

## **Labor Strategies to Combat Authoritarian Regimes (CLE, Gallery 5)**

The NLG through the International Labor Justice Working Groups has for the last fourteen years built an alliance between the NLG, the Association of Labor Lawyers of Latin America, (ALAL) and the Canadian Association of Labour Lawyers (CALL) to work on issues of common interest. In the last years, the elections of Donald Trump in the US and Jair Bolsonaro and other right wing leaders in South America have required labor movements to confront the authoritarianism of these leaders. Central to these authoritarian trends are the relationship between extractive industries such as mining, oil and gas and the leaders of these authoritarian regimes. This workshop will focus on the ways the labor movement in this hemisphere has been fighting against authoritarian regimes and working to address the relationships between these leaders and extractive industries. In January 2019 a dam owned by the largest mining company in the world, Vale S.A, ruptured sending tons of iron ore tailings mud descended on the city of Brumadinho in Brazil. The unions there united to fight back. A delegation of the International Commission for Labor Rights sent a delegation to Brazil to investigate. As two of the speakers on this panel were members of the delegation, they will highlight how this type of action is part of a larger fight against authoritarian regimes.

**Marie-Claude St. Amant** of the Canadian Association of Labour Lawyers (CALL) has been practicing law since 2006. She is a partner at the firm Melançon Marceau Grenier and Sciortino in Montreal, Canada where she practices labour law, both in collective and individual labour relations, and is particularly interested in cases involving grievance arbitration, certification, orders and injunctions related to labour disputes, workplace discrimination and human rights, occupational diseases and legal issues affecting the arts community. Marie-Claude is a founding member of the "Association of Progressive Jurists."

**Lori Harreman** of the Canadian Association of Labour Lawyers (CALL) graduated from the University of Ottawa Law School in 2003 and was called to the bar in 2004. She is a labour lawyer in Ottawa Ontario with the Ontario Nurses Association acting as counsel on rights arbitration, health and safety and long term disability claims since 2013. Prior to joining ONA she was in private practice with a union side law firm in Ottawa where she practised tort, labour, employment and human rights law, with a focus on the needs of persons with disabilities and survivors of historic abuse.

**Oscar Alzaga** of the Association of Labor Lawyers of Latin America (ALAL) is a longtime labor lawyer and judge based in Mexico. He was part of the International Commission on Labor Rights (ICLR) delegation to Brazil to investigate the Brumadinho dam collapse. He has represented trade unions and workers since 1975, including unions in the telephone, electricity, automotive and mining industries. He represented the EZLN in the San Andres and COSEVER dialogues from 1994 to 1996. He is the author of three books and has co-authored 17 books on labor law and workers' struggles and has represented mining unions at the European Parliament, International Labour Organization and Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

**Jeanne Mirer**, Attorney and Co-Chair of the NLG International Committee. She is currently President of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, a founding Board Member of the International Commission for Labor Rights and a Board Member of the Sugar Law Center. Additionally, Jeanne is a member of the Core and the National Board of the Vietnam Agent Orange Relief & Responsibility Campaign. She has been a member of the NLG for 50 years and has held numerous positions in the Guild. She practices labor, employment and civil rights law in New York City. She was a member of the ICLR's delegation to Brazil to investigate the Brumadinho dam collapse.