

2017 NLG Midwest Regional Conference



**NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD
MIDWEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE
APRIL 7-9, 2017
CHICAGO, IL**

Annotated Agenda

Friday, April 7, 2017

7:00 – 10:00 p.m. | Welcome Party (hosted by **NLG Chicago's Next Gen Committee & Chicago NLG Law Students**)

Bottom Lounge, 1375 W. Lake St., Chicago, IL 60607

Saturday, April 8, 2017

8:30 a.m. | Morning Registration (coffee & light breakfast)

Chicago-Kent College of Law, 565 W. Adams St, Chicago, IL 60661 (Room 590)

9:15 a.m. | Welcome & Keynote Address by Michael Deutsch

Michael Deutsch has been a lawyer with the People's Law Office and a Guild member since 1970. From 1991-1996, he was the Legal Director of the Center for Constitutional Rights. Mr. Deutsch's legal career has been devoted to the representation of political activists and political prisoners. He was one of the criminal defense lawyers for the rebelling Attica prisoners, a coordinator of the Attica Brothers Legal Defense, and one of the class counsel in the Attica civil suit which, after two decades of litigation, resulted in a 12 million dollar settlement. He was attorney for the five Puerto Rican Nationalist prisoners imprisoned in the 1950s who won an unconditional sentence commutation from President Carter in 1979, and represented Puerto Rican independentistas in Chicago, New York, and Hartford who were charged with seditious conspiracy, the Wells Fargo expropriation, and subpoenaed before federal grand juries. He also helped to develop the "Prisoner of War" claim under international law for Puerto Rican prisoners. He has defended Black Panthers, Black prisoners facing the death penalty, and was part of the legal team that challenged the first use of the high security "control units" for men at Marion Federal Prison and for women at Lexington Federal Prison. More recently, Michael successfully defended Chicago Palestinian community activist Muhammad Salah charged with Terrorism and RICO as well as Palestinian community organizers targeted by the FBI and subpoenaed to a federal grand jury. Presently, Mr. Deutsch represents Ramea Odeh, the deputy director of the Arab-American Action Network (AAAN), a former Palestinian political prisoner and torture survivor, who has been charged with providing false information on her naturalization application, nine years after she received her citizenship. After her conviction in federal court in Detroit, her case was remanded by the Sixth Circuit to reconsider the exclusion of her PTSD expert. Mr. Deutsch has written and lectured extensively on prisons, international human rights, and political repression.

10:00 a.m. | Panel I

Working with Movements Confronting Police Violence

Recent years have seen protests against police shootings throughout the Midwest and the rest of the country. These uprisings have highlighted the dynamic movements committed to opposing state violence. Lawyers, legal workers and law students have skills to contribute to these movements, often outside of the courtroom. This panel will feature organizers and lawyers who have played a role in campaigns confronting racist policing. They will describe the importance of lawyers collaborating with movements while being accountable to the most impacted communities.

Aislinn Pulley is a lead organizer with Black Lives Matter Chicago, founding the chapter as part of the Freedom Ride to Ferguson in August 2014. She is an organizer with We Charge Genocide; a founding member of Insight Arts, a cultural nonprofit that uses art for social change; as well as a member of the performance ensemble, End of the Ladder. She is a founder of the young women's performance ensemble dedicated to ending sexual assault, Visibility Now, as well as the founder and creator of urban youth magazine, Underground Philosophy.

Debbie Southorn is a local organizer on staff with the American Friends Service Committee in Chicago, working against militarization and state violence. Alongside We Charge Genocide & the People's Response Team, she's developed resources & facilitated trainings on the costs of policing, the dangers of community policing, and strategies for cop-watching. In 2012, she co-founded the Chicago chapter of Black & Pink, and currently serves on the National Committee of the War Resisters League.

Timothy Rose is a member of People's Response Team and a prison abolitionist. He is currently a law student at Chicago Kent College of Law, working to further bridge grassroots movements with transformative legal advocacy. Timmy was also a community organizer with We Charge Genocide and supported Chicago's campaign to end racist stop and frisk policies.

Moderator: Joey Mogul is a partner at the People's Law Office. Mogul's practice focuses on representing people who have suffered from police and other governmental torture, abuse and misconduct in civil rights cases, and defending individuals in criminal and capital cases. Mogul has sought justice for Chicago Police torture survivors for the last eighteen years, successfully representing a number of Burge torture survivors in their criminal post-conviction proceedings and in federal civil rights cases. Mogul drafted the original City Council ordinance providing reparations for the Chicago Police (Burge) torture survivors filed

in 2013 on behalf of an organization Mogul initiated and co-founded [Chicago Torture Justice Memorials](#) (CTJM). On May 6, 2015, the Chicago City Council unanimously passed unprecedented [legislation](#) providing reparations to the Burge torture survivors and their family members becoming the first municipality to provide systemic redress for racially motivated police violence.

11:30 a.m. | Panel II

State of Cyber Security: Surveillance, Counter Measures, & Creative Legal Strategies

Panelists will discuss types of surveillance observed at the Standing Rock Protest, FOIA requests to Chicago Police Department and the CPD's use of stingrays, and how this information can be used in FOIA requests, lines of inquiries for depositions and discovery requests.

Lisha Sterling is the executive director of Geeks Without Bounds, a nonprofit organization that supports open source technology in low resource situations. She was the coordinator of the technology team at Oceti Sakowin Camp at Standing Rock which was responsible for Internet, radio comms, legitimate cell phone repeaters, and renewable power systems at the Oceti Sakowin and Sicangu (Rosebud) camps. Her team is now working in the same capacity at the Eagle Butte, SD camp which is supporting the ongoing fight against the KXL pipeline. Lisha started tinkering with computers at the age of 8 and has been a professional programmer and system administrator since 1992. She loves teaching people how to code, how to work in the Linux command line, and how to find vulnerabilities in networked computer systems.

Freddy Martinez is the Director of Lucy Parsons, a reformed physicist who now works as a system administrator by night. Currently his focus is on police accountability and transparency while other interests include computer security, hacking and open source software. A long-time Chicagoan, his focus for the future includes issues around cell phone privacy, working with marginalized communities and the intersection of digital rights and activism.

Moderator: Daniel Massoglia is a Guild attorney and civil litigator in private practice as Of Counsel at the small Chicago firm MK Law, LLC, where he focuses particularly on cases affecting internet privacy, digital security, and the Freedom of Information Act(s). Daniel writes about encryption, mass surveillance, and privacy, and loves dogs, music with guitars, and music without. He is from North Carolina, and on twitter at @jujueyeball.

12:45 p.m. | Lunch (from **Haifa Café**)

2:00 p.m. | Panel III

Environmental Justice from Standing Rock to East Chicago: Stop Poisoning the Planet (and the Human Race)

Panelists will discuss lessons learned from Standing Rock in representing environmental justice protest movements, environmental justice in urban settings and lessons from East Chicago lead contamination of public housing, engaging with state and local regulatory agencies to challenge environmentally harmful projects, and finding the path forward through promoting sustainability and renewable energy.

Emily Coffey is a Housing Justice Staff Attorney at the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law, where she advocates for tenants living in or in need of affordable housing through impact litigation, policy advocacy, and technical legal assistance for community organizers and tenant leaders. Before coming to the Shriver Center, Emily was a Loyola Public Interest Law Fellow at the Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing, where she represented tenants whose landlords were in foreclosure through litigation and policy advocacy. Emily studied political science and history at Beloit College and received her J.D. from Loyola University Chicago School of Law. Emily is a co-chair of the NextGen Committee for the Chicago Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild.

Bruce Ellison is an attorney from Rapid City, South Dakota, and is a long-standing member of the National Lawyers Guild. Bruce has a background in criminal defense work, having worked on the Wounded Knee Legal Defense Committee and represented members of the American Indian

Movement, including political prisoner Leonard Peltier. Ostensibly retired, Bruce is working harder than ever on public interest environmental work such as the litigation opposing construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline and opposing uranium mining in the Black Hills. Bruce is active in defense of Water Protectors opposing the Dakota Access Pipeline, and is a member of the board of directors of the Water Protector Legal Collective.

Bob Gough is an attorney of Irish, French, English and Lenape descent, with graduate degrees in sociology and cultural anthropology. He has worked with American Indian Tribes on cultural and natural resource issues over the past 40 years, served as the first director of the Rosebud Sioux Tribal Utility Commission (1993-1996), and as Secretary of the Intertribal Council on Utility Policy (COUP from 1994). He maintains a private law practice on indigenous rights and has conducted outreach activities to Native Alaskan and American Indian communities with the federal Wind Powering America program at NREL. Bob co-chaired USGCRP's "Native Peoples/Native Homelands Climate Change Workshop" (1998), and served on NPNH2 steering committee (2009); worked for over a decade to have a tribal chapter in, and was a lead author on, the National Climate Assessment's Indigenous Peoples, Lands and Resources Chapter; and co-founded the Rising Voices, extending participation to the indigenous peoples of the Pacific as well. As to pipelines, he has been the lead attorney for Intertribal COUP's opposition with the Keystone XL pipeline before the SD PUC and is now in state court on the appeal of TransCanada's certification of the PUC permit from 2009, raising critical issues of both climate and eminent domain in that case. Between August and December 2016, Bob spent several months working with Honor the Earth and the Indigenous Environmental Network in opposition to the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) and on preparedness strategies for the Water Protectors with the problems of camping in the floodplain and dealing with North Dakota's horrendous winter weather, and on the development of plans for the Mni Wiconi Eco-Village as a model for tribal sustainability.

Carolyn Raffensperger has a law degree from Chicago-Kent College of Law and a master's degree in archaeology from Northwestern University. She is the executive director of the Science and Environmental Health Network (SEHN). SEHN sponsors the Bakken Pipeline Resistance Coalition which has been resisting DAPL since 2014. Raffensperger specializes in environmental law and has become all too familiar with pipelines. She was the first lawyer staffing the legal tent at Standing Rock and helped form the collective that evolved into the Water Protector Legal Collective.

Moderator: Robin Martinez is a Vice-President for the National Lawyer Guild's Midwest Region. He is an attorney from Kansas City with a background in business, real estate, and economic development, and has worked on opposing fossil fuel infrastructure projects. He is counsel for Dakota Rural Access in litigation pending in South Dakota challenging the construction permitting for the Keystone XL Pipeline, and is a member of the board of directors of the Water Protector Legal Collective, an organization providing legal support for the resistance to the Dakota Access Pipeline. He is a member of Kansas City's Environmental Management Commission, and serves on the board of directors of the Heartland Conservation Alliance, a nonprofit focused on protection of urban watersheds in Kansas City.

3:30 p.m. | Panel IV

Connecting to Community Responses to the Targeting of Immigrant Communities

This panel seeks to connect the legal community to activist work surrounding legal and practical issues on the topic of the changing immigration landscape, to connect legal workers to community fears and reactions, as well as stay informed of active steps community members are taking to resist these changes, to identify ways in which legal skills can be utilized to accompany resistance, and to stay informed about the challenges faced by clients and potential clients better allowing the legal community to serve them.

Jose Alonso grew up in the Back of the Yards and Pilsen neighborhoods of Chicago. He obtained his BA at Northwestern University and his Juris Doctorate from Loyola in 2007. Shortly after law school he joined LAF and from 2010 to 2016, Jose served with LAF's Immigrant and Workers' Rights Practice Group. As a senior attorney, Jose worked with immigrants, migrants and seasonal agricultural workers across the state in cases as diverse as wage theft, domestic violence, housing, human trafficking, discrimination, unfit working conditions, immigration and public benefits. This work required Jose to travel across the state, build trust with clients and understand the nuances of conducting outreach to low-wage, immigrant worker populations.

Since college, Jose has served in and help lead efforts to bring peace, justice, education and

opportunity to the Back of the Yards neighborhood. He co-founded the immigration ministry and college support group at Holy Cross Parish, the Dreamers and Allies Run College Scholarship and the Cornell Square Park Advisory Council. He was also recently elected to the Back of the Yards College Prep Local School Council. He is currently helping lead immigration advocacy, education, and direct service efforts through the Peace and Education Coalition of the Back of the Yards.

He is the recipient of the Chicago Bar Foundation's Sun-Times Public Interest Fellowship, LAF's Solovy Award, the Peace and Education Coalition's Arturo Velazquez, Sr. Leadership Award, and Loyola School of Law's Public Interest Award.

Mony Ruiz-Velasco is an attorney and was in private immigration law practice for the last three years. Previously, she worked at the National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC) for nearly thirteen years, where she became the legal director. She supervised and oversaw the delivery of legal services for thousands of detained and non-detained individuals each year. Mony works alongside immigrant families, women, LGBTQ immigrants, as well as other vulnerable populations, such as unaccompanied minors and survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking and other crimes. Mony has actively collaborated with community leaders and organizers on anti-deportation and anti-criminalization campaigns. She has worked on multiple public and media campaigns on behalf of immigrants and their families with leaders of the #not1more and the No Papers, No Fear campaigns. She also served as attorney for three participants in the #1of1million campaign and as counsel for the campaign in partnership with Define American. She has advised members of Congress and their staff regarding policy and legislation including the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act and immigration reform bills. Mony serves as an attorney advisor for Organized Communities Against Deportations in Illinois (OCAD). Mony is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and the National Lawyers Guild. She frequently speaks at conferences, trainings and events. Previously, Mony was an attorney advisor under the Attorney General's Honors Program at the Executive Office for Immigration Review in San Antonio and Harlingen, Texas. She graduated from St. Mary's University School of Law in San Antonio, Texas in 1999. Mony is licensed in Texas. Mony is the daughter of Mexican immigrants and has lived in Mexico and the United States and is fluent in Spanish. She is queer and is the mother of three children, Chris, Emma and Liam.

Reyna Wences is an activist who has been involved with movements focused on immigrants' rights for several years. They have been at the forefront of advocacy for the DREAM Act and other movements surrounding legal status for immigrant students and young people. Currently, she is an active member of Organized Communities Against Deportation (OCAD).

Ana Guajardo founded Centro de Trabajadores Unidos in 2008 to address immigrants' rights in her community and in the workforce. Since then, she has worked to inform workers of their rights in the workplace and fight wage theft.

Moderator: Lilian Jiménez received her law degree from DePaul University College of Law in 2011. She was born and raised on the Southeast side of Chicago and has 2 decades of experience in social justice organizing and advocacy. She currently serves as Policy Director for 7th District Commissioner Chuy García where she works to create and expand policies that empower communities. Previously she enforced labor laws that protect low-wage workers as the Director of the Fair Labor Standards Division of the Illinois Department of Labor. Lilian is currently a Fellow with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Culture of Health Leaders and is on the Board of the Chicago Workers Collaborative and the National Lawyers Guild.

6:00 – 10:00 p.m. | Evening Dinner & Celebration

Nellie's Puerto Rican Restaurant, 2459 W. Division St. Chicago, IL 60622
** * * Cost of Dinner is \$15 (includes one drink!) * * **

Sunday April 9, 2017

10:00 a.m. | Chapter Updates, Community Building, & Informal Skill Sharing

Chicago-Kent College of Law, 565 W. Adams St, Chicago, IL 60661 (Room 590)

1:00 p.m. | Legal Observer Training