

Mass Dissent

Massachusetts Chapter

National Lawyers Guild

14 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108

December 2017

www.nlgmass.org

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BOARD MEETING

December 20, 6:00 pm

14 Beacon St., 1st Fl.
Boston

Mass Chapter in Action - Review of 2017

We can collectively say that 2017 has been a year of brutal and devastating challenges to our community: community of radical lawyers, activists, and people fighting for justice and freedom from oppression. In these times under the Era of 45, the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild has doubled down on its efforts to support and defend radical and leftist movements throughout the state.

Starting in January we faced the Muslim travel ban enacted by the executive office. And right there in Boston Logan Airport, NLG attorneys were involved in both protesting the ban and assisting detained travelers as they were trying to come home. It was a turbulent January as these airport protests reinforced the real life battles marginalized and minority groups would face in the coming months and possibly years.

What was most heartening at this time was the over swell of supporters and activists that truly wanted to be part of the fight for justice. The NLG Mass Chapter received a tremendous amount of calls asking for support and individuals asking to be involved. Both ends were overflowing and the

members of the NLG Mass Chapter showed up tremendously. The Chapter enlisted many of its wonderful members to conduct trainings and legal clinics on Stop & Search, Direct Action, Housing Law, Workers Rights, Bankruptcy Law, and Legal Observing. At the same time, last spring we offered a series of trainings called *Train the Trainers* for interested NLG members, so they could later conduct NLG trainings and clinics themselves. The trainings included Stop & Search, ICE Encounters, and Direct Action for attorneys to then train and run workshops for community groups seeking assistance. The Street Law Clinic, which facilitates these trainings, has also expanded at a staggering pace as we have scheduled over 30 clinics partnered with community organizations this year.

Both our most trying and most inspiring moment may best be seen by looking back to the August 19th rally organized by local community members against Nazi rhetoric in Boston Common. We had over 25 legal observers volunteer that day and the Mass Defense Committee collaborating with private and public criminal defense attor-

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**NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD
Massachusetts Chapter, Inc.**

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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 an NLG attorney, law student, or legal worker interested in leading a workshop, please contact the project at 617-227-7335 or nlgmass-slc@igc.org.

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

Foreclosure Prevention Task Force: Created in June 2008, the Task Force's goal is threefold: (1) advocate for policies that address issues facing homeowners and tenants of foreclosed houses, (2) provide legal assistance to these homeowners and tenants, *and* (3) 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 NLG 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 perpetuate social, racial and/or economic injustice or inequality. To get involved, please contact the NLG office.

NLG National Immigration Project: Works to defend and extend the human and civil rights of all immigrants, documented and undocumented. The Project works in coalitions with community groups to organize support for immigrants' 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 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 - Think & Drink” Happy Hour - a quarterly event held on the **2nd Wednesday of January, April, September, and November (or June)**. A report from the most recent Happy Hour is on page 4. If you have ideas for a presentation or would like to be a speaker, please call the NLG office at 617-227-7335.

5:30 to 8:30 pm. As always, we will serve wonderful food and beverages, and there will be many attractions, including a raffle drawing of very exciting prizes. Raffle tickets are \$10/each. If you have questions please contact the NLG office at 617-227-7335.

MUSLIM BAN FORUM

NLG and several other groups will host a forum on the Muslim Travel Ban - **Monday, December 5, 5:30-8:00 pm, Harvard Law School, Hauser Hall, Rm 102.** Among the panelists will be NLG member Rachel Rosenbloom.

RESISTANCE SERIES

Next semester the NLG students at six law schools will host a series of forums on Resistance Lawyering. All details will be sent out soon.

HOLIDAY PARTY

Once again, this year's NLG Holiday Party will be at **Shapiro Weissberg & Garin, on Friday, December 8, from**

NLG ANNUAL DINNER

The 2018 Annual Testimonial Dinner will be on **Friday, May 4, at the Hibernian Hall** in Roxbury. This year, for the first time, we are offering discount tickets for “**Early Birds**” - between now and March 1, 2018, tickets will be \$115, compared to \$135 regular after March 1. Tickets can be purchased at <http://www.nlgmass.org/reserve-tickets/>.

Street Law Clinic Report

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

September 19: *Housing Law* clinic for ABCD program in Dorchester, by **Kevin Heffernan**.

September 20: *Legal Observing* at a protest in Boston against Jeff Sessions, by **Yatzel Sabat**. • *Housing Law* clinic for St. Ambrose Family Shelter, by **Melinda Drew**.

September 21: *Housing Law* clinic for Project Place in Boston, by **Jeff Feuer**.

September 25: *Legal Observing* at a rally for tenant rights organized in Lynn by United Lynn, by **Kyleen Burke & Nina Schwartzman**

September 26: *Stop & Search* training for law

students from BLSA at Boston College, by **Makis Antzoulatos**.

September 27: *Housing Law* clinic Arise Springfield in Springfield, by **Catherine Ady-Bell**. • *Stop & Search* clinic for Boston Centers for Youth & Families-Blackstone, by **Christian Williams**.

September 28: *Legal Observing* at a protest at Harvard against Betsy DeVos, by **Charles Haigh & Adam Wehrkamp**.

October 4: *Housing Law* clinic for Communities for People in Somerville, by **Jeff Feuer**. • *Housing Law* clinic for No One Leaves in Springfield, by **Catherine Ady-Bell**.

October 7: *Legal Observing* at anti-Columbus Day events in Boston, by **Genevieve Butler, Geoff Carens, Laura Frye, and Hannah Levine**.

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ARTICLES FOR MASS DISSENT

The February issue of *Mass Dissent* will **look into one year of Trump**.

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.

The deadline for articles is January 15.

NLG Presents..." - Think & Drink Happy Hour

In November the Happy Hour was on Anti-BDS legislation. Twenty-five states have passed legislation that prohibits support for boycotts of Israel by any contractor of the state, or in some states, by anyone who receives any state benefits. The first challenge to one of these blatantly unconstitutional laws is just getting underway. In Massachusetts, Gardner Auditorium at the State House was packed last summer for a hearing on the Massachusetts version. NLG members spoke in opposition as well as submitted written testimony. **Susan Nicholson** led us in a discussion that included how we can work to counter the strong lobbying that is going on in favor of this legislation. Contact us to get involved.

(Top-Bottom) Susan Nicholson (center) presents on the status of anti-boycott legislations. Participants in the conversation.
(Photos by Urszula Masny-Latos)



2018 NLG ANNUAL DINNER HONOREE NOMINATIONS

The NLG Massachusetts Chapter is accepting nominations for the 2018 NLG Dinner Honorees: **Lawyer Award, Rob Doyle Award for Unsung Hero, Legal Worker Award, and Student Award.**

Please fill out the form inserted in this issue of *Mass Dissent* and either mail it to our office (14 Beacon St., Suite 407, Boston, MA 02108) or email it to nlgmass-director@igc.org by the deadline.

**The deadline for all nominations is
Monday, December 11, 2017.**

Street Law Street Law Clinic Report

Continued from page 3

October 10: *Workers' Rights* clinic Presentation School Foundation Community Center, by **Quesiyah Ali**.

October 11: *Immigration Law* clinic for Charles View Community Center, by **Anthony Keber**.

October 16: *Legal Observing* in Springfield at a protest against ICE and mass deportations, organized by immigrant rights organizations, by **Justin Helepololei, Priscilla Lynch, and Evelyn Wulfsuhle**. • *Housing Law* clinic for Crossroads Family Shelter, by **Jeff Feuer**.

October 17: *Housing Law* clinic for Presentation School Foundation Community Center, by **Jeff Feuer & Vera Schneider**.

October 18: *Stop & Search* clinic for Charles View Community Center, by **Makis Antzoulatos & Beverly Chorbajian**. • *Housing Law* training for law students at Northeastern, by **Melinda Drew**.

Mass Defense Committee Report

by Makis Antzoulatos & Josh Raisler Cohn

The Mass Defense Committee (MDC) continued its work throughout the year supporting social movements for justice. We have collaborated with groups working for racial, economic, climate, and migrant justice, Palestinian solidarity, and queer liberation and affordable housing struggles. While the white supremacist power structures launched attacks at individuals and communities across the country and the world, the people stood up in inspired and liberatory resistance. The MDC was proud to stand in support of these movements!

We sent half a dozen legal workers and lawyers to **Standing Rock** early this spring, providing legal observing, jail support, legal consultations, trainings, documenting police abuses, and office support to the Water Protectors Legal Collective that was based in the resistance encampment. We supported the Collective, an amazing legal team led mostly by Native American women. While the encampment has been cleared, there are still hundreds on ongoing criminal cases that people need support with. (see <https://waterprotectorlegal.org/>)

In local anti-pipeline efforts, we continued to support the campaign resisting the **West Roxbury Pipeline**. This pipeline is a spur project to a much larger pipeline project being built that will take fracked natural gas and send it to international markets, further fueling disastrous climate change. There is a group of activists from this campaign who are working with a group of MDC lawyers to mount a climate change-based necessity defense to their criminal charges from blocking the construction of the pipeline. We

also supported activists who engaged in sit-ins at local banks that are financing pipeline projects. These protests occurred both in central and eastern Massachusetts, and after a number of court appearances we were able to help the activists successfully resolve their criminal charges.

In anti-nuclear news, the MDC has continued its work supporting activists campaigning to finally shut down the **Pilgrim nuclear plant in Plymouth**. We have supported activists who have engaged in civil disobedience this year, including a group that met with their prosecutor and had an opportunity to really lay out the risks of the plant to him, and ended up obtaining a very favorable result in their criminal cases.

The MDC has had an incredible working relationship over the past few years with **If Not Now**. If Not Now is a movement working towards an American Jewish community that stands for freedom and dignity for all Israelis and Palestinians by ending support for the occupation. The MDC has led a number of legal trainings for the Boston chapter of If Not Now. Our volunteer lawyers represented members of If Not Now following several civil disobedience actions, including an arrest that occurred during a "liberation Seder" held outside the officers of AIPAC.

Late this summer the MDC made a strong showing in supporting the **anti-Nazis** resistance led by Black Lives Matters and other groups to a small rally of white supremacists on the Boston Common. On short notice we provided legal trainings for over 1,000 activists, including simultaneous trainings in different locations leading up to the march. We provided over 25 legal observers to a variety

of marches and rallies during the events. Through a collaboration with Law for Black Lives and the Mass Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers we were able to provide representation to all the anti-racist activists who were arrested. A number of those cases have resulted in dismissed charges, and others are ongoing. We continue to work with Black led groups and other organizations that are resisting race based violence by both state and non-state actors.

The MDC continues to provide trainings, legal support and attorneys to individuals and communities targeted by ICE. This work includes a wide range of activities, from supporting sanctuary work to legal advice at airports during travel bans to individual legal advice to supporting communities that are working to resist raids and stop deportations. We also represented activists this year who engaged in a sit in at the South Bay House of Corrections in protest of jails contracted to hold people detained on alleged immigration law violations.

We continue to conduct Legal Observer trainings, and have trained new volunteers to lead the civil disobedience legal briefings. We also continue to support campus based activism, working to support student leadership in campus campaigns about fair wages, climate change, and upending racist legacies.

We are always interested in new volunteers to help with this work, so if you are interested, please let us know and volunteer!

Makis Antzoulatos & Josh Raisler Cohn are co-coordinators of the Mass Chapter Mass Defense Committee.

NLG Litigation Committee Report

by David Kelston

2017 has been quite challenging -- for the country (Trump's presidency) and for the NLG Mass Chapter (stretching our services and resources to maximum). Our Litigation Committee, whose mission is to challenge oppressive institutional practices, has worked non-stop. Four of our cases ended this year—two favorably and two not -- which is in fact not disappointing, since we don't take on easy cases. A fifth case (Hep C, *see below*) is on track for trial in mid-2018.

We got favorable results in two cases where we used the state Freedom Of Information Act (G.L. c. 66, sec.10) to get important, withheld documents from the Boston Police and from Bristol County Sheriff Tom Hodgson. In the police case, we challenged the BPD's effectively withholding from us 1,500 pages of documents showing surveillance of the Occupy Boston movement in 2011-2012 -- after BPD specifically promised us that this kind of surveillance, and maintenance of such surveillance records by their Regional Intelligence Center (BRIC), had ended. (The complaint, *see NLG v. BPD et al.*, Suffolk Superior Court No. 15-1424, lays out the background, including the fact that BRIC's own rules required the documents at issue to have been purged years ago.) While we are still reviewing the documents produced, and arguing over some redactions, this case should contribute to our efforts to control police conduct. In our case against Sheriff Hodgson, the NLG represented Prisoners' Legal Services (PLS), which had been trying to get doc-

uments concerning mental health services to inmates and related matters for more than a year. Since the Sheriff's Office basically stonewalled, it took a lawsuit to get documents that should have been produced voluntarily long before. And hopefully the documents obtained will help PLS in its ongoing efforts to secure proper mental health services for prisoners and fight solitary confinement and related practices.

In our ongoing work on behalf of tenants and homeowners facing illegal foreclosures, we filed for client Massachusetts Alliance Against Predatory Lending (MAAPL) and individual homeowners a case directly with the SJC seeking a declaration delaying the implementation of Chapter 141 of the Acts of 2015, which drastically limits the rights of homeowners to challenge foreclosures by significantly shortening the statute of limitations. While the Attorney General won the motion to dismiss, this was only our first challenge to this bill, which we believe to be unconstitutional. The Litigation Committee, in conjunction with MAAPL, is working now to mount a new case that will directly attack the unconstitutionality of this oppressive legislation. Members of the Committee are also working with City Life and representing tenants in the Housing Court to keep low and moderate income families in their homes and fight gentrification in the Dudley Square area.

In contrast to the MAAPL case, the Attorney General's office turned out to be of ally of sorts in our case challenging the Department of Correction's failure to treat well over 1,000 inmates with the potentially deadly Hep C

virus -- at least the office realizes that DOC's record of treating almost no inmates when we filed *Fowler v. Turco*, USDC 1:15CV 12298, could not possibly meet constitutional standards. The litigation has thus far succeeded in increasing the number of prisoners being treated with the life-saving DDA medications from one or two to over a hundred, and we expect continuing success as the case moves forward to trial.

Finally, in *Walker v. Boston Medical Center Corp.*, we challenged hospital practices that led to a contractor releasing patients' private medical records. While we got a disappointing decision on summary judgment from the Business Litigation Session (finding named plaintiffs could not show their records were actually accessed by third parties), the case is on appeal. Moreover, the issues are ones that will arise again and often, with new facts and different outcomes.

If you are interested in participating in our Committee's work, please contact the NLG office.

We also welcome your ideas. The mission of the Committee is to bring lawsuits against large institutions (such as government agencies, law enforcement, banks, financial institutions, and/or large corporations which 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. If you encounter a wrong that, in your opinion, falls within the interest of the Committee, please bring it to our attention.

David Kelston of Shapiro Weissberg & Garin is on the Board of the Mass Chapter.

Street Law Clinic Report

by Yatzel Sabat

The Street Law Clinic project (SLC) has for years provided legal workshops and advice for political activists, community groups, organizers, law students, and others.

Over the last summer, the SLC project hosted a full-time intern - Shayok Chakraborty - who worked with local organizations and NLG attorneys to schedule dozens of legal clinics taking place throughout the Fall. He also started updating SLC written materials for distribution to community members who attend the clinics. As a result of Shayok's work, SLC has established contacts with sev-

eral new organizations and agencies who offer resources and assistance to under-served communities in the Boston area. We've also conducted clinics with these new organizations, among them - St. Stephen's Church Youth Programs, Black & Pink, Communities for People, Arise Springfield, Crossroads Family Shelter, and Project Place.

In the fall, I took over and coordinated the project for two months. On top of scheduling new clinics and confirming those already scheduled, I was able to organize trainings for law students at Northeastern University, Boston University, and Boston College to train them, so they would be ready to conduct future

clinics themselves. I have also worked with and assisted volunteer NLG attorneys who led and supervised the clinics.

Right now the NLG-Mass Chapter is looking for a new Street Law Clinic Coordinator to continue this work, as the demand for the clinics is high - new sessions are already being lined up for the Spring. If you are interested in this position, please contact the NLG office at 617-227-7335.

Yatzel Sabat is a Coordinator of the Street Law Clinic project and a second year law students at Northeastern University Law School.

Street Law Street Law Clinic Report

Continued from page 3

October 19: *Housing Law* clinic for United South End Settlements, by **Jeff Petrucelly**.

October 23: *Workers' Rights* clinic for Crossroads Family Shelter, by **Lili Ibara**.

October 26: *Stop & Search* clinic conducted for the St. Stephen's Youth Programs in Boston, by **Carl Williams**.

November 2: *Legal Observing* at action organized by Students for Justice in Palestine at Northeastern University, by **Laura Frye, Elizabeth Ingermann, and Larisa Zehr**.

November 4: *Direct Action* clinic for climate change activists from Better Future Project, by **Jeff Feuer**. • *Legal Observing* in Boston at anti-nazis event organized by Refuse Fascism, by **Genevieve Butler, Geoff Carens, Thera McAroy, and Emily Murcko**.

November 7: *Housing Law* clinic for Roxbury Multi-Service, by **Kevin Heffernan**.

November 8: *Stop & Search* clinic for ABCD in Dorchester, by **John Salsberg**.

November 12: *Direct Action* clinic for Better Future Project, by **Jeff Feuer**.

November 13: *Legal Observer* training for law students at Boston College, by **Makis Antzoulatos**.

November 15: *Stop & Search* clinic for Communities for People, by **Makis Antzoulatos**. • *Housing Law* clinic for ABCD in South End, by **Jeff Feuer** and BU law students **Hillary Leffue & Ria Nandani**.

November 18: *Legal Observing* at anti-nazis events in Boston organized by Resist Supremacy and by Refuse Fascism, by **Theodore Altman, Genevieve Butler, Geoff Carens, Dash Davis, Daniel Finn, Laura Frye, Nicholas Horne, Elizabeth Ingermann, Anna Kastner, Thera McAroy, Molly McGrath, Lisa Plato, Monica Shah, Graham Sternberg, and Meg Ziegler**.

Mass Chapter in Action - 2017 in Review

Continued from page 1

neys to take on representation for over 30 arrestees. The NLG Mass Chapter made a bold and definitive stance to fight alongside movements against white supremacy by having attorneys there all day to observe interactions with the police and all night to ensure that all arrestees were bailed out as soon as possible.

We are tremendously grateful to the Chapter supporters who

have donated their time and expertise to our work and who, like our Sustainers, have supported us financially. This year the Chapter has received substantial financial support from the Defense Against Thought Control Foundation with a grant of \$75,000 for our



(top-bottom) Legal Observer at the anti-nazis protests in August (Photo by Carl Williams). Around 100 legal professionals gathered on a freezing January day in front of the District Court in Boston to protest the inauguration of Trump; the rally was organized by Benjamin Evans, member of the NLG Mass Chapter Board (Photo by Urszula Masny-Latos). Fall Event for the Chapter Sustainers (Photo by Julia Wedgle).

Litigation and Mass Defense Committees and from Pam Rogers with a gift of \$5,000 to develop a new Chapter website. Pam has also spent countless hours working with the website designers to have the new site ready for January of 2018.

While this show of support and effort from both outside and within has been heartening, we are hopeful that people can sustain this energy and continue to work with the NLG Mass Chapter in any kind of way that the climate would dictate. Right now we have a Board membership that has changed and now includes both legal and non-legal folks and people of color at its helm. While this is wonderful, as an organization dedicated to anti-racist work, fighting white supremacy, capitalism, misogyny, misogynoir, and anti-LGBTQIA attacks, the NLG Mass Chapter needs your help and support more than ever.

- Chapter Co-Chairs -
Rebecca Amdemariam & Carl Williams

NLG Happy Hour 2017- Connecting with Activists

by Judy Somberg & Bonnie Tenneriello

Our Happy Hours at the Red Hat on Beacon Hill have always been about connecting with movements and ideas, drinks strictly optional. This year more than ever we have looked to activists in the Boston area to share their struggles and lead discussion on how we might work together.

- January brought **Cairo Mendes**, lead organizer with the **Student Immigrant Movement (SIM)**, to share his personal story and the work of SIM to support immigrant youth applying for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). Subsequent months only brought more salience to SIM's work, and the Mass Chapter honored SIM with the legal worker award at our May dinner.

- In April we had a session with **NLG Mass Defense Committee (MDC) members**, highlighting the MDC's ongoing work to train and support activists engaged in political dissent. Trainings, legal observation, and successful legal defense by the MDC have continued to grow throughout the year.

- In September we met with three activists engaged with the local **sanctuary movement**, **Gaby Chavez**, **Nestor Pimienta**, and **Alfredo Garcia**, and with **Luke Abdow**, an immigrant rights organizer with Massachusetts Community Action Network (MCAN). With two area churches currently offering sanctuary and others standing at the ready, and with undocumented immigrants in need of various other forms of support, this was a timely meeting.

- In November, we had a discussion with **Susan Nicholson**, a lead organizer with **The Freedom to Boycott Coalition** in Massachusetts on pending state legislation to curb Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS), a peaceful and legitimate strategy for leveraging consumer and constituent power to persuade Israel to comply with international law to respect Palestinian human rights. We also heard what is happening with anti-BDS legislation in other states and federally.

While we're grateful for the Red Hat's hospitality, we would love to find another venue that's centrally located (downtown Boston), disability-accessible and with a slightly more secluded area that we could use. Please let us know if you have any ideas.

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NLG Lawyer Referral Service

by Julia Wedgle

2017 was a mixed bag for the Lawyer Referral Service (LRS). The LRS, a project of the NLG-Massachusetts Chapter, provides referrals to lower-cost attorneys for low- to moderate-income clients across Massachusetts. The LRS has been an integral service of the Chapter since it was founded in early 1980s. We provide referrals for attorneys across the state in most areas of law ranging from family law to criminal law to landlord-tenant law to much more.

This year, on average, the LRS provided 25-30 referrals per week. By the end of 2017 we expect to provide over 1,500 referrals in total. As in past years, the most common requests for referrals have been: family law, civil litigation and landlord-tenant cases. We are often the last resort for people looking for legal services in Massachusetts. Unfortunately, the number of cases we refer has been declining in recent years, so we are open to new ideas for how to increase our visibility. If you have any ideas how we can better advertise our service to various communities in Massachusetts, please let us know.

The LRS currently has 32 members. While the majority of our attorneys work in the Greater Boston Area, we are able to provide referrals to clients throughout the state because many of our attorneys are willing to travel to more rural counties. Unfortunately in recent years we've experienced a decrease in membership, but we encourage new members - across the state, in all areas of law - to join.

The LRS provides a great service for NLG members who choose to join the project. It provides an opportunity for new attorneys to build a client base, and for those attorneys who have been practicing for years to continue growing theirs.

Our service has the lowest remittance fees in the state and the dues are very affordable. We hope you will consider joining the LRS. Annual dues are just \$175 and remittance fees are 10-15%. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions, ideas for how to improve our service, or if you are interested in joining our service. In 2018 we hope to continue providing quality, affordable legal services in all areas of law to clients across Massachusetts.

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NLG Law Student Chapters Reports

Boston College

by Zachary Klein

The BC Law chapter of the National Lawyers Guild remains active in the fight for justice both within our community and across the nation. In addition to successful Know Your Rights and Legal Observer trainings, this semester has seen many NLG-BC members become intimately involved in the contentious efforts to get a graduate student employee union recognized by both the BC administration and the newly anti-union NLRB--in fact, Senator Bernie Sanders just sent a letter to BC President Father William Leahy in solidarity with our cause. Although the semester is nearly at an end, we eagerly await the affordable public housing and medical marijuana law events that are already on the calendar for Spring. In the meantime, however, we wish all of our brothers and sisters in solidarity throughout the Commonwealth a joyous and restful holiday season.

Boston University

by Alexandra Arnold

In September, the BU chapter of the NLG hosted a Street Law Clinic training on landlord-tenant law. About 30 students attended and were trained by an NLG attorney; several have since participated in Street Law clinics in the community. An attorney from Greater Boston Legal Services came to campus in October to talk about the current criminal law reform bills in front of the Massachusetts State Legislature and how students could get involved in lobbying. We have also started a critical legal theory workshop series to revisit 1L cases and concepts and examine how the law supports and constructs systems of power and social inequality. Our first workshop served as an introduction to critical legal theories and will be followed up by workshops specific to certain 1L topics. We have also started informal lunch meetings every two weeks.

Harvard

by Daniel Espo

This semester our chapter of the NLG has been busy planning Legal Observer training and coordinating with ally organizations work against the Muslim Ban and recent attacks on immigrants.

We're also collaborating with other Boston-area NLG student chapters to host the upcoming "Resistance Lawyering Series." Harvard's contribution will be a talk on the specific skills and sensibilities organizers need from lawyers. In other words, we hope to answer the question "What is a movement lawyer?" by consulting grassroots organizers, and collectively determining some best practices for legal professionals hoping to work with marginalized communities in the struggle.

Northeastern

by Monica Shah

Northeastern's NLG chapter has had an active Fall 2017. We have hosted two Critical Theory workshops for the 1Ls (Civil Procedure and Torts), with a Property workshop in the works. We have also had two Legal Observer trainings and a SLC Housing Law Clinic training, all of which were attended by students from other law schools as well! In October we sponsored a well-attended "Wrongful Convictions Day" event with a panel featuring two exonerated people and the wife of a wrongfully imprisoned man, and we also co-sponsored a forum with the Program of Human Rights and the Global Economy with David Morales, the Salvadoran attorney taking the lead on the El Mozote case. In November, with the help of other student groups on campus, we screened *Whose Streets*, a documentary about the uprising in Ferguson after the police murder of unarmed teenager Michael Brown in August 2014. After the screening we had an activist from the Ferguson movement Skyped in to talk about the events surrounding the uprising.

In addition, we are supporting, in various ways, other causes around our community, such as Lynn United for Change and Northeastern's dining hall workers in their negotiations for a living wage and affordable health insurance.

UMass School of Law in Dartmouth

by Debra Wilmer

After a frustrating bureaucratic process, our NLG student chapter finally received official designation as a school club on October 22. This will allow us to reserve rooms, hold functions, access SBA funds, etc etc. Our two main goals are to hold monthly events and to partner/support other student

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:

Anonymous • Steve Buckley • Patricia Cantor & Jeff Petrucelly • J.W. Carney • Howard Cooper • Caroline Darman • Melinda Drew & Jeff Feuer • Roger Geller & Marjorie Suisman • Lee Goldstein & Mark Stern • Benjie Hiller • Andrei Joseph & Bonnie Tenneriello • Martin Kantrovitz • Nancy Kelly & John Willshire-Carrera • David Kelston • John Mannheim • Jonthan Messinger • Hank Phillippi Ryan & Jonathan Shapiro • Allan Rodgers • Martin Rosenthal • Shapiro, Weissberg & Garin • Elaine Sharp • Anne Sills & Howard Silverman • Judy Somberg

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 Student Chapters Reports

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clubs on campus. So far, it appears we are on track. In September, we had a table at the school Orientation; in October we had a movie night; in December - a holiday social event; in January, we plan to have a speaker on the Bail Fund; in February, we'll host one of the forums of the NLG Resistance Series; in March we'll host two NLG trainings: Know Your Rights and Legal Observer; and in April - a panel on the Substance Abuse Reform and Marijuana Law.

NLG Happy Hour 2017

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We hope to see you at the 2018 Happy Hours! Come to listen, ask questions, or perhaps present an issue of your own. And please let us know if you have suggestions for speakers.

Judy Somberg & Bonnie Tenneriello are Co-Coordinators of the NLG Happy Hour program.

NLG Lawyer Referral Service

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This year, the LRS Committee, which is the advisory body for the LRS, welcomed an additional member, **Jason Korta**. Jason has joined other members of the Committee - **Cynthia Maccausland, Benjamin Dowling, Douglas Lovenberg** and **Jonathan Messinger**.

We would also like to thank NLG member, **Carrie Darman**, who, over the summer, helped coordinate the Project while I was on leave.

Julia Wedgle coordinates the Lawyer Referral Service and is also the Administrative Assistant.

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

Donate to Support the Guild!

The Massachusetts Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild's **Mass Defense Committee** provides legal representation and assistance to the **Occupy Boston** movement.

We need your support.

Please help by donating to the Mass Chapter by mailing this form and a check to **14 Beacon St., Suite 407, Boston, MA 02108** or visiting www.nlgmass.org/donate.

I, _____ (name), am donating \$ _____ to the NLG Mass Chapter to help support the Mass Defense Committee and their work,

Fill out and send to:

National Lawyers Guild, Massachusetts Chapter
14 Beacon St., Suite 407, Boston, MA 02108

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: (w) _____ (h) _____

E-MAIL: _____

FAX: _____

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.