

Law for the People

national lawyers guild



October 23-27, 2013
Conrad San Juan Condado Plaza
San Juan, Puerto Rico

PR: Enchantment and Resistance

The local organizing committee and the Puerto Rico Subcommittee are thrilled to invite you to join us for the 76th Annual Convention of the National Lawyers Guild in Puerto Rico, “*La Isla del Encanto*” (the Island of Enchantment).

Puerto Rico is one of the last remaining colonies in the world, having been invaded by the United States in 1898 after hundreds of years of colonialism under Spain. The island’s ongoing colonial status is at the root of most of its social, economic, and political issues. As of 1952, Puerto Rico’s official status is that of the *Estado Libre Asociado*, or Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, a title that the United States has championed to disguise the colonial reality.

The people of Puerto Rico are characterized by their intense sentiment and cultural pride in being *Boricua*, or Puerto Rican. This is true for the almost four million citizens on the island, as well as the additional four million Puerto Ricans in the diaspora. This strong cultural pride is deeply tied to the island nation’s rich arts, music, cuisine, and history of political struggle.

Historically, Puerto Rico has been a testing ground for repressive U.S. policies, including the forced sterilization of Puerto Rican women, the testing of high dosage contraceptives, repression of the anti-colonial movement, removal of collective bargaining protections for unions, bomb and chemical weapons testing on the Puerto Rican island of Vieques, and, most recently, the testing of genetically modified seeds by agribusiness companies. U.S. experimentation on the island and its people demonstrates the impact of continuous imperialism and the denial of self-determination. The past several years have also seen a wave of neoliberal policies and practices targeted at a cross-section of Puerto Rican society, including low-income workers, teachers, students, the LGBT community, unions, and the *Colegio de Abogados de Puerto Rico* (CAPR), or Puerto Rico Bar



Seattle NLG members Michael and Ellen Wilbey at the NLG Puerto Rico Legal Project Office during opening week in March, 1977. Hato Rey, Puerto Rico. Photo by Franklin Siegel

Association. Each of these initiatives has prompted a wave of resistance.

Guild members have long been active in that resistance and in the struggle for self-determination, sovereignty, and independence. The Guild’s history of solidarity and activism with the independence movement in Puerto Rico includes the creation in the mid-1970s of the Puerto Rico Legal Project, which later transformed into the *Instituto de Derechos Civiles* (Institute for Civil Rights).

While you’re here for the convention, the host committee invites you to explore the island via guided political tours, including visiting some of the most prominent groups that are leading the struggle for civil and human rights. In Puerto Rico, music and dance can be found around every corner, and the convention will be no exception. The NLG will be celebrating its convention *a lo Boricua*, with music and dance, including the Afro-Puerto Rican rhythms of *bomba* and *plena*.

¡Nos vemos en Puerto Rico! See you in Puerto Rico!

Cover: This mural was painted by graffiti artists Rimx, Ismo, Exor and Son on the front wall of the Manuel A. Perez Public Housing development in San Juan immediately following the FBI’s September 23, 2005 assassination of Filiberto Ojeda Rios, legendary independence fighter. Colegio de Abogados de Puerto Rico attorney José Juan Nazario successfully represented residents who fought government efforts to remove the mural. Photo by 12ozProphet forum user krz.

Continuing Legal Education

International Labor Law, Human Rights, and Organizing Low-Wage Workers

On Thursday, October 24, from 1:00-5:00 p.m., the International Committee of the NLG will host a CLE addressing precarious work, migrant work, and low-wage work within the United States and around the world. The CLE will identify tools in international labor and human rights law that legal practitioners can use to support organizing campaigns and defend the rights of low-wage workers. The CLE will discuss the struggle of Manu Suzuki workers in India and the international labor law and human rights arguments being marshalled to support their organizing. Also covered will be the Hot and Crusty pizza workers' victory in New York City.

Hear from leading practitioners of international labor and human rights law directly involved in some of the key cases of our day representing the struggles of low-wage, precarious and migrant workers and gain valuable tools for your own work around this organizing in the era of precarious labor.

Registration: \$75 for non-Guild lawyers, \$60 for Guild members, \$50 for International Committee members, \$25 for law students and legal workers. For registration information, visit www.nlginternational.org.

Police Liability for Civil and Human Rights Violations

Also on Thursday, October 24, the National Police Accountability Project (NPAP) will offer an all-day CLE seminar discussing the issue of police liability for civil and human rights violations.

The seminar will take place between 8:45 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., and a fee in addition to the Convention fee will be charged.

The sessions will include:

- "Assessment and Litigation of Police Shooting Cases" (Arnoldo Casillas, California)
- "Civil Remedies for Wrongful Convictions" (Michael Avery, Massachusetts)
- "Applying International Human Rights Law in 42 U.S.C. 1983 Lawsuits" (Paul Hoffman, California and Fermin Arraiza, Puerto Rico)
- "Identifying and Proving Damages in Police Litigation" (Judith Berka, Puerto Rico and Julie Harwitz, Michigan)
- "Recovery of Attorney Fees for Civil Rights Litigation" (Jeff Scott Olson, Wisconsin)

As always, there will be time to ask questions of the experts. More information and seminar registration will soon be available on NPAP's website: www.nlg-npap.org.

Workshops

- Public Sector Workers in the Crosshairs of International Capital: Resisting Austerity and Fighting for our Human Rights to Organize, Bargain Collectively, and Strike
- The War on Women and Assaults on Reproductive Freedom
- The Student Movement in Puerto Rico: Strategies for Success
- Taking Back the Land — The Community Land Trust as a Model to Remove Housing from the Speculative Market and Implement Housing as a Human Right
- Defending "Terrorism": The Guild's Support of Activists and Other Communities against Government Repression, from the Puerto Rican Independence Movement to the Animal Rights Movement
- Political Prisoners: Palestine, the Cuban Five and Puerto Rico
- Legal Observing in the 21st Century: New Ideas, Best Practices, and an Opportunity to Learn and Share
- Bringing Systemic Changes to Troubled Police Departments — Consent Decrees and Collaborative Agreements

- The U Visa: Immigration Protection for Immigrant Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence, Human Trafficking, and Other Crimes
- Immigration and Deportation Fundamentals
- Passing the Torch: An NLG Inter-Generational Roundtable
- *Plus* How to Build An Effective Mentorship Program
- Pipelines and Environmental Destruction: Keystone XL, Via Verde and What this Means for Defending the Green Movement
- Extrajudicial Killing and the Drone Industry
- The Fifth Estate: Hackers, Leakers, and Whistleblowers and the Crackdown on Information Activism
- Restorative/Transformative Justice: Creating Community-Based Accountability Processes as Alternatives to Adversarial and Punitive Judicial Systems
- Women, Gender and Law in the Caribbean: Puerto Rico and the Americas

Major Panels

For All: the Struggle for LGBTQ Rights in Puerto Rico *Para Tod@s: la Lucha por los Derechos LGBTQ en Puerto Rico*

The panel will focus on the lived experiences of LGBTQ people in Puerto Rico and the various forms of homophobia, transphobia, and sexism they experience on a daily basis. The speakers will also discuss various legal and popular challenges to discrimination against LGBTQ people and the obstacles that those efforts have faced.

Panelists will discuss the need for anti-discrimination ordinances (often known as Human Rights Ordinances) and how they can assist gay and transgender people in seeking remedies for rights violations. Panelists will also cover the recent Puerto Rican Supreme Court decision denying adoption to a lesbian couple and the recent ruling from the Inter-American Court on Human Relations finding that Chile discriminated against lesbian Judge Karen Atala when denying her custody of her children. The latter case set an international precedent protecting the right to freedom from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender.

This panel comes at a time when all of the United States is watching the marriage equality cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. Many people believe that winning marriage equality is the last civil right gay people need (or the last civil rights obstacle in our country) and that, with a win in the U.S. Supreme Court, discrimination against LGBTQ people will evaporate. It is crucial for us in the NLG to recognize that that this is far from the case and that LGBTQ people, particularly those who are most marginalized because of their race, immigration status, class, and/or gender identity, will continue to face violence and systemic and structural oppression regardless of the U.S. Supreme Court's rulings. Thus it is important for us as people's lawyers to focus on representing the queer and transgender people who continue to face the most violence and oppression.

The panel is crucial because so few of us get any news about the how LGBTQ people are treated in Puerto Rico and how they are resisting state violence and oppression. It is imperative that we place the voices and experiences of Puerto Ricans LGBTQ people at the center of the discussion.

ATTENTION, EARLY BIRDS!

Join us from 5-7pm on Wednesday, October 23 for a forum on Women, Gender and Law in the Caribbean: Puerto Rico and the Americas at the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico School of Law. Free transportation from the Conrad Hotel provided via shuttle with reception to follow. Sponsored by the Institute on Women, Gender and the Law at the Universidad Interamericana de Puerto Rico Facultad de Derecho, the Center for Reproductive Rights, and the National Lawyers Guild.

Solitary Confinement and Political Prisoners: the Use of Prison Isolation in Policing Radical Politics

The panel will discuss Eighth Amendment law as it is applied to the long-term solitary confinement and how solitary is used to control and isolate political prisoners. The panel will bring current and former political prisoners together with attorneys and activists who have fought against this repression in courts and in the arena of public opinion.

The Application of the Federal Death Penalty Act in Abolitionist Jurisdictions

This panel will focus on the political and legal aspects of the imposition of the Federal Death Penalty act, particularly in jurisdictions in which it is banned either by constitutional provision, statute, or court holdings. The panel will address the particular case of Puerto Rico where the death penalty was eliminated over 80 years ago and where the Constitution prohibits it. The federal government has unsuccessfully brought case after case, despite opposition from the people of Puerto Rico, attempting to impose the penalty in an English-language court where most Puerto Ricans cannot serve as jurors. There are more pending death penalty cases in Puerto Rico than in any other federal district. Local practitioners expect to see four death penalty cases this year and at least another dozen cases are awaiting certification under the FDPA. Finally, panelists will discuss strategies for organizing community opposition to the federal government's imposition of this repressive measure.

U.S. Colonialism in Puerto Rico and Resistance Thereto

This panel's purpose is to discuss the complex structure of colonialism in Puerto Rico, its impact on daily life and identity, and the island's relationship to the United States. This will include an examination of the fight for independence, sovereignty, and self-determination and the legal framework purporting to justify the island's colonial status. Panelists will also focus on the civil and human rights violations that result from being a colony of a superpower.

Given that the convention is in Puerto Rico this year, and many Guild members may be unaware of the political, social, historical, and economic context that led to choosing Puerto Rico as the site, organizers hope that this major panel will be educational for all attendees. The panel will also be a forum for learning about the Guild's historical and on-going work in Puerto Rico via the Puerto Rico Subcommittee.

2013 REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Occupation: Attorney _____ Legal Worker _____ Law Student _____ Other _____

Fees / Dues / Donations

1) Convention Registration \$ _____

2) Membership Dues (if lapsed) \$ _____

3) Reception Ticket (\$55 / Students \$25) \$ _____

4) Donation to Subsidize Students \$ _____

5) Friday Luncheon (\$40) \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT \$ _____

How are you paying?

Check _____ Cash _____ Credit Card _____

Make checks payable to "National Lawyers Guild."

MC / VISA # _____

Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Suggested Registration Fees for October 23-27
Early bird rates apply until September 18, 2013. Regular rates apply from September 19-October 11, when pre-registration officially closes.

	Member Early	Member Regular
Law Students	\$20	\$25
Lawyers and Legal Workers with income under \$25,000	\$80	\$95
\$25 - 35,000	\$135	\$155
\$35 - 50,000	\$190	\$220
\$50 - 75,000	\$245	\$275
\$75 - \$100,000	\$295	\$330
over \$100,000	\$400	\$440
Puerto Rican Lawyers, Law Students and Legal Workers	\$25	\$30

*Note: Non-members should add 20% to these prices.

**Note: Fees are suggested. We ask that attendees pay what they can afford. No one will be turned away for lack of funds.

Accessibility Needs?

Please return this registration form with your check or credit card information to:

National Lawyers Guild, 132 Nassau Street, Rm. 922, New York, NY 10038
(fax) 212-679-2811

Tentative Schedule

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23

6pm – 8pm

*National Police Accountability Project
Board Meeting*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24

8:30am – 5pm

National Police Accountability Project CLE

8:30am – 5pm

National Immigration Project Board Meeting

8:30am – 12pm

International Committee Meeting

1 – 5pm

International Committee CLE

1:30 – 5:30pm

Military Law Task Force Membership Meeting

4 – 6pm

Mass Defense Committee Meeting

5 – 6:45pm

National Immigration Project Reception

5 – 6:45pm

Labor and Employment Committee Reception

7 – 8:45pm

Keynote Address

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25

8:30 – 10am

Workshops I

10:15 – 11:45am

Plenary I

12 – 1:30pm

Friday Luncheon - Ticket required. See registration form.

1:45 – 3pm

Workshops II

3:30 – 5pm

Major Panels

5:30 – 6:45pm

Student, NextGen, and Legal Worker Caucuses

5:30 – 7pm

International Committee Reception

7 – 8:15pm

Queer, Solo, and Marxism and the Law Caucuses

9pm – late

Student Sponsored Party

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

8:30 – 10:30am

Workshops III

10:45am – 12pm

Plenary II

12:30 – 3:30pm

Anti-Racism and TUPOCC Programming

4 – 5:30pm

Panel: U.S. Colonialism in Puerto Rico

7:00 – 10pm

Reception - Ticket required. See registration form.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

9:30-11am

Regional Meetings

Times TBA

Tours, community activism, volunteer projects, local immersion events, and committee meetings. For more information about local outings, see opposite page.

Getting to Puerto Rico doesn't have to break the bank. Sample airfare, round-trip to San Juan, October 23-27 (as of early June):

Departing City: One stop/Nonstop

New York City: \$296/\$289

Boston: \$289/424

Washington, DC: \$316/390

Chicago: \$386/384

Houston, TX: \$423/467

Atlanta, GA: \$410/\$457

Seattle, WA: \$449/N/A

San Francisco, CA: \$518/N/A

Los Angeles, CA: \$525/N/A

Keynote Speaker

Rafael Cancel Miranda

Rafael Cancel Miranda was born in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico on July 18, 1930. His life-long dedication to the defense of his country began in 1937 when he was expelled from his first grade classroom for refusing to pledge allegiance to the U. S. flag days after the Ponce Massacre. In 1947 he was again expelled from school, this time for organizing a protest against the imposition of English as the official language of instruction in public schools. He moved to San Juan to finish high school but was arrested before graduation by FBI agents for resisting the U.S. draft.

After serving a two-year prison sentence in Florida, Cancel Miranda was forced into exile in Cuba, where he remained until dictator Fulgencio Batista deported him on orders from the U.S. Embassy. He then moved to New York City and joined the New York City branch of the Nationalist Party. He lobbied the United Nations on the party's behalf, pushing against the U.S. effort to remove Puerto Rico from the list of Dependent Territories in a ploy to hide its colonial status from the world. After all efforts failed, on March 1, 1954, he and three of his comrades opened fire in the U.S. House of Representatives in an effort to call attention to the colonial situation of Puerto Rico.

Cancel Miranda was sentenced to a total of 84 years in

prison. He was held in federal maximum security prisons at Alcatraz, Leavenworth, Kansas and Marion, Illinois. In 1979, after Cancel Miranda had served 25 and a half years, President Jimmy Carter acceded to major international pressure and granted the unconditional release of the Nationalists.

Since his release, Cancel Miranda has continued to be active in the struggle for Puerto Rican independence. He has been a guest lecturer at universities in the U.S. and Latin America and an honored guest of many governments and organizations.



Get to Know Puerto Rico Before, During and After the Convention

The convention will present a great opportunity for building solidarity and sharing knowledge. The host committee is planning three field trips to take place during the convention. Contact Natasha Lycin Ota Bannan for more information: lycinota@gmail.com.

- 1) A walking tour of Old San Juan, with an emphasis on the cultural, political, and social development of one of the oldest cities in the Americas and its history of colonial intervention and control by the United States and its predecessors.
- 2) A tour of the 27,000-resident community in the heart of metropolitan San Juan known as the *Comunidades del Calle Martín Peña*, a poor and working class community which has been organizing for over a decade to fight environmental contamination and develop infrastructure while combating gentrification pressures. The community has developed a collective land trust model for land ownership.
- 3) A walking tour of Santurce, an economically neglected area of San Juan, with emphasis on the campaign "*Santurce ex Ley*." The campaign promotes the impressive works of street art by community members. The tour will be followed by a visit to one of the area's world class art museums with discussions of the role art plays the anti-colonial struggle.

The host committee is also organizing three pre- and post-convention opportunities to meet with activists outside of the San Juan area:

- 1) A visit to Vieques, a Puerto Rican island which until 2003 was the subject of constant bombing by the U.S. Navy. It took decades but resistance ultimately forced the Navy off the island. The struggle continues today as residents demand that the U.S. address ongoing environmental destruction and health effects caused by over 60 years of bombing.
- 2) A trip to the Afro-Caribbean town of Loíza. There NLGers will meet with representatives of the Villa Cañona community, which has long struggled against police repression and for environmental justice and cultural affirmation. On the way, Guild members will meet with the group *Coalición Playas Pa'l Pueblo*, which has been camped out at a local beach near tourist hotels for seven years as part of a campaign to block development that would prevent public beach access and further damage the area's delicate ecosystem.
- 3) A visit to the extraordinary community organization, Casa Pueblo, located in the mountain town of Adjuntas. For more than 30 years, Casa Pueblo has played a leading role in struggles to protect the environment and to promote cultural and human rights, including the 1970s effort against mining, the Vieques fight, and the more recent successful campaign to block the building of a cross-island gas pipeline.

national lawyers guild foundation
132 Nassau Street, RM 922
New York, NY 10038

Important Information

CONVENTION DATES:

October 23-27, 2013

CONVENTION LOCATION:

Conrad San Juan Condado Plaza

999 Ashford Avenue

San Juan, PR

+1-787-721-1000

1-800- 266-7237

www.condadoplaza.com

NLG Group Rate: \$129/night

Use the code "ACRE" when making your reservation to get the discounted rate. Call if you have trouble booking online. Reservations requires a deposit of one night's payment plus tax. Cancellations must be made with at least 72 hours notice.

CONVENTION WEBSITE:

www.nlg.org/convention



IMPORTANT CONTACTS:

Nathan Tempsey: communications@nlg.org

Rosemarie Stupel: membership@nlg.org

Hiedi Simon: convention@nlg.org

ALTERNATE HOUSING:

Send requests to Nicole Diaz by October 4 at nicole.marie.diaz@gmail.com. Please include any allergy or accessibility needs.

CHILD CARE:

Requests for child care should be sent with dates and time to Mariana Nogales at mariana.nogales@gmail.com no later than October 4.

