

**NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD  
(DIS)ORIENTATION**



**SEPTEMBER 11, 2010  
CHICAGO-KENT COLLEGE OF LAW**

# NLG (Dis)orientation

*People's Law: Everything You Won't Learn in Law School*

## Schedule of Events

12 - 12:30 | Registration & Lunch

12:30 - 1 | History of the Guild

1 - 2 | Law for the People: Careers in Social Change

2:15 - 3 | Tips & Tricks to Survive Law School & Keep Your Soul

3 - 3:45 | Legal Observer Training

4 - 5 | Panel Discussion

## Annotated Schedule of Events

12:30 - 1 | History of the Guild, *presented by Jan Susler*

**Jan Susler** joined People's Law Office in 1982 after a six-year stint as Clinical Law Professor at Prison Legal Aid, the legal clinic at Southern Illinois University's School of Law. Her long history of work on behalf of political prisoners and prisoners' rights includes litigation, advocacy and educational work around USP Marion and the Women's High Security Unit at Lexington, KY. Her practice at PLO focuses on police misconduct civil rights litigation, which has lately included wrongful conviction litigation on behalf of people exonerated after serving many years in prison, innocent. Her work with the Puerto Rican Independence Movement and with progressive movements challenging U.S. foreign and domestic policies has been a constant throughout her 30 years as a lawyer. For several years she was an adjunct professor of criminal justice at Northeastern Illinois University and has also taught at the University of Puerto Rico. Representing the Puerto Rican political prisoners for over two decades, she served as lead counsel in the efforts culminating in the 1999 presidential commutation of their sentences. She continues to represent those who remain imprisoned. Jan is a career-long member of the NLG.

## 1 - 2 | Law for the People: Careers in Social Change

**Carol A. Brook** is the Executive Director of the Federal Defender Program for the Northern District of Illinois, where she has worked since her graduation from law school in 1976. She is the current president of the Illinois Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (IACDL) and past-president of the National Association of Federal Defenders. She lives in Chicago with her husband, Thomas Corfman, and a pet turtle named Seeley. She has twin sons, Sam and Jack Corfman, who have left home (left her?) to attend college.

**Joey L. Mogul**, a proud member of the NLG, is an attorney who focuses on civil rights cases involving police misconduct, criminal cases brought against individuals engaged in street demonstrations and other forms of First Amendment expression, and capital defense cases. She handles all stages of litigation, from trial preparation through trial, appeal and post-conviction proceedings. She is also an adjunct law professor at DePaul University College of Law teaching at the Civil Rights Clinic and recently published “The Dykier, the Butcher, the Better: the State’s Use of Homophobia and Sexism to Execute Women in the United States” in the New York City Law Review. She has been actively engaged in the litigation and community organizing around the Chicago Police Torture cases, recently presenting these cases to the United Nations Committee Against Torture and the Human Rights Committee in Geneva, Switzerland in 2006. She is one of the attorneys representing the class of 800 individuals wrongfully arrested and detained at an anti-war protest on March 20, 2003. She previously represented Miguel Castillo in post-conviction proceedings overturning his wrongful conviction for a murder he did not commit and obtaining a pardon on the basis of his innocence. She subsequently represented him in his civil wrongful conviction case which settled for \$1.2 million.

**Michael Persoon** is a 2007 graduate of DePaul College of Law and an associate at the Chicago law firm Despres, Schwartz & Geoghegan, Ltd. His practice focuses on impact litigation and civil rights, primarily representing workers against their employers, including claims and counterclaims arising under section 1981, section 1983, Title VII, Title VI, the WARN Act, ERISA, and state common law. He has significant experience litigating under the Railway Labor Act, including the 2009 Supreme Court Case Union Pacific Railroad Co. v. Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, as well as other rail industry cases in the 7th, 8th, and D.C. Circuits and district courts in Illinois and Missouri.

## 2:15 - 3 | Tips & Tricks to Survive Law School & Keep Your Soul<sup>1</sup>

**Andrew Bashi**, Loyola University School of Law — [andrewbashi@gmail.com](mailto:andrewbashi@gmail.com)

**Katie Gaughan**, John Marshall Law School — [k.e.gaughan@gmail.com](mailto:k.e.gaughan@gmail.com)

**Katie Kizer**, DePaul College of Law — [katie.kizer@gmail.com](mailto:katie.kizer@gmail.com)

**John Stapleton**, Chicago-Kent College of Law — [jstapleton@kentlaw.edu](mailto:jstapleton@kentlaw.edu)

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<sup>1</sup> For more tips and tricks on survival, please see attachment at the end of the program.

### 3 - 3:45 | Legal Observer Training, *conducted by K. Ryann Zalewski*

#### Brief Training Agenda

- **Introduction to Legal Observer Program & Mass Defense Committee**
- **How the Program Works**
  - How people can make a request for legal observers
  - How do we evaluate a request to know what to expect
  - How do we prepare observers before the day of action
- **What Do Legal Observers Do During a Demonstration?**
  - What should legal observers look out for
  - How to interact with police, media, demonstrators and counterdemonstrators
  - The limitations of the role
- **After a Demonstration, What Happens Next?**
  - Use of information in preparation for criminal defense and civil litigation
  - Keeping an eye out for trends in law enforcement interaction and infringement of First Amendment rights

### 4 - 5 | Panel Discussion

**Christina Abraham** is the Civil Rights Director at CAIR-Chicago. Christina has spoken and written on issues related to Arab and Muslim civil rights, and actively works to pursue successful resolutions to incidents of discrimination through legal and non-legal channels. Christina is a member of the Advisory Board for the Chicago Committee to Defend the Bill of Rights and a member of the Advisory Board of the Brussels International Tribunal. Christina holds a Masters in the Arts of Social Sciences (M.A.) from the University of Chicago where her focus was on Politics in the Middle East, and a Juris Doctorate from DePaul University College of Law, where she received membership in the Order of the Barristers. Christina can be reached at [cabraham@cair.com](mailto:cabraham@cair.com).

**Joseph Margulies** is an attorney with the Roderick MacArthur Justice Center and a clinical professor of law at Northwestern University Law School. He has been involved in post-9/11 litigation since November 2001. He was counsel of record in *Rasul v. Bush*, 542 U.S. 446 (2004), involving detentions at Guantanamo Bay, and *Munaf v. Geren*, 553 U.S. 674 (2008), involving detentions in Iraq. He presently represents abu Zubaydah, for whom the “torture memos” were written.

#### Attachments:

- Tips and Tricks to Survive Law School, and Keep Your Soul
- Progressive Reading List