

Mass Dissent

FEBRUARY 2019

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Mid-Term Elections in 2018

Welcome to the New Year! We wish you a pleasant, very joyful, and productive 2019! And we hope you keep NLG as an ever-present part of your life in this New Year!

With this issue, we are presenting to you a new *Mass Dissent*. This year the Chapter is celebrating its 50th Anniversary since “re-birth” in 1969, so it’s time for us to try a fresh, new look. Please let us know what you think. We would like to make it even better.

In this issue, we are taking a quick look at the last mid-term elections and why it’s very important for us to participate in all elections.

The November 2018 mid-term elections produced a new House of Representatives in Washington, DC (with Democrats re-gaining control of the House, and with an unprecedented number of women and people of color elected) and some significant changes here in Massachusetts (Ayanna Pressley was elected to be the first Black woman to serve in Congress from our state.)

Voters in Massachusetts strongly voted in support for a 2106 law that bars discrimination against transgender people (Question 1), and for a creation of a citizens commission whose purpose would be to undo the U.S. Supreme Court’s Citizens United ruling (Question 3). However, Question 2, which called for specific limits on the number of patients a nurse could care for at one time, was defeated.

This year’s mid-term elections showed how important voting is. **David Kelston**, in his article “Voting Matters”, shows that we need more engagement in the voting process to see any changes on the political arena. **Zach Lown**, in his piece on the election of Rachael Rollins as the District Attorney for Boston, argues that we can’t stop at voting and need to hold politicians accountable.

- Editors -

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**NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD
MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER, INC.**

**41 West St., Suite 700
Boston, MA 02111**
tel.: 617-227-7335
nlgmass@igc.org
nlgmass-director@igc.org
<https://nlgmass.org>
Facebook & Twitter: @nlgmass

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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) which 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 at 617-227-7335 or nlgmass-director@igc.org.

Mass Defense Committee:

The Committee consists of two sub-committees: (1) "Legal Observers" who are trained to serve as NLG 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.

Street Law Clinic Project:

The Street Law Clinic project was established in 1989. It provides workshops in Massachusetts to 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 would like to lead a workshop, please contact the NLG office.

NLG NATIONAL PROJECTS & COMMITTEES

(FULL LIST AT [HTTPS://NLG.ORG/COMMITTEES/](https://nlg.org/committees/))

NLG National Immigration Project (NIP):

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 information contact NIP at 617-227-9727.

NLG International Committee (IC):

IC supports legal work around the world "to the end that human rights shall be regarded as more sacred than propoerty interests." It plays an active role in international conferences, delegations and on-going projects that examine and seek to remedy conditions caused by illegal U.S. or corporate practices. IC has done work in Cuba, the Middle East, Korea, Haiti, and other countries. For more info go to <https://nlginternational.org>.

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GUILD CALENDAR

“LAW FOR THE PEOPLE”

The six-month-long NLG Series ends with the last teach-in in February which will be led by a member of the NLG Litigation Committee, **Angela McDonough Tieng**, and it will be on the Committee’s work to challenge cash bail in Massachusetts. This Series is open to law professionals as well as the general public.

CASH BAIL: IS IT FOR THE PEOPLE?

Wednesday, February 13, 2019

5:30-7:30 pm

UMass Dartmouth School of Law

NLG ANNUAL MEETING

All NLG-Mass Chapter members are encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting in March. After a cheese & wine reception, we’ll hear reports from Chapter’s committees about their work and hold elections of the Chapter’s officers and board of directors. (*See enclosed board nomination form.*)

Wednesday, March 20, 2019

5:30-8:00 pm

(Place to be announced)

NLG ANNUAL DINNER

This year the NLG-Mass Chapter celebrates its 50th Anniversary! For this occasion, the **2019 Annual Dinner will be devoted to the Chapter and our Founders** - activist law students and lawyers who in 1969 brought the Chapter back to existence, after a 16 years of hiatus. (The Chapter was disbanded in 1953 because of McCarthyism).

At the Dinner, we will also have a special “Lifetime Achievement Award” given to **Lynn Weissberg**, a long-time NLG supporter.

Lynn is a partner at Shapiro Weissberg & Garin, LLP and has practiced with her partners since 1980.

We hope all NLG members and friends will be with us at this special event! Over the last 50 years, we’ve had ups and downs, but we’ve survived, and the new generations of radical legal professionals have proudly carried on the torch lit by our revolutionary founders!

NLG ANNUAL DINNER

Friday, May 17, 2019

6:00-10:00 pm

St. Paul Center

85 Bishop Allen Drive, Cambridge

NLG HAPPY HOUR

You are invited to the NLG “*Think & Drink*” *Happy Hour* - a quarterly event held on the **2nd Wednesday of January, April, September, and November**. A report from the most recent *Happy Hour* can be found 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.

NLG BOARD MEETING

NLG-Mass Chapter members are invited to participate in monthly meetings of the Chapter’s Board of Directors. The meetings are held on the **3rd Wednesday of a month** (except July and August), from **6:00 to 8:00 pm**, at the NLG Office (41 West St., Suite 700, Boston). Please notify the office if you plan to attend.

ARTICLES FOR MASS DISSENT

The April issue of *Mass Dissent* will analyze the so-called Criminal Justice Reform.

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 March 10.

GUILD NEWS

“Think & Drink” Happy Hours

Thirty people turned out for January Happy Hour in the back of the Red Hat Café to talk about what is happening with migrants coming to the US southern border and about the many ways that NLG folks and others, with and without immigration law experience, can volunteer to help.

Hillary Farber, who teaches criminal law and procedure at UMASS law school, first volunteered for a week at the Southeast Immigrant Freedom Initiative in Lumpkin, Georgia, which assists some of the 2000 men in the Stewart detention center. Her tasks were myriad, and whetted her appetite for more. Now she is on her way to spend four months with the Florence project in Tucson, Arizona which works with over 5,000 detained migrants throughout Arizona.

Ilana Greenstein, a long-time Boston immigration attorney, now has her dream job. She works with the Immigration Justice Campaign as a national resource for attorneys and mentors engaged in pro bono detained removal defense. The Campaign matches up volunteers lawyers with migrants facing removal, and provides training and mentoring throughout their representation. They



Speakers at the Happy Hour (l.-r.): Josh Behren, Evan Seitz, Ilana Greenstein, and Hillary Farber.

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



also help place doctors, social workers, interpreters and others who want to volunteer.

Judy Jarashow, an estate planning attorney, spent a week in Dilley, Texas, preparing women for their credible fear interviews. It is estimated that 95% of the Dilley detainees who are represented by attorneys pass their credible fear interviews.

Evan Seitz and **Josh Behren** described the work of the Boston Immigration Justice Accompaniment Network. BIJAN works with immigrants on all aspects of their immigration cases from helping immigrants find attorneys for bail hearings and asylum cases, to helping them physically get to their hearings, getting

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GUILD NEWS

Hepatitis C in the Department of Correction

We want to hear from you if you are (or were) a prisoner in the Department of Correction and have concerns about Hepatitis C, including if:

- You have asked to be tested for Hepatitis C but have been denied testing;
- You have Hepatitis C but have not been evaluated recently, or told whether and when you will be treated for it;
- You have Hepatitis C and have not been assigned priority level for treatment; and/or
 - You have other questions or concerns about Hepatitis C treatment.

Prisoners' Legal Services and the National Lawyers Guild are monitoring the settlement in Fowler v. Tureo, a class action concerning the testing, evaluation, and treatment of Hepatitis C in the DOC. The Settlement calls for universal testing for Hepatitis C (the prisoner can decline testing,) regular assessments of those who have Hepatitis C to determine their priority level for treatment, and treatment to be given within certain time frames to those who qualify. The settlement also limits the reasons why the DOC can deny treatment to prisoners who otherwise qualify for it.

If you have questions or concerns about Hepatitis C, please contact PLS or NLG with as much detail as you can give about your specific issue:

PLS: 617-482-2773

NLG: 617-227-7335

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money for bail, and housing upon release.

Discussion followed and many questions were asked about how to volunteer, what would be expected of volunteers, and what support would be provided to them.

For more details about discussion, as well as a list-

Street Law Clinic Report

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

November 17: *Legal Observing in Boston* at a protest against ICE, organized by the Cosecha, by **Laura Graham**.

November 22: *Legal Observing in Bristol* against the County Sheriff's contract with ICE, by **Deb Wilmer**.

November 28: *Legal Observing* at a rally in Lowell for the Transgender Day of Remembrance, by **Rob Bohn, Seth Gadbois, Connie Mortara, Tyler Slater**.

November 29: *Legal Observing* at a rally at the United Arab Emirate Consulate in Boston against genocide in Yemen, organized by Coalition to Stop the Genocide in Yemen, by **Sarah Block**.

December 8: *Legal Observing* at a rally outside Gov. Charlie Baker's house in North Shore in support of prisoners rights and against horrendous health conditions in Massachusetts prisons, by **Makis Antzoulatos and Noah Meister**.

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

January 8: *Direct Action* training for legal staff at the Massachusetts Teachers Association, by **Jeff Feuer and Carl Williams**.

January 19: *Legal Observing* at the Women's March in Boston, by **Zoe Bowman, Pat Cantor, Lisa Gordon, Morgan O'Grady, Jeff Petrucelly, and Alexandra Tarzikhham**.

January 31: *Legal Observer* training for students at Western New England School of Law in Springfield, by **Luke Ryan**.

ing of volunteer opportunities with links, see the blog post by Kayla Degala-Paraiso: <https://nlgmass.org/nlg-mass-january-happy-hour-recap/>.

- Judy Somberg -

Voting Matters

by David Kelston

In the last few years we have seen more and more right wing, supposedly “populist”, nationalists come to power around the world—Viktor Orban in Hungary, leaders in Poland, Brazil, the Phillipines, and Brexit in the U.K., along with the growing strength of xenophobic parties throughout the European Union, in Italy, France, Scandinavia, Germany, and elsewhere. And, of course, Donald Trump, who ran on a platform mixing anti-immigrant animus and racism with attacks on globalism and free trade (“America First”), while also promising to defend social security and Medicare. His message appealed to a sense of victimization and economic insecurity among the white working class. Indeed, right wing, nationalist “populism” is fueled everywhere by fear and resentment of both elites and immigrants. But this isn’t real populism—it’s dangerous, xenophobic nationalism (remember, two world wars in the 20th century) and authoritarianism. And its ultimate victims include many of the very people who have voted for these leaders.

Of course Trump and his ilk are not populist in any real sense. Trump’s administration, as Paul Krugman and others have

written, has been relentlessly anti-worker on virtually every front—tax policy that benefits mainly the rich corporations, failed efforts to repeal Obamacare that have succeeded in raising insurance premiums by almost 20 percent with the burden falling most heavily on working people of modest

If anyone thinks it’s not worth voting, remember that African-Americans were virtually totally disenfranchised in the Deep South almost a century after the Civil War, and activists – and regular citizens – died for the right to vote, then and before. And note how racists today will do everything they can – and we must fight those efforts – to deny voting rights to people of color.

means, labor policy that favors deregulation across the board including leaving workers unprotected from exploitation and injury, appointment of judges who are radically anti-worker (e.g., see now-Justice Kavanaugh’s Sea World opin-

ion), and open appeals to racism and the most raw kind of anti-immigrant sentiment that pits one group of working people against another. But, the mid-term elections show us that if we elect them, we can also “unelect” them, assuming we work as relentlessly as they do.

The mid-term elections were important, resulting in a net increase of 41 seats (including Conor Lamb) in the House of Representatives, as well as upsets of established, moderate Democrats by progressives, i.e., Joe Crowley in New York, the fourth ranking Democrat, by Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a progressive woman of color. The election showed that moderate Democrats could beat Trump loyalists in red dis-

tricts and younger, progressive Democrats could win in traditionally blue districts (see Ayanna Pressley in Massachusetts) by focusing on core economic and social

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Voting Matters

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issues—protecting working families, protecting Obamacare and people’s health insurance, rejecting Trump’s anti-immigrant hysteria. Studies identified, in fact, a sizeable block of voters who voted for Obama, then for Trump, and for a Democrat in the mid-terms. These voters are not “irredeemable” — by a wide margin they favor free college, expansion of Medicare, and federal action to reduce drug prices and create jobs. While susceptible to Trump’s xenophobia, they also respond to a message of real, not racist, populism.

And changing control of the House of Representatives does make a real difference. The House originates all spending legislation, and the Senate must reach agreement with it on all legislation before it can go to the President. While this doesn’t lead to the enactment of progressive legislation, it does protect us from the most regressive legislation, from more attempts to abolish Obamacare or tax legislation to favor the rich and corporations, from gutting environmental legislation, from legislatively gutting Medicare or Medicaid, from more regressive anti-immigrant legislation and spending. It also turns control over all of the House’s committees to the Democrats, who are

clearly willing to aid in investigations of Trump and his cronies and show that the only way to “drain the swamp” is to get rid of them.

How did the biggest mid-term election turnover since Watergate occur? By, the research shows, massive voter turnout for a mid-term, particularly by minorities, and changes in voter attitudes. As for the latter, polls by the centrist Democracy Fund Voter Study Group show that opposition to immigration—Trump’s signature issue — appears to be moderating among voters in the Midwest, and voters in the Southwest are moving to the left, such that Colorado, Arizona, Nevada and New Mexico, with California, may become a Democratic power base. As to voter turnout, Latino voters reversed their record-low turnout in 2014 with record-high turnout in 2018, with the vast majority of them expressing deep apprehension of Trump. An analysis by the Latino Policy and Politics Initiative at U.C.L.A. found that in eight states with sizeable Latino communities, the Latino vote grew by 96 percent from 2014 to 2018, and that campaign outreach had a major effect: in 70 competitive districts, over half of the Latino voters said they were contacted

and urged to vote by campaign outreach efforts. Democrats picked up seats in twenty districts, in states as far apart as New Jersey and Florida, where Latino turnout was high.

What happened in the mid-terms was a majority vote against racism and nationalism, and a first step toward unseating Trump and all he stands for. If anyone says voting isn’t important, remember that fascists had come to power through the very democratic institutions that they then destroyed. If anyone thinks it can’t happen here, read the simple aphorisms in “On Tyranny, Lessons from the Twentieth Century” by Timothy Snyder. If anyone thinks it’s not worth voting, remember that African-Americans were virtually totally disenfranchised in the Deep South almost a century after the Civil War, and activists — and regular citizens — died for the right to vote, then and before. And note how racists today will do everything they can — and we must fight those efforts — to deny voting rights to people of color. That alone tells us how important this struggle is.

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

After Reformist Rachael Rollins Elected District Attorney in Boston, Her Coalition Seeks Accountability

by Zachary Lown

A progressive grassroots campaign propelled the reform candidate Rachael Rollins to the office of District Attorney for Suffolk County, which encompasses Boston. On January 3, 2019, she became the first woman of color to assume the office. Rollins handily defeated the presumptive favorite in the primaries — the police-backed, sitting district attorney Greg Henning, who is also a white male. The race was not even close: 35,188 votes for Rollins, 20,719 votes for Henning.

The coalition which lifted Rollins to victory now seeks to make reform a reality while ensuring vocal support for Rollins's promises that got her the office. Chief among them was her promise not to prosecute petty crimes, such as trespassing and shoplifting. Branding defendants who are primarily poor and people of color with a criminal record all but bans them from obtaining the necessities of a stable life such as jobs and housing. Moreover, jailing people prior to trial who cannot afford to pay bail even for a short period can result in job loss, family separation, interruption of drug

or mental health treatment, falling behind on rent and bills.

"Rollins's campaign and election resonated because she was reflecting the truth of our courts, which is that they disrupt and destroy communities," said Atara Rich-Shea, Executive Director of the non-profit Massachusetts Bail Fund and a co-founder of CourtWatch which monitors

filed a complaint with the Board of Bar Overseers accusing Rollins of professional misconduct. The police association claimed, among other things, that because professional rules forbid a prosecutor from seeking charges where there is no probable cause, it must follow that a prosecutor must seek charges where there is probable cause. The remainder of the police-authored com-

"Rollins's campaign and election resonated because she was reflecting the truth of our courts, which is that they disrupt and destroy communities."

bail decisions by judges and DAs in Suffolk County. "Real change is in the day-to-day charges Assistant District Attorneys decline to file, the bail request they decline to make," she said.

As for Rollins's "no prosecute list," the backlash was swift. The right-wing *Boston Herald* has published various denunciations. Most recently the National Police Association

plaint essentially argues that Rollins's plan is bad policy and authorizes a mass crime spree.

Whether due to circular and disingenuous ethical complaints or some other factor, Rollins appears to feel pressured into walking-back some of her campaign promises. She has publicly called the "no-prosecute list" a work-in-

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Letter to Editors

Racism in the Justice System

There is a saying, “lock them up and throw away the key” - “them” being the poor black men who get caught addicted to drugs. The prisons are filled with black and white men who have no knowledge of the legal system. Once inside the prison walls, they give up hope and welcome the prison environment as another place to become someone unknown, since the justice system has abandoned most due to the color of their skin.

The black communities are mostly fatherless due to flimsy criminal cases built by over-zealous prosecutors who seek to lock up citizens and punish them severely because of their race. When a black defendant files an appeal regarding the criminal case in the Appellate Courts, the prosecutor always mentions in the opposition to the appeal that “the victim saw a black man in the area,” or that “the police saw a black person pass a white substance.” When the color of the defendants is brought to the attention of the Appellate Court, hidden racism and judicial bias is added to the Appellate Court’s decision to deny the appeal. This same racism and judicial bias has been revealed in criminal cases when black defendants are denied access to forensic evidence to prove innocence through the new forensic testing law known as General Law Chapter 278A that was passed by former Governor Deval Patrick.

Over 20 years I, a black defendant, serving 50 years in prison, have been requesting the Middlesex District Attorney Office to allow me to test blood-stained items found at the crime scene that are still preserved in the State Crime Lab – evidence that was never tested by the Middlesex District Attorney Office. But the prosecutor on the case has decided to hide exculpatory evidence because of racism. This type of racism was brought to the attention of Governor Baker and Court Administrators through several letters, but the Governor does not respond to letters from prisoners. “[The Governor does not respond to letters from prisoners]”

Since the new DNA forensic testing law was passed, the court records show that black defendants are

denied access to the forensic evidence:

Black Defendants: Commonwealth v. Williams, 86 Mass. App. Ct. 1121 (2014) [DNA Discovery denied]; Commonwealth v. Donald, 468 Mass. 37 (2014) [Denied DNA Test]; Commonwealth v. Monteiro, 473 Mass. 1007 (2015) [Denied Counsel for DNA Test]; Commonwealth v. Clark, 472 Mass. 120 (2015) [Denied Discovery]; Donald v. Watertown Police, 85 Mass.App.Ct.1121 (2014) [Denied Access To DNA & Rape Kit]; Commonwealth v. Fernandez, 86 Mass.App.1123 (2014) [Denied]; Commonwealth v. Stevens, 89 Mass.App.Ct.1117 (2016) [Denied]; Commonwealth v. Donald, 92 Mass.App.Ct.1107 (2017) [Denied DNA Testing of Blood Stains & Rape Kit]; Commonwealth v. Fernandez, 94 Mass.App.Ct.1109 (2018) [Denied DNA Test].

Apparently, it has been discovered, through the court records, that white defendants are granted access to forensic evidence.

White Defendants: Commonwealth v. Sullivan, 469 Mass. 369 Mass.340 (2014) [DNA Test Granted New Trial]; Commonwealth v. Lyons, 89 Mass.App.Ct.485 (2016) [Remanded for DNA Testing]; Commonwealth v. Cowels, 470 Mass.607 (2015) [Vacated and Remanded]; Commonwealth v. Coutu, 88 Mass.App.Ct.686, at 702 (2015) [Allowed DNA Testing]; Commonwealth v. Wade, 475 Mass.54 (2016) [Reversed for DNA Testing]; also, Commonwealth v. Davis, 410 Mass. 680 (1991).

In 2018, a white defendant was granted a new trial after spending 30 years in prison after the Middlesex District Attorney Office agreed to allow forensic testing on blood stain items - the same type of blood stain that I, a black defendant, have been denied to test by the Middlesex District Attorney Office – which amounts to racism in the criminal justice system.

Stanley Donald

Volunteer Senior Law Clerk
(assists prisoners with legal issues)
MCI-Norfolk
P.O. Box 43
Norfolk, MA 02056

“LAW FOR THE PEOPLE” SERIES

In January, Northeastern University School of Law hosted the latest NLG “Law for the People” Series teach-in with NLG member **Mark Stern** who led a presentation on the **Labor and Employment Law For The People**. Mark entertained 30 or so law students and NLG members with stories of his time defending union members and describing different types of careers possible for law students interested in the field of labor and employment law, such as workplace discrimination, union democratization, wage & hour laws, and workers’ compensation.



Stern stated that attorneys can engage with labor union work through one of two facets: on the side of the labor union itself, or on the side of the union members through union democracy work. If an attorney represents a union itself, they ultimately negotiate in court what that union should be. “Being a labor union lawyer is, effectively, an administrative job,” Mark said.

On the other side of labor union law are the union democracy lawyers – one of whom is, in fact, Stern himself. As a union democracy lawyer, he sometimes sues unions on behalf of their members for equity and justice within the union infrastructure. In doing this work, he does not degrade unions; rather, he practices union democracy law because he gets to work with the people within unions who are materially doing the organizing work. “If you’re in a union, you’re a million times better off than if you weren’t ... this [union democracy] movement is just different from what the labor movement traditionally is. I take these [union democracy] cases to support the movement.”



Mark Stern speaking at Northeastern.

(Photos by Kayla Degala-Paraiso)

Stern uses the United Electrical, Radio, & Machine Workers of America union (UE) as a model for union democracy: “[The UE] is what a union was, and what a union should be ... the UE is what it looks like when members are involved in union decision-making.”

The last teach-in of this academic year will be on **February 13**, at **UMass Dartmouth School of Law** (*see page 3*).

NLG-Mass 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 • Jonthan 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 our office at

617-227-7335 or nlgmass-director@igc.org.

Rachael Rollins Election

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progress. It is probably a fair assumption that those now sounding the alarms were not among the 35,000 who voted for her in this most recent primary election.

"CourtWatch is essential to the success of progressive candidates," said Rich-Shea. "It's not just that the new administration knows we are watching, it's also that the community holding the office accountable is growing. Stakeholders don't give up power willingly, but showing the newly elected DA that the community is behind

these promises and continues to want the change that was promised is a real show of support for the hard but essential road to de-carceration," she said.

Last year, Rich-Shea's organization, the Massachusetts Bail Fund, put up approximately \$774,940 in bail money for 1,620 individuals who were jailed prior to trial because in large part they could not afford to post the \$500 bail a judge had imposed on them. Just over 50% of those cases were eventually dismissed.

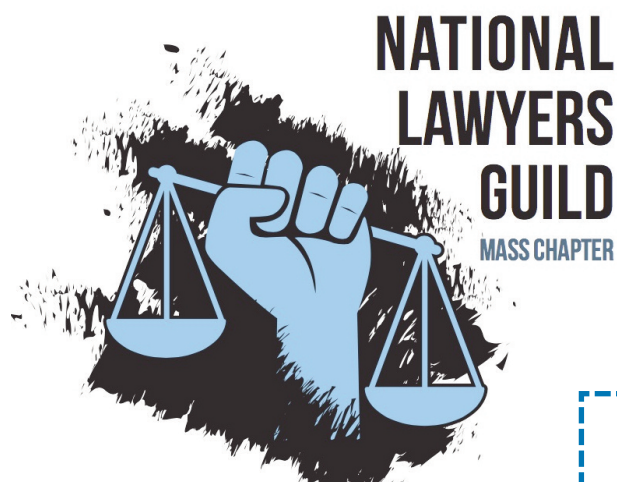
"As an abolitionist I feel that there is no such thing as a 'good prosecutor,'" explained Guild member and long-time Boston activist Carl Williams. "However, there are people who can desire to cage less and prosecute less. We are hopeful that Rachael Rollins will be one of those people."

Zachary Lown is a member of the NLG Board and the Mass Defense Committee. He is a solo practitioner in Boston.

Mass Dissent

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" ... 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

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

The NLG-Mass Chapter provides legal representation and assistance to the **radical and progressive** movements.

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
NLG-Mass Chapter to help support the fight for the people,

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 bi-monthly newsletter), national and regional dues, and the office and staff.

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