



# National Lawyers Guild

## New York City Chapter

NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD  
143 Madison Ave, 4th floor  
New York, NY 10016-6717  
phone 212-679-6018  
fax 212-679-6178  
email: nlgnyc@igc.org

### PRESIDENT

Martin R. Stolar

### VICE PRESIDENTS

Joseph Lipofsky  
Rachel Meeropol

### TREASURER

Christopher Martin

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Daniel Anisfeld  
Bruce K. Bentley  
Dana Biberman  
Robert Boyle  
Elizabeth Fink  
Aaron David Frishberg  
Risa Gerson  
William Goodman  
Steve Gotzler  
Deborah Hrbek  
Joel Kupferman  
Jennifer Laurin  
Ursula Levelt  
Sally Mendola  
Daniel Meyers  
Dorothy Shtob  
Franklin Siegel  
Michael Smith  
Colin Starger  
Marc Alain Steier  
Michael Weisberg  
Representatives from  
NYC Area Law Schools

June 8, 2004

Dear Colleagues,

As you are undoubtedly aware, the Republican National Convention ("RNC") is being held in New York City from August 29 to September 2, 2004. It is expected that hundreds of thousands of people will demonstrate against the Bush administration and its policies including the war in Iraq, the USA PATRIOT Act, the use of the death penalty, and educational policies.

Various law enforcement officials, from NYC Police Commissioner Ray Kelly to Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau, have made statements saying that they expect there to be **thousands of arrests** before and during the RNC. Often those statements have been part of their efforts to secure more money for police and prosecutors.

While we hope their predictions about arrests turn out to be wrong, given the conduct and policies of law enforcement community during recent large demonstrations in Miami, Philadelphia, and New York, we want to be prepared.

**We urge you to join us in volunteering legal support to thousands exercising their First Amendment rights, including:**

- a) **Representing people arrested at the protests**
- b) **Handling arraignment shifts**
- c) **Acting as a legal observer**

Since 1968, the National Lawyer Guild Mass Defense Committee has provided legal observers at protests and lawyers for arrested demonstrators. The Guild is coordinating legal support and mass defense for the RNC. We are joining with other lawyers and activists to negotiate with the NYPD and raise our concerns with City council members and community leaders. We are also preparing for a legal response in the event of mass arrests.

To that end, we are seeking volunteer lawyers to handle arraignment shifts (or parts thereof) during the convention, represent arrestees (pro bono or at reduced rates) or be willing to do other legal work. We expect that the Legal Aid Society will take on some of the cases, but we want to insure that they are not so swamped that their ability to represent all of their clients will be compromised.

Additionally, we want to be prepared to deal with non-criminal matters that may arise during the course of the RNC and thereafter. For instance, we want lawyers with immigration expertise to be available to advise or represent protestors who have immigration problems and civil lawyers to handle issues that may arise.



# National Lawyers Guild

**New York City Chapter**  
NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD  
143 Madison Ave, 4th floor  
New York, NY 10016-6717  
phone 212-679-6018  
fax 212-679-6178  
email: nlgny@igc.org

**PRESIDENT**  
Martin R. Stolar

**VICE PRESIDENTS**  
Joseph Lipofsky  
Rachel Meeropol

**TREASURER**  
Christopher Martin

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**  
Daniel Anisfeld  
Bruce K. Bentley  
Dana Biberman  
Robert Boyle  
Elizabeth Fink  
Aaron David Frishberg  
Risa Gerson  
William Goodman  
Steve Gotzler  
Deborah Hrbek  
Joel Kupferman  
Jennifer Laurin  
Ursula Levelt  
Sally Mendola  
Daniel Meyers  
Dorothy Shtob  
Franklin Siegel  
Michael Smith  
Colin Starger  
Marc Alain Steier  
Michael Weisberg  
Representatives from  
NYC Area Law Schools

We plan to have some orientation/training meetings as it gets closer to the RNC. We also have a web site which will have RNC-related information, at [www.nycnlg.org/rnc.html](http://www.nycnlg.org/rnc.html).

If you are interested in helping out, please fill out the attached questionnaire and return it to the National Lawyers Guild Office (RNC Volunteers) at 143 Madison Avenue, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, New York, NY 10016.

Contributions to the expenses of our efforts are also welcome, payable to: "National Lawyers Guild, NYC Chapter", earmarked "RNC Mass Defense".

If you have questions, you can also call Bruce Bentley at (212) 679-6018, ext 16. If you know others who might be interested, please feel free to copy these materials and pass them along.

We look forward to hearing from you and working together.

Sincerely,

**Martin R. Stolar**  
President

**Bruce K. Bentley**  
RNC Mass Defense Coordinator

**REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION  
NLG Mass Defense Attorney Questionnaire**

**NAME:**

**ADDRESS:**

**TELEPHONE:**

**FAX:**

**EMAIL:**

Please indicate your areas of specialty and years of practice (e.g. "Criminal defense/9 years")

Check all boxes that apply:

- I am willing to represent people after arraignments at later court appearances to the completion of the case.
  
- I am willing to represent people charged with
  - Violations
  - Misdemeanors
  - Felonies
  
- I am willing to handle pro bono criminal cases as follows (please indicate the number and types of cases):
  
- In addition to handling pro bono criminal cases, I am willing to handle low bono (reduced rates) criminal cases. To help us determine reasonable "low bono" guidelines, please indicate what you think is minimally acceptable, reduced attorney fees, considering the seriousness and number of charges, the number of defendants, plea or trial, flat rate or hourly:
  
- I am willing to do other work:
  - Legal Observer
  - Visit arrestees at precincts or central booking
  - Be "on call" should the police raid activists' work space
  - Other:
  
- I am on the state 18b panel
  
- I am on the federal CJA panel
  
- I have other relevant legal skills (e.g., immigration, civil litigation, etc.):

Additional comments/questions:

Please mail to: National Lawyers Guild, RNC Volunteers, 143 Madison Avenue, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
New York, NY 10016