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July 14, 2023

By Electronic Mail: director@nlq.org

Joelle Santiago
NLG Executive Director
National Lawyers Guild
PO Box 1266
New York, NY 10009-8941

Re: Brief Candidate Statement of Shahily Negrón, Esq.
President (Elect) Candidate Nomination

Dear Joelle:

I am submitting this candidate statement to announce that I would like to nominate myself to run for the President-Elect position for the 2024 National Elections.

I have participated in the NLG in several different capacities the last several years. I have been fortunate to be in spaces with amazing organizers, leaders, and activists. I have volunteered many hours to help make the NLG a supportive, and resourceful organization. To be candid, as a newly licensed attorney, the NLG has continued to shape my legal identity.

My goal as President-Elect is to support and help the current President, Suzanne Adley, in her mission and vision for the NLG. At the same time, it is a great opportunity for me to learn more about the NLG and participate in carrying out the NLG's long-term goals.

I never thought I would have the courage to submit a candidate statement for the NLG Presidency. I tend to work in the background scenes and help organize privately. However, I am growing as an NLG Member, Attorney, and Human Being. I need to put myself out there and learn how to work in the front lines. This is why I love the NLG. Because the NLG has taught me so much about advocacy, taking risks, being the only person standing for something, dealing with uncomfortable spaces, and still loving the work. That's beautiful.

As President-Elect and future President, I would like to work on several internal and external items (separately and/or through the job description duties):

(1) The NLG Internal Culture: My main goal is to help the NLG be a happier, inclusive, and positive space for all members and staff. I know it sounds a bit cliché, but yes, I want to spread love and respect in spaces where disagreements, differences and issues rise. It is okay to disagree and have differing opinions, in fact, I love it! However, let us do it in a respectful, non-harmful way. Whether it is additional training or a national wide collaboration, the NLG will flourish and be the best place to be for everyone.

(2) NLG National vs. NLG Local Chapters: I want to bring unity with the national NLG and the local chapters. I want to feel like we are moving in the same spaces with each other, being supportive, and helpful. It feels like there is a division and several chapters are moving differently or against the goals, mission, and vision of the NLG as a whole.

(3) NLG Membership: I would love to increase and retain membership in creative ways. I would love to speak to law schools, bar associations, help law students with passing the bar exam. I have so many ideas and passions about membership development and getting the most out of paying our dues.

(4) NLG Financials: Of course, with all goals and missions, we need money. Although I am learning more about this in my personal world, I would love to help the NLG obtain more scholarships, grants, and fundraising to carry out our mission.

(5) NLG External Image: The NLG is a mover and shaker in civil rights and organizing to help those in need. I want to help move NLG further in advocating for civil rights, abolitionist movements and providing toolkits/resources to help others.

I hope to learn more about the election process and how it works. I am not sure what else is needed from me to help members in the NLG know more about me. I look forward to working with you and the NLG Governance Committee in November 2023.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (646) 484-1491, or by email at shahily@lawnegron.com.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Shahily Negrón', written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Shahily Negrón, Esq.