

I am excited to declare my candidacy for the Vice President position within the esteemed National Lawyers Guild. My path into the legal field is etched with a profound commitment to championing justice, equality, and community empowerment. With over eight years of dedicated service as a paralegal and legal worker, I am eagerly embarking on my journey to law school in 2024.

Before being elected President of the Sacramento Chapter, I worked alongside the guild in supporting mass defense work for many years in my parallel career as a filmmaker and journalist, notably through my involvement with the Black Zebra Impact Team.

In 2021, I had the privilege to lead the Sacramento chapter, and during my tenure, I instigated a pivotal transformation. We abolished the existing hierarchical board structure, replacing it with a community-centered, non-hierarchical organization, fostering inclusivity and shared decision-making. As a proactive advocate for change, I took the initiative to establish both the BIPOC caucus and the community caucus, opening pathways for meaningful community advocacy and engagement within our Guild.

I also worked to expand the scope and impact of our mass defense and legal observer programs, by organizing and building skill sets to support the community through sweeps, copwatch, and other community mobilization needs. Together with dedicated colleagues, I co-founded the Civil Rights Project, which not only supports but also educates the community in skills crucial for the growth and support of impact litigation. Additionally, the Citation Defense Clinic, which I co-founded, stands as a bulwark against the criminalization of our unhoused community members, furthering our fight for equitable and compassionate legal solutions.

My involvement in community organizing and impactful movement work runs deep, and I am poised to bring these invaluable experiences and lessons into my role as Vice President. With your support, I aim to contribute to the NLG's mission and enhance our collective efforts in promoting justice and equality.

I extend my gratitude to each of you for your remarkable work in your communities and for considering my candidacy. Onward Together!

Khanstoshea Zingapan
NLG Sacramento Member
NLG Sacramento BIPOC Caucus Member