

Mass Dissent

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NLG-Mass Chapter at Work

We've entered the second year of pandemic. Despite a year-long lockdown, despite confusion and radical changes in the

way we live and work, the NLG-Mass Chapter has not stopped working. Since the pandemic, we've increased our membership, we've secured grants and donations to stabilize and sustain our finances, we've trained hundreds of Legal Observers who served at dozens of actions around the state; we held our first-ever virtual Annual Dinner which was a huge success, and our committees have been as active as ever. In this issue of *Mass Dissent* you will find information on what the Chapter has been doing.

Noah Meister, an active NLG Legal Observer and a member of the NLG Litigation Committee, had noticed, while Legal Observing, a troubling pattern of Massachusetts police officers covering their badge numbers and refusing to identify themselves when asked.

The Litigation Committee and the Mass Defense Committee will analyze this trend.

Zach Lown conducted an interview with a co-chair of the NLG Mass Defense Committee, Makis Antzoulatos, to introduce the Committee to our readers and to encourage NLG members to join and become involved.

The Litigation Committee have been extremely busy. **Jeff Feuer** gives us an update on the status of an ordinance the Litigation Committee drafted to reduce the use of chemical and non-lethal weapons by Boston police. (Cambridge and Somerville City Councilors have already expressed their interest in having a similar ordinance considered in their cities.) At the end of May, the Committee filed a

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**NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD
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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@riseup.net.

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 legal clinics and workshops in Massachusetts to address legal needs of various communities. Legal educational clinics and workshops on 4th Amendment Rights (Stop & Search) and Direct Action are held at community organizations, youth centers, labor unions, schools and shelters. If you are an NLG member and would like to lead a clinic or workshop, please contact the NLG office (nlgmass-director@riseup.net).

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

NLG HAPPY HOUR

After a year hiatus, the NLG Happy Hour is back!

In June, we will host Rose Webster Smith and other activists from No One Leaves-Springfield who will lead a conversation about the housing crisis in Massachusetts and the expected post-pandemic spike in evictions and foreclosures.

We hope you can attend.

The event will be virtual. You can join by going to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81493790424> (Meeting ID: 814 9379 0424)

NLG HAPPY HOUR
Wednesday, June 9, 2021
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Virtual

NLG ANNUAL DINNER

We are very excited to announce this year's NLG Testimonial Dinner Awardees. It is an honor for us to honor the following persons:

Lawyer Award - **Ricardo Arroyo** (Boston City Council) & **Dick Bauer** (Greater Boston Legal Services).

Legal Worker Award - **Grace Ross** (Mass. Alliance Against Predatory Lending)

Student Award - **Noah Meister** (Western New England Law School).

NLG ANNUAL TESTIMONIAL DINNER
Friday, October 1, 2021
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Virtual

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 **6:00-8:00 pm**, at the NLG Office (185 Devonshire St., Suite 301, Boston), but now virtually. Please notify the office if you plan to attend.

ARTICLES FOR MASS DISSENT

The September issue of *Mass Dissent* will focus on the **Supreme Court**.

If you are interested in submitting an article, essay, analysis, or art work related to the topic, please e-mail your work to nlgmass-director@riseup.net.

The deadline for articles is August 10.

GUILD NEWS

Continued from page 1

lawsuit in the Suffolk Superior Court claiming that the Boston Police Department and Boston Regional Intelligence Center (BRIC) had violated public records law and their own rules and regulations (*see press release on our website - www.nlgmass.org*). The Committee also started looking into a wide-spread

practice of Massachusetts school districts which demand payments for school lunches from parents of poor children.

We end this issue with an update from **four of the Street Law Clinic interns** who report on a significant transformation of the project, development of new materi-

als (for in-person and virtual workshops), and on trainings law students and NLG members to prepare them for conducting SLC workshops.

Let us know if you are interested in getting involved in any of these efforts.

- Urszula Masny-Latos -

NLG-Mass Chapter Office Has Moved

We would like to let you know that our office has moved.

As of June 1, 2021, the Chapter's headquarters will be at:

**185 Devonshire Street, Suite 301
Boston, MA 02110**

We will be sharing a very nice office space with our long-time member Mark Vanger, who opened his doors for us in the time of crisis.

We hope to see you in our new office soon, when the pandemic is over and when we can do in-person visits.

Grant from The Defense Against Thought Control Foundation

We are pleased to announce that in February the NLG-Mass Chapter's Litigation and Mass Defense Committees received a grant of \$75,000 from the Defense Against Thought Control Foundation to support our work filing impact litigating and assisting and representing political activists fighting for progressive changes and against racism, sexism, repression, and oppression.

We are deeply honored and grateful for the grant and for all financial support of individual donors who keep us sustained and going. Thank you!

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:

February 7: *Legal Observing* at an action in Holyoke, organized by ISO-New England, by **Elizabeth Caretti-Ramirez**.

February 28: *Legal Observing* in Somerville at a protest against Puma Store, organized by BDS-Boston, by **Noah Meister**.

March 6: *Legal Observing* at a rally and march in Boston in advance of George Floyd's killers' trial, organized by Freedom Fighter Coalition, by **Lauren Bird, Melissa Costa, Haley Eagon, Mathew Freimuth, Annemarie Guare, Elizabeth Martin, Ellen Messing, Olivia Petipas, and Alexandra Wood**.

March 13: *Legal Observing* at a protest in Boston, organized by Stop Asian Hate and Solidarity Against Hate, by **Sarah Duncan, Joseph Lake, Asya Rosental, and Sarah Tansey**.

March 20: *Legal Observing* at a counter-protest in Bridgewater against alt-right "freedom rally," organized by Stand Up For Justice (SUFJ), by **Kimberly Barboza, Melissa Costa, Noah Meister, Nora Wells, and Deb Wilmer**. • *Legal Observing* at a protest at ICA against Fineberg Management for unfair treatment of tenants, organized by Fineberg Tenant Union, by **Genevieve Butler & Geoff Carens**.

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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/).



Name & ID: What Identifying Info MA Police Officers Are Required to Provide

by *Noah Meister*

Police officers are governed by state and local rules when it comes to providing identification. The state level laws set the basic requirements, while individual department procedure may provide some variations by municipality.

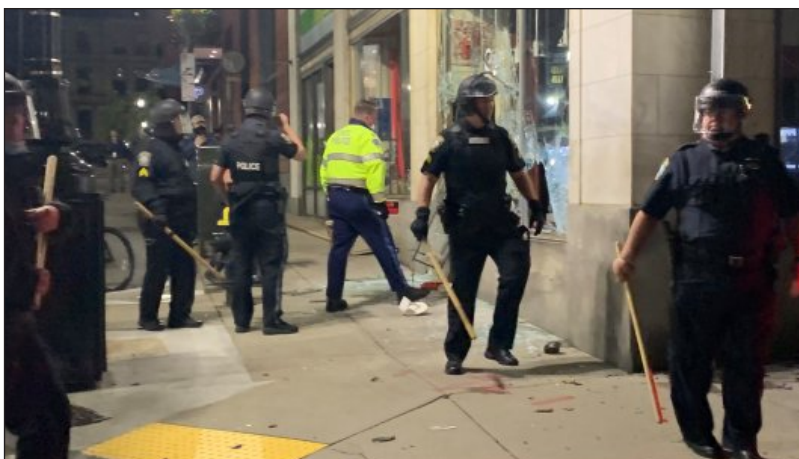
At the state level, there are two controlling laws about police officer identification. First, MGL c. 41, § 98C, provides that police officers must display their badge number if they do not have a nametag. Second, MGL c. 41, § 98D, requires police officers to carry an ID with their photograph and identifying information, including their name. Police officers must exhibit this ID “upon lawful request for identification purposes.”

At the municipal level, each police department has their own specific policies about officer attire and job performance. For example, Boston Police Department’s (BPD) Rules and Procedures state, at Rule 102, § 20, that every officer will adhere to MGL c. 41, § 98D, “unless he is engaged in an undercover police operation and his physical safety or the police operation would be jeop-

ardized by his making such identification.” All Boston police officers are required to display their numbered badge while in uniform “on the left breast of their outermost garment,” per BPD Rule 306A, § 2. Other police departments do not

There are no exceptions in the language of this law.

As a Legal Observer for the NLG, I have seen police officers across the state violate these rules routinely. One common tactic is placing a



Boston cops patrolling streets in downtown Boston with their badges covered.

have independent policy regarding badge display and thus are governed only by state law. For example, Worcester Police Department’s (WPD) Rule and Regulations require officers to carrying identification and provide it “upon lawful request,” (WPD Rules and Regulations, Rules 1410.1 and 1410.11, respectively) but says nothing about displaying one’s badge number. This would mean that the state law still requires WPD officers to display their badges.

“mourning band” around the badge, hiding the number. A mourning band is a black plastic band, often with a blue line around it. These are ostensibly worn to mourn the passing of an officer, but they have become symbolic of police vigilantism, as police officers often wear them when they feel a need to hide their badge number. Similarly, police officers routinely use jackets or yellow vests to cover their uni-

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Mass Defense Committee - Interview With Co-Chair Makis Antzoulatos

by Zach Lown

What is the NLG Mass Defense Committee?

The NLG Mass Defense Committee (MDC) is a network of lawyers that represents activists who are arrested for protesting, demonstrating or fighting for social justice.

What is the goal or purpose of the MDC in a larger sense?

I would say that the goal is for anyone who is doing organizing or activism in Massachusetts to feel secure knowing they have legal support if they get in trouble. I don't want anyone to refrain from actions that they want to do because they feel they lack proper legal support. Our role is to support them and in doing so we hope to embolden the movement.

What has the work been like over the past year of turmoil and revolt?

We are now nearing the anniversary of George Floyd's death. Since people rose up to demonstrate police violence and demand justice for Black Lives, we have secured representation for around 150 activists. We have had Legal Observers at some 50 actions or protests. We have done Know Your Rights trainings for dozens of activist groups around the state. These groups ranged from Black Lives Matter groups, to pro-Palestine, to climate justice, to immigrants' rights, to prisoners' rights, to other such organizations. These have been difficult but encouraging times. We have also seen an



Boston cops attacking peaceful protesters at demonstrations following the murder of George Floyd in May 2020.

upsurge in interest among attorneys. For example, we've had dozens of new attorneys reach out to us so that they can step up to take protest cases. It is the grass roots actions that provide the energy for radical lawyering. People have seen our work and they want to be a part of it.

In terms of legal representation, how successful has the MDC been?

Going back years, going back at least to the Fight Supremacy rally around three years ago, my best estimate is that of the hundreds of people we have represented at least 99% have been acquitted or had their case dismissed.

Have there been any particular challenges during this time related to suppression or surveillance?

In the past year alone, we have seen a huge

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Update on NLG-Sponsored City Ordinances Restricting the Use of Tear Gas & Other Dangerous Crowd Control Weapons

by Jeff Feuer

Throughout this past year, since the police murder of George Floyd, the NLG Litigation Committee has been working with progressive city councilors to get cities in Massachusetts to adopt an ordinance which restricts the use of chemical crowd control weapons (such as tear gas and pepper spray) and kinetic impact projectiles (such as flash-bang grenades and rubber bullets) on demonstrations of ten or more citizens.

A model ordinance was drafted by NLG attorneys Jeff Feuer, David Kelston and Lee Goldstein with pro bono support from attorneys from the Boston law firm of Wilmer Hale. That ordinance was then presented to the city councils of Boston, Somerville and Cambridge. As a result of the NLG's lobbying efforts with those city councils, we have been successful in placing significant restrictions on the use by police of those dangerous and indiscriminate weapons.

On April 8, 2021, Somerville became the first MA city to adopt a version of the NLG

ordinance when the City Council unanimously passed a comprehensive law that completely bans the use of tear gas by police and places substantial restrictions on the use of so-called "non-lethal" projectiles and other crowd control weapons. The ordinance was sponsored by city councilors Ben Ewen-Campen and Lance Davis and was signed into law by Mayor Joseph Curtatone on April 23, 2021.

The NLG supported the passage of the Somerville ordinance by supplying the initial draft of the ordinance, written expert testimony, direct live testimony at city council and committee hearings, and an advocacy letter that was sent to all city councilors, which noted that this was "an important and historic piece of legislation that, if passed, will place the City of Somerville at the forefront of the movement to de-militarize America's urban police forces, de-escalate the often unnecessary use of force by police, and begin to address the inequities and injustices that have been visited for far too long upon communities of

color by armed police."

Under the new law, in addition to prohibiting the use of tear gas under any circumstances, other chemical crowd control weapons or projectiles may only be used if an on-scene supervisor of captain or higher, or the shift commander, has witnessed ongoing acts of violence or destruction of property and the crowd has ignored two warnings given over a loudspeaker at least two minutes apart. The ordinance also prohibits the use of pepper spray unless an emergency requires its immediate use, an officer witnesses a violent situation or ongoing destruction of property, lower levels of force have failed, and a clear warning is given that pepper spray will be deployed.

Following the actions of the Somerville City Council, on April 28, 2021, the Boston City Council, by a 7-5 vote, passed a comprehensive ordinance to regulate and restrict the use of all chemical crowd control agents and kinetic impact projectiles by all law enforcement agents operating

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Update on City Ordinances Restricting the Use of Crowd Control Weapons

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in Boston. The ordinance was sponsored by city councilors Ricardo Arroyo (a former NLG board member) and Andrea Campbell. A similar initiative had been approved by the council in December 2020 by a 8-5 vote, but it was vetoed by former Mayor Marty Walsh.

However, the Guild and councilor Arroyo did not give up at that point. The Guild supported the eventual passage of the Boston ordinance by supplying the first draft of the ordinance, attending public hearings and working groups to defend the ordinance against attacks on it by Boston police officials, organizing live testimony from activists at city council hearings, and working with councilor Arroyo to strengthen the language of the ordinance and to garner the support of other city councilors. The testimony organized by the Guild highlighted the injuries — and in one local case, even death — inflicted by the past use of chemical weapons, rubber and plastic bullets, and beanbag rounds.

As a result of all of these efforts, Acting Boston Mayor Kim Janey signed the ordi-

nance into law on May 13, 2021. Echoing the Guild's position, Mayor Janey announced the signing with a tweet that stated "Indiscriminate use of these devices is dangerous and unacceptable. Proud to sign this ordinance into law for the protection of Boston residents". In many ways, the Boston law is a stronger version of the ordinance passed in Somerville, as it more stringently restricts the use of pepper spray and tear gas, though it does not outright ban the use of tear gas as the Somerville ordinance does. The ordinance prohibits Boston police from using chemical crowd control agents and kinetic impact projectiles on crowds of more than 10 people. The exception is when an on-scene police supervisor personally witnesses acts of violence or property damage, and has determined no other methods of de-escalation will be effective. Police must give two separate warnings at least two minutes apart over a loudspeaker before deploying them. The law also requires Boston police to maintain and preserve any body camera footage that captures officers using the weapons, and must

file it with any city and state police oversight agencies within 10 business days.

The Cambridge City Council is also considering a similar ordinance, sponsored by city councilor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler. The ordinance is currently under consideration by the Ordinance Committee, which is holding a public hearing on it on June 2, 2021, at which the Guild will be represented by board member Jeff Feuer. The ordinance is being strongly opposed by the Cambridge City Solicitor and the Cambridge police department, though several city councilors have already expressed their support for it. We are hoping that the Cambridge city councilors will take the same stand against the use of these dangerous weapons as was done in Somerville and Boston.

Jeff Feuer serves on the NLG Board of Directors and is a member of the NLG Litigation Committee and MDC.

NLG NEWS: Mass Chapter Files a Lawsuit Against Boston Police Department, BRIC & City of Boston

On Friday, May 28, the NLG-Massachusetts Chapter filed a lawsuit against the Boston Police Department (BPD), Boston Regional Intelligence Center (BRIC), and the City of Boston, seeking a determination that the defendants have failed to comply with the Massachusetts Public Records Law and their own written policies. The records sought are expected to expose police misconduct, including excessive force and violence directed at peaceful protesters, as well as defendants' practice of maintaining and disseminating records long after the time they should have been

purged pursuant to defendants' own policy.

A year ago, the NLG filed several public records requests in order to determine the scope of police surveillance in Boston. Despite multiple requests, only a limited number of heavily redacted documents were released.

The law requires all public records requests to be fulfilled within 10 days, and the BPD's regulations require all records not related to a criminal investigation to be purged within 90 days.

Interview With MDC Co-Chair Makis Antzoulatos

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increase in law enforcement attempts to speak to activists, to interview them, to interrogate them when they do not have a lawyer present. It certainly feels like there is a resurgence of counter-intelligence similar to what we saw during the Occupy movement.

Can lawyers who do not have criminal legal experience get involved?

Yes! We recently did a half-day training for lawyers who have little criminal legal experience so as to teach them to do arraignments and first-appearances in criminal cases. Many of these cases do not go to trial so if we are able to get coverage at initial court appearances we can buy time to get additional support. This is hugely important and it is a big benefit to the movement. We would like to expand this type of training. We also want Guild lawyers to

know that if they are interested in doing this type of work but do not have extensive criminal legal experience they can reach out to me directly at makis.antzoulatos@gmail.com.

What is your hope for the Mass Defense Committee going forward?

We hope that people in the city know that if they get arrested they know to call us, that we are here to help, and we hope to act as a kind of legal wing for the movement.

Zach Lown is an attorney at Lown Law Firm in Boston and a member of the NLG Board of Directors.

NLG-Mass Chapter Street Law Clinic (SLC) Update



From left to right: Kim Haugen, Ruchi Ramamurthy, Liam Hofmeister, and Annie Guare

For decades, comrades across the country and the world have been in the streets fighting against white supremacy and the imperialist, capitalist, and heteropatriarchal systems of oppression it breeds. Over the past year in particular, we have seen a spike in protests and other direct actions in response to state-sanctioned racial and economic injustices. To support the fight for liberation, NLG Street Law Clinic project (SLC), established in 1989, has dedicated itself to arming organizers with the practical knowledge they need to stand up for their rights.

SLC has conducted countless trainings over the past 30 years to educate people about their legal rights and the methods they can use to fight for justice. Under the oversight of

NLG-Mass Chapter attorneys, law students have historically conducted these clinics with community organizations, schools, shelters, unions, and places of worship.

SLC relaunched last year with updated materials for its flagship clinic: Know Your Rights – Stop & Search. The clinic provides an overview of participants' constitutional rights in several types of stops by law enforcement, while staying grounded in the lived experiences of participants and the practical realities of law enforcement stops on the streets.

The SLC team (pictured above) helped create the materials and visuals for virtual and in-person clinics; they are currently engaging in community

outreach and coordinating clinics and trainings. Kim, Annie and Ruchi are law students at Northeastern. They participate in SLC on a rotating basis determined by their class schedules. Liam is an NLG member and year-round SLC intern.

SLC is dedicated to the fight for liberation and empowerment, and we know that *Mass Dissent* readers share that dedication.

If you are an NLG attorney and you are interested in working with SLC, or if you are affiliated with a community organization that would be interested in an SLC clinic, we want to hear from you!

You can contact us at nlgmassslc@gmail.com.

Street Law Clinic Report

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April 8: *Know Your Rights-Stop & Search* training for Northeastern students, by **Makis Antzoulatos**.

April 9: *Legal Observing* at a rally and march for trans rights in Boston, organized by Boston Trans Collective, by **Molly Jane Thoms & Tara Wilson**.

April 17: *Legal Observing* at a protest and march in Boston in response to the policy killing of Daunte Wright, organized by Freedom Fighters Collective, by **Sarah Duncan, Anne Lynn, Elliot Oberholter, Olivia Petipas, Melissa Rodriguez, Rebecca Shailor, Samantha-Rae Tuthill, Eliza Walker**. • *Legal Observing* at a rally and march in Northampton in solidarity with Daunte Wright's family, by **Samuel Charron & Sofia Tagkaloglou**.

April 18: *Legal Observing* at a march for Justice for Daunte Wright in Cambridge, by **Hillary Farber, Julia Feldman, and Sarah Tansey**.

April 20: *Direct Action* training for Extinction Rebellion, by **Jeff Feuer**.

April 21: *Legal Observing* at a rally and march in Boston in response to the verdict in the Chauvin's trial, organized by Freedom Fighters Collective, by **Nora Mann & Elizabeth Martin**.

April 22: *Legal Observer* training for Harvard students, by **Melinda Drew**.

April 24: *Legal Observing* at a civil disobedience action in Boston to address climate crisis, organized by Extention Rebellion, by **Liam Hofmeister**.

April 25: *Legal Observing* at a protest against Puma Store in Somerville for sponsoring Israeli Football Association, organized by BDS-Boston, by **Marwa Sayed**.

April 28: *Legal Observing* at an action in Cambridge to make COVID-19 vaccine available in the world, organized by Free the Vaccine, by **Sarah Tansey & Nora Wells**.

April 30: *Know Your Rights-Stop & Search* training for NLG lawyers to prepare them to conduct and supervise SLC clinics, by **Melinda Drew & Jeff Feuer**.

May 1: *Legal Observing* at a May Day rally and march, organized by May Day Coalition and Boston Anarchist Black Cross, by **Daniel Donadio, Joseph Lake, Sean McNamara, Noah Meister, and Katherine Will**.

May 6: *Legal Observing* at Justice for Mikayla Miller rally in Hopkinton, MA, by **Neil Berman, Mathew Freimuth, and Noah Meister**.

May 9: *Legal Observing* at a "Mother Day FreeHer" car rally from MCI Framingham to South Bay, organized by Families for Justice As Healing (FJAH), by **Rebecca Amdemariam & Sarah Duncan**.

May 10: *Know Your Rights-Stop & Search* training for NLG lawyers to conduct and supervise SLC clinics, by **Melinda Drew & Jeff Feuer**.

May 12: *Know Your Rights-Stop & Search* clinic for Cambridge youth, organized by Cambridge Public Library, by **Makis Antzoulatos**.

May 15: *Legal Observing* at a protest against Isreali attack on Palestinians, by **Rebecca Amdemariam, Mathew Freimuth, Urszula Masny-Latos, Lena Ransohoff, and Sean McNamara**.

May 18: *Legal Observing* at a protest against Isreali attack on Palestinians, by **Daniel Donadio**.

May 21: *Legal Observing* at a picket line in Worcester, organized by St. Vincent Nurses' union, by **Noah Aurelio & Sean McNamara**.

May 23: *Legal Observing* at a protest against Puma store in Assembly Row, Somerville, organized by BDS-Boston, by **Daniel Donadio**.

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 • Spencer Brody • Patricia Cantor & Jeff Petrucelly • Howard Cooper • Barb Dougan • Melinda Drew & Jeff Feuer • Carlo Favazza • Roger Geller & Marjorie Suisman • Lee Goldstein & Mark Stern • Lisa Gordon • Andrei Joseph & Bonnie Tenneriello • Michael Kantrovitz • Nancy Kelly & John Willshire-Carrera • David Kelston • John Mannheim • Allan Rodgers • Martin Rosenthal • Anne Sills & Howard Silverman • Judy Somberg • Daniel Walters • John Dazhong Xia

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@riseup.net

Name & ID Of Cops

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forms and badges. I encountered these tactics at most protests I attended during Black Lives Matter protests in the summer of 2020, and they continue to be the norm, particularly at any protest involving police accountability or racial justice.

Officers also frequently refuse to identify themselves or otherwise obscure their identity. As a Legal Observer, I have had police tell me the number on their riot helmet is their badge number. More com-

monly however police simply refuse to answer any question about their identity. I have been a Legal Observer at dozens of protests across Massachusetts in the past two years and I have never once seen an officer provide their name or badge number when asked, by me or anyone else.

As calls for police accountability continue to grow, knowing who is being given the authority to enforce the law in our communities should be a top priority.

The NLG-Mass Chapter is collecting information about instances when cops refuse to identify themselves or cover their badges. If you witness any of these instances, please report it to the NLG office (nlgmass-director@riseup.net).

Noah Meister is a graduating law student at Western New England Law School, NLG Legal Observer and a member of the Litigation Committee.

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NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD MASS CHAPTER



" ... 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
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over \$30,000 to \$40,000	\$150
over \$40,000 to \$50,000	\$200
over \$50,000 to \$60,000	\$250
over \$60,000 to \$70,000	\$300
over \$70,000 to \$80,000	\$350
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* 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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