

December 28, 2016

To: Labor & Employment Committee and Fellow Cuba Travelers

Re: Donate to support young people of color to participate in March, 2017, Cuba delegation

Over the past 18 years, the Labor & Employment Committee of the National Lawyers Guild has participated and co-sponsored a delegation of lawyers, union activists and students to Cuba as part of our ongoing research of labor rights in Cuba. Several years ago, what started as a bi-lateral exchange program with our Cuban counterparts, the conference portion of this project went International, and for the past decade, lawyers from all of the Americas and Europe have shared ideas and solutions to the attack on labor rights across the world.

As part of our delegation, we have intentionally and successfully sought to make it possible for young people of color to participate in our delegation. In this way, we have sent truly representative groups to Cuba, and made a small contribution to the effort to transform the Guild and our Committee into truly multiracial, anti-racist organizations. For many years, we have included law students and graduate students in the delegation. This is not without major financial assistance from lawyers and activists like you, contributing to the scholarship fund to help bring these students and young lawyers who contribute so much to the program.

Last year we made a pitch for contributions later, as we prepared for the delegation when we saw numerous qualified candidates for the scholarship—based upon financial need and commitment to the work of the NLG. We raised thousands toward scholarships in a very short time.

We have some seed money and usually the Committee authorizes some funds for scholarships. However, we are starting our solicitation early this year so we can address those needs and commitments and bring students and young lawyers to Cuba. Planning early is essential to a successful delegation and scholarship program.

If you want to help, please send a check made out to the NLG LEC to our treasurer, Polly Halfkenny, c/o 10 Plaza Street East, 8G, Brooklyn, NY 11238. Note it is for the Research Delegation. You can also use the PayPal link on the L&E website
http://nlg-laboremploy-comm.org/Membership_Info.php .

It is very IMPORTANT that you note this is for the research trip but DO NOT USE THE WORD CUBA. Paypal will hold up the contribution and cause us many headaches.

Thank you in advance.

In Solidarity,

Natasha Lycia Ora Bannan, NLG President
Dean Hubbard, Chair, L&E Committee Steering Committee
Joan Hill, Co-Coordinator NLG Cuba Delegation