

# Mass Dissent

DECEMBER 2020

VOL. 43, No. 6



## NLG-Mass Chapter in 2020

It has been a gut-wrenching year of both crisis and empow-

erment for those who the National Lawyers Guild -Mass Chapter serves.

In Massachusetts as elsewhere, the twin plagues of COVID-19 and Trumpism caused tremendous suffering, aimed largely at Black and Brown communities. At the same time, the structures of racism and unbri-dled capitalism were thrown into relief. Police violence has fueled massive protests - in Massachusetts and around the country - that reject the terror visited daily on communities of color and demand commu-nity-led resources for healing. Tenants protest evictions. “Essential workers” demand they be treated as such. Immigrants demand their place in our society. Apocalyptic natural disasters fuel attention to the climate crisis. Transformative visions have emerged.

The Massachusetts Chapter of the NLG has met the moment. In this issue of *Mass Dissent* you will read in details how the NLG Mass Defense Committee worked tirelessly to train activists in Direct Action and in their rights, to represent those arrested while protesting in the streets, and to make sure every protest in the state had NLG Legal Observers. How Guild attor-neys worked with the Boston City Council on an ordinance to curtail police abuses and the use of chemical and non-lethal weapons against peaceful pro- testers, and how they have started working with City Councilors in Cambridge and Somerville on similar ordi- nances. How the Litigation Committee has sued the Boston Police Department and Boston Regional Intelligence

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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](mailto: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):**

NLGNIP works to defend and extend the human and civil rights of all immigrants, documented and undocumented. Located in Washington, DC, NLGNIP works in coalition with community groups to organize support for immigrants' rights in the face of right-wing political attacks. For more information contact 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

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### 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 the 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.

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## NLG-Mass Chapter in 2020

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*Continued from page 1*

Center (BRIC) over public records law violations. How our student chapters are organizing at their law schools and engaging in political struggles ranging from Black Lives Matter, immigrant rights, climate change, prison abolition, divestment from prisons, to the fight to abolish police on school campuses.

Throughout it all we have deepened our relationship with activists groups

throughout Massachusetts who lead the call for necessary transformation of our politics and our society.

As we write, the election of Trump’s defeat still hangs in the air, but the struggles ahead are clear. Take another look at the work described above – it will all continue!

We need the energy of all of our members, so think about where you might fit in and bring your ideas and your leadership to the fore. All

NLG-Mass Chapter members are welcome to join the monthly Board meetings, or you can contact our Director, Urszula Masny-Latos, with your thoughts what the Chapter should work on. And remember, your dues and donations make everything we do possible.

Onward!!!

- *Bonnie Tenneriello &  
Makis Antzoulatos -  
Co-Chairs*

### ARTICLES FOR MASS DISSENT

The February issue of *Mass Dissent* will present **organizing and political work 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](mailto:nlgmass-director@igc.org).

***The deadline for articles is January 10.***

## GUILD NEWS

### NLG Annual Dinner

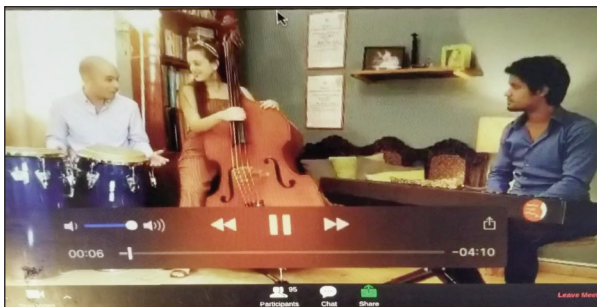
It may be 2020, but we were determined to bring the NLG family together and connect (as we have done every year, since 1982!) at our Annual Dinner. This year, the Mass Chapter celebrated in October with its first virtual Zoom Dinner. With over 141(!) people attending, we celebrated the inspiring work and resistance of **Anna Nathanson, Deb Wilmer, COSECHA, Susan Church, Andrew Fischer, and Bonnie Tenneriello**. We also remembered the life of **Marty Kantrovitz**, a long-time member and sustainer of our Chapter who passed away in September.

A remote dinner was unthinkable just in January, especially one that would actually be enjoyable and engaging, and would allow people to connect (regardless of how much we drank in the privacy of our homes!)

join us from outside Massachusetts. Unfortunately, they were in disadvantage and didn't possess answers to trivia, hosted by **Jonathan Messinger**. The trivia allowed us to remember some local political movements as well as the NLG history, but in reality it just showed who were the fastest typists.



(Photos by Jonathan Messinger)



People could join us from anywhere within and without the U.S. Throughout the evening, we heard music from a Cuban trio, Después Te Explico, straight from Havana. Alejandro Rodriguez, the leader of the trio, addressed the Dinner participants despite a technical challenge - there is no Zoom access in Cuba due to the U.S. embargo. We had NLG members, as well as families and friends of our honorees

**Hon. Geraldine Hines**, our fearless emcee, walked us through our technologically savvy Dinner as if she had done this for the last decade! Her words encouraged us to think and reflect on the role of our Chapter in this time of pandemic. While a virtual event was not the first choice for many of us, it turned out to be a lovely and inspiring event. We listened, we chatted, we laughed, and we had folks in the space who otherwise wouldn't have been able to be there with us. It was a nice collective break with our comrades.

*Coco Holbrook, a member of the Dinner Committee, is an attorney at Mental Health Advocates in Boston.*



## 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 since last issue of Mass Dissent:*

**October 7:** *Know Your Rights* workshop for law students at UMass Dartmouth, by **Jeff Feuer**.

**October 10:** *Legal Observing* at the Indigenous People's Day in Boston, by **Jason Golfinos, Ellen Messing, and Connie Mortara**.

**October 15:** *Legal Observer* training for Northeastern Students for Justice in Palestine, by **Melinda Drew**.

**October 18:** *Legal Observing* at a protest in Boston, organized by Solidarity Against Hate and Freedom Fighters Coalition, by **Rachel Chunnha, Garth Davis, Annemarie Guare, Elizabeth Martin, Sean McNamara, Sara Powell, Asya Rozental, and Marie Tashima**.

**October 22:** *Legal Observer* training for Northeastern law students, by **Lee Goldstein**.

**October 23:** *Legal Observing* at a protest in Salem in Solidarity & Liberation of Black Women, organized by Solidarity North Shore, by **Sarah Tansey**.

*Continued on page 14*

### 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/](https://nlgmass.org/featured_news/nlg-mass-chapter-store/)).



# Mass Defense Committee

*by Makis Antzoulatos & Josh Raisler Cohn*

People in our region have continued to take to the streets as part of campaigns for racial, economic and environmental justice, and our Mass Defense Committee (MDC) has been there to support them.

This year, our lawyers have continued to represent several groups of activists who were arrested blocking trains carrying coal in central Massachusetts. These climate change activists, with Climate Disobedience, engaged in several blockades of coal trains as part of a campaign to highlight the catastrophe posed by of climate change, and the Merrimack Station power plant in Bow, New Hampshire. Due to strong advocacy, some activists have been able to resolve their cases without a criminal conviction, others are in line for favorable dispositions, and others are exploring what a trial would look like.

In late May and early June, in the wake of the murders of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd, we saw another mass public uprising of the Movement for Black Lives. Millions of people took to the streets around the world. In

Massachusetts, there were protests across the state. We sent NLG Legal Observers to most of them - in Springfield, Northampton, Greenfield, Quincy, Peabody, Worcester, Lawrence, Brockton, Lynn, Winthrop, Cambridge, and



Marina Multhaup Legal Observes at a Black Lives Matter protest in Cambridge against police brutality, June 2020.

other towns. At these protests we saw arrests in Worcester, Brockton, and Boston. In Boston, our Legal Observers documented indiscriminate use of tear gas and pepper spray at the protests, and our Legal Observers suffered the impact of these chemical weapons as well. We also worked with activists targeted by these same weapons in Brockton.

Our NLG Legal Support Hotline, coordinated by the Harvard NLG students, was in use across the state. It allowed

us to get updates from the streets, to be in touch with arrested activists, and to receive communications from witnesses to police violence. There were approximately 90 arrests related to this uprising.

Due to the large numbers of arrests, often on felony charges, we coordinated with the Mass. Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and the Committee for Public Counsel Services to make sure that everyone arrested at these protests had a great lawyer!

Over the summer, people kept up the pressure. Our MDC members worked with the Boston City Council to introduce a city ordinance restricting the use of chemical and non-lethal weapons against protestors. At a public hearing, several organizers who were impacted by these weapons and the NLG attorneys gave powerful testimonies to support the ordinance.

We continued our robust training program, adding hundreds

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# Mass Defense Committee

*Continued from page 6*

of new NLG Legal Observers, and training a group of more than 70 volunteers to staff our legal support hotline.

We continued to work with climate justice activists, representing a group of people who climbed the iconic Citgo sign in Boston early this fall with a large banner during a Red Sox game. After several months of an eviction moratorium, the state government restarted eviction proceedings, and City Life/Vida Urbana was ready with a blockade of housing court. Legal Observers were there, and the standby lawyers weren't needed. We continued to train and provide support for Palestine solidarity actions as well as organizers who are constantly under attack—espe-

cially in academic and university settings. Through all of this we have been sustained by our partnership with the Massachusetts Bail Fund which, despite facing a barrage of attacks this year, has remained steady and prepared to bail out any activists arrested at protests.

We are also profoundly grateful for the MDC legal workers, and community activists who coordinate jail support and who show up in court to support activists who are facing charges.

This summer and fall we were contacted by an increasing number of activists and organizers who were being approached by the FBI and other federal law enforcement.

Our experience in Massachusetts was mirrored across the country as the DOJ promoted the increased use of federal charges and federal law enforcement against protesters. The MDC was able to provide support to these activists.

This fall, our MDC efforts centered on the election. We

trained dozens more NLG Legal Observers, distributed our iconic green hats across the state, and added more hotline volunteers to be able to staff the hotline 24 hours a day during the election week. We expanded our pool of volunteer lawyers for criminal cases, and prepared to gather evidence for lawsuits in the event of a federal crackdown on protests in our state. So far, the pro-democracy protests post election have not seen substantial state response. But in the event of increased repression in the streets, we are ready to respond.

It has been an honor and a joy to work with so many great volunteers in the Mass Defense Committee over the last year. We have expanded our capacity, but we still need help. We need more attorneys to help with criminal cases, to work on civil cases, to help with strategy, to offer fresh ideas and new perspectives, and to help continue to ground us in the communities we support. Please contact us if you could join us and work with our Mass Defense Committee!

*Makis Antzoulatos and Josh Raisler Cohn are Co-Coordinates of the MDC, and attorneys at CPCS.*



Monica Morgan (back in center) Legal Observes at a Building Up People, Not Prisons protest at the Department of Public Health in Boston, for decarceration in Massachusetts, November 2020.

# Litigation Committee

by David Kelston

The Litigation Committee continues its work for institutional change. This year, for instance, we filed approximately 250 requests for documents and records with law enforcement agencies and private institutions around the country in our continuing efforts to reign in our own Boston Police Department's (BPD) surveillance of activists.

Here's the story: In 2011, following the arrest and interrogation of pro-Palestinian activists by officers from BPD's fusion center, the Boston Regional Intelligence Center (BRIC), we sued. After repeated denials, BPD admitted that, indeed, it was BRIC, an anti-terrorist and anti-gang agency, that had interrogated the arrested activists about their political activities and future plans, and was regularly surveilling and maintaining files on numerous other activists.

At a meeting with police officials in early 2012, BPD promised the NLG participants to stop these practices, to operate in conformity with agreed-upon written guidelines, and to regularly scrutinize and purge their files of information that should not have been gathered

in the first place. In 2015, to monitor BPD, we filed a second lawsuit, and learned that nothing had changed – in fact, we eventually got 1,500 pages (!) of surveillance documents on the Occupy Movement and, after extended litigation, lists showing that this information had, on a daily basis, been sent out to 1,500 other law enforcement agencies and “business partners” of the BPD outside Boston and Massachusetts. Thus, while BPD acknowledged that it should have purged the documents from its files years before, and once we filed the lawsuit did belatedly do so (keeping one copy for us), there were 1,500 other institutions around the country, from Homeland Security to private universities, hotels, hospitals, and financial institutions, likely still in possession of this stale information amassed and maintained by BRIC in arrant disregard of the agreed-upon guidelines.

We are currently pursuing all of this now, including with yet another public records request to Boston Police Department (they lost an appeal to the State Supervisor of Records) and with our urgent request for another meeting with BPD, this time with Boston Police Commissioner William Gross.

On other fronts, our work this year has reflected the tumultuous times. We have worked with other Guild members on the “chemical” and “less lethal” weapons ordinance (*see* Jeff Feuer's article on page 9) and continue our ongoing work with the Massachusetts Alliance Against Predatory Lending, gearing up to assist MAAPL in resisting evictions and foreclosures though continuing lawsuits, while other NLG members help with direct action and mass defense. We are also working in coalition with other groups preparing legal strategies in the event, for instance, of authoritarian federal government efforts to quell demonstrations supporting democracy and a peaceful and proper presidential transition.

As we write, this year is far from over. The NLG, and our Committee, will be where it is needed. If you would like to be involved in the Committee, please contact the NLG office.

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*David Kelston, an attorney in Boston, is a member of the Litigation Committee and a Treasurer of the Mass Chapter.*



# Boston City Ordinance to Restrict the Use of Chemical Crowd Control Weapons

*by Jeff Feuer*

In August, 2020, the Boston City Council held the first of several hearings on a proposed city ordinance, drafted by me and NLG members David Kelston and Lee Goldstein (in conjunction with lawyers from Wilmer Hale), which would severely restrict the use of chemical crowd control agents and kinetic impact projectiles by any law enforcement officers operating within the City of Boston. In addition to the substantial limitations that would be placed on police use of these dangerous and indiscriminate weapons, the ordinance would also eliminate the ability of a police officer who violates the ordinance to use the defense of qualified immunity.

The ordinance's sponsors, City Councilors Ricardo Arroyo and Andrea Campbell, forcefully introduced the dire need for such an ordinance, and were followed by powerful testimony from panel members Dr. Rahimi Haar (Physicians for Human Rights), myself on behalf of NLG-Mass Chapter, and Rahsaan Hall (ACLU) in favor of the ordinance. That testimony included facts about how lethal these weapons are, and the fact that these chemical weapons have been banned

from use in warfare under the Geneva Convention of 1925, but are not banned for use by the police against American people. There was additional passionate testimony from members of the public concerning the injurious and frightening effects that the use of these weapons has had on peaceful protestors, including a photo-journalist who was tear gassed and NLG member Zach Lown.

It appeared that a majority of the City Councilors were supportive of at least some restrictions being placed on the use of these dangerous and indiscriminate weapons by the police. That support was bolstered when I pointed out that there already exists severe limitations on the use of these weapons against incarcerated persons in the state prison system, but that no such restrictions exist concerning their use on people exercising their rights of free speech and free assembly on the public streets and parks of Boston.

Since that hearing, seven additional Boston city councilors have joined to co-sponsor the proposed ordinance, bringing the total number to nine, which is a veto-proof majority. In November, a City Council

Working Group, of which I am a member, convened to consider amendments to the ordinance to strengthen it even further and to vote on expected hostile amendments from the Boston Police Department. Councilor Arroyo is hopeful that there will be a final vote by the City Council to pass the ordinance before the end of the year.

In addition, Cambridge City Councilor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler has approached the NLG to assist him in getting a similar ordinance passed in Cambridge and we already had a preliminary meeting with him. He has also informed us that a Somerville City Councilor is interested in passing one in his city. Given the fact that the Massachusetts legislature has stalled consideration of any state-wide legislation that would address this crucial issue, passing these local ordinances would go a long way to protecting the constitutional rights of people to free speech, free assembly, and petition the government for redress of grievances.

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*Jeff Feuer, an attorney at Goldstein & Feuer in Cambridge, is a member of the Litigation Committee.*

# NLG Student Chapters in Action

## BOSTON COLLEGE

*reported by Rebecca Langsam*

Throughout the fall semester, BC Law School's NLG chapter has been running a newsletter that produces articles every 2 weeks. Anyone can sign up to write an article and published, after review by the chapter. The articles are aimed at academic interests that align with NLG values and positions. In October, we held an NLG Legal Observer Training and co-hosted an event on the recent changes to asylum law and the humanitarian conditions on the border with our schools Immigration Law Group and Holocaust & Human Rights Project. In the first week of November, we hosted a "Panel on Abolishing Policing and Prisons" with lawyers, activists, and community members. Overall, we had over 40 people in virtual attendance, and covered everything from the historical roots to prisons and police, the origins of abolitionist thought, how it intersects with immigration, and how we ensure community safety and prosperity. Finally, our chapter, has been working with the BC Graduate Student Union Organizing Committee to discuss how law students can assist the union in its demands and actions. We are looking forward to having events next year on "Housing for All," "Local Resistance," and "COVID's Impact in Employment."

## BOSTON UNIVERSITY

*reported by Christina Prater-Lee*

During the pandemic, BU NLG co-hosted a virtual NLG Legal Observer training, and we are excited for our 25 new NLG Legal Observers to get out in the Boston community with their well-earned green hats. In October, we hosted a Disorientation panel, featuring NLG-Mass Chapter board members Coco Holbrook, Erica Medina, and Rebecca Amdemariam. We are also offering monthly brown-bag lunch reading groups on a variety of topics, intended to supplement and disrupt the 1L curriculum. In October,

the lunch focused on prison abolition. Additional events for 2021 include an NLG "Know Your Rights" training.

## HARVARD

*reported by Joan Steffen*

This year, HLS NLG continued to host NLG "Know Your Rights" and Legal Observer trainings, and our chapter sent many Legal Observers to actions in Massachusetts and (because of remote learning) several other states. Our chapter also continues to organize with the national Law Students Against ICE campaign and have started to research other ties between RELX & Thompson Reuters (the parent companies of Lexis and Westlaw) and surveillance capitalism. During the summer uprisings for Black lives, our chapter began working closely with the NLG Mass Defense Committee to manage the NLG-Mass legal hotline for protestors, and we have continued this work into the Fall. In November, we managed 24/7 hotline shifts for election week! We have restructured our meetings as action hours, where members can spend time working on initiatives like our Drop the Charges op-ed seeking amnesty for all those arrested in the uprisings, our advocacy for No Cost Calls for incarcerated people, and our Law Students Against ICE research.

## NEW ENGLAND

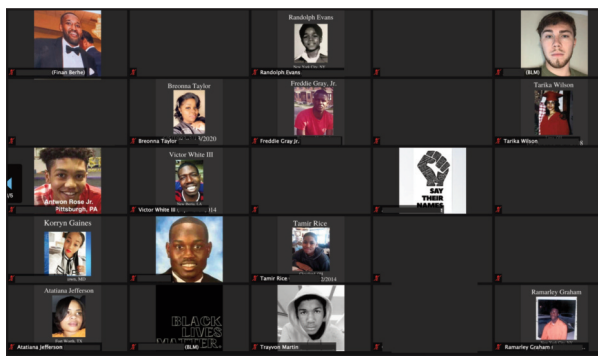
*reported by Layana White*

A group of us at New England Law (NELB), have been working to re-establish an NLG Student Chapter at our school. Even without an official chapter, we've been very busy organizing and working on pressing issues at our school:

- We've advocated and assembled on behalf of NELB's Black Law Students Association (BLSA), who has drafted a Call to Action and Timeline of Events to hold NELB responsible for inadequately addressing BIPOC issues.
- We have formed an intersectional, cooperative

## NLG Student Chapters in Action

affinity groups under the umbrella organization, Students for Good Trouble (S4GT), to put pressure on the school administration to take constructive action addressing issues of discrimination. (An anonymous complaint was filed with the American Bar Association, charging NELB administration with ignoring critical BIPOC and LGBTQ+ issues, and fostering an environment where students fear retribution for advocating on their behalf.)



(Virtual protest against discrimination at NELB attended by over 80 of our students.)

Our goals for 2021 and beyond are:

- Upon reinstatement as an NLG student chapter we will fight against racial injustices, which our legal system has historically failed to remedy.
- Provide law students with NLG's services and resources, including Legal Observer training and opportunities to work with NLG's committees and learn about public interest and activism lawyering.

### NORTHEASTERN

*reported by Katherine Brumund*

The Northeastern Chapter of the NLG has been busy this semester by embracing new avenues for virtual engagement. At the beginning of the semester we established two broad community goals for ourselves: better allyship in the classroom and in our communities, and active steps toward implementing tangible change. To accomplish these goals so far this semester we have hosted a discussion with law faculty on qualified immunity, an NLG Legal Observer

training, and a "Know Your Rights" training for student trainers, so we could be educated in how to conduct the KYR workshops. We've held our annual "Critical Legal Theory" talks to engage 1Ls in thinking about how to apply and use law in a socially just way. Our "Legal Theory" talks this year included topics on redlining, prison abolition, and a general discussion on the application of torts law. We have also started working on a proposal to designate election days as holidays on the Northeastern academic calendar, so it would be easier for students to vote and be civically involved. Lastly, we are working with other on-campus groups to facilitate a Northeastern School of Law history discussion.

### SUFFOLK

*reported by Josh Lutts*

NLG-Suffolk, as a newly re-established chapter, has been focusing on recruitment efforts to ensure that we will be able to grow and thrive, and enact a positive change within Suffolk University as well as throughout the legal profession. We have been collaborating with other student organizations on planning events and are excited for what this brings. Our main event this semester was a panel talk in November on voter disenfranchisement, which included speakers such as Senator Adam Hinds. Overall we are hopeful for the rest of the academic year to come, and are working on preparing other efforts to effect change within our community

### UMass DARTMOUTH

*reported by Molly Lesser*

The UMass chapter of the NLG has been busy! In October, we had a "Know Your Rights" presentation by Jeff Feuer on the rights of protestors. The first week of November, we had Melinda Drew give an NLG Legal Observer training. We have already had a few of our members act as

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# NLG Student Chapters in Action

*Continued from page 11*

Legal Observers in local actions. Our chapter is typically more active in the spring semester when we host “Justice Week,” an annual series of panels and talks. We plan to bring speakers from a wide variety of legal and political fields. This year, the “Justice Week” had to be canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic, so we are very excited to be in the planning stages for this spring!

We are also thrilled that our student chapter’s member, **Samantha-Rae Tuthill**, a 2L, was elected to be the NLG Student National VP and will represent NLG student members on the National Executive Committee!



## NLG Students - Prison Divestment

The Harvard Prison Divestment Campaign is an abolitionist group of mostly Harvard students organizing for Harvard to divest its \$41.9 billion endowment from companies that profit from prisons — and not just private prisons, but all corporations who benefit from caging poor, Black, and brown people, like institutional food contractors Aramark and Sodexo or ICE profiteer Palantir. Our primary tactics have been direct action and political education, but this last year we added a new strategy: a pro se lawsuit brought by five students, seeking injunctive relief requiring Harvard to divest from prisons.

We were nervous to bring novel legal claims that cut against the courts’ strong bias in favor of protecting structural racism and profit. It was the enthusiasm of a wide-range of our supporters that gave us the courage to pursue this strategy. From the students who helped with legal research and writing, to the donors who crowd-funded the filing fees, to the people who cheered us on at our oral argument viewing party, hundreds of people contributed to this lawsuit in one way or another. Currently incarcerated leaders of the prison movement from Jailhouse Lawyers Speak and Free Alabama Movement also shared excitement about the lawsuit, since it builds on their work to spread

understanding that prisons are slavery. They joined us for a speaking event in the lead-up to our oral argument. A special thank you also to NLG-Mass Chapter for providing **Lee Goldstein**, who helped coach law students and laypeople through the process of filing an elaborate lawsuit, and for always sending us Legal Observers for our direct actions. This was a collective process through and through!

On September 29, we argued against Harvard’s Motion for Dismiss in Zoom Court in front of Judge Christopher Barry-Smith. (Watch the oral argument here! It’s actually fun: <https://bit.ly/2Uw8jqa>). We’re still waiting on the result, as Barry-Smith seemed conflicted during the oral argument. We’re up against a lot— there was nary a non-Harvard affiliated individual in the proceedings, and in our eyes the MA Attorney General’s office went out of their way to defend Harvard’s prison investments. Whatever the outcome, we know we have the moral authority and the popular support, and we will continue to bring the heat to Harvard until they divest.

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*Anna Nathanson, this year’s NLG Student Honoree, graduated from Harvard in May.*



## NLG MASS DEFENSE COMMITTEE TRAININGS & WORKSHOPS

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The NLG Mass Defense Committee encompasses, among other activities, training programs including **Legal Observing**, **“Know Your Rights,”** and **“Direct Action.”**

### Legal Observers:

The Legal Observer program consists of volunteers who work as part of an NLG legal defense team to protect the rights of progressive demonstrators both during and after a demonstration at which arrests might occur. NLG Legal Observers serve both as a deterrent to police misconduct and to document any misconduct or other facts that may help in the defense of arrested demonstrators. They may be needed as witnesses on behalf of demonstrators in criminal or civil trials arising out of the demonstration, which trials might take place as much as a year or more after the demonstration.

### “Know Your Rights” and “Direct Action” Trainings:

Members of the Mass Defense Committee conduct “Know Your Rights” workshops for activists who are planning to take part in political demonstrations and protests. The purpose of these workshops is to familiarize activists with what rights they have and do not have when taking part in demonstrations and protests. We also discuss what legal resources are available to support demonstrators and protestors.

In “Direct Action” trainings we discuss the legal aspects of events activists are planning, as well as basic criminal procedure law so activists will know what to expect if they are arrested.

In 2020 our lawyers have conducted numerous Legal Observer trainings, Know Your Rights workshops, and Direct Action trainings. The specific trainings we have done, including groups participating, can be found below.

If you are interested in working with the NLG-Mass Chapter Mass Defense Committee, please contact the office at [nlgmass-director@riseup.net](mailto:nlgmass-director@riseup.net). You can be trained to conduct workshops in “Know Your Rights” and “Direct Action,” and/or to be an NLG Legal Observer.

*- Melinda Drew, Mass Defense Committee member -*

## Street Law Clinic Report

Continued from page 5

**October 24:** *Legal Observing* at a protest in New Bedford for Justice for Malcolm Garcia and against police brutality, by **Kimberly Barboza & Melissa Costa**.

**October 27:** *Direct Action* training for City Life/Vida Urbana activists, by **Jeff Feuer & Lee Goldstein**. • *Know Your Rights* training for Northeastern law students to conduct NLG workshops and trainings, by **Makis Antzoulatos**.

**October 29:** *Legal Observer* training for Harvard Law School Black Law Students Association, by **Melinda Drew**. • *Legal Observing* at a protest in Boston, organized by City Life/Vida Urbana for protections of tenants, by **Taraneh Azar, Jacqueline Baum, Jude Glaubman, Liam Hofmeister**, and **Dana Saltz**.

**October 31:** *Legal Observing* at a counter-protest against a MAGA/Back the Blue right-wing rally in Haverhill, organized by Solidarity North Shore, by **Julia Lavine & Rebecca Shailor**.

**November 1:** *Legal Observing* at a counter-protest against a MAGA/Back the Blue right-wing rally in Northampton, by **Julie Page & Elizabeth Ramirez**.

**November 2:** *Legal Observer* training for law students at UMass Dartmouth School of Law, by **Melinda Drew**.

**November 4:** *Legal Observing* at a post-election march from Nubian Sq. to Copley Sq. in Boston, organized by the Freedom Fighters Coalition, by **Rebecca Amdemariam, Garth Davis, Olivia Dubois, Annemarie Guare, Emily Guare, Urszula Masny-Latos, Josh Raisler Cohn, Emerson Toomey, Deb Wilmer, and Alexandra Wood**. • *Legal Observing* at a post-election event in Worcester, organized by the Democratic Socialists of America, by **Victoria Baratian, Mathew Freimuth, and Noah Meister**. • *Legal Observing* at a post-election march in Northampton,

organized by Abolition Now, by **Vivienne Simon & Sofia Tagkaloglou**. • *Legal Observer* training for law students at Suffolk University, by **Melinda Drew**.

**November 6:** *Legal Observing* at a climate change action in Kenmore Sq., Boston, organized by Sunrise, by **Liam Hofmeister & Julia Lavine**. • *Legal Observer* training for activists in Western Massachusetts, by **Melinda Drew**.

**November 7:** *Legal Observing* at a march against vote suppression in downtown Boston, organized by Solidarity North Shore, by **Jason Golfinos**. • *Legal Observing* at a Police Station in Randolph in support of Christopher Divens and his family, by **Kimberly Barboza & Anne Lynn**. • *Legal Observing* at a protest and march in Boston, organized by the Sunrise Coalition and SEIU 32, by **Joe Lake & Julia Lavine**.

**November 8:** *Legal Observing* at a rally in Boston against police violence, by **Nora Mann & Kelly Morgan**.

**November 9:** *Know Your Rights* workshop for Brandeis undergraduate students, by **Jeff Feuer**.

**November 13:** *Legal Observing* at a protest at the Department of Public Health in Boston for decarceration of Massachusetts prisons and for COVID treatment for prisoners, organized by Building Up People Not Prisons, by **Ben Averbuch, Olivia Dubois, Liam Hofmeister, Elizabeth Martin, Kelly Morgan, Monica Morgan, Elliot Oberholtzer**, and **Allison Wise**.

**November 14:** *Legal Observing* at a protest in Winthrop, organized by Cosecha to fight for legal protections for immigrants, by **Joe Lake & Anne Lynn**.

**November 21:** *Legal Observing* at an anti-fascist protest in Boston, by **Garth Davis, Joe Lake, Noah Meister**, and **Elliot Oberholtzer**.

## 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;
- 1/8 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](mailto:nlgmass-director@igc.org).

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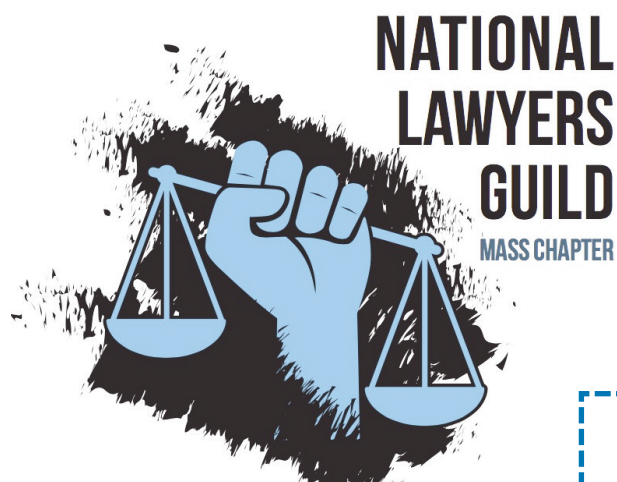
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11/3/2019

# 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](http://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)