The Guild’s International Committee and Labor and Employment Committee will be presenting a CLE on October 17th, the Thursday preceding the National Convention in Durham, North Carolina, on legal strategies for advancing human rights in the "gig economy" amid rising precarity. We have a powerhouse lineup of speakers who have been thinking about and organizing around these issues for years:

- Martha L. Schmidt, employment/labor attorney and educator based in Seattle, who has worked for more than a decade with the human right to health movement after working for years as a union organizer, labor educator and professor on subjects ranging from international human rights, political economy, and international relations of Latin America and the Caribbean, to labor policy and law, race, class and gender studies, and sociology of social movements.

- Suzanne Adely is the Regional Organizer for the Food Chain Workers Alliance, the co-chair of the NLG International Committee, and a member of the Bureau of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers. A former NYC educator, with a background in community organizing, public interest law, and international worker advocacy. Suzanne worked with several community-led organizations in Chicago and New York before beginning her global labor rights work with the UAW Global Organizing Institute, where she was the India project coordinator, and with many local and global organizations.

- Zubin Soleimany is a staff attorney at the New York Taxi Workers Alliance. The NYTWA is a union of professional New York City drivers who work in the yellow taxi, black car, and green cab industries that fights for fair working conditions for drivers in all sectors of New York’s taxi and for-hire vehicle industries by challenging employee misclassification where it exists, and fighting for the creation and enforcement of livable income standards for drivers through City regulation.

- Natasha Lycia Ora Bannan is past President of the National Lawyers Guild and co-chairs its Puerto Rico Subcommittee. She is an Associate Counsel at LatinoJustice PRLDEF, focusing on working with low-wage Latina immigrant workers as part of the organization’s economic justice platform, legal support in the face of the economic crisis in Puerto Rico and human rights advocacy before regional and international bodies. Natasha has worked on gender and racial justice issues, including access to reproductive health, sexual violence and violence against women in conflict zones.

Our speakers will discuss current cases challenging the exploitative practices of companies such as Uber and unique legal strategies to confront precarity, both here and abroad. The speakers will also address key human rights issues, such as the right to healthcare, the rights of migrants, the expansion of prison labor and the right to organize.