings and Legal Observer trainings – all Guild lawyers in western Massachusetts, please contact me at the number/email below if you're interested! The Higg-Lew Leaders Program at the Higgenson-Lewis School in Roxbury, run by two Northeastern Law students, helps middle school students learn about their Constitutional rights; they are currently studying the 4th and 14th Amendments, so we'll be working with them to run a Stop & Search clinic.

As ever, the Street Law Clinic Project is committed to helping community members understand the law and their rights within it. Clinics are run by law students and a supervising attorney; at press time, we've wrapped up our fall student training schedule – thanks to everyone who participated, and watch your inboxes for clinic requests!

In addition to the areas listed above, the Street Law Clinic Project also runs clinics in Immigration Law and in Civil Disobedience. Do you know a community organization that might be interested in a clinic? Are you an attorney interested in facilitating a clinic, or part of a student group interested in trainings? Have any other questions about the pro-

## NLG Lawyer Referral Service

by Ariel Oshinsky

Since the 1980s, the Lawyer Referral Service (LRS) has been an important project of the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild, and an essential service to those who need legal assistance but find that structural barriers limit their access to quality representation. Each month we receive hundreds of calls from individuals seeking such assistance, and as long as the NLG Mass LRS exists, we will continue connecting these potential clients with you, the NLG attorneys who choose to be a part of this service.

This year, our Committee welcomed new members: **Makis Antzoulatos, Benjamin Dowling, Sebastian Korth, Douglas Lovenberg, Jonathan Messinger.** Our new challenge was to broaden the demographic scope of the Lawyer Referral Service and to plan strategic improvements for the future. We know that attorneys choose to join our service in order to connect with more clients in need of legal representation at a reasonable rate. Accordingly, the LRS has been growing its capacity to directly reach these clients. Our new website is a significant part of this strategy, connecting Massachusetts clients to our services online. Additionally, we have improved our visibility by posting more, and better, promotional materials in local courts, where our clients are most likely to seek legal services.

We encourage you all to consider joining the Lawyer Referral Service. We are especially eager to invite attorneys from western and central Massachusetts, regions where LRS callers experience a lack of legal referral services. The LRS membership costs \$175 annually, and remittance fees are just 10-15 percent. We hope you will contact us if you have any questions, or if you would like more information.

*Ariel Oshinsky is the Coordinator of the LRS.*

gram? Email me at [nlgmass-slc@igc.org](mailto:nlgmass-slc@igc.org), or call (617) 723-4330.

*kt crossman is the SLC Coordinator and a 2nd year student at Northeastern University School Of Law.*



## “NLG Presents” Happy Hours

by Bonnie Tenneriello

The Chapter’s monthly gatherings at the Red Hat Café continue to be the premier progressive law salon for drinkers and non-drinkers alike. The second Wednesday of each month alternated between an “NLG Presents” discussion on a subject of interest to members or a “Mentorship Happy Hour” aimed at providing practical support for newer practitioners. Either way, it’s a place to find fellowship and – if you’re lucky – a good argument.

This year, “NLG Presents” topics ranged widely. **Robert Schwartz** in January talked about his latest workers’ guide to labor law: “*Just Cause: A Union Guide to Winning Discipline Cases*,” followed by a lively discussion on the possibility of passage of a state law requiring just cause for firing. Then in March, **Bonnie Tenneriello** and **Stephanie Marzouk** spoke about the cruel reality of solitary confinement of prisoners in Massachusetts, and pending legislation to restrict its use. And, fittingly enough, September 11 brought criminal defense and civil litigator **Benjamin Falkner** in to lead a discussion on the citywide lockdown set up after the Marathon bombings and the subsequent house-to-house warrantless searches in Watertown. November’s Happy Hour was devoted to a report from **Chapter members** lucky enough to make it to the convention in Puerto Rico.

Mentorship speakers included **Hayne Barnwell**, on how to handle high profile-cases such as the Tarek Mehanna and “Whitey” Bulger cases that she worked on, and attorneys **Nadine Cohen** and **Jeff Feuer**, on how to fight big banks and mortgage companies in foreclosures and evictions.

Stay tuned for more topics in 2014, starting in January with a discussion with **David Kelston** and **Max Geller** about Northeastern University’s treatment of Students for Justice in Palestine organization. It’s fine to just come and consume – whether talk or drink – but consider leading a discussion or suggesting a speaker yourself. Through the Guild office, you can contact either me or Judy Somberg about “NLG Presents” ideas.

*Bonnie Tenneriello is an attorney at Prisoners Legal Services in Boston.*

## NLG Convention Through the Eyes of WNE Students

by Erica Reynolds

When members of the Western New England College School of Law chapter of the NLG found out that the NLG Convention was being held in Puerto Rico, I thought every member would be signing up to go! As it turned out three of us were able to make it to the beautiful, *la isla del encanto* or “the island of enchantment”.

Our first clue that this experience was going to be beyond comparison was the pictures of the hotel where the convention was taking place. The Condado Plaza Hilton was stunningly beautiful.

We got a big group of NLGers together from Western Massachusetts, lawyers and law students, and shared expenses to travel down together. Four of the people that came also brought along their children, which was feasible thanks to the NLG offering childcare at the event. I think that was a great experience for them and their children.

Once we arrived at the hotel, our collective thought was “how are we supposed to attend panels amongst all of this splendor?” However, the panels looked so interesting, we were excited to attend. We went to workshops and panels that spanned topics of combatting racism in the courtroom to cyber hacktivism. The overwhelming response among attendees was that building camaraderie in this type of setting is incredibly refreshing. Being surrounded by people who feel as strongly as you do about issues of social justice is just invigorating.

We also spent a fair amount of time “networking” by the five different pools at the hotel! There was a swim-up bar at the main pool, and collaborating with fellow NLGers while drinking a minty mojito was a much-needed respite for many of us.

On our last day, a few of us decided to go sight-seeing. We happened upon the Castillo San Felipe del Morro, a 16th-century citadel built by the Spaniards to protect San Juan; we read the signs, took pictures, and escaped from the sudden afternoon downpour in the lighthouse built on top of the castle-like structure. The concierge at the hotel had told us to check out a place called, Café Puerto Rico as they had great mofongo and mojitos. This ended up being one of the highlights of our trip. The food and drinks were excellent, and the people who worked at the restaurant were fun! Now we are

*Continued on page 11*

## NLG Law Student Reports

### HARVARD

*by Carl Lisberger, 2L*

In February, our student chapter organized a presentation by NLG member from Vermont, Jimmy Leas, on an NLG delegation to Gaza, a workshop at Reblaw Conference at Yale Law School "Firmly Refuse: Building a National Movement to Disrupt the Corporate Sell-out Machine (*aka* Law School)," a lunch talk with Amber Lyons about her documentary about protests in Bahrain last year and their biased coverage by American media.

In Spring, we sponsored screening of two movies: "The Central Park 5" and "The Prisoner or: How I Planned to Kill Tony Blair," and a conference "Deep Capture: Psychology, Public Relations, Democracy, and Law."

This Fall, we co-sponsored a lunch event "The Cimmigration Complex" with Dan Kesselbrenner of the NLG National Immigration Project who discussed the intersection of the criminal justice and immigration enforcement systems; we co-sponsored a conference titled "Shake 'Em Up" with Ralph Nader and 12 leading scholars, practitioners, and advocates about transforming America's broken legal system. We also held two NLG Street Law Clinic trainings; one on Workers' Rights with Mark Stern and the second on Bankruptcy Law/Consumer Protection with Neil Berman.

### NORTHEASTERN

*by Tasha Kates, 3L*

In 2013, the Northeastern University School of Law's NLG chapter focused much of its energy on trying to change free speech practices at Northeastern and reaching out to the larger Boston community. Free speech issues on the undergraduate and law school campuses were of particular concern this year. The Northeastern NLG chapter organized a demonstration in solidarity with the undergraduate chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine, which was sanctioned for a non-violent protest of two IDF soldiers who visited Northeastern. The chapter also challenged the new bulletin board system within the law school. After the law school's Students for Justice in Palestine chapter posted content to their board that some people may have found offensive, the law school instituted changes that resulted in all bulletin boards being rele-

gated to a less-traveled area of the law school.

The chapter extended its efforts beyond our campus with Project No One Leaves. Students supported the organizing of City Life/Vida Urbana by canvassing properties in foreclosure to give homeowners and tenants information about free legal help. The chapter also hosted Street Law Clinic trainings on Stop & Search and Tenants' Rights, as well as a Legal Observer Training.

As part of The Critical Legal Studies Project, we held lunchtime workshops on contract law, constitutional law, criminal law, torts, queer theory and law from a global perspective. The chapter also hosted a presentation on last year's attacks on Gaza with NLG member Jimmy Leas, a panel on sex workers, a presentation on student debt from a macro perspective, a panel on pinkwashing and homonationalism, and a discussion of the DOMA and Proposition 8 Supreme Court cases.

Although the Northeastern chapter has had a busy year, there are always many more issues that students wish they had time to address. Thankfully, there's always 2014.

### SUFFOLK

*by Amy Willis, 2L*

This year, the Suffolk NLG chapter organized two Student Socials for all NLG students in Boston – one in February and one in September. We also sent five students to the NLG Convention Puerto Rico.

### WESTERN NEW ENGLAND

*by Tyler Ingraham, 2L*

The Western New England University School of Law (WNEU) chapter had a productive year of creating and working towards change in the Pioneer Valley and at the school.

Our students were tremendously active in issues of fairness within the law school and effected the change in the 1L grading policies and punitive remedial courses. Students also hosted panels at the law school designed to bring the broader community into the law school and drag the law school out into the broader community. Speakers represented OUTNOW, a LGBT youth organization in Springfield, and Justice for Charles, a campaign

*Continued on page 11*

## NLG Massachusetts Chapter Sustainers

In the spring of 2003, the Massachusetts Chapter of the NLG initiated the Chapter Sustainer Program. Since its inception, the Program has been very successful and has been enthusiastically joined by the following Guild members:

**2 Anonymous • Michael Avery • Steven Buckley • Howard Cooper • Barb Dougan • Robert Doyle • Melinda Drew & Jeff Feuer • Carolyn Federoff • Roger Geller & Marjorie Suisman • Lee Goldstein & Shelley Kroll • Lisa Gordon • Benjie Hiller • Andrei Joseph • Myong Joun • Martin Kantrovitz • Nancy Kelly & John Willshire-Carrera • David Kelston • Jonathan Messinger • Petrucelly, Nadler & Norris • Hank Phillippi Ryan & Jonathan Shapiro • Allan Rodgers • Martin Rosenthal • Sharryn Ross & Mark Stern • Anne Sills & Howard Silverman • Judy Somberg • Stern, Shapiro, Weissberg & Garin**

The Sustainer Program is one of the most important Chapter initiatives to secure its future existence. Please consider joining the Program.

## YES, INCLUDE MY NAME AMONG NLG MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER SUSTAINERS!

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am making a commitment to support the Massachusetts Chapter of the Guild with an annual contribution of:  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$500 (not including my membership dues)  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ (other above \$500)

### As a sustainer I will receive:

- special listing in the Dinner Program;
- 1/8 page ad in the Dinner Program;
- acknowledgement in every issue of *Mass Dissent*;
- two (2) free raffle tickets for a Holiday Party raffle;
- invitation to special events.

### Three ways to become a sustainer:

- contribute \$500 or more a year (in addition to dues)
- pair up with another person and pay \$250 each, or
- join the "Guild Circle" and pay \$50/month minimum.

Please mail to: NLG, Massachusetts Chapter  
14 Beacon St., Suite 407, Boston, MA 02108

## NLG Law Student Reports

*Continued from page 10*

advocating for the release and vindication of Charles Wilhite, who was wrongly convicted of murder and incarcerated for three and a half years. Students also worked extensively with Springfield No One Leaves/Nadie Se Mude, an anti-foreclosure/eviction organization, to facilitate foreclosure blockades and provide support to Springfield Bank Tenant Association members.

In the Fall of 2013, students continue to advocate for change within the law school by opposing the potential implementation of a "soft-flunk" rule, and by demanding that the school administration addresses student needs in a more collaborative and effective manner. We are planning several Street Law Clinic trainings and also clinics themselves in the community and support social justice campaigns such as Justice for Ayyub, a campaign organized for Ayyub Abdul-Alim, a man targeted in the ongoing, nation-wide harassment of Muslim communities and offered exoneration for groundless charges on

the condition that he becomes an FBI informant. Students are also attempting to build a more extensive network of NLG legal observers in the Pioneer Valley and continue their work in support of and in solidarity with Springfield No One Leaves.

## NLG Convention

*Continued from page 9*

obsessed with mofongo and have been trying to find Caribbean restaurants in Springfield, MA to recreate our experience.

All in all this was an experience highly enjoyed by the whole group. We came away from it revitalized and ready to keep on fighting the good fight for social justice. We are already planning our next convention trip to the windy city of Chicago.

*Erica Reynolds is a 3L student at Western New England University School of Law.*



# Mass Dissent

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## The National Lawyers Guild is...



" ... an association dedicated to the need for basic change in the structure of our political and economic system. We seek to unite the lawyers, law students, legal workers and jailhouse lawyers of America in an organization which shall function as an effective political and social force in the service of people, to the end that human rights shall be regarded as more sacred than property interests."

*Preamble to the Constitution of the National Lawyers Guild*

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#### We need your support.

Please help us by donating to the Mass Chapter. Mail this form and your check to **14 Beacon St., Suite 407, Boston, MA 02108** or visiting [www.nlgmass.org/donate](http://www.nlgmass.org/donate).

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (name), am donating \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the NLG  
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Circle one:

☐ Lawyer ☐ Legal Worker ☐ Law Student ☐ Jailhouse Lawyer

Alumna/Alumnus of \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Dues (from schedule): \_\_\_\_\_

**I am interested in working on the following projects:**

- ☐ Lawyer Referral Service
- ☐ Street Law Clinic
- ☐ Mass Defense Committee
- ☐ Litigation Committee
- ☐ Mass Dissent (monthly publication)
- ☐ National Immigration Project

## Please Join Us!

Dues are calculated on a calendar year basis  
(Jan.1-Dec.31) according to your income\*:

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Jailhouse Lawyers. . . . .          | Free  |
| Law Students . . . . .              | \$25  |
| up to \$15,000 . . . . .            | \$40  |
| over \$15,000 to \$20,000 . . . . . | \$50  |
| over \$20,000 to \$25,000 . . . . . | \$75  |
| over \$25,000 to \$30,000 . . . . . | \$100 |
| over \$30,000 to \$40,000 . . . . . | \$150 |
| over \$40,000 to \$50,000 . . . . . | \$200 |
| over \$50,000 to \$60,000 . . . . . | \$250 |
| over \$60,000 to \$70,000 . . . . . | \$300 |
| over \$70,000 to \$80,000 . . . . . | \$350 |
| over \$80,000 to \$90,000 . . . . . | \$400 |
| over \$100,000 . . . . .            | \$500 |

\* Any **new** member who joins after September 1 will be carried over to the following year. Dues may be paid in full or in quarterly installments. Dues of \$80 cover the basic membership costs, which include publication and mailing of *Mass Dissent* (the Chapter's monthly newsletter), national and regional dues, and the office and staff.