



**DC
NATIONAL
LAWYERS
GUILD
NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2011**

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1. Student Happy Hour Brings Together Students from Different Law Schools

Nearing the end of the summer, August 11 2011, the DC NLG Board hosted a happy hour for law students who were still in the area – locals and those finishing up their summer internships. Students from GW, WCL, Georgetown, and University of Maryland sat down together downstairs at Bread and Brew in Dupont Circle, sharing stories of their summer internships and plans for the next school year and hopes for employment.

Photo, from left to right: Heather Kirkwood (UMD), Katie d'Adamo (UMD), Rachael Moshman (student at heart?), Samantha Godwin (Ggtwn), Stacy King (WCL), Marni Kostman (GW), Nick Vitolo (GW). Photo



2. Thanks to Stephanie Joseph for her Service to the Board

This fall, Stephanie Joseph resigned from the DC NLG Board. The remaining Board wishes to thank Stephanie for her years of continued service and guidance on the Board. We wish her good luck in her current endeavors and hope she will return to us in the future!

3. City Wide Student Disorientation Draws 40 Students from Around the City

The students of the NLG chapter at American University hosted a city wide Disorientation on September 11, 2010. Students were pleased with the outcome. About forty students attended over a day of planned events which included a featured talk from Attorney Stephen Bright.



Bright is president and senior counsel for the Southern Center for Human Rights and was teaching a brief seminar on the death penalty at WCL during that time. Students also had the opportunity to meet with different invited local NLG Practitioners in small groups to ask questions and seek advice.

Photo of Student Disorientation WCL Organizing Team (from left to right): Edmundo Saballos, Ann Warshaw, Kate Kelly, Ashley Prather, Stacy King. Photo courtesy of Ms. Kelly.

4. Policy/Lobby Caucus Holds First Meeting

At the welcomed initiative of DC NLG member Kay Guinane, the chapter has a new committee, the Policy/Lobby Caucus. The caucus met for the first time in January. Six attended the meeting and close to 20 members overall have expressed interest in the group.

The Caucus settled on the purpose of their group. It will be an information and idea exchange forum for NLG members who work as policy advocates and/or lobbyists. A listserv will soon be created to facilitate this communication, and they will schedule occasional get-togethers for networking and, “telling jokes about Congress.”

So far, participants are coming from a wide variety of policy areas, but there is still information that is useful to everyone: new appointments to Congressional committees, sharing contacts for Congressional and agency staff and possibly making introductions and referrals, job opportunities, Lobbying Disclosure Act issues to address, and opportunities to coordinate.

Any DC NLG member who wants to be on the Policy/Lobby Caucus listserv should contact Kay Guinane, kguinane@charityandsecurity.org.

5. Litigation Update: Court Issues Injunction Against Peaceful Protesters

Superior Court Judge Brian Holeman issued an injunction in January 2011 barring animal rights protesters from conducting any type of demonstration at or near Goldman Sachs' Washington office or at or near the home of any Goldman employee. For the past month Goldman has been waging a court battle against Defending Animal Rights Today & Tomorrow (DARTT), seeking to silence the protesters' message that Goldman is complicit in the death and suffering of hundreds of thousands of animals. The company owns roughly 1 million shares in Fortress Investment Group (FIG), which has financially safeguarded HLS from closure since 2006.

“Injunctions against free speech are not the way that democracies should handle dissenting views,” stated DARTT's attorney, NLG member Jeffrey Light. Light notes that the injunction is unprecedented in its scope against peaceful, law-abiding protest groups like DARTT, particularly in the nation's capital. “This injunction goes much further than even those issued against groups that are violent or which purposefully blockade entrances to buildings.”

Light also worries that the ruling will be used as a model to hinder other social justice movements.

6. Historian Steve Babson Brings Lessons from Ernie Goodman’s Life to Bear on Today

Just ahead of a winter storm that chased him into town, author Steve Babson drove from Detroit to DC to present on the book *Color of Law: Ernie Goodman, Detroit, and the Struggle for Labor and Civil Rights*. Babson co-authored the book with Dave Riddle and David Elsila. Hosted at Public Citizen in Dupont Circle, and despite a snowstorm the night before, Babson presented an account of the life of labor law attorney Ernie Goodman to a group of about 20 people.



Steve Babson presents at Public Citizen. The slide shows the front cover of the Ernie Goodman biography.

Babson noted that while at the national convention at the end of August, he noticed a large generational divide when it came to who knew who Ernie Goodman was. For those of us in the younger generation, Ernie Goodman was a defense attorney for workers and the militant poor. He practiced from the 1930s when he defended a vibrant labor movement to the 1970s, was a founding member of the National Lawyers Guild, and served as its president in the 1960s.

Babson is a historian and long-time professor at Wayne State University with the Labor Studies Program. He is also active in his labor union – the AFT – and an activist in his local community – fighting foreclosures in Detroit. Titling his talk, “A Lawyer in Dark Times,” Babson brought the perspective gained from working in progressive movements today to reflect on Goodman’s experiences coming up during the Depression and regrouping after McCarthyism. He lauded Goodman’s methods for sustaining a pro bono practice and his vision for rebuilding the NLG after it was decimated by McCarthyism.

Babson’s forty minute talk only began to touch on the book: 466 pages plus notes and photos. Read more about the book at www.erniegoodman.com. Copies are also available on amazon.com.

7. Professor Peter Erlinder Says International Criminal Tribunals Controlled by Foreign Policy Interests Do Not Promote Reconciliation

Professor Peter Erlinder recently visited DC to present on the issues of the International Criminal Tribunal of Rwanda (ICTR) and his work defending people at this international criminal tribunal.

His forty-five minute presentation was hosted by the George Washington University chapter of the NLG. Given in a well-sized lecture hall, co-chair of the GW NLG Aaron Sussman introduced Erlinder to about forty people, a good portion of them students, but a significant number of them Rwandans. Of most notable attendance was the Ambassador of Rwanda, James Kimonyo.

During his presentation, Erlinder gave a historical account of the events surrounding Rwanda in 1994 which countered the story that has been told and repeated around the world. Erlinder was careful to not conclude whether or not genocide had occurred in Rwanda. He did say that both the Hutus and the Tutsis committed crimes they should be held accountable for. Erlinder was imprisoned this summer in Rwanda for weeks on charges of “genocide denial.” The Rwandan government eventually released him because of the deterioration of his health, while investigations continue.

Erlinder did explain from where his version of the story of Rwanda had come. He described using the ICTR’s Disclosure Principles in order to gain access to the United Nations’ documents. At the time, Erlinder was defending leaders of the Hutu army in the ICTR who were key suspects of committing genocide. Based on the information Erlinder uncovered in the UN documents, he led the ICTR to conclude in February 2009 that the prosecution had not proved beyond a reasonable doubt that the accused conspired among themselves or with others to commit genocide. Erlinder calls the exposure of these documents a wikileaks moment. He encourages people to view these documents at www.rwandaprojectdocuments.net.

Despite his victory for his client, Erlinder concluded with a theme he had started with in the beginning. The ICTR is only prosecuting the side that lost the war – the Hutus. Drawing a broader conclusion, Erlinder stated that while tribunals are controlled by the interests of foreign policies (e.g. as the United States has been shown to involve themselves in the prosecutorial decisions of the ICTR), they cannot be true tribunals of justice, and will not promote healing and reconciliation. Erlinder next fielded questions and comments from the audience, first giving a solid ten minutes to Ambassador Kimonyo, who responded to some of Erlinder’s comments and defended the position of his country, continuing to accuse Erlinder of genocide denial.

8. Babies

The DC NLG welcomes several diapered friends to its ranks! We hope to see the babies and their families out at events soon. Welcome to:

Sarah Smith, daughter of Jamie and Dan Smith, born September 2010

David Elder, son of Sara Markle-Elder and Ed Elder, born October 2010

Malcolm Hardenbergh, son of Lori and John Hardenbergh, born December 2010



9. Nominating Committee formed for April Board Elections

The Chapter will hold elections for a new Board of Directors in April 2011. A nominating committee has been formed to put a proposed slate of directors forward to the membership that consists of Jim Klimaski, Ann Wilcox and Rachael Moshman. If you would like to suggest to the Nominating Committee a nomination of a member (including yourself) to serve on the Board, please contact Rachael at rmoshman@hotmail.com.

10. Photos from the 2010 Annual Holiday Latke Party

Judy Galat and Geoff Thale hosted our annual holiday party for NLG members at their Silver Spring home in early December. A special thanks to Geoff for hosting us and producing such golden brown latkes. Attending was Bill Montross, John Hardenbergh, Jim Drew, Kay Guinane, Stephanie Joseph and her daughter Hannah, Jim Klimaski, and Rachael Moshman.



Photos (clockwise from left to right):
Stephanie Joseph watches as daughter Hannah
noshes; Jim Drew's cherry pie; Bill Montross
aids Geoff Thale in latke production.

11. NLG Members Spotted at Rally for Mumia in Philadelphia

On November 9, 2010, a 3 judge panel with the Third Circuit Court of Appeals heard oral arguments on the issue of whether during Mumia Abu Jamal's 1982 trial, the jurors heard instructions that implicitly suggested that jurors give Mumia a death penalty sentence rather than a life sentence. A rally was held outside the federal courthouse in Philadelphia where the hearing was held. DC NLG members Edmundo Saballos and Rachael Moshman traveled with other DC activists to Philadelphia to attend the rally. Spotted waiting in line to go inside and hear the oral arguments were NLG Executive Director Heidi Boghosian and Zachary Wolfe, who is the Chair of the NLG's Amicus Committee.



Protesters for Mumia in front of federal courthouse in Philadelphia. Photo courtesy of Mr. Saballos.

12. Photos from 2010 NLG National Convention in New Orleans



Photos (from left to right): WCL students Stacy King (front) and Edmundo Saballos (behind her) participate in a picket that ended an inspiring session hosted by the Labor and Employment Committee. The picket joined NLG members with ROC members to protest the labor practices of a restaurant owner on Bourbon Street. Photo courtesy of Kate Kelly; Rachael Moshman sits amongst other conference attendees at a session dedicated to discussing the pipeline to prisons problem in New Orleans schools. Local students shared their experiences, answered questions, and brainstormed with attendees for solutions to different problems identified. Photo courtesy of Kay Clemens.



Photos (from left to right): Jim Drew listens to a plenary hosted by NLG president David Gespass where resolutions such as when to require chapters to buy union made products were debated, and the Visioning Committee's plans, proposals and way forward were discussed. Photo courtesy of Katy Clemens; A late night scene from Bourbon Street.

13. Events

February 8, 6-8pm, 12 Years of Injustice: FREE THE CUBAN FIVE FROM U.S. PRISONS! At the Founders Library/Howard University, 500 Howard Place. Panel Participants include Leonard Weinglass, long time NLG member and movement lawyer, Kathryn Strifflino (Amnesty International), DC Committee to Free the Cuban 5.

February 10, 7pm, Town Hall Meeting on the implementation of the District's Medical Marijuana Program, sponsored by the District of Columbia Patient's Cooperative at Prince Hall in All Souls Unitarian Church, 16th and Harvard Sts, NW. Space limited, rsvp at www.DCpatients.org by Febr. 9. Panelists include Steph Sherer (Americans for Safe Access), councilmembers invited.

February 12, 5-7pm, Me Facing Life: Cyntoia's Story, Busboys and Poets, 14th and V Sts., NW, screening and discussion of film about true life story of Cyntoia Brown, serving a life sentence for a murder she committed at age 16. Sponsored by SALSA and Community Cinema DC. Admission is free with reservation: 202-939-0794

February 14, 8:30am – 11:30am, Behind the Kitchen Door Summit: Inequality and Opportunity in Washington, DC's Thriving Restaurant Industry, at Eatonville Restaurant, 2121 14th St., NW. Speakers include Phil Mendelson, Barbara Ehrenreich (Author of Nickel and Dimed), Washington DC Restaurant Workers and others. The event is free, breakfast is provided, for more info contact Bonnie Kwon (ROC-DC) at bonnie@rocunited.org

February 16, 12:15pm – 1:30pm, Private Practitioners Luncheon at Jim Klimaski's office, 1625 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Suite 500. All members in private practice or interested in private practice are welcome. This is a brown bag affair, beverages provided.

February 22, 12pm-2pm, Emerging Developments in DC and MD Residential Foreclosure Law, Luncheon Panel sponsored by the DC Bar Real Estate, Housing and Land Use Section. Register [here](#).