

# Mass Dissent

Massachusetts Chapter

National Lawyers Guild

14 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108

February-March 2018

www.nlgmass.org

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## In This Edition

### Guild News

page 3

### NLG Holiday Party

page 4

### MDC Works with...

page 5

### Climate Change is Real

page 6

### Defending Climate Change Activists

page 7

### Support for Cosecha

page 8

### Fight Against West Roxbury Pipeline

page 9

### Forum on Muslim Ban

page 10

## BOARD MEETING

February 21, 6:00 pm

14 Beacon St., 1st Fl.  
Boston

## NLG Mass Defense Committee in Action

Welcome to the newest issue of *Mass Dissent*. This month we are focusing on the work of the NLG Mass Defense Committee. The Mass Defense Committee (MDC) remains committed to providing legal support for activists and organizers who face government repression as a result of their work. The last year has been incredibly busy for the Committee, as ever-increasing numbers of people are rising up against corporate greed and right-wing policies. We have been honored to stand alongside immigrant rights activists protesting ICE policies, activists fighting against the occupation of Palestine, Black Lives Matter activists who continue to lead the struggle against white supremacy, anti-fascist protesters who took to the streets of Boston to stand up against far-right extremists, activists who fight for climate change policies, and so many more. Our work has taken us to Northampton, Boston, Lowell, Plymouth, and everywhere in between. Over the last year, lawyers and legal workers with the Mass Defense Committee have conducted dozens of trainings for activists and organizers,

and lawyers represented hundreds of activists in court.

We want to send a special thanks to our comrades at the Mass Bail Fund and Black Lives Matter Boston. Following the 30+ arrests at the August 19th Fight Supremacy protest, Black Lives Matter and the Mass Bail Fund coordinated jail support and bail for each and every defendant. We could not have done the work we did that day without their tireless efforts. We look forward to more coordinated work with them in the future.

**But We Need Your Help.** As movements for justice continue to succeed, the need for legal support will only grow. If you are interested in joining the NLG Mass Defense Committee please contact the coordinators of Committee (*contact info below*). We are especially looking for lawyers with experience in criminal defense work.

In Solidarity & Struggle,

- Makis Antzoulatos &  
Josh Raisler Cohn -  
Co-Coordinator MDC

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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).

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# GUILD NEWS

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## 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.

**Wednesday, March 21, 14 Beacon St., Conference Room, 1st Fl., Boston.** We'll start at 5:30pm with a cheese & wine reception and then continue with the meeting and elections of the Chapter's Board of Directors and Officers. We encourage NLG-Mass Chapter members to join the Board. If you are interested and would like to serve on the Board, please email the office at [nlgmass-director@igc.org](mailto:nlgmass-director@igc.org) or call 617-227-7335.

## RESISTANCE SERIES

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

## 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 ever, 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 by visiting our website (<http://www.nlgmass.org/reserve-tickets/>) or calling our office at 617-227-7335.

## ANNUAL MEETING

All NLG-Massachusetts Chapter members are invited to our **Annual Meeting** which will take place on

## Street Law Clinic Report

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

**December 17, 2017:** *Legal Observing* at a rally in Boston organized by a coalition of organizations, calling to Decolonize Puerto Rico, by **Ezra Dunkle-Polier** and **Nicolas Horne**.

**February 11:** *Legal Observer* training for activists from Massachusetts Jobs with Justice, by **Makis Antzoulatos**.

*NLG Happy Hour*

### MEDICAL & LEGAL PROVIDERS WORKING TOGETHER IN SUPPORT OF IMMIGRANTS

*an evening with*

**Lara Jirmanus**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Wednesday, April 11, 2018**

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

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

Lara Jirmanus, MD, MPH, is a founding member of the Health and Law Immigration Solidarity Network, a group of medical and legal providers who have come together to respond to the needs of immigrant patients in light of current attacks on immigrants' rights. They aim to work in solidarity with immigrants, advocating for legislation to support their rights, to work with health institutions to make immigrant patients feel welcome, training healthcare providers and creating a resource clearinghouse. They are interested in exploring how the legal community - NLG! - can get more involved in joint work on these issues.

## ARTICLES FOR MASS DISSENT

The April issue of *Mass Dissent* will **analyze the criminal justice issues**.

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 March 15.**



## NLG Holiday Party in Pictures

Thank you to all who came to the NLG December Holiday Party at Shapiro Weissberg & Garin. It was wonderful to see long-time members and friends and to meet new people. The food was amazing and the company was inspiring.

The Raffle Drawing was just fun. This year we offered very exciting prizes - tickets to local theaters, dinner certificates to great restaurants, yoga and skiing classes; but among the most exotic prizes we had an hour-long session of floating, private class in aerial arts, and a chance to name a star!

If you didn't participate this year, we hope to see you with us next year.



Happy NLG members and friends enjoy camaraderie, catching up with old friends, meeting new ones, and winning raffle prizes - (above) Monica Shah (Northeastern law student) and (right) Eden Williams display their wins!



Photos by Julia Wedgle



## Organizations NLG MDC Worked with in 2017

Our work with the Mass Defense Committee (MDC) is only as important and effective as the organizations who are doing the work to build movement and resist oppression. We feel privileged to work with so many incredible groups in Massachusetts, and wanted to share a few of the organizations we have been lucky enough to work alongside.

### **COSECHA** ([www.lahuelga.com](http://www.lahuelga.com))

Cosecha is a non-violent movement fighting for permanent protection, dignity, and respect for the 11 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S. The name, "harvest" in Spanish, honors the long tradition of farmworker organizing and the present-day pain of the thousands of undocumented workers whose labor continues to feed the country. Committed to winning real victories for our community, Cosecha believes in using non-cooperation to leverage the power of immigrant labor and consumption and force a meaningful shift in public opinion.

### **IfNotNow** ([www.ifnotnowmovement.org](http://www.ifnotnowmovement.org))

IfNotNow is a movement working towards an American Jewish community that stands for freedom and dignity for all Israelis and Palestinians by ending its support for the occupation.

### **Pioneer Valley Workers Center**

([www.pvworkerscenter.org](http://www.pvworkerscenter.org))

The Center builds power with low-wage and immigrant workers throughout Western Mass. and organizes to build community and win real change in the lives of working people.

### **Solidarity Lowell** ([www.solidaritylowell.com](http://www.solidaritylowell.com))

Solidarity Lowell is a coalition of community members of Greater Lowell working towards social justice and standing together against hate and discrimination.

### **Mass. Bail Fund** ([www.massbailfund.org](http://www.massbailfund.org))

The Massachusetts Bail Fund pays up to \$500 bail

so that low-income people can stay free while they work towards resolving their case, allowing individuals, families, and communities to stay productive, together, and stable. The Fund is committed to the harm reduction of freeing individuals serving pre-trial sentences, and to abolishing pre-trial detention in the long-term.

### **Mass. Jobs With Justice** ([www.massjwj.net](http://www.massjwj.net))

Jobs with Justice is a coalition of labor, faith, and student organizations working together to build unity and support for the struggles of working people.

### **Black Lives Matter** - Boston and Cambridge Chapters ([www.blacklivesmatter.com](http://www.blacklivesmatter.com))

The Black Lives Matter Global Network is a chapter-based, member-led organization whose mission is to build local power and to intervene in violence inflicted on Black communities by the state and vigilantes.

### **City Life/Vida Urbana** ([www.clvu.org](http://www.clvu.org))

City Life/Vida Urbana is a grassroots community organization committed to fighting for racial, social and economic justice and gender equality by building working class power. City Life/Vida Urbana promotes individual empowerment, develops community leaders and builds collective power to effect systemic change and transform society.

### **Mass 350** ([www.350.org](http://www.350.org))

350 uses online campaigns, grassroots organizing, and mass public actions to oppose new coal, oil and gas projects, take money out of the companies that are heating up the planet, and build 100% clean energy solutions that work for all. 350's network extends to 188 countries.

### **Climate Disobedience Center**

([www.climatedisobedience.org](http://www.climatedisobedience.org))

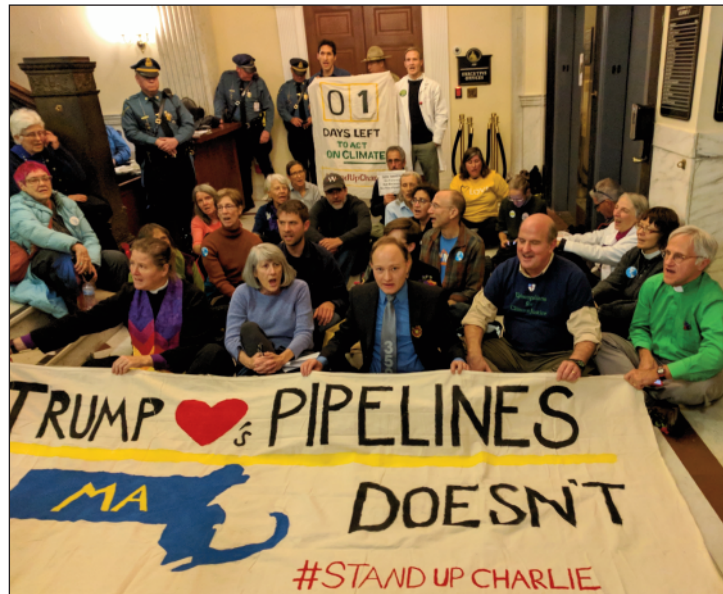
The Climate Disobedience Center exists to support a growing community of climate dissidents who take the risk of action, grounded in love, commensurate with the scale and urgency of the crisis.

# *Climate Change is Real - What is Done Locally to Stop the Devastation of the Environment?*

by Graig Altemose

From September through November of 2017, the coalition **Mass Power Forward**, spearheaded by 350 Mass, Toxics Action Center, Unitarian Universalist Mass Action, the Mass Conference of the United Church of Christ, the Sierra Club, Elders Climate Action, Sunrise, 350 Mass Action, and more, conducted a campaign of escalated pressure on Governor Baker to stop new fracked gas projects in the Commonwealth, which are bad for our public health, our climate, and represent billions of dollars of wasted public funds and poorly invested private capital that should be invested in long-term, healthy, job-creating, and climate-friendly energy technologies like solar and wind. From the beginning, the NLG has been providing legal support for the campaign.

The coalition began with weekly lunch-time visits to the Governor's office of four people. They slowly built up the pressure from four people once per week to four people twice per week to eight people three days a week to fifteen people four days a week to 30 people five days a week to 50 people five days a week before ending with over 300 people at the State House on a single day



asking the Governor to stop new fracked gas projects.

The final two weeks of the campaign coincided with the U.N. climate conference in Bonn, Germany, the time by which the coalition had asked the Governor to provide his critical leadership. As he had not, and signaled his intention not to, with the support

of 350 Mass Action and the National Lawyers Guild, six people sat in the Governor's office the first week of the conference, and 26 people sat in the Governor's office the second week of the conference. In both instances, the Massachusetts residents, which included clergy from multiple faith traditions, doctors, scientists, educators, healers, and more, left after being charged with

trespassing and unlawful assembly, with a promise of being summoned to court to defend their conduct.

*Craig Altemose is Executive Director of 350 Mass Action.*



## NLG Mass Defense Committee Defending Climate Change Activists

by Jeff Feuer

A large group of climate change activists, organized through the Better Future Project and 350 Mass for a Better Future, planned a campaign seeking to get Governor Baker to issue an executive order to halt the construction of any more fossil fuel facilities (pipelines, refineries, natural gas facilities, etc.) in Massachusetts. In November, 2017, I conducted two Direct Action trainings in Cambridge (at the Democracy Center) for a total of about 40 activists who were part of this campaign.

On November 9, 2017, a group of about 25 activists then held a demonstration and sit-in in Baker's office in the State House. Six of the activists sat in the Governor's office for approximately five hours, until the State House closed. Given the choice

by the State Police as to (a) then being arrested for trespass or (b) receiving a summons for a later clerk-magistrate's hearing on complaints for criminal trespass on state property and violation of the riot act (failure to disperse from an unlawful assembly), the activists chose to leave and accept a later summons.

On November 16, 2017, a group of more than 200 activists held a follow-up demonstration at the State House. This time, the State Police did not allow anyone into the Governor's office itself, so the demonstration and sit-in

occurred in the hallway outside his office. Again, there were no immediate arrests, but 21 of the activists sitting-in received summonses for a clerk-magistrate's hearing on complaints for criminal trespass on state property and violation of the riot act (failure to disperse from an unlawful assembly).

The clerk's hearing on the first six activists (from the Nov. 9th demo) was held on Dec. 15, 2017. I wrote a short memo of

scheduled by the court for six different dates in January, 2018. I successfully negotiated with the First Asst. Clerk-Magistrate Mark Concannon to have all of the hearings consolidated to one date – January 9, 2018. I represented all of the activists on that date in a hearing in front of a different clerk-magistrate and again was successful in getting all of the applications for criminal complaints denied. The clerk-magistrate did ask me to tell my clients



After a successful court meeting in January 2018, with NLG MDC member Jeff Feuer (1st row, 2nd from left)

law arguing that, as a matter of law, the activists could not be charged with either trespass on state property or failure to disperse from an unlawful assembly. As I had another hearing at the same time, Benjie Hiller represented the activists at the hearing and successfully argued that the applications for the criminal complaints on those charges should be denied. Thus, the activists wound up with neither an arrest record nor any criminal charges being brought against them.

The clerk's hearings for the second group of 21 activists were

that, while she understood their passion and commitment, they should find another way to protest that doesn't cause the police to have to do all of this paperwork and doesn't tie up the judicial system! I did pass that on to my clients, with my tongue firmly in my cheek!

*Jeff Feuer is a long-time member of the NLG Mass Defense Committee; he is a law partner at Goldstein & Feuer in Cambridge.*



## Mass Defense Committee's Support for Cosecha

by Josh Raisler Cohn

On Monday, April 24, 2017, the NLG provided six Legal Observers to support a large and lively demonstration at the Suffolk County (South Bay) House of Correction organized by Cosecha to protest the detention and deportation of undocumented immigrants by I.C.E. The action was the first civil disobedience action on immigration issues in Boston in recent months and among the largest nationally since President Trump took office, according to Cosecha, with approximately 140 participants, including a brass band! Twenty students, clergy, and other activists were arrested after they sat down, linked arms, and blocked the entrance to the jail. The federal government leases space in the House of Correction and 167 of the 962 inmates housed there were immigration detainees. The NLG Legal Observers included Maiyim Baron, Amber Houghstow, Jude Glaubman, Lor Holmes, Jeff Feuer, and Neil Berman.

On Tuesday, April 25th, NLG attorneys Danny Beck, Neil Berman, and Jeff Feuer

appeared in Roxbury District Court to represent the twenty arrested protestors, who were charged with trespass and disorderly conduct. With significant guidance and advice from NLG Mass Defense Committee Co-Coordinator Josh Raisler Cohn, who supplied his expertise and knowledge about the ADA's and judges in the Roxbury court, the Guild attorneys were able to

ly charge being dismissed outright), which meant that no one would have a criminal record as a result of these arrests. The demonstrators expressed their gratitude for this outcome and the support of the Guild for their action and vowed to continue their fight against Trump's racist deportation policies.

Protests have continued throughout the year by activists,



secure an extremely favorable disposition for all twenty defendants. Every defendant had their criminal charges converted to a single civil infraction of trespass upon payment of a \$50.00 fine (equivalent to a traffic ticket) prior to arraignment (with the disorder-

family members, and community members at the House of Corrections, and the Guild has been there to support them with legal observers and legal consultation. Similar protests have also been occurring across the county. In numerous states we have seen civil disobedience being done by DACA recipients and Dreamers whose participation in those protests placed them at risk for deportation. NLG chapters across the country have been supporting these actions and these activists.



*Josh Raisler Cohn is a co-coordinator of the Mass Defense Committee; he is a public defender with CPCS.*

## *Defending Activists in their Fight Against the West Roxbury Pipeline*

by Makis Antzoulatos & Andrew Fischer

**A**fter fighting a pre-trial discovery dispute for over a year, our Mass Defense Committee, representing the remaining 15-18 pipeline demonstrators in the West Roxbury Court, has exposed serious safety problems with the West Roxbury Lateral Pipeline. The result of the year-long discovery battle was an order from District Court Judge Maryann Driscoll that Spectra Energy (now Enbridge) either produce its safety plan in the event of a gas explosion or leak, or provide an affidavit that it has no safety plan.

In the absence of any safety plan, Spectra and its subsidiaries and contractor, in December 2017, filed affidavits admitting there was no safety plan. This is a huge disclosure that the media has failed to report, as it addresses the same safety problems that the City Police and Fire have been trying to get Spectra to address. In fact, the absence of a safety plan and evacuation plan is the basis for the City of Boston's appeal of the permit to operate granted by FERC (the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) now awaiting decision by D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals.

In October of 2015, the first of a wave of civil disobedience took place to protest the construction of a gas pipeline in the West Roxbury neighborhood of Boston. Climate activists with Resist the Pipeline, led by founding member Marla Marcum, staged a series of civil disobedience actions to

block construction of the pipeline. These protests took place on a near weekly basis, between October 2015 and November 2016. Overall, 198 people were arrested protesting the construction of this dangerous gas pipeline. The Mass Defense Committee of the Massachusetts National Lawyers Guild (MDC) has been honored to work with Resist the Pipeline from the beginning of their movement. The MDC members provided dozens of trainings to activists, and were involved in the arraignments and/or magistrate hearings of each of these 198 activists.

As of today, all but some fifteen to eighteen activists accepted dispositions in their cases that allowed the cases to be resolved without conviction or a criminal record, as the charges were reduced to a civil fine and violation, akin to a traffic ticket. A group of between 15-18 activists have decided, as a group, not to accept any pre-trial resolution, instead insisting on proceeding to trial on a variety of misdemeanor charges, raising the defense of necessity. Working with the Climate Disobedience Center, an organization founded by Marla Marcum and Tim DeChristopher (one of the remaining defendants), Mass Defense Committee lawyers have waged a lengthy and vigorous pre-trial discovery battle seeking records from the Spectra/Enbridge that would establish that the pipeline, pumping gas at high pressures past an active quarry in a residential neighborhood. The defendants are also asserting that to protect our planet from global warming, the need to stop extracting and

pumping fracked gas was a necessity that excused any alleged criminal conduct.

Armed with the admission that there is no safety plan or contingency in the event of a disaster, the MDC team and its clients are looking forward to a trial on the necessity defense. The MDC legal team is led by long-time NLG members Andrew Fischer, Jeffrey Feuer and Benjie Hiller.

This is an exciting moment for the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild. The fight against the pipeline in West Roxbury has connected the struggles for climate justice here in Massachusetts with local movements across the country who are resisting pipeline construction and drawing attention to the devastating impact of reliance on fossil fuels. Putting the issue of climate justice front and center, they want to speak to a jury about how in the current political and economic climate, there was no viable political choice but to physically block construction of this pipeline in order prevent inevitable ecological disaster.

The use of necessity defenses at political trials has a long and rich history in movements for social and economic justice. This strategy is again growing across the country, becoming an integral part of the Climate Justice movement. The Climate Justice Project in Berkeley, CA, has been a leader in this legal movement. The Climate Justice Project was founded by three recent Harvard Law School graduates, Kelsey Skaggs, Ted Hamilton and Alice Cherry, to provide legal support

*Continued on page 11*



## Forum on Muslim Travel Ban & Ending of DACA

We're not done resisting! On December 5, 2017, the day after the Supreme Court allowed the Muslim Ban to take full effect, over 100 people attend a forum at Harvard Law School on the "Muslim and Refugee Bans & the Threats to DACA." The event was organized by the National Lawyers Guild-Mass Chapter and the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)-MA, the Harvard Islamic Society & Anti-Islamophobia Network, Jewish Voice for Peace-Boston, and the Muslim Justice League.

From personal stories of anti-Muslim bullying, to a history of Islamophobia in America, to the legal implications and current status of the Muslim Ban 3.0 and the threats to DACA and TPS, a packed room heard from a panel of local experts, among them NLG member Prof. **Rachel Rosenbloom** from Northeastern University School of Law, and then participated in a discussion of what could be done locally to resist these racist, Islamophobic and xenophobic policies.

Rachel's message was simple - the Executive Orders, bans on refugees, threats to DACA and TPS, and attacks on Sanctuary Cities are all dangerously part of the same system of oppression, and an ero-



sion of our rights. "There are very few bright spots when it comes to these policies," she added, "but my advice is, if you want to work at resisting them, go local."

Discussing the daily impact of these policies, **Maheen Haider**, a doctoral student at Boston College, pointed out that beyond legal and illegal, what's really being assessed is race and ethnicity. But, now more than ever, there's resistance to all these forms of racism. This message was echoed by Community Organizer from the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center, **Ayesha Kazmi**, who stressed the importance of getting on the ground and getting active.

The panel concluded with **Nazia Ashraful**, Government Affairs Director at the Council on American-Islamic Relations-MA, providing a list of campaigns and actions, including #weareheretostay, where participants can share an individual DREAMER's story with their senator or representative, and an organized resistance to any attempt at a Muslim registry by non-Muslims becoming supporters of Islamic organizations through symbolic donations.



(Top) Rachel Rosenbloom addresses the audience at the Muslim Ban event.

(Bottom) Participants of the event.

(Photos by Urszula Masny-Latos)



## 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 • 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

## Fighting the West Roxbury Pipeline

*Continued from page 9*

for front-line climate justice activists. The MDC was honored to work with these lawyers when they were fighting for Fossil Fuel Divestment at Harvard University. Since the founding of the Climate Defense Project, members of the MDC have consulted with the Climate Defense Project on defense strategy.

So far, the strategy to build necessity defenses in these cases is working. Climate justice activists in Spokane, WA who were arrested for blocking coal and oil trains were able to get a necessity instruction at their trial. Activists in one of the valve-turner cases in Minnesota were granted the request to raise a necessity

defense. This decision is on appeal, with arguments at the Minnesota Appellate Court in February.

The MDC work in West Roxbury is likely to be the next point of victory in the nation-wide struggle to bring climate justice into the courtroom. In uncovering that no safety-plan existed at all for the construction and operation of the pipeline, the MDC team has won a significant preliminary battle and will now prepare for the trial or trial on the necessity defense. The City of Boston, Boston Police Department and Boston Fire Department were all unsuccessful in their attempts to verify the fact that no safety plan existed. It was only until these brave activists decided to exer-

cise their right to trial, that their fears were confirmed: a multi-billion dollar energy company built a gas pipeline through the City of Boston, and had no viable safety-plan to mitigate the danger. This is just a small example of why the legal fights we wage are such an integral part of any movement for justice. The MDC is honored to be working with the activists from Resist the Pipeline. As long as corporations continue to put our communities at risk, those communities will fight back. As long as those communities fight back, the MDC will be there to defend them and their work.

*Makis Antzoulatos is a public defender with CPCS; Andrew Fischer is criminal defense attorney in Boston and a long-time NLG member.*

# 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](http://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.