

Mass Dissent

JUNE 2019

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What's New at NLG?

As we are heading into summer, the Mass Chapter of the NLG celebrated the 50th Anniversary of its re-creation and re-formation in 1969, following 16 years of non-existence during the McCarthy era.

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In May, we have an incredible 50th celebration at our Annual Dinner, and we were joined by 27 of our original founding members who formally re-established the Chapter in 1969 and then spent early '70s at opening the first Guild office and formalizing its mission and philosophy. Dinner Co-Emcee Margaret Burnham reminded us of our incredible, almost forgotten, history that goes back to the beginning of the 20th century. Today's NLG members and dinner guests proudly celebrated that history and looked forward to all the work we need to keep doing.

In this issue of *Mass Dissent* we have a report from the Dinner, written by **Coco Holbrook**. We also have an important reflection on the Guild's last 50 years, written by a founding member **Nadine Cohen**.

It is inspiring to see all the incredible work the NLG continues to do both locally and nationally. Long-time Mass NLG member Carl Williams has recently become the executive director of the Water Protector Legal Collective. In this issue we are celebrating his new role, and looking at some of the work the WPLC is doing in the post-Standing Rock years. We are also hearing from our comrades in the Chicago NLG Chapter about some great movement lawyering training that is taking place there.

As always, it is an honor to stand alongside our people struggling for freedom, ensuring that there will always be a radical community of lawyers to support these movements whenever they are under attack.

- Makis Antzoulatos -

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

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JOIN A GUILD COMMITTEE

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 property 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

NLG SUMMER RETREAT

All members of the NLG-Mass Chapter are invited to this year's NLG Summer Retreat. As always, this will be a half-day gathering to discuss the state of the Chapter and make plans for our future political work.

And don't worry - you will be fed! We'll have wonderful food from a local restaurant and very nice refreshing beverages.

Please join us for a great conversation and camaraderie!

NLG SUMMER RETREAT
Saturday, July 13, 2019
10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Old Oak Dojo
14 Chestnut Place, Jamaica Plain

NATIONAL CONVENTION

NLG National "Law 4 the People" Convention returns to the South! This year the Convention will be hosted by the North Carolina NLG Chapter in Durham.

Join hundreds of attorneys, legal workers, law students, scholars and activists for five days of movement CLEs, workshops, panels, and discussions by members of the oldest and most progressive public interest bar association in the country!

All information about the event can be found at the NLG National website: www.nlg.org.

NLG LAW 4 THE PEOPLE CONVENTION
Wednesday - Sunday, October 16 - 20, 2019
21c Museum Hotel
111 Corcoran St., Durham, NC

NLG HAPPY HOUR

NLG "Think & Drink" Happy Hour is held quarterly on the **2nd Wednesday of January, April, September, and November**. The event brings together legal professionals and activists to discuss current political and legal topics. 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 September issue of *Mass Dissent* will analyze the latest Supreme Court decisions.

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 August 10.

GUILD NEWS

At NLG April Happy Hour we had a report back and discussion with CourtWatch MA members - **Mallory Hanora** and **Atara Rich-Shea** - about their First 100 Days Court Watch Project in Suffolk County.

District Attorney Rachael Rollins had campaigned on a promise to not prosecute certain minor crimes, to reduce pre-trial detentions, and to address racial disparities in the courts. It is too early to say whether that is really being carried out, but it is clear that pressure must be kept up on Rollins to make sure that she does follow through on her campaign promises.

Volunteers are continually needed.

If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about the CourtWatch MA work,



please go to their website at <https://www.courtwatchma.org/court-watch-tools.html>.

Photos (clockwise from top): Atara Rich-Shea and Mallory Hanora lead a conversation about CourtWatch MA work; participants of the Happy Hour engaged in the conversation.

(Photo by Urszula Masny-Latos)

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

Street Law Clinic Report

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

April 2: *Legal Observing* for Harvard Prison Divestment Campaign at a rally demanding the University divests from corporations profiting from the prison industrial complex, by **Sarah Block & Patricia Cantor**.

April 6: *Legal Observing* at an action in Boston organized by Mass. Against Hewlett-Packard against an Israeli dance company, by **Alexis Yeboah-Kodie**.

April 17: *Legal Observing* at a rally in Boston organized by Extinction Rebellion to address global warming, by **Melissa McWhinney & Nina Schwartzman**.

April 22: *Direct Action* training for Better Future Project and for Divest Harvard, by **Jeff Feuer & Lee Goldstein**.

April 28: *Direct Action* training for Harvard Graduate Students Union, by **Jeff Feuer**.

May 1: *Legal Observing* at actions organized around the City to celebrate May Day, by **Elliot Bartel & Jacqueline Baum**.

May 21: *Direct Action* training for students and activists fighting student debt, by **Jeff Feuer**.

June 2: *Legal Observing* at a counter-protest organized by Boston Feminists for Liberation against Mass Citizens for Life's "March for Life", by **Geoff Carens & Ava Cheloff**.

June 6: *Direct Action* training for activists from Extinction Rebellion, by **Makis Antzoulatos**.

New NLG-Mass Chapter On-line Store

Please visit our new on-line store where we offer items to commemorate our 50th Anniversary: a copy of a new 30-min. documentary about our Chapter's beginnings (on a pen with USB drive and on a USB drive) and a business card holder (https://nlgmass.org/featured_news/nlg-mass-chapter-store/).



NLG-Mass Chapter Celebrates 50 Years!

by *Coco Holbrook*

On Friday, May 17th, the NLG-Mass Chapter celebrated its 50th Anniversary and honored Lynn Weissberg with Lifetime Achievement Award.

It was a lively party, folks took fabulously fun photos at the photobooth; others perused memory lane, which was a literal place for folks to gaze upon photos memorializing the years and buttons from all the resistances our Chapter has supported these past 50 years; and still others caught up with almost 200 people in the room, from all over the U.S. Yes, people flew in to celebrate this anniversary. No founding anniversary would be fit without remembering the labor and energy of those from whom this organization grew. Twenty seven founders of the NLG-Mass Chapter were hon-

ored and celebrated, coming in from various states, including those on the other coast.

Lynn Weissberg is a fierce advocate of workers and women. A long-time partner at Shapiro, Weissberg & Garin, Lynn has represented plaintiffs seeking justice against sexual harassment and discrimination in their workplace. Lynn shared a moving speech about the realities her clients experience due to the engrained injustice of our system, sharing what motivates her to do the work and motivating everyone in the room to continue doing that work without waiver.



Lynn Weissberg accepts her Lifetime Achievement Award.

To the anthems and serenades of the 60s and 70s, Margaret Burnham, one of the founders, and Monica Shah, a graduating law student, emceed the event throughout the evening. As a founder herself, Margaret imparted us with the early history of the Chapter, and everyone learned at least one new fact, if not 20! Monica urged us to look towards the future and ruminate on what the next 50 years will be. Margaret and

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NLG-Mass Chapter founders present their trophy gold bricks.

NLG-Mass Chapter Celebrates 50 Years!

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Monica glided us through an evening of joyful rejuvenation, imbuing our hearts with determination. They presented a short documentary (made and produced by Sebastian Sokolowski & Emma Rose) about Chapter's beginnings. (The movie is available for sale on our website - www.nlgmass.org). The founders took up the mantle of our hosts and their two emissaries gave speeches of growth of resistance which were embodied by the gifts from the Guild each founder carried to honor the energy they imbued into the Guild: gold bricks with hand-written statements: "Smash the State" on one side and "Build the Guild" on the other.

(Visit our website for more great photos from the dinner.)



Photos:

(clockwise from top) Margaret Burnham ready to take the stage; Makis Antzoulatos & Monica Shah conduct the auction; birthday cakes; Margaret Burnham leads the NLG Troubadours in a song; "Memory Lane" with photos from 50 or so years ago.

(All photos by Sebastian Sokolowski)

Coco Holbook, a member of the NLG Dinner and Litigation Committees, is an attorney at Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee in Boston.

A Great Event

by Nadine Cohen

*"In the dark times
Will there also be singing?
Yes, there will also be
singing.
About the dark times."*

Bertolt Brecht

The years from 1969 to 1975 were life changing for so many of us. We were out in the streets way before we were in the courts and we sang and danced and in many ways changed the world and ourselves. 1974 was a momentous year. At the height of Watergate Nixon resigns - and we in the left took it as a victory - the fruits of our years of protesting the Vietnam War and the abuses of government. We were high with a sense of the power of our movement. We were young and truly thought we really could change the world. But over the next 45 years the forces of capitalism, racism and imperialism fought back and gained ground. Today we are facing the unparalleled destruction of our values as we edge closer toward the fascism we never truly believed could take hold in our country.

So what a welcome respite from the escalating horrors of the Trump era to get to relive

the optimism and joy of our youth. For many of us - the Guild's 50th Anniversary was a time to re-connect with old friends - the people we thought we were making a revolution with. Memories of the NLG Convention in Minnesota, crammed in the kitchen of a restaurant when Nixon resigned, anti-racism committee meetings, Attica meetings at the law communes, the worker strike at Cronin's restaurant, women's prison collective meetings, anti-war meetings, and lots of dancing parties - some where the floor fell in and one at BU I remember vividly (although this was much later than the 70's) - putting my infant daughter on a table in her carrier - dancing away - and then looking to see only coats on the table - and finding her buried underneath!

The Guild was a central part of the movement for many of us and it was great to reconnect with our past and the people who were part of our lives at such an important and formative time. While the times have certainly changed - while the revolution we believed in seems so far from our reality today - and while we no longer see the people we

worked with to make meaningful change on a regular basis - it was so affirming to get together as a community with old friends and allies and celebrate who were and who we still are.

It was also inspiring to see many newer Guild members who will hopefully have the opportunity to celebrate their 50 years with the Guild. Dr. King and Congressman John Lewis always talked about the "Beloved Community" in the civil rights movement - and we certainly need to resurrect our own beloved community because it is only together we can get through these tough times. Here's to more get-togethers with old friends and new friends and to more fun and singing in these dark times.

Nadine Cohen (who vainly declined to be listed as a "Chapter Founder," thinking she was way too young to be listed with those she was always in awe of!) is a managing attorney at Greater Boston Legal Services' Consumer Rights Unit.

NLG Chicago Chapter: Movement Lawyering CLEs

by Betsy Merbitz

The Chicago Chapter of the NLG has been very active. Our Mass Defense Committee has been hosting a series of “Movement Lawyering” CLEs for the past year. Our goal is to promote sharing of skills, information, and historical perspective between activists in movements and attorneys and legal workers who support political and social movements. Previously, our CLEs had been more pragmatic and skills-based, with a more narrow focus of helping non-criminal defense attorneys represent activists. The new series has broadened the lens to discuss legal support for movement work in a more holistic way.

For each CLE, we have generally followed a model of having one attorney and one activist in a conversation moderated by someone with expertise in the subject. This model facilitates our dual goals of attorneys and legal workers gaining a better understanding of how to support movement work, and of activists gaining a better understanding of how they can work with the legal system. For instance, in a CLE on jail

support, attorneys shared best practices for doing visits with people in police custody. There was also a street medic on the panel and panelists discussed how medics and attorneys can collaborate on jail support. In “Solidarity in the Courtroom” the panel discussed the role of lawyers and legal workers in supporting liberation movements, with a focus on providing criminal defense in politicized cases, including working with supporters, joint defense, raising creative legal issues, and putting the government on trial.

In some of the CLEs, there was less practical advice for attorneys and more focus on philosophical underpinnings of movement work. In “Restorative Justice and Abolition,” panelists shared stories of community-based restorative justice work, and described prison abolition as a project of Black liberation. The panelists drew important connections between the prison industrial complex and anti-blackness, settler-colonialism, and capitalism. Another CLE, “The Criminalization of Homelessness,” incorporated the per-

spective of an attorney with Chicago Coalition for the Homeless and a formerly homeless street outreach worker with the same organization.

Two major takeaways from the panel were the importance of attorneys listening to the people already organizing for their rights, and following through on their commitments. These themes are obviously critical to any solidarity work and not just relevant to the specific issue of homelessness or to attorneys in particular.

“Direct Actions and Mass Mobilizations,” focused on representing organizers and activists arrested at mass mobilizations or direct actions, with an emphasis on supporting the LGBTQ and HIV/AIDS movements. One of the presenters was an attorney from People’s Law Office, who has represented over 1,000 people arrested at protests, and the other presenter was an organizer with extensive social justice experience. Both were former members of ACT-UP/Chicago.

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LONG-TIME MASS NLG MEMBER HEADING WATER PROTECTOR LEGAL COLLECTIVE

The Massachusetts Chapter of the NLG congratulates Carl Williams on his new position as executive director of the Water Protector Legal Collective (WPLC). Carl has been a Mass NLG board member for over ten years, and an NLG member since he started law school in 2004. Anyone who has done radical legal work in the Boston area knows Carl and has seen him in the streets legal observing, in police stations helping get our people out of jail, and in court representing activists and organizers. Carl will now be taking those skills, and that righteous dedication around the country in defense of Indigenous-led movements for climate and environmental justice. In his welcome message as Executive Director, Carl wrote:

"I am proud and hopeful to be leading WPLC in the next phase of our work. After over 800 Standing Rock resistance cases that WPLC defended or supported, we are looking out across the occupied Turtle Island to continue our work. We see new (and old) resistance struggles to defend the water and the earth from extractive industries, pipeline and wall builders, and capitalist exploiters. We know that it will take all of our combined force to fight back for Indigenous rights and environmental justice. And we stand ready to defend the Water Protectors, of yesterday and tomorrow."

The WPLC started as part of the #NODAPL campaign, which was fighting to stop the development of a pipeline through Standing Rock. The WPLC worked tirelessly to defend the hundreds of people arrested and targeted by the government for their work at Standing Rock. Many Massachusetts NLG members were honored to travel to Standing Rock and volunteer with the WPLC efforts there.

Today, the WPLC remains dedicated to its mission of providing legal support advocacy, and knowledge sharing for Indigenous centered and guided environmental and climate justice movements. The WPLC is heading to Texas next to provide legal support and training for the Carrizo/Comecrudo Tribe. These Indigenous people have lived for centuries on both sides of what is now the U.S/Mexico border. The United States government is planning on building part of the border wall through their nation, in a direct assault on their sovereignty and right to self-determination. The WPLC also recently traveled to Jamaica where four Indigenous women testified before the Organization of American States' Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

Makis Antzoulatos is an attorney at CPCS Boston. He serves on the Board of the NLG-Mass Chapter.

SUPPORT WATER PROTECTOR PRISONERS:

Red Fawn Fallis, Prisoner No. 16358-059
FMC Carswell, PO Box 27137
Fort Worth, TX 76127

Michael Giron (Little Feather), Prisoner
No. 25201-075
USP Hazelton, U.S. Penitentiary, PO Box 2000
Bruceton Mills, WV 26525

Michael Markus (Rattler), Prisoner No. 06280-073
FCI Sandstone, Federal Correctional Institution
PO Box 1000, Sandstone, MN 55072

James "Angry Bird" White
P.O. Box 755, Fort Yates, ND 58538

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.

NLG Chicago Chapter

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They addressed how lawyers can empower their activist clients within a disempowering legal system and what the role of a lawyer should be in advising and guiding clients while giving them agency to decide their own legal and political goals. The presenters also discussed the tension of zealously advocating for an individual client while considering the collective goals of other defendants and a larger movement.

This theme is at the heart of this CLE series - balancing our

commitment to the legal work we do in our own specific context with the need of staying connected to the goals of the broader movements.

Shifting our approach to CLEs has deepened our Chapter's engagement with movement work and increased the sense of community in the Chapter.

With these benefits, there have also been challenges. We have at times struggled to ensure equitable contributions and participation between attorneys and activists on our pan-

els; we also sometimes struggled to create presentations that meet the different needs of activists and attorneys.

Overall, we feel the series has been a success at creating opportunities for collaboration between organizers, attorneys, and legal workers, and at strengthening community within our Chicago Chapter.

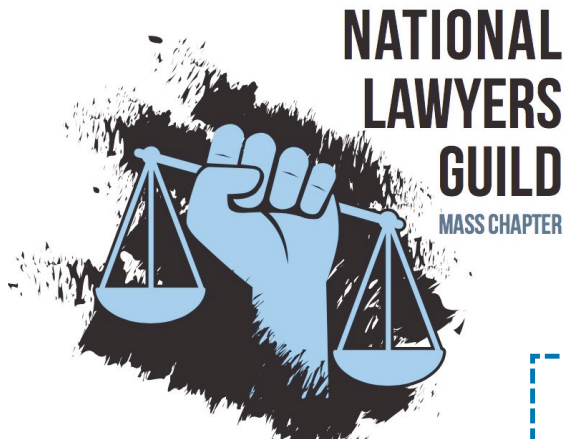
Betsy Merbitz is a member of the NLG Chicago Chapter.

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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.

Fill out and send to:

National Lawyers Guild-Mass Chapter
41 West St., Suite 700, Boston, MA 02111

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: (w) _____ (c) _____

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:

- ____ Street Law Clinic
____ Mass Defense Committee
____ Litigation Committee
____ *Mass Dissent* (bi-monthly publication)