

Mass Dissent

Massachusetts Chapter

National Lawyers Guild

41 West St., Boston, MA 02111

December 2018

www.nlgmass.org

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BOARD MEETING

December 19, 6:00 pm

41 West St., 7th Fl.
Boston

State of the Guild - Mass Chapter in 2018

In these trying times, we are heartened by the upswell of resistance to tyranny, imperialism and white supremacy across so many parts of our society, and we are honored to be able to support those movements. The Massachusetts Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild has continued to grow and strengthen our community of radical lawyers, legal workers, activists and people fighting for self determination and freedom from oppression. And as we grow and strengthen, we continue to increase our capacity and ability to defend and support radical and leftist movements in the state and beyond.

At the beginning of this year, the increasing requests for support continued, and we are still flooded with requests for support, including for trainings, consultations, lawsuits, and for representation in criminal court for arrested activists. The requests we receive are of course only partial indicator of the ongoing resistance through

Massachusetts, but the number and the scope of requests that we received demonstrate to us that resistance is only increasing. Due to the profile and the relevancy of our work, we have seen a significant increase in volunteers and members who are stepping up to join our legal community in support of these radical social movements, and we would not have been able to provide the support that we did without that additional influx of involvement, and the continued active involvement of our long-time members!

We relied on so many of our wonderful members, and new partners and new partnerships, to provide so many trainings in 2018, including Stop & Search, Direct Action, Housing Law, Workers Rights, Bankruptcy Law, and Legal Observing. This year, we started a series of "Law For The People" teach-ins at local law schools to demystify legal processes and procedure, democratize

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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), Housing Law, Workers' Rights, Direct Action, Bankruptcy Law, and Immigration Law are held at community organizations, youth centers, labor unions, and shelters. If you are an NLG member and you are interested in leading a workshop, please contact the NLG office at 617-227-7335 or nlgmass-director@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 or to get involved, please 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 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" 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 2011, 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 PROJECTS:

NLG National Immigration Project (NIP): Works to defend and extend the human and civil rights of all immigrants, documented and undocumented. Located in Boston, NIP works in coalition with community groups to organize support for immigrants' rights in the face of right-wing political attacks. For more info contact NIP 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 in Massachusetts, please contact Neil Berman at njberman2@juno.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.

Northeastern on how to apply labor/employment laws to protect and benefit workers. And on **Wednesday, February 13, 5:30-7:30pm** the NLG Litigation Committee will lead a conversation at **UMass Dartmouth** on how we can organize and fight cash bail in Massachusetts.

“LAW FOR THE PEOPLE”

The NLG Series continues in 2019 with two teach-ins at local law schools. On **Thursday, February 24, 6:00-8:00pm**, NLG labor/employment attorneys will present at

NLG ANNUAL DINNER

The 2019 NLG Annual Dinner will celebrate the Mass Chapter’s 50th Anniversary and those who in 1969 - mostly law students - brought the Chapter back to existence after a 16-years hiatus. The date and place will be announced soon!

Street Law Clinic Report

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

October 13: *Legal Observing* at a protest at Tufts organized by the Philippine Education, Advocacy, and Resources (PEAR) in resistance to fascism and martial law in the Philippines, by **Sara Block, Zach Coto, and Laura Graham**.

October 23: *Legal Observing* at an eviction blockade in Lynn, by **Zach Coto**.

October 26: *Legal Observer* training for Northeastern law students, by **Melinda Drew**.

October 28: *Legal Observing* at a Boston rally in support of transgender rights, by **Laura Graham, Hillary Nikyema, Noah Meister, Randa Wahbe, and Alexis Yeboah-Kodie**.

November 11: *Direct Action* training for Right Care Alliance who fights high insulin prices, by **Jeff Feuer**.

November 16: *Legal Observing* at a protest organized by Right Care Alliance, by **Maureen Carroll Dennis, Zach Coto, Pat Cantor, and Jeff Petrucelly**.

NLG Happy Hour

WHAT’S GOING ON ON THE SOUTHERN BORDER?

an evening with

Immigration Activists

Wednesday, January 9, 2019

6:00 - 8:00 pm

Red Hat Cafe (9 Bowdoin St., Boston)

Immigrants are coming in droves to US borders, fleeing countries where living conditions have become intolerable, often due to, or exacerbated by, US policies with regard to those countries.

Join us for a discussion with chapter members who are doing work to support those immigrants through direct representation, by volunteering at the border, and by volunteering with the new national NLG Joint Caravan Committee, as well as leaders of the Boston Immigrant Justice Accompaniment Network (BIJAN). See if there might be a place for you to plug in!

ARTICLES FOR MASS DISSENT

The February issue of *Mass Dissent* will analyze the 2018 mid-elections nationally & in Massachusetts.

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.

State of the Guild

Continued from page 1

access to legal information and tool, to discuss ways to do people's lawyering. We also continued to provide trainings for community organizations and institutions holding the line against racist and xenophobic ICE enforcement, including places providing sanctuary for those facing deportation and family separation, and workplaces looking to protect their employees and comrades. We also conducted several "Trainings for Trainers," expanding our ability to rapidly respond to requests for support, increase our capacity to show up in crisis moments, and to build networks of long-term support for social movement.

In 2018 we continued our ongoing support for the activists who were arrested challenging nazi rhetoric at rallies in Boston in August and November of 2016. Our more experienced mass defense volunteers partnered with new recruits to ensure zealous representation for all of those arrested in acts of resistance, and we had excellent results, having either the charges dismissed or getting extremely favorable outcomes for the rest. Also this spring, in the West Roxbury Court, we won the first climate change necessity defense in the county with a group of activists who were protesting a high pressure natural gas pipeline in solidarity with the anti-pipeline protests across the continent. The recent disaster in the Merrimack Valley with the gas explosions and resulting displacement and shattering of communities only further highlights the risks of these ongoing pipeline constructions projects.

Our Litigation Committee continued its work to fight with and for the most marginalized in our communities. In partnership with Prisoners' Legal Services, we won a landmark ruling requiring testing and treatment for prisoners with Hepatitis C across the Commonwealth. Our work affects people's lives in many ways,

and the efforts that our Litigation Committee made in this case are literally life saving.

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 again received substantial financial support from the Defense Against Thought Control Foundation with a grant of \$75,000 for our Litigation and Mass Defense Committees that is allowing us to expand the scope of our mass defense work, our ability to be more pro-active in reaching out to communities and organizations that we have not worked with in the past, and increase our technological capacity for doing mass defense work.

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 political climate would dictate. The spectrum of people on our Board has continued to grow, and because of our internal commitment to anti-oppression work both within and outside the Guild, we have new Board members of color and are continuing to add non-attorneys to our Board. The Board also engaged in a day-long anti-oppression workshop to continue our own reflective work about our practices and structures, and to allow us to continue working to build a National Lawyers Guild chapter that reflects the world that we want, rather than the world we have.

But we are not there yet. We continue to grow, both politically, in our work, and in our membership. But as an organization dedicated to supporting social movements, doing 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.

*- Josh Raisler Cohn -
NLG-Mass Chapter Co-Chair*

Litigation Committee

by David Kelston

Since 2011, the NLG-Mass Chapter Litigation Committee has been bringing cases in Massachusetts to challenge repressive institutional conduct. We settled one case this year, are about to complete a second case, and are, as always, in the process of evaluating new litigation.

First - the case we settled.

After three years of litigation—preceded by years of gathering information to build our case—we settled Fowler v. Massachusetts Department of Correction, C.A. 1:15-12298, filed in the federal District Court, District of Massachusetts. In Fowler, the Guild, working with co-counsel Prisoners' Legal Services, challenged the state prison system's failure to adequately treat prisoners with the potentially-deadly Hepatitis C virus. Defendants were both the state prison system itself (DOC) and its private health care provider. When we filed the case, the latest information we had from DOC was that approximately 1,500 prisoners were infected with the disease, but only three were being treated with the new, highly-effective medications called direct-acting antivirals (DAAs), which had a cure rate of well-over 90%. While Hep C, which is transmitted by infected blood, including through intravenous drug use, tattoos, and sexual contact, had become epidemic in prisons, and can lead to liver failure and death, the high costs of the DAAs appeared the main reason treatment at DOC, and in prisons around the country, was so slow in coming.

Our case was, we believe,

the second class action in the country to challenge a state's failure to treat adequately those in its care with Hep C, the first to gain class certification, and the first to settle with a judgment that will assure that all Massachusetts state prisoners will be properly screened for Hep C and monitored and treated with DAAs before the virus does harm. The importance of timely DAA treatment was brought home to us—and hopefully to DOC and its private medical provider—when fairly early in the case one of our four original class representatives died from the disease. A state prison sentence had become a death sentence for this prisoner, something that should never have happened, and hopefully, at least because of Hep C, will not happen again. Our case was brought under the Eighth Amendment's prohibition of cruel and unusual punishment, which requires a showing of defendants' deliberate indifference to the serious medical needs of the plaintiffs. DOC now has an entirely new medical protocol for treating Hep C, and we will be monitoring its implementation of that protocol over the next two years.

Second - the case that is about to resolve. Our Chapter has a long history of challenging police action, including what we believe to be improper surveillance that serves no purpose, except to chill First Amendment rights. In 2011, we filed a case with the Mass ACLU challenging the surveillance of activists by the Boston Police Department's "fusion center" - the Boston Regional Intelligence Center (BRIC). BRIC's published mission was to focus on possible terrorists and certain gang-related

activities, and to gather and disseminate to other law enforcement agencies records concerning that kind of activity only. After our document requests were stonewalled for months, BRIC finally produced documents that never should have been created—"intelligence reports" characterizing peaceful protests as criminal activity associated with extremist groups. The first lawsuit ended with complete production of the documents we sought and meetings with BPD/BRIC in which police officials represented that they were putting in place procedures to assure that these sorts of abuses, violations of their own rules, would not occur again. We followed up by filing National Lawyers Guild v. the Boston Police Department, Suffolk C.A. 15-1424. Eventually, BPD/BRIC produced 1,500 more pages of documents they acknowledged they should have purged from their files long before, these primarily concerning daily and detailed surveillance of the Occupy Boston movement, a virtual people's history of the Occupy, but this one written by the police. And while there were no "intelligence reports", or other materials wrongly characterizing protected activity as "criminal", our current lawsuit revealed a new abuse and problem. Specifically, BRIC was not just maintaining surveillance records of Occupy; it was, on a daily basis, sending those records out to about 1,500 of its "business partners", including numerous Boston businesses and institutions, and law enforcement agencies around the country. There are a last few matters in this case that are being briefed to the

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Mass Defense Committee

by Makis Antzoulatos & Josh Raisler Cohn

It has been another busy and exciting year for the NLG-Mass Chapter's Mass Defense Committee (MDC). The MDC prides itself on ensuring that anywhere in Massachusetts where progressive and radical activists are targeted because of their political activity, we will be available to provide them with the legal support they need. An anti-eviction activist who we were supporting recently wrote to us to tell us that they successfully stopped an eviction with no arrests. He said "thank you for your work and support, which was key to enabling us to feel confident in taking a strong stand." This is the essence of why the MDC work is so important. Having legal support in place is critical to empowering activists to take the steps they need to take in the fight for liberation.

This is exactly what we have been doing in 2018, where we have provided legal support and representation for climate justice activists, community organizations fighting against destructive ICE policies, brave activists standing up to the far-right, mobilizations in solidarity with Palestinian self-determination, labor organizing efforts, and so much more. So far in 2018 we have represented over 100 activists in court, and conducted dozens of know your rights trainings in Boston, Lowell, Plymouth and Cambridge. It is with great pride that we report continued success in court, where the majority of folks arrested for political activity are seeing their cases

dismissed, and often times reduced from criminal offenses to civil infractions. This is a direct result of the amazing advocacy by MDC lawyers around the state, and equally by our growing representation as an organization that is not scared of going to trial when we have to.

Here are some snapshots of the work we have been doing.

Historic Legal Victory in the Fight Against the West Roxbury Pipeline:

As many of our members know, beginning in October of 2015 a wave of civil disobedience took place to protest the construction of a dangerous gas pipeline in the West Roxbury neighborhood of Boston. We

necessity defense, arguing that the crisis of climate change made their civil disobedience necessary, and legally excusable. The MDC teamed up with the Climate Disobedience Center and the climate Defense Project to prepare an incredible defense that would put Spectra Energy and the fossil-fuel industry on trial.

Realizing what they were up against, the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office tried to block our strategy in the final hour. The criminal charges were reduced to civil infractions, eliminating the defendant's right to a jury trial. The activists stayed strong in their position, and MDC attorneys were ready to stand alongside them. They demanded a hearing on the civil infraction,



Defendants in the Roxbury Pipeline case pose on the steps of the West Roxbury courthouse in March 2018 with the NLG defense team - (last row) (1st from l.) Jeff Feuer, (3rd from l.) Andrew Fischer, (4th from l.) Benjie Hiller, and (5th from l.) Josh Raisler Cohn. (Photo by Peter Bowden)

were proud to work closely with Resist the Pipeline, and ultimately provided legal representation for 198 arrested activists. By March 27th of this year thirteen defendants were left, committed to going to trial and waging a

and each defendant was allowed to give testimony to the court about why their actions were both just and necessary. In the end, Judge Mary Ann Driscoll found each defendant not responsible,

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Mass Defense Committee

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specifically stating that their actions were necessary to prevent greater harm. This was the first time, to our knowledge, that defendants were acquitted based on the civil disobedience defense of necessity/competing harms to prevent climate change.

Standing Up to ICE Oppression:

Around the country thousands of activists and organizers have been fighting back against the oppressive immigration policies of the United States government. Massachusetts has been no different, and community organizations have been taking aim at local law enforcement for cooperating with ICE. On July 1, 2018 hundreds of activists showed up at the Suffolk County House of Corrections demanding that they end their cooperation with ICE, and promising to shut the building down until their demands were heard. Twenty activists were arrested, and MDC lawyers were with them in Roxbury Court to represent each and every one. On August 20th, activists from the Fang Collective blocked the entrances of the Bristol County Jail demanding to protest their horrendous record of cooperating with ICE. Four activists were arrested and are currently being represented by MDC lawyers. In addition the MDC has held multiple trainings for activists around the state organizing ICE watch activities, as well as clergy in Lowell, MA who are working on sanctuary campaigns.

Poor People's Campaign:

Early in 2018 the MDC was approached by state and national organizers of the Poor People's Campaign (PPC), asking that the MDC provide all legal support for the PPC actions in Massachusetts. We were thrilled to be asked, and it demonstrates that the MDC is clearly known as the place to come if you are a leftist and in trouble. The PPC organized a campaign of weekly civil disobedience, over the course of six weeks, with each

working relationship with If Not Now (INN). INN has been organizing a number of protests and civil disobedience actions in Massachusetts to draw attention to Israeli policies in Palestine, and calling for an end to the occupation. On April 3rd eight activists were arrested at a protest outside the Israeli consulate. On November 6th, fourteen INN activists were charged in Boston Municipal Court for a protest outside GOP headquarters, demanding that the GOP renounce white nationalism in their ranks. MDC lawyers represented all the INN activists in both of these actions.

There is no sign that our resistance and fight for liberation is slowing down, so the MDC is going to continue to be busy and overworked in 2019. We are proud that so many organizations

can rely on us for legal support. We had a goal last year of trying to be more intentional about reaching outside of Boston, and have been successful building relationships in other parts of the state.

In Struggle and Solidarity!

We always need more lawyers help with MDC cases. In May, 2018 we were excited to host our first ever Criminal Law 101 training for NLG lawyers who want to start representing activists at arraignments. If you are an NLG lawyer who wants to get involved with NLG MDC please be in touch.

event highlighting a different area of structural oppression faced by poor and working people. The MDC provided over ten know your rights trainings for PPC activists, and by the end of the six weeks represented over thirty people who were charged criminally. The PPC also joined forces with an environmental justice group in Springfield, MA. Twenty-one people were summoned to clerk's hearings for their involvement in that protest, and the MDC was able to provide representation to all defendants.

If Not Now- Massachusetts:

MDC has continued a great

Makis Antzoulatos & Josh Raisler Cohn are Co-Coordinator of the NLG-Mass Chapter Mass Defense Committee and they serve on the Chapter's Board of Directors. They are public defenders with CPCS.

Happy Hour 2018

by Judy Somberg & Bonnie Tenneriello

“NLG Presents,” our quarterly Happy Hour gathering and discussion, touched on a wide variety of topics this year.

In April, **Kara Hurvitz**, a member of the Health and Law Immigration Network, a project of the Medical Legal Partnership started at Boston Medical Center, joined us to speak about their work. The Network is a group of medical and legal providers who assist immigrant patients with a wide range of legal problems. After hearing about their work and the needs of patients they work with, on the spot we offered up our expertise to provide immigration law/Know Your Rights trainings, including what to do if ICE comes knocking.

In September, speakers **Fatema Ahmad**, Deputy Director of the Muslim Justice League, and **Janhavi Madabushi**, Education and Outreach Coordinator of the Asian American Resource Workshop, described how they helped create the #BosCops Collective, a

cooperative group of organizations and individuals who combat the abusive policing and hyper-surveillance of Muslim communities, other communities of color, and other vulnerable communities in Boston. Fatema and Janhavi described how the Boston Police collaborate with Islamophobic federal “Countering Violence Extremism” programs which target Muslims for surveillance rather than those who in fact might be committing crimes. Together we discussed how to reclaim surveillance technology and how to engage local communities to enact real change.

We ended the year with an interesting discussion with NLG member and activist **Ester Serra-Luque**, a native Catalanian and supporter of the Catalan anti-fascist, self-determination move-



Ester Serra-Luque leads a fascinating conversation on the anti-fascist and independence movement in Catalonia.

(Photos by Kayla Degala-Paraiso & Urszula Masny-Latos)

ment. Ester explained how the death of Franco didn't end right-wing governance in Spain and that there is still a struggle for social democracy there. The Catalan self-determination movement, led by progressive activists, has been met with harsh repression against demonstrators and supporters -- physical beatings, extreme criminal charges, and extensive imprisonment -- which has led to even more support for their movement. Ester and two other Catalan activists answered our myriad questions that arose out of the portrayal in the U.S. press of this movement as one of elites, seeking to secure the “wealth” of Catalonia for themselves.

As always, please bring us your suggestions for Happy Hour topics (and location!) in the coming year.



Judy Somberg is a solo practitioner in Cambridge; she is a member of the NLG International Committee.

Bonnie Tenneriello is a staff attorney at Prisoners' Legal Services, and she serves on the NLG-Mass Chapter Board of Directors.

Anti-Oppression Training For NLG Board

by Bonnie Tenneriello

Some time ago, the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Chapter of the NLG realized that we needed help. In order to work effectively for justice, and to function effectively as a Board, we needed to look at our own dynamics around race, gender, LGBTQI and other forms of oppression. Each of us has internalized these power dynamics in different ways, and as an organization we inevitably enact them. So on October 14 of this year, we spent the day with trainer Sonny Singh from New York City, in order to become more conscious of our habits and

start to consider what we can and should change.

Sonny shared an intersectional analysis of how various forms of oppression relate to each other. We started with some basics – for example, the difference between prejudice (an attitude), discrimination (a behavior - unequal treatment based on membership in a group) and oppression (systemic domination of a group or groups, “rooted in history and baked into the institutions of our society”). And we went through a series of exercises designed to build trust, encourage self-reflection, and assess where we stand as a Board and an organization.

It is a measure of the Board's

commitment that nearly all members participated, with only a couple of members missing due to unavoidable conflicts. We left with a commitment to carry this work forward. The Board will soon plan next steps to address our own culture and priorities around race, gender, and other forms of oppression, and we hope in the future to make a similar training opportunity available to our Chapter's members.

Bonnie Tenneriello is a member of the NLG-Mass Chapter Board of Directors; she is a staff attorney at Prisoners' Legal Services in Boston.

NLG Litigation Committee

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Superior Court in which we challenge certain redactions, but otherwise the case is over, and now we will see if we can do something about BRIC's unfiltered dissemination of records that should never have been created in the first place.

Finally, as always, we have investigated various other possible cases this year, and are looking with particular interest in bail practices in Massachusetts and elsewhere for alternatives to cash bail that don't lead instead to checklists for judges that inevitably lead to minority and poor criminal defendants being

disproportionately and wrongly held in jail while they await trial. We will keep our members posted, and invite you to work with us.

David Kelston is a member of the NLG Board and the Litigation Committee. He is of counsel at Shapiro Weissber & Garin.

STAY WITH THE NLG-MASS CHAPTER!

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2019!

Without you there is no Guild!
(<https://nlgmass.org/join/>)

NLG Law Student Chapters Report...

BOSTON COLLEGE

report from Gabe Frumkin

The BC NLG chapter started this school year committed to expanding dialogues on campus around movement lawyering, how to affect change on campus and in our communities, and intersectional social justice issues.

Our first major event kicked off the NLG “Law For The People” series with a teach-in on immigration law, which was co-sponsored by several other student groups. The event was a huge success, thanks to the NLG speakers Susan Church, Nancy Kelly, and John Willshire-Carrera. Our second event featured Carl Takei, who was active with the NLG when he attended BC Law, who is now the director of the ACLU’s Living While Black on Campus Campaign. Mr. Takei discussed the campaign, its theory of change, and the strategy for confronting racial biases and over-policing on college campuses.

Finally, our NLG chapter hosted a panel titled “Collective Workplace Action in an Era of Resistance.” Our guests discussed Janus, Epic Systems, and the realities of workplace organizing under a National Labor Relations Board that is hostile to workers and their unions.

While these events kept the BC Law chapter busy, we also found time to host several social events, skills trainings, and other events that will broaden and deepen the progressive community on campus. We look forward to the spring semester during which we will continue to engage students in a variety of causes, issues, and movements.

HARVARD

report from Anna Nathanson

The Harvard NLG chapter aims to educate and engage HLS students in

leftist political activism, centering the political work of marginalized communities. One of our main goals is to drive energy towards campus and local activism. Before the school year kicked off, we organized Harvard community members to attend a solidarity protest for the National Prison Strike. We then began the year with a training for NLG’s Legal Observer program. It was a full room, made up of both law students and activists. We also have been supporting the Harvard Prison Divestment Campaign, a reparatory justice initiative that seeks to sever Harvard’s financial ties to the prison-industrial complex.

As part of our efforts to provide political education to ourselves and the legal community, we have sponsored and co-sponsored several events and initiatives. We hosted the 3rd teach-in of the NLG “Law For The People” series on the topic of housing law, led by NLG lawyers Nadine Cohen, Jeff Feuer, and Lee Goldstein. We co-sponsored “Fighting the (Q)arceral State”, a conference on the complex roles of queer people in mass incarceration. We are also hosting a showing of “Occupation”, a documentary about the Harvard Living Wage Sit-Ins. Lastly, our members have been working on a curriculum for a reading group that would provide a critical perspective on the law.

We look forward to building on this work in the spring.

NORTHEASTERN

report from Zoe Bowman

This semester, Northeastern’s NLG chapter has focused on getting first year law students involved in the organization. We conducted two trainings for students to become Legal Observers with NLG. We are in the midst of a lecture series that introduces a critical legal theory

approach to podium classes for first year students.

In January, our chapter will hold the 4th teach-in of the NLG series “Law For The People” on labor/employment law and workers rights in times of attacks on unions. In addition, our students have attended a variety of NLG events in the Boston area, such as the “Law for the People” teach ins in other law schools.

WESTERN NEW ENGLAND

report from Noah Meister

In October, WNEU’s NLG Chapter provided Legal Observer training to our law students in an effort to support activists speaking out and exercising their rights. WNE School of Law alumnus, Luke Ryan, currently practicing in Northampton, conducted the training. Our newly trained LOs wasted no time putting the training to use and volunteered right away to Legal Observe at the Rally for Trans Rights at Boston City Hall.

Also in October, our members attended the Clason Speaker Series talk “(Un)natural Disasters and Human Rights: Hurricane Maria and the Politics of Disaster in Puerto Rico”, which gave students up-to-date information on the impact of Hurricane Maria and human rights violations occurring on the island.

Chapter Co-Chair, Delmarina López, was chosen to be the student organizer for the upcoming 32nd Annual Robert M. Cover Retreat, taking place in February 2019. The topic this year is “Resistance: Our Human Rights are Under Attack. How do we use our JDs as a weapon against injustice?” In addition to planning the retreat, we will have a delegation of our students at the retreat, and we will continue providing students with opportunities to support progressive activism and create positive change.

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 NLG members & friends:

Anonymous • 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 • Jonathan Messinger • Hank Phillippi Ryan & Jonathan Shapiro • Allan Rodgers • Martin Rosenthal • 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.

NLG-Mass Chapter Sustainers are NLG members and friends who make a commitment to support the NLG Massachusetts Chapter with an annual contribution of \$500 or more (not including the NLG membership dues).

The NLG Sustainers receive:

- special listing in the Dinner Program;
- 1/4 page ad in the Dinner Program;
- acknowledgement in *Mass Dissent*;
- two (2) free raffle tickets for a Holiday Party raffle;
- invitation to special events.

There are 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 or more.

If you are interested in learning more about the NLG-Mass Chapter Sustainer Program or if you would like to become a Sustainer, please contact NLG office at 617-227-7335 or nlgmass-director@igc.org.

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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

NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD

MASS CHAPTER



Donate to Support the Guild!

The Massachusetts Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild's **Mass Defense Committee** provides legal representation and assistance to the **radical and progressive** movements.

We need your support.

Please help by donating to the Mass Chapter by sending this form and a check to
41 West St., Suite 700, Boston, MA 02111 or visiting
www.nlgmass.org/donate.

I, _____ (name), am donating \$ _____ to the
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Fill out and send to:

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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:

- ☐ Street Law Clinic
☐ Mass Defense Committee
☐ Litigation Committee
☐ *Mass Dissent* (bi-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
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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.