82ND ANNIVERSARY

NLG-NYC SPRING FLING 2019

Friday, June 14, 2019
6-10pm

Honoring the 50th Anniversary
of the Stonewall Rebellion

and the Guild’s support
for the LGBTQ movement
Honorees at Previous NLG/NYC Chapter Dinners:

- **1974**: The Founders of the Guild (first Chapter Dinner Journal)
- **1975**: Dorothy Shtob
- **1976**: Marshall Perlin
- **1977**: Arthur Kinoy
- **1978**: Victor Rabinowitz
- **1979**: Martin Popper
- **1980**: John Abt
- **1981**: Ralph Shapiro
- **1982**: Catherine Roraback, Rhonda Copelon, Judith Levin, Nancy Stearns
- **1983**: David Scribner
- **1984**: Haywood Burns
- **1985**: William Kunstler
- **1986**: The Guild’s 5 Decades of Work in Human Rights, Peace & Justice, with special award to Nelson Mandela
- **1987**: 50th Anniversary – Celebrating Our Past, Building the Future
- **1988**: Bonnie Brower
- **1989**: Morton Stavis
- **1991**: Quarter Century of Government-Funded Legal Services in NYC
- **1992**: 20th Anniversary of the Attica Uprising
- **1993**: The Advocates of Battered Women: Betty Levinson, Holly Maguigan, Liz Schneider, Nadine Taub, Ellen Yaroshefsky & Carol Lefcourt (posthumously)
- **1994**: Lewis Steel
- **1995**: Michael Ratner
- **1997**: 60th Anniversary - Honoring Bob Boehm, Ellen Chapnick, Emily Jane Goodman, Victor Rabinowitz, Bob Rose, Franklin Siegel
- **1998**: Craig Kaplan
- **1999**: Association of Legal Aid Attorneys, UAW Local 2325, on its 30th Anniversary
- **2000**: Kristin Booth Glen
- **2001**: Danny Greenberg
- **2002**: Carlin Meyer
- **2003**: Steve Banks
- **2004**: Peter J. Neufeld and Barry Scheck
- **2005**: Ira Gollomb and Claudia Slovinsky
- **2006**: Frank Big Black Smith and Elizabeth Fink
- **2007**: 70th Anniversary - Honoring Past Presidents of the New York City Chapter
- **2008**: Margaret Ratner Kunstler, Mary Kaufman, William Schaap, Sarah Kunstler, and Gideon Orion Oliver
- **2010**: Myron Beldock, James I. Meyerson, Lynne Stewart, Evelyn W. Warren, Michael Tarif Warren
- **2011**: Heidi Boghosian and the activist spirit of the NLG
- **2012**: Bina Ahmad, Cristina Lee, Meghan Maurus, Martin R. Stolar, and the OWS work of the Chapter plus a Special Tribute to Emily Jane Goodman
- **2013**: International Human Rights Lawyers of the National Lawyers Guild-New York City Chapter: Lamis Deek, Lennox Hinds, Abdeen Jabara, Jeanne Mirer, and Robert F. Van Lierop
- **2014**: Honoring The Floyd Stop & Frisk Team: Jonathan Moore, Center for Constitutional Rights Team: Baher Azmy, Darius Charney, Ian Head, Sunita Patel, Chauniqua Young
- **2015**: Honoring the 2015 Champions of Justice: Soffiyah Elijah, Daniel L. Meyers, Michael Steven Smith
- **2016**: Law Student Honorees: Volunteers with the NLG Prison Law Project
- **2017**: Natasha Lycia Ora Bannan
- **2018**: Nancy Stearns
- **2019**: Law Student Recognition Award: Kyle Barron
National Lawyers Guild
New York City Chapter

82nd Anniversary Dinner

NLG-NYC
SPRING FLING 2019

Honoring the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion and the Guild’s Support for the LGBTQ Movement

Honoring:
Bill Dobbs
Moira Meltzer-Cohen
Bill Singer

Law Student Recognition Award:
Alex Petkanas

Friday, June 14, 2019
6-10pm
PROGRAM

WELCOME
Andy Izenson
President, New York City Chapter
National Lawyers Guild

KEYNOTE
Prof. Katherine Franke

INTRODUCTION TO BILL DOBBS
Norman Siegel

INTRODUCTION TO MOIRA MELTZER-COHEN
Sandra Freeman

INTRODUCTION TO BILL SINGER
Michael Fedun

INTRODUCTION TO ALEX PETKANAS
Prof. Susan Hazeldean

AWARDS PRESENTATION
Susan Howard
Executive Director

REMARKS
Bill Dobbs
Moira Meltzer-Cohen
Bill Singer
Alex Petkanas

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JoAnn Wypijewski
Welcome to our annual Spring Fling! I’m so glad that you’re with us. Last year, when I was considering volunteering to serve as President of the NYC Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild, I was feeling overwhelmed and burnt out. I was frustrated with the ways that larger systems of oppression were being thoughtlessly replicated within leftist organizing. More than anything, I knew that if I wanted to continue to be able to do this type of work, something had to change. One of the fundamental tenets of my queer advocacy is to throw all of my energy and all of my heart into building the world around me that I want to live in. I made the decision to run, knowing that the most important thing I could do as President was working to make the Guild kinder.

Lawyers are not traditionally an emotionally literate bunch, and leftist organizations have an undeniable tendency towards infighting, burnout, and scarcity. Like most leftist organizations, in the face of a heartfelt desire to do otherwise, we replicate systems and logics of the white supremacist carceral state in our work and in our dealings with each other. When we treat each other as disposable resources, the brunt of that lands on the heads of those among us who are otherwise marginalized – women, queers, people of color, and those without access to the privilege of law school. Instead of continuing to play out narratives of violence amongst ourselves, what if we committed instead to doing the hard and frightening work of engaging with each other as if we love each other?

When I think about what it means to be a powerful advocate who engages with power thoughtfully, constantly re-evaluates one’s placement in and alignment with structures of violence, and comes always from a place of deep love and compassion, I think about our honorees tonight. If I need a vision of what it looks like to work in this world guided by heart, rigor, and a generative critical engagement with authority and tradition, I have but to text Mo, call Bill Singer, read the latest Dobbs Wire, or click over to Alex’s twitter feed.

I should note that it’s no coincidence that some of the most loving, thoughtful, and creative practitioners I know are members of my LGBTQ+ community. Being a queer or gender non-conforming person forces a person to engage critically with the stories we are all told about what your life is supposed to look like, and from that
critical engagement grows a career built with intention. Our honorees tonight received the same messages as everyone else in the field about what a legal career can be, and they all received those messages with a saucy hair-flip and an unyielding commitment to make their legal careers what they wanted them to be instead—what would build the world around them that they wanted to live in.

I am endlessly grateful for Bill Singer, Bill Dobbs, Moira Meltzer-Cohen, and Alex Petkanas, and for every other LGBTQ+ practitioner who inspires their communities. I believe we can co-create the movement that we need to carry us into a brighter future if we engage with each other with abundance and kindness. And when I feel fear, doubt, and scarcity about that, I turn to these comrades. Continually learning from them and having their brilliance to light my way gives me courage, which is why I am just beside myself with joy to be able to give them a small fraction of the honor that their work is due.

As we celebrate together tonight, I want to encourage you to take this opportunity to let all your assembled compatriots light your way as well. The movement for collective liberation needs all of us, and it needs us to take care of each other, to engage with each other from a place of love, and to build around ourselves a world without the carceral state, without white supremacy, without misogyny, homophobia, and transphobia. I know we can do it together.

Mir veln zy iberlebn,
Andy Izenson
THE GUILD CHAPTER’S SUPPORT FOR THE LGBTQ MOVEMENT

by Ann M. Schneider

The NLG-NYC Chapter has been in the forefront of Queer activism from the earliest days following the 1969 Stonewall Rebellion, always maintaining a radical, anti-corporate bent. Tonight’s honorees embody the best traditions and unique perspective of the Guild.

While sadly we have lost our stalwarts Rhonda Copelon, Paula Ettelbrick and Margot Karle, this 50-year anniversary provides a long-overdue occasion to honor some of the individuals who have made lasting social change.

Poet David Blackey remembers being a Guild member in his senior year at NYU Law School (1968-69) and those first heady days of the birth of the gay rights movement, germinating from Stonewall. He says two vanguard groups, the Gay Activist Alliance and the Gay Liberation Front, both contacted the Guild for legal assistance and legal observers for the first Gay Pride march on the one-year anniversary of the 1969 Stonewall Rebellion. David continued to work with both groups on sit-ins, organizing, education, permits and negotiating with police.

Daniel Alterman, Barbara Handschu, Bob Markfield and Emily Jane Goodman formed a group they called the Law Workers Collective in 1969 in response to escalation of the Vietnam war. They saw the need to provide both medical and legal assistance at demonstrations and both Alterman and David Blackey participated in the first Gay pride march in 1970. Emily Jane Goodman continued to represent the Gay Activists Alliance from 1969 going forward. Among her efforts was a suit to compel the District Attorney to press assault charges against a group of firemen who had beaten up her clients for passing out leaflets at a dinner dance. The D.A. declined to do so. Even though a grand jury returned a violation against the president of the Firefighter’s union Michael Maye, a former boxer, he was acquitted in a bench trial.

Alterman presented at the first Queer Law conference at NYU on behalf of the Guild, remarks later made into a
booklet portraying different aspects of gay life.

The organizers of the historic 1970 march were surveilled by the NYPD. We know this because the Guild’s suit against police spying, Handschu vs. Bureau of Special Services, resulted in the release of the photographs which are now part of the City Archives.

Former Dean of CUNY Law School and retired Judge Kristin Booth Glen represented members of a New England lesbian commune who were subpoenaed in 1975 to testify at a Grand Jury on suspicion of harboring associates of the Weather Underground. She and her then-law partner Margot Karle (now deceased) represented activists from the earliest days of the movement.

Even earlier than Stonewall, Alan H. Levine, while a staff lawyer at NYCLU, helped write an amicus brief (obo ACLU with Mel Wulf) in the case of Boutilier vs. INS, to the US Supreme Court which affirmed the opinion of Second Circuit Judge Irving R Kaufman. Blanch Freedman, one of the few women founding members of the NLG, was counsel for the admittedly-gay Canadian Clive Boutilier in the 1967 case, which challenged the constitutionality of a law that permitted deportation of homosexuals as “psychopathic sexual deviates.” (Attorney General Janet Reno announced in 1994 the INS would no longer apply the ban). Levine, a 2017 Honoree, also worked at with the Mattachine Society to secure the acquittal of a man charged with sexual misconduct after he had been entrapped in a public bathroom by an NYPD officer.

Things were fomenting inside the Guild as well. With Liz Shalen, Joan Lobis (now a retired Judge) gave a panel at the Denver Convention in 1971, titled, “ Lesbian views of Marxism.” It was the early days of radical feminism, which borrowed a lot from dialectical materialism. That decade, the Guild was subject to an attempted takeover by certain sectarian left groupings. Those groups cautioned against open expression of homosexuality, lest it lessen the appeal of the Guild to working class people. The resultant discord in the Guild was painful to our lesbian sheroes.

In 1977 and 1978, the Guild chapter worked with the lesbian mothers group, Dykes and Tykes which raised money for lawyers and expert witnesses for women in custody battles. The Chapter funded a summer project and Beth Stephens, among other Guild members, trained 20 women over six weeks in paralegal and peer counseling for the Dykes and Tykes Legal Custody Center. Stephens and Stevie Knowles, the chair of the Gay Rights subcommittee drafted a legal guide on gay parenting, emphasizing the legal and emotional issues involved in a custody battle, the importance of expert testimony and trial strategy.

A Guild chapter newsletter from that time states, “These lesbian mothers are under attack because they have rejected their role in the nuclear family. The nuclear family is the basic economic and socializing unit of patriarchal capitalism. It allows the capitalists to pay one worker for the work of two.”

In 1978, the Guild’s Anti-Sexism Committee, headed by Mary Jo Long, Donald Hall and Marilyne Mason, organized support for passage of a Gay Civil Rights Bill by means of a jog-a-thon.

That same year, Roberta Achtenberg founded the National Center for Lesbian Rights in San Francisco. She was the original editor for the NLG publication, Sexual Orientation and the Law (1985). She was the keynote speaker at the national convention we organized here in NYC in 1993, shortly after her appointment by Bill Clinton to a senior office of HUD, the US Dept of Housing and Urban Development. Achtenberg was succeeded as editor of Sexual Orientation and the Law by
Karen Moulding. The volume is still updated and available from a major legal publisher. A separate, 143-page publication addressing the rights of gay and lesbian draftees and military veterans was published by the Guild’s military law project and Gay Rights Task Force in 1985.

At least a thousand people marched in NYC in 1979 to disrupt the filming of the movie, “Cruising,” which was seen as depicting homosexuals in the most negative light. Danny Alterman represented those arrested, and later, the Act-Up members protesting in front of St. Patrick’s Cathedral.

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the Guild convened the gay rights subcommittee, first as a subcommittee of the anti-sexism task force which was headed by Philadelphia attorney and film-maker Abbe Smith (now Prof. of Law at Georgetown). Katherine Franke, who would become only the second Executive Director of the NLG-NO, led a workshop at the 1987 convention, pointing out 40% of the people diagnosed with AIDS are people of color, and decrying the isolation and stigma brought about by underreporting. Franke, then an attorney at the AIDS and Employment Project at the Employment Law Center in San Francisco, noted that the Department of Labor that year began requiring an AIDS test for federally funded job-training, a discriminatory measure infringing 4th amendment and right to privacy.

1988 was the year that the largest ever gathering of legal professionals dealing with lesbian and gay issues convened in SF at the Lavender Law national conference.

In 1988 the Guild national executive committee (the NEC, which was then our governing body) approved a resolution on domestic partner benefits, to wit: “Whereas benefits make up nearly 40% of an employed individual’s compensation, and lesbian and gay couples are prohibited from marriage and many choose not to marry; Therefore, be it resolved that employment benefits that exclude domestic partners constitutes discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Guild employers are required to examine and modify their Employment Practices. Implementation: lesbian and gay rights subcommittee.”

Meanwhile, at the Center for Constitutional Rights, Peter Weiss, Joan Gibbs, David Cole and Ellen Yaroshefsky brought suit in 1989 on behalf of Karen Finley and David Wojnarowicz after the NEA rescinded grants based on depictions of gay sex. Joan Gibbs represented Act Up members who were arrested for sitting in the city health commissioner’s office in 1988 protesting the undercount of those affected with HIV. Joan represented the Haitian American Anti-Defamation League after the CDC labeled them a high-risk category for AIDS, and along with Margaret Ratner, sued DOCS for improper training of guards at Rikers. With Paula Ettelbrick of Lambda Legal Defense, Joan sued the New York State Department of Corrections for refusing to let a prisoner with AIDS participate in a family reunification program in 1987.

In 1989 came the Braschi v. Stahl Associates decision of the New York Court of Appeals, recognizing same-sex couples as a family unit and prohibiting eviction of the surviving member in a rent-stabilized apartment.
Former Chapter President Judith Levin, together with Project Director Nan Hunter and lead counsel William Rubenstein, were the attorneys for the Plaintiff for the ACLU’s Gay Right Project. Mary Marsh Zulack and Lynn Kelly worked on an amicus brief to the NY Court of Appeals for The Legal Aid Society, as did Paula Ettelbrick for Lambda Legal Defense.


NLGAN called for AIDS work to be a priority in the Guild. At the 1993 convention, “It was resolved that each chapter must provide basic education on public health & policy issues surrounding the AIDS epidemic and develop a legislative action committee.”

The Chapter sent President Professor Larry Vogelman of Cardozo to testify to the NYC Council in 1988 about the need for funding for legal services to the AIDS community, and for a legal clearinghouse to center the legal needs. On our behalf, he urged massive public education so as to overcome stigma associated with the disease and its focus on certain communities and ethnicities. The Guild highlighted the potential for abuse of forced testing for HIV, saying “Ignorance, fear, prejudice and apathy have made AIDS part of all our lives.”

The conveners of the New York AIDS Network / AIDS Taskforce were Lauren Shapiro, Stephen Yorke, Amy Ruth Tobol, Mike Spiegel and James Campbell.

The NLG AIDS Network was formed in 1985 and boasted of having 250 participants in 39 states. The Guild chapter was able to offer attorneys with a wide range of expertise, from medical and insurance needs to public benefits, housing and family law to employment law and real estate transactions. Local participants included John Gresham and Steve Latimer from Prisoners’ Legal Services of NY; Abby Rubenfeld, Loren Bailey; O. Stephen Paganuzzi, Jr.; (now Judge) Marcia Sikowitz; Cathy Potler, Arthur Leonard; Nan Hunter; Juliette Levin; Andrea Novick; Mitchell Karp; Bill Singer, and Rhonda Copelon. Other New York participants were Mary Jo Long, Lanny Walter and Anita Thayer of Albany.

Former NO staffer Robert Hilliard was in the 1980’s the leading immigration lawyer in NYC for gay people and people who were HIV+.

Three of the first openly gay women Judges in New York City came from the Guild chapter. Joan Lobis was the first lesbian, appointed a housing court judge in 1985 and became the first lesbian elected to the Supreme Court in 1992. Her partner Mary Bednar was the first lesbian appointed to a constitutional court, the Family Court in 1986. Lobis was a hero to Marilyn Shafer. When Shafer was appointed in 1988 to housing court, she says she was not really out. That year, while watching the gay pride march go by, she and her partner spontaneously joined in. She recalls, “I began to realize how important it was that the public see that we are everywhere.” She remembers the police had the contingent just in front of them and saw how ecstatic the crowd was to see gay police. And that the crowd grew even more ecstatic seeing the gay judges, “all ten of us, including partners.”

Mary Bednar says that the story of her as a folk hero isn’t quite accurate: It is said that she said to a court officer, “No, I don’t need gloves, I’m going to arraign him, not f***k him.” But she remembers the general panic and the
role of the court officers union during that time when AIDS first appeared. The officers donning white gloves while escorting detainees from the pens to the courtroom was a form of public humiliation. When a court officer asked her what to do with a detainee, she replied to him, “You’re not planning on f***g him, are you?”

In 1990, Guild members were in the forefront of a failed effort to pass a Civil Rights Act that would expand protections against employment discrimination. There was also a popular move to boycott Coors beer. The Adolph Coors family gave financial support to several New Right groups, the Heritage Foundation, The Free Congress Foundation, and the Council for National Policy, all of whom supported “traditional family values.”

To these legal giants and all the other brave Guild members and associates, gay and straight who stood up for the right thing at the right time, we salute you!

and some of whom say homosexuals are an abomination and “AIDS is God’s judgment.” Part of a chorus of voices that doomed Robert Bork’s nomination to the US Supreme Court, the Guild was newly active on Capitol Hill. The late great feminist Florynce Kennedy made the phenomenon into a verb when she told the 1991 NOW conference what we planned to do regarding the nomination of Clarence Thomas. “We are going to Bork him, we’re going to kill him politically, the little creep…. where did he come from?”

1991 saw the national convention disrupted by the RCP holding signs saying, “It’s a bad day when you can’t tell your friends from your lawyers.” We had earned their enmity by voting to disassociate ourselves from their exclusion of gay and lesbian members. Our Honoree Bill Singer was a founding member of the Hyacinth AIDS Foundation in New Jersey, which has six offices around the state. It was founded in 1985 in response to New Jersey’s AIDS epidemic and works to develop and implement public health policies like anonymous or confidential testing.

After the violent death of Matthew Shepard in 1998, Beatrice Dohrn, then-legal director of Lambda, said, “This University of Wyoming student was beaten and left to die, tied to a fence like an animal because he was honest and open about being gay. His horrible suffering and death cannot be dismissed simply as the fault of deranged, isolated individuals. His attackers are among millions of American who constantly hear the message that gay people are not worthy of the most basic equal treatment.” Danny Alterman represented protestors of Shepard’s death in criminal court and brought civil rights cases in Federal and State Court.

Paula Ettelbrick, who tragically succumbed to cancer at age 56 in 2011 was a leading legal figure in the movement until her death. Besides serving as the director of Lambda Legal Defense and the Guild’s National Vice President, she developed domestic partnership policies widely used in private companies, universities and government settings. Between 2003-2009, she built the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission into an NGO with staff on 4 continents.

Suzanne B. Goldberg, now clinical professor of law at Columbia, while senior staff attorney at Lambda Legal, was co-counsel on the 2003 landmark Supreme Court case Lawrence v Texas, which made consensual gay sex legal in all states, and the 1996 case Romer v Evans which set the stage for overturning Bowers v Hardwick.

To these legal giants and all the other brave Guild members and associates, gay and straight who stood up for the right thing at the right time, we salute you!
For decades, lawyer, activist, and communications consultant Bill Dobbs, a longtime member of the National Lawyers Guild, has been taking up the causes that many see as too controversial or too intractable to confront.

As a law student at the University of Michigan, he co-founded the school’s lesbian and gay student group (now known as Outlaws) at a time when few in the legal profession were venturing out of the closet. He also co-founded a local gay community center when such refuges were rare.

In the worst years of the AIDS pandemic in 1987, Dobbs was an early and energetic member of the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP)—the shock troops of a movement to get a hostile and fearful society to pay attention to a health crisis fueled by bigotry. He served as an on-call lawyer for members who were frequently arrested for civil disobedience and was publisher of ACT UP’s controversial internal newsletter, “TITA” (Tell It To ACT UP).

When “hate crimes” laws became all the rage in response to repellant violence that was driven by prejudice, Dobbs—a consistent civil libertarian—warned that these statutes were adding penalties for what amounted to “thought crimes” and were handing already powerful prosecutors one more club with which to hammer criminal defendants.

After the grisly 1998 murder of Wyoming gay college student Matthew Shepard when many—including in the LGBT community—were calling for the execution of his accused killers, Dobbs co-led a campaign against the death penalty that a defense attorney later credited with sparing his client from a possible death sentence by paving the way for a life-in-prison plea agreement. The campaign also successfully embarrassed mainstream LGBT groups to take public stands against capital punishment and stay allied with the progressive community on that issue.

“What do we want: justice or revenge?” Dobbs said at the time. “Gay political capital has become so substantial that it can now be used to railroad others and compromise the ability of a defendant to get a fair trial.”

As the nation and a supine Congress followed George W. Bush after 9/11 into wars in Afghanistan and Iraq based on lies and faked “intelligence,” Dobbs served as media coordinator and spokesperson for United for Peace and Justice, the nation’s leading anti-war coalition.
When NYC Mayor Mike Bloomberg tried to get New Yorkers to help out when the Republican National Convention came to town by claiming the gathering was “non-partisan,” Dobbs opined (with a bit of camp humor), “If the R.N.C. is non-partisan, I’m Greta Garbo. A political party’s convention by its nature is partisan. This is loony.”

When the wealth inequality spawned by the Reagan, Clinton, and Bush administrations continued under Obama, he played a central role in 2011 at Zuccotti Park with Occupy Wall Street, the group that mainstreamed the battle cry, “We are the 99%.” On the scene from Day One, Dobbs helped coordinate the group’s media team that got Occupy’s message out around the world.

After a raid by NYPD and Homeland Security and federal prosecutors moved to shutter an advertising website for male escorts—RentBoy.com that had been operating without incident for almost 20 years—Dobbs threw himself into leading a protest against this prosecutorial overreach and reinvigorated the movement for the decriminalization of sex work—deploying statements of support from the ACLU, Human Rights Watch, and Lambda Legal Defense.

Demonstrably providing leadership on macro issues from war and peace to economic justice and sexual civil liberties, Dobbs is equally dedicated to being one among many in protests for social justice—working hard to come up with the few words on his protest sign that will send the most salient message even if it means shaking up the conventional wisdom on what the issue at hand is. He wants us to THINK about our issues in fresh ways.

“Civil libertarian William K. Dobbs,” as he is often identified in newspapers, is also someone reporters often turn to when they want a truly independent voice in a story. While many who represent social justice organizations are burdened by not wanting to step too far outside the box at the risk of offending, Dobbs is famous for telling it like it is and venturing into waters others wouldn’t dare.

When NYC Mayor Giuliani in 1998 urged taking photos of people entering porn stores, Dobbs—then a member of New Yorkers for Free Expression and ever vigilant against sex panics—said that when he heard this news “it took me, like, 10 minutes to recover.” He added, “This is clear evidence that the Mayor’s effort to regulate adult businesses is, in reality, a morality crusade.”

When Trump’s favorite DA, Jeannine Pirro of Westchester Count, was
conducting an online sting operation to entrap men seeking sex with underage teens in 2001, Dobbs said, “This sort of police tactic is wide open to abuse, it creates all kinds of constitutional and civil liberties problems, and in the end, it may be creating crimes rather than solving them.”

The gross injustice of the sex offense registry has been one of Dobbs’ major efforts in recent years. Now over 900,000 are blacklisted and made modern pariahs with few willing to defend their constitutional and human rights. Undeterred, Dobbs pushes ahead with advocacy, organizing and publishing a newsletter, The Dobbs Wire, hoping to bring reason and justice to this area of law. “I support accountability and due process,” he said, “but the registry is simply not effective and it permanently destroys lives.”

In 2015, when a campaign was underway to declare Christopher Park and its surrounding streets as the Stonewall National Monument, Dobbs told the Gay City News, “The federal designation sounds great, but let’s see the details–especially how people who use the park are going to be treated.”

This year on the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion, Dobbs has gotten deeply involved in the Reclaim Pride Movement. Bill Dobbs always looks out for the most vulnerable, never defers to power, and always brings a fresh perspective to age-old problems. He keeps a protest sign under his bed at the ready: “JUSTICE, NOT VENGEANCE."
It’s not accurate to say that Moira Meltzer-Cohen was a teacher in a past life. Rather, Mo worked in schools in a past life as a classroom teacher in preschool, high school, and college, and an anti-racist curriculum developer; they are a teacher and have been one, in one type of classroom or another, for their entire career.

Like all the best teachers, Mo approaches their work non-hierarchically. Whether they’re leading impromptu know-your-rights trainings, helping community members understand their quality-of-life agency documents, or advocating for the release of political prisoners, they engage with their students and clients as collaborators and work ceaselessly to treat legal practice as a skillshare.

Describing Mo’s CV just sounds like rattling off a list of all the ways one can think of to be a radical lawyer. Their first run-in with the Guild was at Occupy Wall Street. Then a 3L at CUNY Law, Mo not only joined the Legal Observer team, but also co-founded JustInfo, a free 24-hour legal information and referral hotline, co-founded Mutant Legal, a legal education, bail fund, and jail support collective, and dove into collaboration with experienced Mass Defense attorney Marty Stolar, learning to write motions and represent protest arrestees. They served as a one-person bail fund for many of the mass arrests at Occupy.

After graduating, they hung out a shingle and immediately started subverting existing models of law practice in favor of an innovative, cross-disciplinary, and anti-authoritarian model, representing protest arrestees in criminal court, Grand Jury resisters, political prisoners, and LGBTQ incarcerated people as well as supporting their LGBTQ community in family law, general practice, and agency and estate matters who would not otherwise be able to afford services. At every turn, Mo’s career has been characterized by a commitment to showing up unfailingly for the most marginalized, the most endangered, and the most vulnerable, to support their self-determination.

Mo traveled to North Dakota to serve as Staff Attorney for the Water Protector Legal Collective, coordinating the defense of protestors arrested at the Standing Rock site resisting the Dakota Access Pipeline.

Most recently, Mo has been representing Chelsea Manning in her fight against grand jury subpoenas. Working under the mentorship of Marty Stolar and Bob Boyle, they’ve worked unceasingly to defend Chelsea’s liberty and well-being. Marty notes, “I’ve been extraordinarily pleased to see not only how she has become a great writer, but has grown up to be a full-fledged outstanding lawyer who goes and plays in the big leagues, where obviously she...
Mo told me a story about their Grandfather Frank, an NLG labor lawyer and antifascist, who inspired them to practice law. Until they encountered other lawyers at CUNY Law, they believed that every lawyer was like that — a ferocious and loving fighter on behalf of the people. It is hardly a surprise, then, that that’s the kind of lawyer they became.

One of the things that characterizes Mo’s law practice is that they treat the law as a tool in a toolbox of mutual aid and solidarity. They are as likely to be on the phone with a client, talking them through a trigger or making sure they’ve eaten that day, as they are to be drafting a motion. Their legal work is a pure expression of care — as also evidenced by their passion for urging everyone around them to execute agency documents and do quality-of-life planning. They describe it as “tsittering like a tiny Jewish teakettle” — coming from Mo, “Do you have your healthcare proxy?” is the equivalent of “Do you have a sweater?” They want to make sure you have what you need.

Some of this urge comes from a deep-rooted kindness, and some of it comes from having seen a world that disposes of families, relationships, and individuals, and having made a conscious choice to be a part of building a better one.

This choice expresses itself from the smallest scale — a commitment that every individual queer in their community should have their agency documents in order, opening their home for “anti-imperialist day of gratitude” every November, sharing insight and compassion at every turn — to the largest — enormous scales of policy work, ensuring incarcerated trans people can change their names, battling government repression from Brooklyn to Standing Rock, serving as a powerful voice advocating legally, publicly, and privately for Chelsea Manning and other political prisoners.

In working on this article, I asked around, looking for community members, activists, and friends to share insight. Comrades shared memories of know-your-rights trainings, marches, art, dinner parties, and music. They described a comforting fixture in the street and in community, “generous with her time and resources,” often with pigtails flowing through strategically placed holes on either side of their neon green Legal Observer hat, decorated with silk flowers and fairy wings. They described an “indispensable
nightly presence outside Manhattan Central Booking” during Occupy Wall Street who, as the holder of bail funds, came to be known as “the bag lady,” and who reliably showed up or connected people with representation if they were arrested. One comrade recalled a time that Mo was doing arraignments for protest arrestees after an immigration rights action and encountered an arrestee who hadn’t been affiliated with the protest, but who had just happened to be arrested around the same time, and whose name was accidentally on their list. Even though it was late and Mo was exhausted, they went back in, handled his arraignment, and got him released on his own recognizance. “He probably thought an angel had appeared.” The throughline of the comments I collected were about Mo’s insurmountable kindness – “Mo sees the best in everyone always,” “Mo cares so much about helping people take care of themselves and their comrades,” “a mama bear who is protective of everyone that’s vulnerable.”

Your humble author can confirm: when I was arrested while legal observing, Mo was the first person I texted, phone in flex-cuffed hands, from the police wagon. “I know you were planning on having a day off tomorrow,” I wrote, “but it would be really cool if you could come arraign me. I love you!” And unfailingly, Mo showed up for me, got me out, got my case dismissed (in the interests of justice!), and was there with me the whole time. As long as Mo’s number is in my phone, I know I’m not alone.

Mo could be honored as a teacher, as an activist, as an organizer, as a baker, a knitter, a dog mom, a singer, or a tiny Jewish teakettle—today, we are honoring them as a radical lawyer, who pushes legal practice beyond its limits with creativity, rigor, and compassion, and who inspires their comrades in practice, in the streets, and on the home front.
am Bill Singer’s husband. And, while I could mention the many talks we’ve talked and the many walks we’ve walked, what I hope most to convey with this brief bio is that yes, he really is as great as he seems.

Bill Singer’s legal career as an advocate for the LGBTQ community spans decades. A native of New Jersey, he graduated from Highland Park High School in 1965 and Rutgers College in 1968. The Stonewall uprising occurred in 1969 as Bill completed his first year at Columbia Law School.

It was during this volatile time in our country’s history that Bill started his trajectory toward becoming the beacon of hope that shines before us tonight.

With a law partner, Bill started his own law firm in 1973 and was fortunate enough to see it expand to eight lawyers. Before the age of 30, Bill started representing the lesbian and gay community (“The B and T weren’t yet represented in the queer vernacular” – his words). This was in the mid-1970’s, at a time when many women were coming out, not only as lesbians, but also coming out of heterosexual marriages; and they were being denied custody and visitation rights of their own children. Bill helped these women to see their children again.

Feeling secure in his professional career, Bill came out as gay man in his firm, at a time when homosexuality still had huge strides to make toward being socially accepted. In 1984, due to his sexual orientation, although a founding partner, Bill was expelled from the law firm he helped to create, the day after he returned from the Democratic National Convention where he was a Mondale/Ferraro delegate.

Nevertheless, he persisted.

Temporarily discouraged and dismayed, Bill proved resilient and moved on to represent the new lesbian and gay non-profit political groups that were organizing.

In the 1980’s, Bill was a founding member of the Hyacinth AIDS Foundation and he started changing the legal conversation. Through the Hyacinth legal committee that he established, he fielded questions during a medical crisis, assisted countless clients sign their “death bed wills” and helped those in need with other end of life matters. In fact, he helped so many people at this time that he became known as an “Angel of Death.”

Fortunately, that dark period would soon be followed by the joy of the
lesbian baby boom, as women created families outside the heteronormative paradigm. Gay men also found ways to have their own families. This opened the door for Bill to do some creative lawyering; he wrote sperm donor agreements; co-parenting agreements; living together agreements; embryo storage agreements and many others.

In 1989, Bill was a founder of the National Lesbian and Gay Law Association, now known as the National LGBT Bar Association. After initial rejections, that Association became an affiliate of the American Bar Association. He has served for 30 years as the Bar’s pro bono General Counsel.

As LGBTQ family creation accelerated in the 1990’s, Bill crafted ways for members of the community to create and safeguard their families while pressing judges and legislators to provide frameworks to protect those families. He helped advocate for the LGBT community by doing a lot of estate and life planning work. He also helped surviving life partners win recognition and stopped them from being treated unfairly by the families of the deceased.

In 1993, Bill’s long-term relationship ended when his partner Art Bauman died of complications due to AIDS. Bill and I have been together for fifteen very exciting years. Today we have a grown daughter, Quinn, whom we share with her mother Jeri, brother Max, and stepfather Mark. Quinn now has a husband Eric, and son Drake; Max now has a wife Missy, and daughter Beatrix. This is our totally logical, if not completely biological, family.

Unlike many colleagues who specialize in LGBT law in major metropolitan areas, Bill practices law in a rural part of New Jersey. He opened Singer & Fedun, LLC in Belle Mead, NJ with Michael Fedun in 1993 – “The same year Art died” – and they have been in practice ever since.

As AIDS deaths subsided in the 2000’s, Bill started to concentrate on the
In 2006, Bill convinced a NJ judge to give a gender-neutral reading to the artificial insemination statute so that both same-sex parents of a child would be recognized as parents, without either one of the parents having to do an adoption to secure their parental rights.

To enter Bill’s Belle Mead office is to think you’ve wandered into a guidance counselor’s office. The amount of love Bill’s clients feel for him is reflected in the photos of their families on his walls. At any one time, his law office is processing dozens of pro bono name changes for Trans or Gender Non-Conforming individuals to align their names with their gender identity.

Small town charms notwithstanding, Bill has continually sought ways to connect with other lawyers on the front line of LGBT family law. In 2009, with the sponsorship of the National LGBT Bar and the National Center for Lesbian Rights, Bill created the LGBT Family Law Institute (FLI), a network of vetted, experienced lawyers who meet in off the record, closed door meetings to discuss strategies and build community.

In 10 years, that kernel of an idea has blossomed not only into a vibrant US organization, but also into similar affiliates modeled on the same concept in UK/Ireland, Australia, Canada, Europe and Latin America.

After our 2007 Civil Union ceremony, Bill and I honeymooned in Madrid because we wanted to celebrate and be where same sex marriage was already legal. Bill asked what I thought of his doing some work while we were there. I thought it sounded cool and was exactly what I’d just signed up for. Of course, Bill worked on our honeymoon! But we ended up meeting with Spanish LGBT activists and creating life-long bonds of friendship.

Since then, Bill has been connecting LGBTQ family lawyers around the world with each other, particularly in hostile or isolated places, like Paraguay, Bulgaria and Estonia. These are lawyers on the front lines counseling our community daily.

Bill has now expanded his legal services to New York. He serves of Counsel to Diana Adams Law & Mediation, PLLC.

Bill’s participation with the National Lawyers Guild-New York Chapter began in 1986, as part of the National AIDS Network of Guild attorneys recruited to assist patients living with AIDS. The NLG AIDS Network, along with the National Gay Rights Advocates went on to produce the AIDS Practice Manual.

After the 2016 elections, Bill trained to become a NLG Legal Observer at marches and demonstrations throughout New York City, enabling him to continue his work for equality and justice.

I’d like to share with you a favorite Bill Singer memory. This is from early in our relationship, maybe the first year. I, as a notary, would accompany Bill to client’s homes in New Jersey. One day, we were calling on a lesbian couple who had been Bill’s clients for years. These clients were both hoping to be declared Domestic Partners; since they always had been, even though not legally. Never mind that this was a death bed event, as one of them already had a foot in the grave. I was just there to help make honest women of them. To do that, all we needed was the signature of the Township Clerk. The clerk agreed to

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drive from the municipal building to our clients’ home and officiate over the Domestic Partnership proceedings.

Wouldn’t that have been lovely? Instead, when the clerk saw that one of the two women was minutes away from hospice, she balked. She said “Nooo,” she could not sign the paperwork necessary to make the two women legally bound, because one woman was so sick, and the clerk was not sure they had been a couple. Fair enough. But Bill was sure, and he had some convincing to do, so we took it outside. I, as the notary and witness, didn’t say a word. Outside, Bill was doing his best to convince the clerk to sign the papers. But she wasn’t budging. Finally, knowing that there was no time for later, Bill hovered over the clerk. “Come on, sign it!” He implored, “Don’t be a nerd!”

I feel I should point out here that Bill wasn’t being a bully. No, his words were coming from a genuine place of not wanting this particular township in New Jersey to be on the wrong side of history. I am happy to report that it wasn’t.

Ultimately, Bill’s clients were recognized as Domestic Partners and became exempt from New Jersey’s inheritance tax.

Meanwhile, Bill had me at “Don’t be a nerd.”

As I put the finishing touches on a rough draft of this bio, Bill bounced into the room to share the satisfaction he was feeling with the talk he had given in Atlantic City to medical malpractice attorneys over the weekend about everything LGBTQ, while reminding me that we still had to go over his remarks for a P-FLAG talk in Princeton on Monday, “Where I’ll answer the questions of parents who are raising kids like us.”

I see him growing happier every year. Bill shows no signs of stopping. No signs of slowing down. He will continue to thrive. And I think that’s great because he is exactly what we need, now and for the next fifty years! Bill Singer and his worldwide advocacy for LGBT communities, along with the National Lawyers Guild-New York Chapter, must continue to serve as an inspiration for other advocates like him to get involved, to rise up, and to ACT UP!

Thank you for honoring Bill tonight.

[A word about Bill’s bio: If you can read it, thank a teacher. If it makes sense, thank Bill’s favorite teacher; his high school English teacher, Irene Gilman.

After many decades, Bill and Irene were reunited in 2018 when Bill was inducted into the Highland Park High School Hall of Fame.

Irene generously helped me to edit and shape this into the piece of writing that it is. I am forever thankful, Irene.—RDL]
Alex Petkanas is a rising third year law student at Brooklyn Law School who is passionate about making space for everyone to participate in activism. Throughout their education and organizing, they have tried to create welcoming, accessible spaces to bring in people who aren’t already involved.

Before I describe their background, Alex wanted to include this disclaimer: “When we create narratives of the work we have done, we pick and choose the highlights and skip over the moments when we couldn’t be involved. This frames activism as a binary for many people - either it is something you do every day, your whole life, or something you don’t do at all. No one can show up all the time, and as we continue to work together to radically change the systems that surround us, we must acknowledge that self-care, community care, and time off are essential parts of making this work sustainable. The story of my work below does not include the times when I was in a low energy period and had to leave the work to other incredible people while I stepped back.”

Alex grew up in a small town in Connecticut, where their parents regularly took them to volunteer on local projects in town. They traveled with their parents, brother, and extended family to participate in anti-war marches in New York City and Washington DC. Although Alex was exposed to activism from an early age, it was in high school at Poughkeepsie Day School that they started to develop a more nuanced perspective of inequality in the United States. They took a history class called Race and Gender in America and began to focus on segregation in the public education system. The class encouraged them to spend their last month of high school interning full-time at Upward Bound, an academic support program for low-income and
first-generation high school students in preparation for applying to college. While in high school, they also hosted lunch fundraisers to raise money for the annual AIDS Walk, acted as a peer counselor, and created a series of after school events that all students were invited to try to create a space where everyone could participate and feel included.

Alex then studied Public Policy with a focus on Education in college at University at Albany (SUNY). Throughout college, Alex worked to build community on campus through Residential Life and Admissions. They worked with an environmental club on campus to host a Harvest Festival that invited both students and local community members to meet one another to play games, listen to music, and learn about ongoing sustainability initiatives in Albany.

They also participated in bi-weekly working group meetings with the university administration and other student leaders about sustainability on campus. For their final semester of college, Alex interned full time at the Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA) in their Political Action Office, tracking state legislation that would impact union members and writing memos to elected officials in support or opposition. Alex then shifted their focus to more local issues and began volunteering at the library every week, organizing groups to cook meals at a local shelter, and getting involved with their local neighborhood association. Ultimately, they ended up working as a Community Outreach Coordinator for the City of Albany government, attending neighborhood and community meetings throughout the city, and working as a liaison between those groups and the city government. They helped coordinate cleanups, tree plantings, and repairs to sidewalks and potholes that neighborhood groups reported, and organized an event for a reopening of a dog park.

Alex then moved to Washington DC to work for BerlinRosen in an administrative role. At BerlinRosen, they provided executive support to the Executive Vice President of the National Issue Advocacy team, Stephanie Mueller. They also assisted with outreach to press around reproductive rights issues, access to food stamps, and environmental issues, as well as attending labor strikes and press conferences to provide support on the ground to the Labor team based in New York City. In their spare time, they attended many protests in DC following the 2016 election, and got involved with Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ). One of the most formative experiences they had while living in DC was attending RootsCamp, an annual progressive organizing conference. There, they sat in circles with radical organizers from all over the country to learn about reproductive justice, trans justice, and environmental justice. They watched the way experienced organizers made space for marginalized voices and the ways they failed to do so, learning that even radical spaces have a lot of work to do to be fully supportive of the people who are most acutely impacted by violent policies.

At Brooklyn Law School, Alex spent their first year working on an immigration pro bono project. They organized students to work with Catholic Charities and Catholic Migration Services on two ongoing projects. The group would travel upstate on some Saturdays to do a clinic with Catholic Charities where undocumented people could do an intake interview and get some initial feedback on their options and how to stay safe. Alex also coordinated a group that worked on naturalization applications on a weekly basis at Catholic Migration Services around the corner from Brooklyn Law School. Alex also got involved with the National Lawyers Guild, Environmental
Law Society, If/When/How, and other public interest organizations on campus during their first year. Alex received the Edward V. Sparer Public Interest Law Fellowship and spent their summer working for the Federal Public Defender in the District of Kansas.

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In their second year, on the executive board of the National Lawyers Guild, Alex helped organize multiple Legal Observer trainings, actions in support of the national prison strike, a law student strike against the confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh, and an alumni award ceremony. In the fall, Alex participated in the housing rights clinic with Mobilization for Justice, where they worked on cases where tenants were facing eviction or were seeking damages for being forced out of their homes. They also assisted with testimony related to the ongoing privatization of public housing.

This past spring, Alex was a student in the Brooklyn Law School LGBT Advocacy Clinic that I supervise. Alex and their clinic partner wrote a memo in support of the proposed Gender Recognition Act currently pending in the New York State legislature. The bill would add a third gender marker option (“x”) on New York State birth certificates and drivers licenses, making it possible for non-binary New Yorkers to obtain state identification that reflects their gender identity, as well as modernizing the name change process in New York State.

At the time of writing this, Alex continues to work with a group of advocates for non-binary New Yorkers to move the final version of the bill forward. Alex and their clinic partner also represented a transgender woman seeking a legal name change and represented the client before the New York City Civil Court. Finally, Alex and their clinic partner prepared a parole application for a transgender woman who is serving 30 years to life in New York State prison. That client was approved for parole on her first appearance before the parole board and will be released in September after spending 30 years—the majority of her life—in prison.

Alex is eager to continue to center the most marginalized communities as they finish law school and begin their career. They firmly believe that in order to dismantle the systems of oppression that intentionally keep us separate, progressive people must care for and support one another, and create accessible and welcoming entry points for newcomers.
Statement of Purpose

The National Lawyers Guild is an association dedicated to the need for basic change in the structure of our political and economic system. We seek to unite the lawyers, law students, legal workers and jailhouse lawyers of America in an organization which shall function as an effective political and social force in the service of the people, to the end that human rights shall be regarded as more sacred than property interests.


SAFER SPACES POLICY

The Spring Fling committee recognizes that issues of privilege and oppression exist in society both socially and institutionally. In tonight’s gala, as in all of the Chapter’s work, we hope to create a safe space that fosters common understanding and solidarity among Guild members, guests and allies. We strive to make the Spring Fling welcoming, engaging and supportive to everyone. While we understand that not all oppressive behaviors are intentional, we ask our attendees to be mindful of their words and actions while enjoying tonight’s event. We abhor all forms of oppressive conduct, including those based on one’s age, gender, sexual identity, religion, race, ethnicity, or disability.

In accordance with this safer space policy, if anyone in attendance feels that the group space is unsafe or oppressive, please contact an NLG-NYC volunteer at the registration table for assistance. If efforts to address the problem fail, the offending person(s) may be asked to leave.
Happy Spring Fling 2019
to the National Lawyers Guild – NYC!

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To the continuing list of Guild members; thanks for working so hard for others.

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With a special shout-out to Bill and Moira

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Congratulations to this year’s honorees!

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We celebrate the 50th anniversary of the historic Stonewall Rebellion. Thanks for your strong support of the LGBTQ movement and the contributions made by tonight's honorees: Bill Dobbs, Moira Meltzer-Cohen, Alex Petkanas and Bill Singer.

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Congratulations Moira!
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Congratulations to the National Lawyers Guild NYC Chapter, Bill Dobbs, Moira Meltzer-Cohen, Alex Petkanas, and Bill Singer!

Thank you for your essential work for LGBTQ+ justice!
Standing shoulder to shoulder with those who take to the streets to protest oppression, the Mass Defense Committee proudly salutes tonight’s Honorees!

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Make The Road New York congratulates the National Lawyers Guild on your 82nd anniversary! Thank you for your work and support in the movement.

We celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion & the contributions by tonight’s honorees. Congratulations Bill Dobbs, Moira Meltzer-Cohen, Bill Singer and Alex Petkanas!

¡Si se puede!
Congratulations to the National Lawyers Guild on honoring Bill Dobbs, Moira Meltzer-Cohen, Bill Singer and Law Student Alex Petkanas.

GERALD B. LEFCOURT

“Don’t walk behind me; I may not lead. Don’t walk in front of me; I may not follow. Just walk beside me and be my friend.”
- Albert Camus

Congratulations to my friend, Bill Singer! With your ongoing courage to persevere, you make the world a better place.

- Betty Rieur and the NJ Rieur LGBT Fund
WE SALUTE BILL DOBBS, MOIRA MELTZER-COHEN, BILL SINGER AND ALEX PETKANAS FOR THEIR TIRELESS WORK ON BEHALF OF THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY.

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Congratulations to Moira Meltzer-Cohen.
Way to go, Mo!

With love from your fans at 1825 Foster Law.

Sarah Kunstler • Beena Ahmad • Elena Cohen
Michael Decker • Gideon Oliver • Ezra Spilke
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Wylie Stecklow
FBA S.D.N.Y. President

Congratulates the
NLG Honorees:
Moira Meltzer Cohen
Bill Dobbs
Alex Petkanas
Bill Singer

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**White Supremacy Confronted:**
U.S. Imperialism and Anti-Communism vs. the Liberation of Southern Africa from Rhodes to Mandela

... it should be required reading for all who want to understand Africans and the people of African descent

*Simbi Mubako, former Ambassador of Zimbabwe to the USA*

International Publishers salutes NLG-NYC for its work in the struggle for a better world.
Katherine Franke makes a powerful case for reparations for Black Americans by amplifying the stories of formerly enslaved people and calling for repair of the damage caused by the legacy of American slavery. Using critical historical examples, Franke unpacks intergenerational, systemic racism and white privilege at the heart of American society and argues that reparations for slavery are necessary, overdue and possible.

Columbia Law School’s Faculty and Deans Warmly Congratulate the Lawyers Guild and particularly Keynote Speaker Katherine Franke, our colleague, friend and inspiration.

++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++

Gillian Lester, Dean and the Lucy G. Moses Professor of Law
Brett Dignam, Vice Dean of Experiential Education and Clinical Professor of Law
Bert I. Huang, Vice Dean for Intellectual Life and the Michael I. Sovern Professor of Law
Yadira Ramos-Herbert, Dean of Students
Madeleine L Kurtz, Director, Public Interest Professional Development

Professors of Law:

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Maeve H. Glass Dana Neacsu
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Conrad Johnson David Pozen
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Carol Liebman Carol Sanger
Lance Liebman Barbara A. Schatz
Edward Lloyd Eric Talley
Eben Moglen Mary Marsh Zulack

Katherine Franke is one of the nation’s leading scholars writing on law, racial justice, and African American history, and the Sulzbacher Professor of Law, Gender and Sexuality Studies at Columbia University and chair of the board of Trustees of the Center for Constitutional Rights.
To this year’s distinguished NLG-NYC honorees,
in honor of 50 years since Stonewall

CONGRATULATIONS!

BILL DOBBS
MOIRA MELTzer-COHEN
BILL SINGER
ALEX PETKANAS

In Solidarity,
NLG National Office Staff

www.nlg.org

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Teamsters Local 237 Legal Services Plan salutes the Honorees.

Greetings to all my fellow LGBTQ members of the Guild

John Mage
Congratulations to the Honorees!

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We honor all the NLG members Who protect LGBTQIA rights

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Congratulations to our founder, Bill Singer, for being honored by the National Lawyers Guild!

https://lgbtbar.org/programs/member-practice-area-groups/family-law-institute/family-law-attorney-directory/

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Congratulations to all the Honorees
We’re so proud to have people of your caliber holding up the Guild

Holly Maguigan & Abdeen Jabara

In Honor of the Stonewall Rebellion and LGBTQ Movement

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Of Counsel
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With a firm recognition of history, through the current struggles and with an eye on the future, the NLG-NYC Executive Committee salutes tonight’s honorees.

Best Wishes to the New York City Chapter of the National Lawyer’s Guild

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“First, we kill all the lawyers!”
Except the members of the NLG!
Robert
Mo,
To our activist and advocate,
Our lawyer and friend,
Congratulations and love from your dearest femmes.

Remy, Elena, and Micah.
salutes

National Lawyers Guild – New York City Chapter
for its commitment to racial justice, civil rights and workers’ rights.

congratulations to,

2018 Champions of Justice
Bill Dobbs ● Moira Meltzer-Cohen ● Bill Singer

Law Student Recognition Award
Alex Petkanas

Héctor J. Figueroa
President

Larry Engelstein
Executive Vice President

Kyle Bragg
Secretary-Treasurer

In celebration of Harold Cammer, a Guild Founder, the Honorees for their Outspoken and Outstanding work on behalf of LGBTQ and human rights.

MAGGIE CAMMER

We love you Mo!
– Andy, Brian, Elliot, Miriam, Roo, Julius, and Marcy

Alterman & Boop LLP

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dalterman@altermanboop.com
aboop@altermanboop.com

Daniel L. Alterman
Arlene F. Boop

A fair society must ensure decent and affordable housing for its citizens. The struggle continues one case at a time.
The Clinical Faculty of Fordham Law School Honors the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion and the Guild’s support for the LGBTQ rights movement.

Liz Cooper • Paolo Galizzi • Brian Glick • Ron Lazebnik • Paul Radvany • Martha Rayner • Beth Schwartz • Gemma Solimene • Ian Weinstein

SALUTE TO 2019 HONOREES IN THE STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION, HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS

From LATINOJUSTICE PRLDEF

Felix Garmendia
Warrior for gay liberation, warrior for wheelchair users right to accommodations, and now, published poet of the anthology, “Flying on Invisible Wings” Pearlsong Press, June 1, 2019
Congratulations from your friend and lawyer, Aaron David Frishberg. Felix, you rock!

Congratulations, Mo! Abundant gratitude to you for your fierce, phenomenal, and tireless advocacy! I deeply value your consistent, intentional, and righteous resistance and your many contributions to the struggle for collective liberation. Much love to you!

Congratulations, Bill Dobbs! I am so grateful for your longstanding commitment to liberation struggles. Thank you, especially, for your principled, courageous, and vital work to challenge sex offense registries. Your leadership is greatly appreciated.
And congratulations to Alex Petkanas and Bill Singer as well! Thank you to the NLG-NYC for honoring queer and trans resistance!

In solidarity, Andrea Yacka-Bible

NEW Office Address:
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Francesca FAJANA Sesilia Valdez-DIAZ Jackson CHIN
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In solidarity, Andrea Yacka-Bible
The entire Brooklyn Law School community is so proud of BLS student Alex Petkanas being honored for her work for social justice.

We also join in congratulating Bill Dobbs, Moira Meltzer-Cohen and Bill Singer on this recognition of their inspiring careers.

ONLY WHEN ALL OF US ARE FREE - LGBTQ
- Interfaith Prisoners of Conscience

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE HONOREES AND ESPECIALLY TO OUR MOIRA MELTZER-COHEN

FREE CHELSEA!

From your family at 277:
Josh, Lamis, Rebecca, Liz
Angie, Luke, Gideon and Bob

GREETINGS

Marti Copleman
Robert Dembia
Sheila Dugan
Michael Fahey
Emily Horowitz
Kent Karlsson
Joe Lipofsky

National Center for Reason and Justice
Marty Needleman
New York Sex Offense Working Group
Paul Peloquin
Deborah Rand
Huge congrats to

ANDREW
SAWTELLE

for his NY bar admission
and new job at the
Metropolitan Taxicab
Board of Trade!

Love from your
proud aunt,

Susan Sawtelle, Esq.

Where would we be
without you?

With thanks
from appreciative members
of the Granny Peace Brigade
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