

# National Lawyers Guild Convention Schedule of Events September 22 - 26, 2010 ● New Orleans, LA

## Wednesday, September 22, 2010

<u>Event Time</u>	<u>Event Name (Room Name)</u>	<u>Room</u>
8am - 5pm	National Immigration Project Registration	Queen Anne Mezzanine
9am - 5pm	National Immigration Project Immigration Skills Seminar: Achieving the Impossible: Advanced Issues in Deportation & Removal Defense	Queen Anne Ballroom
2 - 5pm	New Orleans NLG Chapter Meeting	The Board Room
5 - 7pm	National Executive Committee Meeting	Orleans Room
6 - 10pm	National Immigration Project Board Meeting	Queen Anne Parlor

## Thursday, September 23, 2010

<u>Event Time</u>	<u>Event Name</u>	<u>Room</u>
7:30am - 5pm	National Lawyers Guild Convention Registration	Queen Anne Mezzanine
8am - 5pm	National Lawyers Guild Vendors/Display Tables	Bonnet Carre Room
8 - 8:30am	National Police Accountability Project CLE Registration	La Nouvelle Corridor
8:30am - 5pm	National Police Accountability Project CLE: Police Misconduct & Prisoners' Rights Litigation	La Nouvelle Orleans East

**Description:** *John Burton updates science and law enforcement standards for Taser cases; Roger Clark explains how to use P.O.S.T. modules to establish police standards of care; hear panelists John Burris, Michael Haddad, Jim Harrington, Mary Howell and Christy Lopez share experiences with equitable relief actions in other cities which may inform efforts in New Orleans and elsewhere. Get insight into the Angola prison, and learn about litigating medical care and over-detention cases from panelists Andrea Armstrong, Norris Henderson, Margaret Winter and Paul Wright. David Milton talks about damages actions for your client who has been arrested for audio-or videotaping police misconduct. For more information:*

*<http://www.nlg-npap.org/html/announcements.htm>*

**Moderator:** *Julia Sherwin, Haddad & Sherwin, Oakland CA*

**Presenters:** *John Burton, Law Offices of John Burton, Pasadena CA; Roger Clark, Police Procedures Consultant, Santee CA; John Burris, Law Offices of John L. Burris, Oakland CA; Michael Haddad, Haddad & Sherwin, Oakland CA; Jim Harrington, Texas Civil Rights Project, Austin TX; Mary Howell, Attorney at Law, New Orleans LA; Christy Lopez, DOJ Civil Rights Division, Special Litigation Section, Washington DC; Andrea Armstrong, Loyola College of Law, New Orleans LA; Norris Henderson, VOTE, New Orleans LA; Margaret Winter, National Prison Project of the ACLU, Washington DC; Paul Wright, Prison Legal News, West Brattleboro VT; David Milton, Law Offices of Howard Friedman, Boston MA*

9am - 5pm	National Immigration Project Membership Meeting	La Nouvelle Orleans West
2:30 - 4:30pm	National Immigration Project Breakout Session #1, 2 and 3	Royal Salon B, C, and D
9:30am - 3pm	International Committee Meeting	Iberville

**Description:** *The first half of the meeting, from 9:30 AM to 12 PM, will be a business meeting for the NLG's International Committee. The second half will feature a facilitated discussion focusing on the results of recent Supreme Court decisions dealing with "national security" issues, how they impact our work as the Guild and our grassroots support work with other international organizations. In the Court's most recent term, several decisions have implicated national security issues; the most notable being Humanitarian Law Project v. Holder. Discussion will focus on the impact of these decisions on our work. Facilitated by International Committee member Steven Goldberg.*

12 - 1pm	International Labor Justice Working Group Meeting	Le Café
----------	---	---------

**Description:** *The International Labor Justice Working Group is composed of members of the International and Labor and Employment Committees. We will meet at Le Café over lunch at the Monteleone Hotel. New members are welcome.*

1 - 5pm	Military Law Task Force Committee Meeting	Orleans Room
2 - 4pm	Labor & Employment (L&EC) Committee Meeting	Offsite

**Description:** *The L&EC meets nationally twice a year: at the annual AFL-CIO Lawyers' Coordinating Committee meeting (usually in May) and the NLG Convention. Meeting will be held at the Loews Hotel, 300 Poydras Street. We will post the meeting agenda and room on our web page: [http://www.nlglaboremploycomm.org/index.php?pr=LEC\\_Meetings](http://www.nlglaboremploycomm.org/index.php?pr=LEC_Meetings).*

3 - 4pm	Iran Sub Committee Meeting	Queen Anne Parlor
3 - 4pm	Transformative Caucus Meeting	River View Room
3:15 - 4:30pm	Puerto Rico Sub Committee Meeting	Iberville
4:15 - 6pm	Free Palestine Sub Committee Meeting	Queen Anne Parlor
4:45 - 6pm	Cuba Sub Committee Meeting	Iberville
5:30 - 7pm	National Police Accountability Project Board of Directors Meeting	Orleans Room
5:30 - 7pm	National Immigration Project Reception to present Daniel Levy Award	River View Room
7 - 8:45pm	Keynote Address with John Thompson and Voices of Innocence (1 act play)	Queen Anne Ballroom

## Friday, September 24, 2010

<u>Event Time</u>	<u>Event Name</u>	<u>Room</u>
7:30am - 5pm	National Lawyers Guild Convention Registration	Queen Anne Mezzanine
8am - 5pm	National Lawyers Guild Vendors/Display Tables	Bonnet Carre Room
8 - 9am	Past Presidents Meeting	Le Café
8:30 - 9:45am	WORKSHOPS I	

### **Rights of Immigrant Students**

Salon A

Description: *Selected aspects of non-citizen students' access to education from elementary to higher education, the effects of lack of immigration status on non-citizen children's access to special education at the local level, the movements at the state level around offering in-state tuition to college-bound undocumented noncitizens, the current status of the movement led by undocumented students and community-organized campaigns around the proposed federal DREAM Act to regularize the status of non-citizen children raised and educated in the U.S.* **Presenters:** **Carlos Saavedra**, National Coordinator, United We Dream Network; **Adey Fisseha**, Policy Attorney/Campaign Coordinator, National Immigration Law Center, Washington, D.C.; **Karen Tumlin**, Managing Attorney, National Immigration Law Center, Los Angeles, CA

### **Worker Centers & the Union Movement: The Face of Labor in the 21st Century**

Queen Anne Ballroom

Description: *How worker centers and labor unions are navigating complex issues of race, class, language, community, immigration status, organizational culture and nationality, and how these evolving relationships impact the legal representation of unions and worker centers. These relationships reveal the emerging face of the 21st century labor movement. The restructuring of the global political economy under neoliberal principles favoring privatization, deregulation, capital mobility and "flexibility" has had a far-reaching impact on the U.S. labor movement. In many industries, the traditional industrial, workplace-based organizing model may no longer be viable. In those sectors, workers and their advocates are increasingly turning to community-based models, such as the networks of worker centers which have emerged as forums for day laborers and other "informal" and immigrant workers to assert their collective power. The AFL-CIO and many international unions have formed strong partnerships with the worker center movement and are forcefully advocating comprehensive immigration reform. As worker center researcher and advocate Janice Fine asks, "Beyond support for immigration reform, are America's unions prepared to take advantage of the biggest opportunity for growth they have encountered in decades? Are they culturally prepared and organizationally structured to admit these workers en masse into union ranks?"*

Moderator: **Dean Hubbard** is the Senior Counsel – Strategic Resources for the Transport Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO. He teaches international labor rights in the graduate program at CUNY's Murphy Labor Institute. He is co-Chair of the NLG Labor and Employment Committee. From 2002-2008, he held the Joanne Woodward Chair in Public Policy and Advocacy at Sarah Lawrence College, where he founded the Institute for Policy Alternatives (IPA) Day Labor Organizing Project, which organized and advocated for the human rights and dignity of day laborers in Westchester County, New York.

Presenters: **Saket Soni:** Executive Director, New Orleans Worker Center for Racial Justice. The Center organizes African American and immigrant workers to advance racial equity and economic justice in the post-Hurricane Katrina Gulf Coast. The Center has won historic organizing, policy, and court victories to advance a poor peoples' agenda in the region. Mr. Soni has testified in Congress on issues of racial justice and workers' rights, and has co-authored numerous reports on racial equity and workers' rights in the Gulf Coast region. **Ana Avendaño:** Assistant to the President on Immigration and Community Action, AFL-CIO, advises national and local union leaders on immigration policy and other matters that impact immigrant workers. She served as the United States Worker Representative to the International Labor Organization (ILO) Committee on Migration in 2004. She was appointed to serve on the ILO's Panel of Experts on Migration in 2005. She testified before the Informal Interactive Hearings of the United Nations' General Assembly with Non-Governmental Organizations, Civil Society Organizations and the Private Sector on International Migration and Development in 2006. **Laurie Burgess:** Founder, Burgess Law Offices, P.C. Outgoing Board member, AFL-CIO Lawyers Coordinating Committee; a tireless advocate for worker centers and the labor movement, Laurie Burgess established her own firm, Burgess Law

Offices, P.C., in Chicago in 2008. Her firm represents public and private sector unions in traditional labor law matters and litigating civil rights cases on behalf of individuals and classes in federal and state court. Laurie currently serves as Union Chair of the ABA's Labor and Employment Subcommittee on Immigration, and is an Executive Committee member of the NLG L&EC.

### **Puerto Rico – Our Biggest & Best Colony – Sovereignty**

Salon C

**Description:** What does it mean to be a colony of the US and what can the Guild do about it? More than 50% of Puerto Ricans are under the federal poverty line and unemployment is higher than any state in the US. This workshop will explore how the colonial relationship plays out on the ground in Puerto Rico as its new right wing Governor consolidates power by firing tens of thousands of public employees and undermining labor unions, cultural workers, and poor communities who are trying to gain some control over their housing and environment. The speakers will discuss the role of students, labor and media in the recent strikes and protests over the budget cuts and university privatization efforts. We will also address the new government's frontal attack on the 170-year-old progressive Puerto Rican Bar Association, the Colegio de Abogados.

**Moderator: Jan Susler:** Chicago People's Law Office, long-time NLG member and advocate for Puerto Rican independence and for political prisoners. In July, her celebrated client Carlos Alberto Torres was released on parole after 30+ years in custody.

**Presenters: Osvaldo Burgos** is a gay Puerto Rican attorney and human rights activist, who currently chairs the Puerto Rico Bar Association's Human Rights Commission and is president of the Puerto Rico chapter of Amnesty International. He is a former Executive Director of the Puerto Rico Civil Rights Commission. He will address the current colonial administration's attacks on the Bar Association, the imposition of the federal death penalty on a nation whose constitution prohibits the death penalty, and the overall attacks on human rights in the colony. **Erika Fontanez** is a Puerto Rican woman, a law professor, known for her defense of the environment, particularly representing poor communities where offensive "development" and noxious industry encroach. Recently active in supporting the University of Puerto Rico student strike, she will address the influence of the U.S. in Puerto Rican "development," environmental devastation, and higher education, as well as the efforts of privatization of basic services in Puerto Rico. **Luis Pedraza Leduc**, a long time labor leader and spokesperson for Coordinadora Sindical and for the Frente Amplio de Solidaridad y Lucha (FASYL) (Broad Front of Solidarity and Struggle), active in the recent campaigns to resist massive government layoffs and oppressive policies, will provide an overview of the colonial relationship, how the U.S. has exerted its military, judicial and political power over the colony, including the labor movement, and strategies by anti-colonial forces to affirm the right of self-determination for Puerto Rico. NLG/IC members were impressed with his presentation during the spring IC delegation to Puerto Rico.

### **Navigating the Perils of Monell & Prosecutorial Immunity**

Orleans Room

**Description:** This NPAP workshop is based on *Connick v. Thompson*, currently at the Supreme Court following the affirmance of a \$14 million verdict in NLG keynote speaker John Thompson's wrongful conviction suit against N.O. DA Harry Connick. Presenters will discuss the legal issues pertaining to Monell claims and prosecutorial immunity and the implications a Supreme Court decision may have for further civil rights claims.

**Presenters: Joey Mogul**, People's Law Office, Chicago IL; **Sam Paz**, Culver City CA

### **"We the Corporations?" Life & Law in the U.S.A. After Citizens United v. FEC**

Salon B

**Description:** On January 21, the Supreme Court issued its ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*. An avalanche of criticism followed. Hundreds of thousands signed motions calling for action to overrule the Court. Initiating this new movement is a broad coalition organized as the Campaign to Legalize Democracy and operating as *MovetoAmend.org*. This workshop will tackle the issues raised in *Citizens United* and describe the growing democracy movement it unleashed.

**Moderator: Ben Manski** is a Wisconsin attorney currently seeking election to the Wisconsin State Assembly. He is Exec Dir of the Liberty Tree Foundation for the Democratic Revolution. Ben received his J.D. from the University of Wisconsin in 2005. He teaches sociology at Madison College and is CVO of *PosiPair.com*. Manski is an Associate Fellow with the Institute for Policy Studies, a member of the executive committee of *MovetoAmend.org*, and active with the Madison NLG.

**Presenters: Leesa George Friday** is the National Coordinator for the Independent Progressive Politics Network, a Liberty Tree Fellow, and a member of the executive committee of *MovetoAmend.org*. Leesa grew up in a rural low-income community in North Carolina in the 60s. She holds degrees in Political Science, Economics, and African American Studies from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. **Matt Nelson** is the National Coordinator of the No More Stolen Elections! Campaign, field campaign director with *ColorofChange.org*, and a Liberty Tree Fellow. He is a co-founder of the Milwaukee Police Accountability Coalition and the Freedom Now! Collaborative in Milwaukee. He currently serves on the executive board of the S.F. Bay Area chapter of the NLG and on the steering committee of *MovetoAmend.org*. **Lisa Graves** became Exec Dir of the Center for Media and Democracy in 2009. Before, she

was Deputy Director of the Center for National Security Studies, focusing on surveillance issues and also previously served as the Senior Counsel for Legislative Strategy at the ACLU. She was an adjunct professor at George Washington University Law School. She serves on the executive of MovetoAmend.org.

**Hot Topic: Katrina Lessons Learned: Building Haiti Back More Justly**

Salon D

Description: Several Guild members—many of whom were pivotal in social justice efforts post-Katrina—are coordinating a legal response in Haiti through the Lawyers' Earthquake Response Network (LERN), a national network in the US working with Haitian lawyers. LERN employs a human rights-based approach to advocate for the victims of the earthquakes and reduce Haiti's vulnerability to future natural, political and economic stresses while developing replicable models for international legal response to large-scale natural disasters. This workshop will discuss the strategies used to date in both post-disaster contexts and brainstorm future efforts.

Moderator: **Blaine Bookey, Esq.**, Judicial Law Clerk for the Honorable Dolores Sloviter, Third Circuit Court of Appeals, is a former lawyer with the Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti (IJDH). While with IJDH, she coordinated the Lawyers' Earthquake Response Network and the LERN Gender Working Group. She is a graduate of UC Hastings School of Law where she directed the Hastings to Haiti Partnership. Prior to law school she worked with Haitian asylum seekers in the aftermath of the 2004 coup.

Presenters: **Mario Joseph, Av.**, Haiti's most respected Haitian human rights attorney, is Managing Attorney for the Bureau des Avocats Internationaux (BAI), a public interest law firm. He spearheaded the internationally regarded Raboteau massacre trial in 2000 in Haiti and has been working since Jan. 12 to enforce the rights of earthquake victims. Mario is also a member of the governing Bureau of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers. **Bill Quigley, Esq.**, Legal Director for the Center for Constitutional Rights, is on leave as the Janet Mary Riley Distinguished Professor of Law at Loyola University New Orleans School of Law. He is a respected activist lawyer and Katrina survivor who has worked to promote social justice in the relief and reconstruction efforts. Bill has traveled to Haiti over 20 times in the last two decades. Bill represented former political prisoner Fr. Gerard Jean-Juste, and has published extensively since January 12 on US foreign policy in Haiti as it relates to earthquake response and other subjects. **Jeanne Woods, Esq.**, is the Henry F. Bonura, Jr. Distinguished Professor of Law at Loyola University College of Law in New Orleans, Louisiana. A Haitian-American, she is a recognized expert in international law and human rights, in particular economic and social rights and poverty law. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, she worked to enforce the panoply of human rights of victims; including not only civil and political rights, but also the rights to food, water and shelter.

**Hot Topic: Legal Responses to Israel's Attack on the Gaza Freedom Flotilla**

River View Room

Description: Legal means to hold Israeli government and military officials accountable for crimes committed on May 31, 2010 and immediately thereafter in international waters, against Gaza Freedom Flotilla participants, including: willful killing, inhuman treatment, willfully causing great suffering or serious injury to body or health, unlawful deportation or transfer, unlawful confinement, taking of hostages; and extensive appropriation of property not justified by military necessity and carried out unlawfully and wantonly. Possible forums for relief will be discussed, including in the US, in other countries, and in international bodies, such as the International Criminal Court. Legal requirements will be considered for an action against U.S. government officials for having supplied Israel with armaments used in the unlawful attacks on the Free Gaza flotilla. Implications of the Supreme Court's decision in Holder v. Humanitarian Law Project for organizations and individuals planning similar actions and an update on future flotillas to break the siege of Gaza will be discussed.

Moderator: **Marjorie Cohn**, Immediate Past President, NLG; Professor Thomas Jefferson School of Law

Presenters: **Audrey Bomse**, Attorney for the Free Gaza Movement and co-chair of NLG Free Palestine Subcommittee, **Katherine Gallagher**, Staff Attorney, Center for Constitutional Rights, **Abdeen Jabara**, Civil rights attorney, past president and founding member of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)

10 - 11:30am MAJOR PANELS I

**Bursting the School to Prison Pipeline**

Queen Anne Ballroom

Description: This major panel will address the stream of youths pushed into the criminal justice system by public and charter school systems and formulate legal strategies to challenge these systems. It will define and explore the pipeline in small groups from the perspective of youth most impacted: including plaintiffs in a lawsuit against the City of New Orleans and the Orleans Parish School Board over conditions of confinement and lack of education at the Youth Study Center, members of two New Orleans based, youth led organizations (Young Adults Striving for Success and FYRE Youth Squad) and youth(s) from the Jena 6. After establishing a common understanding of the pipeline, attorneys from the Jena 6 defense team and from national advocacy organizations will lead a panel discussion geared toward formulating a legal approach to the issues articulated by youth-led discussions in the small groups.

Moderator: **Carol Kolinchak**, Legal Director at the Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana ([www.jjpl.org](http://www.jjpl.org)). Prior to joining JJPL, she

was the Deputy Director of the Capital Post-Conviction Project of Louisiana (CPCPL). She has been representing indigent defendants in Louisiana since she began practicing law in 1993. Before joining CPCPL, Carol represented indigent defendants at the trial level in both state and federal court, primarily in capital cases, including a number of juveniles facing either the death penalty or life without parole. Carol is a 1993 graduate of Northeastern University Law School in Boston.

**Presenters:** Since joining JJPL in June 2008, **John Williams** has worked to improve the conditions of confinement in juvenile facilities in Louisiana. Prior to becoming a Staff Attorney at JJPL, John was the Legal Director at the ACLU of Mississippi and also served as an Assistant Attorney General in Arkansas. John clerked for former Arkansas Supreme Court Justice the Honorable Ray Thornton. John received his law degree from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law. **Fyre Youth Squad** (FYS) is a group of self-determined youth ages 14-24 living in the greater New Orleans area who want to effect positive educational change and create a "world-class" learning environment in all New Orleans Public Schools. **Damon Todd Hewitt** recently re-joined LDF following a leave during which he served as Exec. Dir. of the New York Police-on-Police Shootings Task Force -- an entity created to address the implications arising from the deaths of two off-duty African-American police officers who were shot by fellow officers after being mistaken for criminal suspects. He is now the LDF's Director of the Education Practice and was formerly Director of the Katrina (Gulf Coast) Project. He is a graduate of Louisiana State University, where he was President of the campus N.A.A.C.P. chapter, and the University of Pennsylvania Law School. **Thena Robinson** is an attorney with the Southern Poverty Law Center in New Orleans. She spent her early career working to transform communities victimized by poverty, inequality, and social exclusion with a focus on civil rights and education litigation. She frequently represents Louisiana youth in juvenile court proceedings and in school disciplinary matters. Robinson is a graduate of Hampton University in Virginia and Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. **YASS (Young Adults Striving for Success)** is a youth group formed in 2008. That fall, a group of youth who had been working with JJPL for several months -- some of whom first came into contact with the organization when they were detained at the Youth Study Center and became plaintiffs in a lawsuit against the City over unconstitutional conditions of confinement -- came together with JJPL staff to launch a youth-led program that they christened Young Adults Striving for Success. They meet weekly to develop strategies to advance themselves and their communities, and to provide a peer group of support. **Jena 6:** A group of white students hung three nooses from a tree in front of Jena High School. This set into motion a season of racial tension and incidents that culminated in six Black youths facing a lifetime in jail for a schoolyard fight. The story that has unfolded since then is one of racism and injustice, but also of resistance and solidarity, as people from around the world have joined together with the families of the accused, lending legal and financial support, adding political pressure, and joining demonstrations and marches.

## **Defending the Right to Organize**

River View Room

**Description:** *Lawyers and Grassroots Labor Organizers Discuss Victories and Lessons from the Response to Hurricane Katrina.* As the progressive movement evaluates its response to Hurricane Katrina over the last five years, this panel offers a response to key questions: What are the victories and lessons after five years? What role did lawyers play supporting communities and workers in building the power to control their lives, the reconstruction and the city? Four pairs of labor organizers and attorneys will discuss specific legal definitions, tools, and strategies that grassroots leaders used to build organizing power, and leadership and to defend against attacks on civil and labor rights. Each pair of lawyer/organizers ultimately redefined substantive areas of civil and labor rights and explored cutting edge law and organizing strategies as follows:

- Using the right to minimum wage to defend the right to organize for transnational workers.
- Protecting and defending grassroots labor leaders and their communities under attack from the government- law and organizing in detention and removal defense settings.
- Redefining Labor Trafficking from the grassroots: the Thirteenth Amendment and the Right to Organize
- Building on history—the role of organized labor in defending the right to organize for communities of color in New Orleans.

**Moderator:** **Bill Quigley** is human rights lawyer who has been working with organizations for over 30 years on issues like the right to return after Katrina, public housing, voting rights, living wages, police accountability, economic justice, human rights, Haiti, death penalty, unions, and challenges to the exaggerated reliance of the US on its military. He is the Legal Director of the Center for Constitutional Rights and a law professor at Loyola University New Orleans. Bill has lived in New Orleans since 1971.

**Presenters:** **Saket Soni** is the Executive Director of the New Orleans Workers' Center for Racial Justice. The Center organizes across colorlines to advance racial equity and economic justice. Saket has testified in Congress on critical workers' rights issues. Professor **James Gray Pope** received an A.B. and J.D. from Harvard, and a Ph.D. in politics from Princeton. Professor Pope is a member of the NLG and serves on the Executive Council of the Rutgers AAUP/AFT (AFL-CIO). His articles about workers' rights, constitutional law, and labor history have appeared in many publications including the Columbia Law Review, Law & History Review, the Michigan Law Review, the University of Pennsylvania Law Review, the Yale Law Journal, and Labor History. **Daniel Castellanos** is a founding member of the Alliance of Guestworkers for Dignity, a membership organization of guestworkers who came together to fight severe labor exploitation after Hurricane Katrina. Daniel was among the first guestworkers brought to New Orleans after Katrina. Daniel has

testified in Congress on the impacts of the U.S. guestworker program, and has been at the center of key organizing, policy, and legal battles for guestworkers in the last 4 years. **Jennifer J. Rosenbaum** is the Legal Director for the New Orleans Workers' Center for Racial Justice (NOWCRJ), which has worked with grassroots labor and community leaders to expose rampant labor trafficking and involuntary servitude within the guestworker program, to defend against retaliation, criminalization, and immigration enforcement actions on day labor corners, and to stand against corruption and discriminatory policies that block access to housing, fairness and safety in evacuations, and the right to return. **Jacinta Gonzalez** is the lead organizer with the Congress of Day Laborers, a project of the New Orleans Workers' Center for Racial Justice that defends its members from violations of their civil and constitutional rights and from the wage theft and retaliation rampant in the five years after Katrina. Jacinta is an expert on immigration enforcement and police/ICE collaboration as experienced by day laborers on the corners, in their communities, and in the jails and immigration detention centers across the Southeast region. **Dan Kesselbrenner** has directed the National Immigration Project of the NLG since 1986 and is a nationally recognized expert on the immigration consequences of criminal convictions and on contesting deportability in immigration proceedings. Dan is co-author of *Immigration Law and Crimes*, which was cited in the 2010 Supreme Court decision, *Padilla v. Kentucky*, and has also authored numerous articles on immigration law. Dan serves as mentor to many attorneys and is a clinical visiting lecturer at Yale Law School. **Matthew Ginsburg** is Associate General Counsel at the AFL-CIO. Prior to joining the AFL-CIO, he was a staff attorney at the Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, where his work focused on the employment rights of immigrant workers and where he interacted frequently with area worker centers. Matt was a union organizer for several years prior to becoming a lawyer. Always a supporter of the underdog, he is a lifelong fan of the Baltimore Orioles. **Theodore "Ted" Quant** is a long time southern civil rights and labor organizer. In the late 70s and early 80s he organized the Texas Farmworkers March to Washington and was president of the National Equal Rights Congress. Starting in 1984 Quant joined the staff of Loyola University first as Director of Loyola University's Urban Partner Program in the Institute of Human Relations, and now as the Director of Loyola's Twomey Center for Peace Through Justice.

10 - 11:45am	NLG Staffed Chapter Meeting	Queen Anne Parlor
12 - 1:30pm	The Friday Guild Luncheon with Mary Howell (separate ticket required)	La Nouvelle Orleans E & W
12 - 1:15pm	Committee for Democratic Communications	Queen Anne Parlor
1:30 - 2:45pm	WORKSHOPS II	

### **Creative Strategies for Protecting Immigrant Workers**

River View Room

**Description:** Across the country, immigrant workers with and without work authorization are subjected to adverse working conditions at alarming rates. Workers face wage and hour violations, unsafe working conditions and are the targets of increased immigration enforcement efforts. The workshop will focus on creative community organizing and legal responses to protect and expand the rights of documented and undocumented workers. Panelists will discuss how, by utilizing the "T" and "U" visas, affirmative civil litigation and organizing can be used in the Gulf Coast, around the U.S., and with workers returned to Mexico.

**Presenters:** **Victoria Gavito**, Centro de los Derechos del Migrante, Zacatecas, México; **Sonia Parras Konrad**, ASISTA Immigration Assistance, Des Moines, Iowa; **Ramon Ramirez (invited)**, Northwest Treeplanters and Farmworkers United / Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste, Woodburn, Oregon; **JJ Rosenbaum**, New Orleans Workers' Center for Racial Justice

### **Challenging Sexual Harassment in the Military**

Salon B

**Description:** Sexual assault and sexual harassment have reached epidemic proportions in the military. Servicewomen are victimized not only by their assaulters, but also by an ineffective complaint system and retaliation in the form of further harassment, unwarranted disciplinary action, forced psychiatric evaluations, and often involuntary and stigmatizing discharges. Many servicewomen and veterans suffer from military sexual trauma, which is ignored in the military medical setting and given insufficient attention in the VA system. The workshop will consider the effects of assault and military sexual trauma on its victims, and the relation of military violence against women to an interventionist military mission. It will provide an overview of military law and regulations for attorneys, law students and legal workers who wish to serve as legal advocates for victims of assault, and propose political action to alleviate the problem.

**Speakers:** **Rachel Natelson** is a staff attorney at the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, and serves on the board of the Service Women's Action Network (SWAN). A member of the MLTF, she formerly developed and presided over the Veterans and Service members Project at the Urban Justice Center in New York City. **Jim Klimaski**, a long-time MLTF member, is an attorney in private practice in Washington, DC. He has represented a number of servicewomen in administrative complaints and litigation arising from sexual assaults, sexual harassment, and from military retaliation against complainants.

### **Housing is a Human Right**

Salon C

**Description:** How to Use the International Human Rights Framework and Rights-based Strategies to Advocate for Housing Rights and

*Other Economic and Social Rights; and how communities from New Orleans to Puerto Rico are developing sustainable strategies to implement housing rights. Although the US has long recognized the human right to housing in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other declarations and covenants, housing here is viewed primarily as a commodity, with no legal entitlement to any housing assistance or even basic shelter. We will discuss the use of the international human rights framework to litigate and advocate for housing as a human right. The Community Land Trust model of the 23,000+ members of the 7 squatter communities in central San Juan, PR is being targeted for privatization and the Survivors Village of New Orleans is fighting a similar battle to keep their homes.*

**Moderator:** *Susan Scott, International Committee Co-Chair and attorney for affordable housing community land trusts in northern California. She has prepared a Toolkit for local human rights activists to use to call for ratification of the ICESCR, approved by the NLG at the Seattle 2009 Convention, and she has co-authored a report for the NLG for the up-coming UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review on the US failure to ratify human rights treaties.*

**Presenters:** *Wilhelm Joseph is the Executive Director of the Maryland Legal Aid Bureau, known for its groundbreaking use of the international Human Rights Framework for its economic and social work. He addressed the NEC last year helped and inspire the "Visioning" concept (Friday Plenary). Endesha Juakali is an activist and community organizer in New Orleans, a resident of St Bernard Public Housing Development, and the "point person" for the New Orleans Survivors' Village -- the organization that is fighting for the rights of public housing tenants ousted after Katrina. Adesha is a co-founder of Survivors Village and is working with the new US Human Rights Network's "Take Back the Land" campaign, using the Human Rights Framework to advocate for housing rights. Maria Hernandez Torrales is a law professor and activist attorney who brought the concept of Community Land Trusts (CLTs) to Puerto Rico, providing a legal framework for collective land ownership of the 23,000+ squatters living in central San Juan known as the Fideicomiso Cano Martin Pena. After years of organizing, including over 700 community meetings and formation of a collective legal structure, the CLT Fideicomiso Cano Martin Pena was approved in 2009 by the Puerto Rican legislature. The Fideicomiso has recently been taken over by Puerto Rico's new right-wing government and NLG members are seeking to rescue it in federal court.*

#### **Criminalization of Protest & Social Movements: Brazil & the US**

Salon D

**Description:** *This workshop will explore the increasing criminalization of protest and the social movements in both Brazil and the US. In particular, the panelists will discuss how existing laws that were enacted for other purposes are being applied to curtail protest and the activities of social movements. In Brazil, laws still on the books from the military dictatorship are being used to prosecute members of the Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra (MST – Brazilian Landless Workers Movement) by, for example, making it illegal to belong to the MST. In Chicago, the police use a minor provision of the disorderly conduct ordinance to stem not only protest in public spaces, but also to prohibit leafleting and organizing in public. The federal district court for the Northern District of Illinois held this ordinance unconstitutional and it is now before the 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit.*

**Moderator:** *Jeff Frank is a graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School (1980) and New York University School of Law (1981). Jeff is a founding member and still 'of counsel' to the Chicago law firm Patzik, Frank & Samotny, Ltd. Jeff is part of the legal team pursuing several cases in federal court against the City of Chicago and the Chicago Police Department resulting from arrests pursuant to the Chicago Disorderly Conduct ordinance. Jeff currently serves on the board of the NLG Chicago chapter and is also national coordinator of the Friends of the MST.*

**Presenters:** *Giane Alvares studied law at Universidade Presbiteriana Mackenzie (Mackenzie Presbyterian University), São Paulo, from 1998 to 2003 and attended graduate school in Human Rights at the School of the Attorney General of the State of São Paulo in 2009 and 2010. Giane has worked since 1995 with social movements linked to the agrarian question in Brazil, especially the Landless Workers Movement (MST). Giane worked as a lawyer and activist for human rights directly with the MST and the Network for Social Justice and Human Rights. Currently she is part of a law firm that advises the social movements in Brazil as well as entities working in human rights, especially with respect to various criminal cases filed against members of the movements as well as civil cases filed against the occupation of land. The firm is headquartered in São Paulo.*

#### **Breaking Down the Walls: De-institutionalizing Treatment of People with Mental and Physical Disabilities, through Litigation and Legislation**

Salon A

**Description:** *U.S. litigators and activists are winning strategic victories to have treatment of persons with disabilities take place in the most integrated community setting possible. Recent federal court opinions have begun to challenge the institutionalization of persons with psychiatric, developmental, and physical disabilities, in nursing homes, adult care facilities, and long-term psychiatric hospitals. Legislation has created new avenues for paying for treatment in the community at reasonable rates, instead of forcing people with disabilities and with medical conditions to accept nursing home care as their only option, using instead the principle that "money follows the person" enabled by the Community Development Act. This workshop will introduce these concepts and survey the developing case law and legislation, and offer attendees a chance to become involved in addressing this key cross-disability issue.*

Moderator: Aaron Frishberg, Esq

## Student Workshop

Orleans Room

3 – 5pm

### **PLENARY #1: What Happened to the Working Class Consciousness: Reminding Us of the Relevance of Labor Unions in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

Queen Anne Ballroom

Description: *There is so much propaganda about how unions once served a purpose but really are no longer necessary. A recent survey conducted by Pew Research Center documents that the once favorable opinion of labor unions has declined across most demographic groups. Notwithstanding populist opinions, the Guild has historically been on the front lines with labor's struggles. Support for rank and file workers and their labor organization has been important to of the work of the NLG over the past 75 years. But when unemployment hits 10+%, the need for labor unions and their overall relevance to the economic recovery are, at a minimum, misunderstood. The way workers take control of their work is through their union. Can unions play a part in bringing back the middle class? Do unions have a role in bridging the classes, whether they are segregated by color, work, or gender? Do labor unions make a difference? This plenary will answer these questions in light of the current economy and the struggles under the Obama Administration to bring back the working/middle class through workplace organizing.*

Moderator: **Joan Hill**, Attorney and Education Representative with the United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union, or United Steelworkers. She holds a BS in Business Administration, a MS Industrial and Labor Relations and JD, all from West Virginia University. Joan regularly teaches legal subjects for the United Steelworkers across the region, and develops curriculum for the USW leadership program.

Presenters: **Stewart Acuff** is co-author of a new book "Getting America Back to Work" which lays out how the upper class accumulated power and brought the economy to its knees and pushed the middle class to the edge of poverty, and offers common sense solutions to turn things around through organizing and mobilizing workers. Acuff is the former Organizing Director for the AFL-CIO and now Chief of Staff for the Utility Workers Union. **Elise Bryant**, Staff, National Labor College, Silver Spring, Maryland. Prior to coming the National Labor College, Elise was the program associate for Union Minorities/Women Leadership Training Program at the University of Michigan's Labor Studies Center. **Jaribu Hill**, Director, Mississippi Workers' Center for Human Rights(MWCHR), Greenville, Mississippi. The MWCHR is a worker advocacy organization that sees as its mission, providing organizing support, legal representation and training for low-wage, non-union workers in the state of Mississippi. **Rebecca Gienapp**, Workers Interfaith Network (WIN), Memphis, Tennessee. WIN is a coalition of faith and labor communities who seek justice in the workplace and who address the root causes of poverty that force many hard-working people to seek charitable assistance even while they work full-time jobs. By organizing people of faith, low-wage workers, and workers' allies, WIN is able establish living wages and fair working conditions for low-wage workers in the greater Memphis area.

5:15 - 6:30pm Solidarity Protest with Restaurant Opportunities Center(ROC)

Offsite: 240 Bourbon Street

Description: *Restaurant Opportunities Center is on the ground organizing restaurant workers in New Orleans. ROC & the NLG L&EC have organized a special demonstration to keep the pressure on Tony Moran's Bourbon Street restaurant. ROC wants the owners to do the right thing: pay the workers what they are due and improve their working conditions. Please turn out and stand up for dignity and help the NLG show support for these restaurant workers and all workers throughout NOLA who are tired of working under exploitative conditions.*

5:15 - 6:30pm Queer Caucus

Salon A

5:15 - 6:30pm Student Caucus

Salon B

5:15 - 6:30pm Legal Worker Caucus

Salon C

5:15 - 6:30pm Next Generation Caucus

Salon D

5:30 – 7pm International Committee Reception

River View

Description: *Welcome the Guild's international guests, from Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Japan, Canada, and a number of other countries. Please join us for a reception with food and music, celebrating international solidarity and supporting lawyers and human rights defenders under attack worldwide.* Moderator: Azadeh Ashashahani

6:30 - 8:30pm Jam Session

La Nouvelle Orleans East

Description: *This will be an open time period for NLG members who are musicians to get together for a jam session.*

6:45 - 8pm Environmental Human Rights Organizational Meeting

Salon B

Description: *Meeting to identify and organize those in the NLG interested in working on climate change and environmental*



human rights issues. The Guild has yet to act as a national organization on climate change or environmental human rights. This meeting is for those interested in developing a Guild program to work on EHR Issues, including but not limited to climate change, corporate colonialism (particularly big oil and mining), global water privatization, global air privatization (i.e., cap and trade), the right to food (i.e., patenting of food), the rights of nature, and other EHR issues.

**Moderator:** **Andrew B. Reid** has been active in the Guild and grass roots environmental struggle since the 1970s and teaches Environmental Ethics and Justice at a Colorado law school. He recently returned from the World Peoples Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth held in Tiquipaya by the Bolivarian government of Bolivia. **Presenter:** **Joel Kupferman** is co-chair of the Environmental Justice Committee and a New York attorney organizing grassroots struggles for environmental justice.

6:45 - 8pm	Drug Policy Committee Meeting	Salon A
6:45 - 8pm	New Orleans Law Co-op	Queen Anne Parlor
6:45 - 8pm	Anti-Sexism Committee Meeting	Salon D
7 - 8pm	Torture Working Group: Accountability for Human Rights Abuses in the War on Terrorism: The Next Generation of Litigation and Advocacy	Salon C

**Description:** Advocates' efforts to establish accountability for human rights abuses committed in the "War on Terrorism" continue to be stymied in the courts, while recent revelations about Obama administration policy make clear the need to erect legal barriers to prevent the recurrence of renditions, covert detention and use of torture and ill-treatment. How should advocates respond to the current climate? We will consider various state and local efforts to hold U.S. officials accountable and the impact of professional disciplinary complaints against known perpetrators of abuse. We will consider long-term strategies, such as pursuing commissions of inquiry into past abuses, and litigation strategies aimed at forestalling future abuses.

9:00 PM - On Student Sponsored Party Offsite: 2240 Saint Claude Ave.  
**Description:** Come hear three incredible musical acts: Young Fellaz Brass Band, Rusty Lazer and Big Freedia

## Saturday, September 25, 2010

<u>Event Time</u>	<u>Event Name</u>	<u>Room</u>
7:30 - 8:30am	Yoga	Cathedral Room
	<b>Description:</b> Available with a donation to benefit the NLG-SF Bay Area chapter. Please bring your own mat.	
8 - 9am	NLG Review Annual Editorial Board Meeting	Orleans
8 - 9am	NLG Foundation Board Meeting	Queen Anne Parlor
8:30am - 5pm	National Lawyers Guild Convention Registration	Queen Anne Mezzanine
8:30am - 5pm	National Lawyers Guild Vendors/Display Tables	Bonnet Carre Room
9am - 12pm	The United People Of Color Caucus Anti-Racism Training	Salons A&B
	Anti-Racism Workshop	Salons C&D

### **Racial Justice & Equity: Making the Connections**

**Description:** We will examine and explore interpersonal and structural racism and the systemic inequality that comes with it. At this session, and through this work, we will continue to work toward overcoming interpersonal and structural racism in the NLG, focusing our sights on prioritizing and advancing our work toward true liberation and justice inside the NLG and in our work as radical legal activists. We are happy to have two experienced facilitators from Dismantling Racism Works ("dRworks") return to continue our multi-year process of working through the effects of racism on the Guild. dRworks is a collaborative of trainers and organizers who have been facilitating Dismantling Racism work for many years. Using a model developed in the early 1990s by Kenneth Jones and Tema Okun, what was once a 3-day workshop has developed into the multi-year Dismantling Racism process dRworks facilitates today. Under the leadership of all those at dRworks and with the help of hundreds of people who have participated in the DR process and are working hard to build anti-racist organizations in communities across the U.S., dRworks continues to develop and strengthen the grounding model that we offer to leaders and organizations who come to dRworks for help and support.

**Moderators:** **Michael Flynn** – ARC Co-Chair since 2007 and **Garrett Wright** – ARC Co-Chair since 2009

**Presenters:** **Bree Carlson** is a lead trainer with more than 10 years of organizing experience in community, labor, and electoral projects. Working extensively throughout the U.S. and abroad, Bree has provided training and facilitation to groups ranging from grassroots community organizations and statewide coalitions to regional intermediaries and national organizations. Bree has assisted in the creation and implementation of the Dismantling Racism curriculum and has trained hundreds of organizations in the DR process, board development, strategic planning, and fundraising. **Suzanne Plihcik** is a community organizer and facilitator for

dRworks and The Racial Equity Institute, organizations working to strengthen community and institutional relationships through an increased understanding of systemic racism. She and her partners conduct anti-racism workshops and teach the skills of anti-racist community organizing. She is past director of Project Greensboro, a community building organization working with Greensboro neighborhoods and the agencies that serve them.

12 - 1pm	NLG Management Meeting	French Market Room
12 - 1pm	Anti-Racism Committee Meeting	Salons C & D
12 - 1pm	Union Meeting	Queen Anne Parlor
12 - 1pm	Free Palestine Subcommittee: What is the role and/or importance of Academic and Cultural Boycotts in the BDS Movement?	Cabildo Salon

**Description:** Learn, ask questions, strategize about two new and expanding campaigns. 1-Academic and Cultural Boycott: Led by **Nada Elia**, a national organizer for and member of the Organizing Committee of the US Campaign for Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel, and the campaign's preeminent proponent in the U.S. and Canada. She will explain the boycott, its principles, limits, rationale and purposes, as well as its successes, attempts to discredit it, and its continuing viability. Ms. Elia is a Palestinian, born in Iraq, raised in Beirut, and is a Professor of Gender and Global Studies at Antioch University, a long time activist with INCITE, Women of Color against Violence, and a former representative to the U.N. of the Arab Women's Solidarity Association. 2-Challenges to Non-profit Status of US Groups funding Illegal Settlements: **Uri Strauss** is chair of the NLG Free Palestine Subcommittee's Tax Exempt Challenges Working Group, which makes administrative challenges to the tax-exempt status of U.S. Charities that support West Bank settlements that do not meet IRS exemption criteria. He will discuss the charities' promotions of racism and reliance on fraud and deception, and the group's research results and grass roots activism to effect US funding of these settlements.

**Moderator:** **Azadeh Shahshahani** is the Southern Regional VP and International Committee Co-Chair of the NLG. She has been the recipient of a research fellowship with a women's rights organization in Iran, has trained attorneys to represent Muslim and Middle Eastern clients, and is currently the Director of the National Security/Immigrants' Rights Project at ACLU, Georgia.

12 - 1pm	Indigenous Peoples Meeting	River View Room
----------	----------------------------	-----------------

**Description:** Meeting to organize committee on Native American and Indigenous Peoples' human rights issues. The NLG has yet to act as a national organization on human rights issues common to Native Americans and indigenous peoples elsewhere in the world, including the fight against colonial occupation, exploitation of indigenous resources, and genocide. This meeting is to gather those interested in developing a Guild committee or subcommittee, program, and work on these issues.

1 - 3pm	<b>PLENARY #2: National Elections Resolutions &amp; Amendments</b>	Queen Anne Ballroom
3:15 - 4:45pm	<b>WORKSHOPS III</b>	

### Local Enforcement of Immigration Laws

Salon C

**Description:** This workshop will address the impact that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) programs like 287(g), Secure Communities, and the "Criminal Alien" Program (CAP) are having on immigrant communities. It will include an overview from advocates on the national level as well as provide examples of successful local responses to these programs. It will provide a mechanism for NLG members to plug in and to support these organizing and legal efforts on all levels.

**Moderator:** **Paromita Shah**, National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild.

**Presenters:** **Sarahi Uribe**, National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON), Washington, D.C.; **Marcela Diaz**, Somos Un Pueblo Unido, Santa Fe, New Mexico; **Azadeh Shahshahani**, National Security/Immigrants' Rights Project Director, Atlanta, GA.

### Legal & Strategic Tools to Defend & Advance the BDS Movement

Salon B

**Description:** A hands-on presentation of the legal and strategic concerns pertinent to the exploding growth of the US BDS movement. The NLG's FPSC has prepared memos, been invited by grass roots groups to advise in BDS campaigns and has represented some campaigns. We will discuss the scope of legal problems presented by campaigns, and on problem solving concerns brought to the workshop. Leading BDS organizers familiar with national campaigns will suggest where assistance is needed and will discuss the future growth of BDS. Campaigns calling for BDS from public and private entities, co-op boycotts, and Academic and Cultural Boycotts will be constructively reviewed. Issues include the Export Administration Act, Department of Commerce regulations, and the legal principles of fiduciary duty. Also, with BDS campaigns targeting public entities, such as states, municipalities, public pension funds, public universities, it is imperative to review the possible limitations on these campaigns of the federal and constitutional provisions enunciated in the Supremacy Clause, the Foreign Commerce Clause and the Foreign Affairs Power.

**Moderator:** **Barbara Harvey**, Co-lead attorney for the FPSC task force on legal strategies for BDS, co-author of the NLG BDS memo "Impact of Federal Anti-Boycott and other laws on BDS," conceived and active in implementing JVP's TIAA-CREF campaign,

member of two human rights delegations to Palestine (1986 and 2008), a founding member of JVP-Detroit chapter and Michigan Coalition for Justice in Palestine. Barbara is a labor attorney and general counsel to Teamsters for a Democratic Union.

**Presenters:** ***Nada Elia** is a member of the Coordinating Committee of the US Campaign for Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel and is the Campaign's preeminent proponent in the U.S. and Canada. Ms Elia is a Palestinian, currently a professor of Gender and Global Studies at Antioch University, Seattle, a long time activist with INCITE, Women of Color against Violence, and a former representative to the United Nations of the Arab Women's Solidarity Association. **Noura Erakat** is a Palestinian American human rights attorney who has lived and worked in Palestine, is an adjunct professor of international and human rights law at Georgetown University, a former organizer with the U.S. Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation, an organizer of the panels at the US Social Forum on the Palestinian struggle, as well as a presenter, and has written extensively on BDS. Ms. Erakat was a participant in the NLG's 2009 delegation to Gaza investigating Israeli War Crimes. **Matt Ross** is the co-lead attorney for the FPSC task force on legal strategies for BDS, co-author of the NLG BDS memo "Impact of Federal Anti-Boycott and other laws on BDS," counsel to the Davis Coop Boycott struggle, advised Berkeley students on their divestment resolution, and an activist on behalf of Palestinians. In private practice, Matt is a labor attorney with a leading Oakland labor law firm and is counsel for UNITE HERE in the Bay Area.*

### **Doubly Disenfranchised: Women of Color & the Criminal (In)justice System**

Salon A

**Description:** *A Discussion of the Gendered Dimensions of the Prison Industrial Complex in New Orleans and Beyond. This panel builds on the Guild's past work on prison issues, and seeks to foreground the voices and perspectives of women who advocate on behalf of, or have experienced, the devastating effects of imprisonment, including county jail and juvenile detention. By emphasizing the voices of women, the panel does not purport to merely speak for its given constituency, but rather to re-focus our energies on the prison system from multiple lenses, and re-commit to defending the civil and human rights of some of the most disenfranchised segments of our society. Panelists will engage with the audience around issues including the hypocrisy of criminalization of sex work in New Orleans, the farce of immigrant and "family" detention, the dangers of "gender-responsive" prison programming and connections surfaced by the "school-to-prison" pipeline. These issues span the myriad communities that women are located in, as immigrants, women of color, youth, transwomen, etc. The purpose of such an approach is to examine the ways that the prison industrial complex extends beyond prisons themselves and onto our streets, into our schools, and at the border.*

**Moderator:** ***Aliya Karmali**, NLG Anti-Sexism Committee Co-Chair, NLGSF board member, Justice Now – Human Rights Documentation Program Staff Person.*

**Presenters:** ***Shana Griffin**, proposed Interim ED of NOLA Health and Justice Center; **Deon Haywood**, ED of Women with a Vision, NOLA; **Grainne O'Neil**, Public Defender, Orleans Parish.*

### **Social Movement & the Right to Communicate: A Human Rights Issue**

Salon D

**Description:** *Panelists intimately involved with popular struggles for electronic communication rights will address the global popular movement for communication rights; current issues in electronic privacy, including "cyber security" as a government attempt to control the Internet; and current issues in the law of electronic communications that impact social movements, immigrants, disadvantaged communities and progressive policymakers.*

**Moderator:** ***Mike Lee**'s Philadelphia boutique law firm is dedicated to reducing the number of underrepresented cultures in government by helping communities organize themselves.*

**Presenters:** ***Dr. Dorothy Kidd** is a professor of media studies at the University of San Francisco, and a former alternative radio producer; **Sasha Costanza-Chock**, a scholar and media maker, works on the political economy of communication and the transnational movement for media justice and communication rights; **Lillie Coney** is associate director of the Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC), and coordinator of the EPIC-led Privacy Coalition, which is committed to individual freedom and privacy rights, especially with regard to U.S. government efforts to monitor Internet use.*

### **Volunteer Spirit in the Face of Disaster: Lessons Learned by Legal Responders**

Orleans Room

**Description:** *In the aftermath of Katrina, the Student Hurricane Network (SHN) organized 5,500 law students to work throughout the Gulf Coast region. Students performed a wide range of legal services such as interviewing incarcerated individuals who'd been waiting months to talk with a lawyer; surveying the legal needs of displaced residents living in FEMA trailer parks; organizing immigrant day laborers and bolstering other partners as they continued the struggle for social justice. Speakers will address: building and sustaining a national volunteer network for public interest advocates in a disaster area; utilizing volunteers to build local organizations' capacity; educating volunteers about local culture and issues so work is performed in a spirit of solidarity; continuing to meet long-term needs after the initial emergency and supporting volunteer infrastructure once short-term needs have been met; and supporting volunteers as they deal with personal responses to their volunteer work and encouraging them to share their stories. Our legal community can help ensure those affected by future disasters are able to rebuild just, equitable and sustainable communities. Our panel will share SHN's experiences so that, if another disaster strikes, these lessons can increase the success of legal volunteer efforts.*

**Moderator:** ***Annette Hollowell** was a national advisory board member of the SHN during the 2007-2008 academic year. She is now a*

staff attorney at the Mississippi Center for Justice, where her work focuses on elder housing issues and asset building, community and economic development and grassroots community advocacy.

**Presenters:** **David Finger** joined the Loyola Law School Clinic in 2006 to work with the Katrina Clinic. She has collaborated with community organizations on disaster-related cases and policy matters to improve government accountability in rebuilding and on distribution of disaster funds. Prof. Finger now teaches the Community Justice Clinic and the Law & Poverty course. **John Jopling** is a founding staff member of the Mississippi Center for Justice's Katrina Recovery office, which opened its doors in October 2005 to provide legal advocacy to tens of thousands of residents whose homes were damaged or destroyed by Katrina. In 2006, he received the President's Award from the Mississippi Bar young Lawyers Division for his legal work on behalf renters in the immediate aftermath of Katrina. Mr. Jopling is now the managing attorney of the Biloxi office of the Mississippi Center for Justice.

### **Thinking Outside the Box 47 Years After Dombrowski: Creative Legal Strategy**

River Room

**Description:** In October of 1963, N.O. prosecutor Garrison had SCEF leader James Dombrowski and NLG members Ben Smith and Bruce Walters arrested for subversive activities--giving aid and comfort to the Civil Rights Movement (and for not registering with the Subversive Activities Control Board as members of that Communist organization, the NLG). In *Dombrowski v. Pfeister*, the SC held that the prosecution could be enjoined by a federal court because it implicated First Amendment issues. In doing so, Kinoy convinced the Court to do something completely contrary to long held beliefs about the limitation of federal courts to interfere in state criminal prosecutions--he literally turned the law on its head. Garrison later said that his biggest mistake had been doing the arrests while the NLG was meeting in New Orleans. Kinoy's response to Dombrowski being overturned by *Younger v. Harris* was that the purpose of Dombrowski had been to give organizations time and space to advocate and win victories for civil rights and progressive change in the South and that has been successful. Not only was Arthur right; but also that is a large part of the essence of what we do as NLG lawyers in working with movements for progressive change. This workshop explores how to take the lessons of Dombrowki today by summarizing the lessons from that case and applying them to the present to spur us all to think creatively about how our legal work can support movements for progressive change.

**Moderator:** **John Brittain** is a professor of law at the University of the District of Columbia. Prior to his return to teaching, Professor Brittain was the Chief Counsel and Senior Deputy Director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. A former law school dean and public interest civil rights lawyer with a career spanning 40 years (one of the original counsel in *Sheff v. O'Neill*, a landmark desegregation case decided by the Connecticut Supreme Court). He is a founder of the National Conference of Black Lawyers and a past president of the NLG.

**Presenters:** **Jeanne Mirer** has been a civil rights lawyer in Detroit and New York, where she is currently a partner in Eisner & Mirer. She was at the forefront of affirmative action litigation in the 1970's and 1980's. She is the current president of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, a co-chair of the NLG International Committee and one of the persons who conceptualized anti-racist work in the NLG. **Pardiss Kebriaei** joined the Guantánamo Global Justice Initiative at the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) in July 2007. She has provided direct representation to several of CCR's clients at Guantánamo and helps coordinate CCR's network of hundreds of pro bono counsel representing other prisoners. Pardiss moved to CCR after five years at the Center for Reproductive Rights. **Judith Berkan** is an attorney in San Juan, Puerto Rico who concentrates in police misconduct litigation and in using international law to assist the liberation movement in Puerto Rico. She is a member of the NLG's National Police Accountability Project and has been at the forefront of the NLG's Puerto Rico work.

5 - 6:15pm      WORKSHOPS IV

### **Ending Immigration Detention**

Salon C

**Description:** The Washington Post broke a story in late March 2010 that came as no surprise to immigrant communities and advocates – that the government, despite assurances to the contrary, has “deportation quotas” for its agents and one method to hit the magic number is to lock up more immigrants. The government's immigration detention policies have posed a significant challenge to immigrant communities, detainees and their family members, legal representatives and community advocates. The number of individuals in immigration detention has radically increased over the past 15 years, as the government has continued to focus on detention as the principal means for enforcing its deportation policies. This workshop will address advocacy strategies to respond to Immigrant and Custom Enforcement's (ICE) proposed overhaul of the detention system and creative community organizing responses for challenging the expansion of detention and deportation. It will include a discussion of alternatives to detention.

**Moderator:** **Paromita Shah**, Associate Director, National Immigration Project of the NLG.

**Presenters:** **Silky Shah**, Outreach Coordinator, Detention Watch Network, **Hiroko Kusuda**, Asst. Professor of Immigration Law at Loyola New Orleans Law Clinic & Center for Social Justice, **Tanaz Moghadam**, Skadden Fellow, ACLU Immigrants' Rights Project.

## **Labor Crisis in Mexico and a Progressive Legal Response**

Salon B

**Description:** *Since last October, the reactionary administration of President Felipe Calderón has escalated its attack on Mexico's independent labor movement. The discharge of some 44,000 electrical workers, the attack on los Mineros and its militant local in Cananea, and "reform" of the federal labor law are among the best-publicized examples. Members of the NLG and Canadian Association of Labor Lawyers are working closely with Mexican labor lawyers and unions who are fighting back. This workshop includes some of the key players from Mexico, the U.S. and Canada who will describe the situation on the ground, legal responses and the new model of solidarity that is emerging.*

**Moderator:** *Robin Alexander, Director of International Affairs, United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE).*

**Presenters:** *Benedicto Martínez Orozco, Co-President, Frente Auténtico del Trabajo (FAT); Patricia Juan Pineda, Legal Counsel, Frente Auténtico del Trabajo (FAT); Jeanne Mirer, President, IADL; President of Board ICLR; co-chair NLG International Committee; Dean Hubbard, Senior Counsel-Strategic Resources, Transport Workers Union*

## **Moving to the Offensive: Making Drug Policy Change Without Waiting for Legislators**

Salon A

**Description:** *Today's lawyers are following in the footsteps of civil-rights-era Guild members by creating social change from the ground up, so that legislators have no choice but to catch up. Each of these presenters has created positive change without waiting for bills to pass. Retired U.S. Marshal and former DEA task force supervisor Matthew Fogg was awarded \$4 million by the jury when he sued his employer for operating a racially hostile environment for all African American deputy U.S. marshals. Sanho Tree will discuss recent decisions decriminalizing drugs in three Latin American countries and then compare forced eradication in Colombia with regulation in Bolivia. The medical cannabis debate has moved from "whether" to "how." Lauren Vazquez, who is working to implement dispensary regulations, will discuss the state-by-state improvement in cannabis laws including this November's vote to legalize marijuana in California. Racial profiling is undeniable in enforcement of drug laws, and it needs to be addressed now while the drug laws change gradually. Proposed reforms developed by Shahid Buttar and the Bill of Rights Defense Committee create enforceable protections to stop and prevent racial profiling as it impacts each community vulnerable to law enforcement excesses.*

**Moderator:** *Shaleen Title directs the speaker's bureau of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition, an organization of cops, judges, prosecutors and others who fought the war on drugs and are now speaking out for a regulated model of legalized drugs. She also serves on the Board of Directors of Students for Sensible Drug Policy and as co-chair of the NLG Drug Policy Committee. She graduated from the University of Illinois College of Law in 2008.*

**Presenters:** *Matthew Fogg has 30 years of law enforcement experience. While running a DEA task force in his capacity as a Chief Deputy U.S. Marshal he personally witnessed dragnet operations specifically targeting inner city and minority drug users, which he describes as ethnic cleansing. Matthew has now retired from law enforcement and is a speaker for Law Enforcement Against Prohibition. As a legal worker; he has administratively represented and won favorable decisions for several major EEOC cases for employees who blew-the-whistle on various forms of federal government waste, fraud and abuse. Shahid Buttar is the executive director of the Bill of Rights Defense Committee and the People's Campaign for the Constitution (PCC). Previously director of a program to combat racial and religious profiling by federal authorities, an associate director of the American Constitution Society for Law and Policy, and a litigator in private practice with a prolific public interest docket, Buttar has long advocated in defense of the Constitution. He graduated from Stanford Law School in 2003. Institute for Policy Studies Fellow Sanho Tree is director of the Drug Policy Project. Sanho was featured in the ABC/John Stossel documentary on the drug war and has also appeared on Politically Incorrect with Bill Maher. Currently, he serves on the boards of Witness for Peace and the Andean Information Network. Lauren Vazquez is an associate attorney at the Law Offices of James Anthony and a legal researcher for the medical cannabis consulting group CannBe. She is also Director of the Silicon Valley Chapter of Americans for Safe Access (ASA). Lauren has a long and successful history of activism promoting cannabis law reform. She helped lead the campaign for Measure P, Santa Barbara's Lowest Police Priority Ordinance. For her efforts, NORML named Lauren 2006 Student Activist of the Year.*

## **Using Independent Police Review Divisions/Citizen Review Committees as an Effective Means of Police Oversight/Accountability.**

Cabildo Salon

**Description:** *This workshop will examine the efforts across the country to create, utilize and/or strengthen independent or civil review boards. Independent or civil review panels can be a method to enforce or create police accountability and oversight and reign in police brutality through community based efforts. These review panels have received vastly divergent responses across the country. We will examine existing and emerging paradigms; discuss the challenges, struggles, successes, or failures; and include an evaluation of these themes nationwide through the newly established Independent Police Monitor's office in New Orleans.*

**Moderator:** *Robert J. Boyle has been an NLG member in NYC since the 1980s, specializing in government misconduct and criminal appellate litigation. He represented Dhoruba Bin Wahad, a former leader of the Black Panther Party (BPP), a victim of COINTELPRO who was freed in 1990 after 19 years in prison. He continues to represent BPP members who remain incarcerated today. In 2008, he*

represented the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement 3 who were arrested photographing police while on a "cop-watch" patrol in Brooklyn, N.Y Among current cases, he represents the NLG-NYC on subpoenas directed to the chapter by the NYPD requesting documents concerning legal observers.

**Presenters:** **Ashlee Albies** is a civil rights attorney in Portland, Oregon, with the firm Creighton & Rose, PC, where she focuses on plaintiff-side employment and police misconduct litigation. She serves as chair of the Portland Chapter of the NLG and sits on the Albina Ministerial Alliance Coalition for Justice and Police Reform Steering Committee. **Russell Bloom** is Vice-Chair of the Berkeley, California Police Review Commission, Executive VP of the NLG, a founding member of The United People of Color Caucus (TUPOCC), an investigator at the Oakland, California law firm of Kazan, McClain, Lyons, Greenwood & Harley, advisory board member of the Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute, and the father of two middle school students. **Renee Sanchez** is a 1996 graduate of UC Santa Cruz, and received her Public Interest JD from New College of California School of Law in 2005. Ms. Sanchez currently works for a union-side labor law firm in Southern California. She represents and advises the firm's clients, including many Teamsters locals, on a variety of issues, including contractual interpretation, grievance handling, labor arbitration and mediation, and in litigation. During law school, Renee was a founding Co-Chair of the United People of Color Caucus of the NLG (TUPOCC). She currently serves on the NLG's National Executive Committee as the Far West Regional VP, and on the NLG's Labor and Employment Committee's Executive Committee. **Mary E. Howell** is a plaintiffs' civil rights attorney and graduate of Tulane University Law School, who has been in private practice in New Orleans for over 32 years. She has handled numerous cases representing individuals and their families who have been seriously harmed by governmental misconduct, in particular misconduct involving police, jails and prisons. She has been active for many years in efforts to reform the New Orleans police department and to institute best practices in that department. She has represented victims of hate crimes and whistleblowers who have exposed governmental corruption and wrongdoing. **Yvette Thierry** is a native of New Orleans. She is Director of Community Organizing at Safe Streets-Strong Communities where she manages community base-building and peer advocacy. Prior to joining the Safe Streets staff, she worked in healthcare management for over fifteen years. Yvette became a Safe Streets member in June 2006, seeking justice for the 2006 killing of her mentally ill brother-in-law by the New Orleans Police Department. She became a leader of membership and joined the staff as an organizer in 2008.

### **Staying Progressive While Still Paying the Rent**

Salon D

**Description:** One of the challenges facing NLG members is how to build a progressive law practice that serves people struggling for economic, social and political change and still survive economically. In this workshop we will explore the following issues:

1. What does it mean to do progressive legal work (e.g. are legal services defending persons charged with rape or children's pornography, working for a government law department with a progressive elected official in charge or doing civil rights in the Justice Depart. progressive)? 2. How to stay connected to various communities (e.g. labor unions, civil rights and gay/lesbian organizations) as a fundamental part of being a progressive lawyer? 3. How do young lawyers learn the skills they need? 4. How do we remain progressive lawyers? 5. How do we retain our progressive positions and still convince judges that our clients should prevail?

**Presenters:** **Michael Lee** is a young lawyer in Philadelphia who has started his own practice. Upon graduating law school, Mr. Lee was honored with a Pro Bono Service award from the Philadelphia Bar Association. **Lisa Brodyaga** is an NLG member in the Rio Grande Valley in Texas who has been at the forefront of major immigration cases there. Between 1996 and 2001, she litigated cases involving a change in the INA until the Supreme Court ruled in her clients' favor. She has also recently successfully litigated a challenge to the Supreme Court involving the Fifth Circuit's conclusion that a state law characterization of a drug offense as a felony necessarily meant that it was an aggravated felony. **Tracie Washington** is the president of the Louisiana Justice Institute, a nonprofit, civil rights legal advocacy organization devoted to fostering social justice campaigns across Louisiana for communities of color and impoverished communities. She has also been a lawyer in private practice doing civil rights litigation.

### **Hot Topic: Toward A Just Green Economy: Lessons for Lawyers, Workers and Environmentalists From the BP Gulf Oil Disaster**

Orleans Room

**Description:** The BP "spew" is the latest in a string of industrial disasters that have caused ever deeper and more long-lasting harm to workers, communities and ecosystems. These disasters, together with the related global climate crisis, are symptoms of an economic system that is premised on exploitation of workers and the environment. Yet, a virtual army of lawyers has rushed Gulf-ward to bring lawsuits that will not address the systemic roots of the crisis, nor bring meaningful change. From the beginning, capitalism has fostered a legal system that permits companies to externalize the true costs of their activities. Businesses get the profit, and the people, especially poor, people of color, and workers, pay the costs of living with toxins and rare clean-ups. Nothing has changed except the law's complexity and the gross deregulation of toxic industries, with disastrous consequences. As a matter of survival, workers, unions, community activists, racial justice advocates, environmentalists, and others must work in coalition for a transition away from unbridled capitalism that destroys human lives and planetary ecosystems for profits for a few. Workers and environmentalists,

together with residents of the earth, share an interest in addressing the root causes of the crisis on a way that we, as a society, can move toward a better future.

Moderators: **Sharon Adams**, *Environmental Justice Committee*; **Fran Schreiber**, *Labor & Employment Committee*

6:15 - 7:30pm	Pre-Banquet Reception (open to all attendees)	Queen Anne Ballroom
7:30 - 10pm	Banquet (separate ticket required)	La Nouvelle Ballroom

## Sunday, September 26, 2010

<u>Event Time</u>	<u>Event Name</u>	<u>Room</u>
8 - 9am	Task Force on the Americas	Le Café
8:30am - 12pm	National Lawyers Guild Vendors/Display Tables	Bonnet Carre Room
8:30am - 12pm	National Lawyers Guild Convention Registration	Queen Anne Mezzanine
9 - 10:15am	REGIONAL MEETINGS	
	Far West Regional Meeting	Salon A
	Mid Atlantic Regional Meeting	Salon B
	Mid East Regional Meeting	Salon C
	Mid West Regional Meeting	Salon D
	Northeast Regional Meeting	Iberville
	Northwest Regional Meeting	Orleans Room
	South Regional Meeting	Vieux Carre Room
	Southwest Regional Meeting	Queen Anne Parlor
	Tex-Oma Regional Meeting	La Nouvelle East & West

10:30am – 12pm MAJOR PANELS SESSION 2

### **Race, Corporate Interests, & Politics of the U.S. Immigration System**

La Nouvelle East & West

Moderator: **Azadeh Shahshahani**, *NLG International Committee Co-Chair; Southern Regional Vice President*

Presenters: **Amna Akbar**, *Clinical Fellow, International Human Rights Clinic, NYU Law School*, **Natsu Saito**, *Professor; Georgia State University College of Law*, **Steve Forester**, *Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti Stop Deportations Now! Campaign*

### **New Orleans Solidarity Tour (separate ticket required) Ends at 1pm**

Off Site: Meet Tour Busses at corner of Canal & Royal

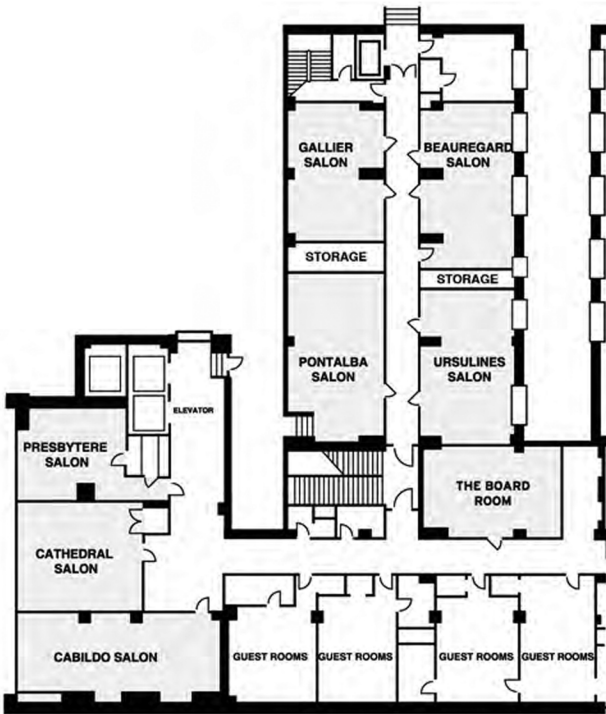
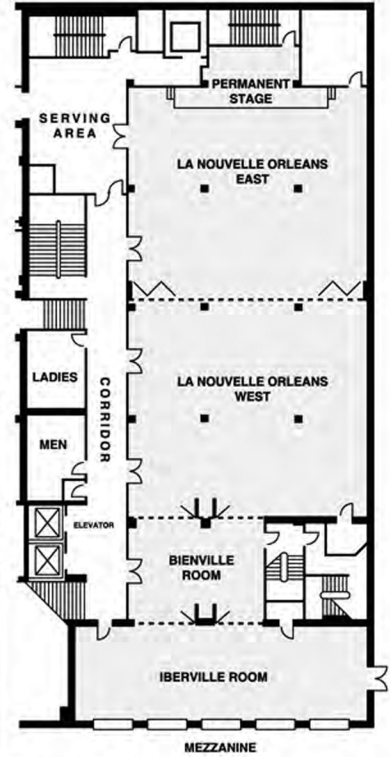
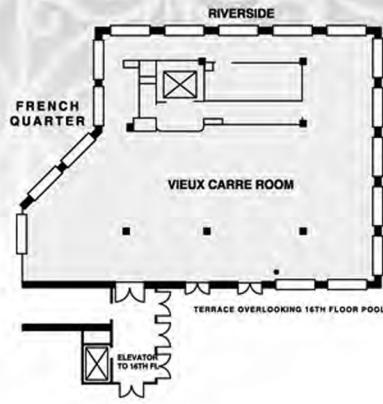
1:30 - 3:30pm	NEC Meeting	Orleans Room
---------------	-------------	--------------



# Hotel Monteleone

Contact our sales team  
to plan your event!

504-523-3341 800-535-9595  
FAX 504-681-4491



SECOND FLOOR

