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**NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD
LOS ANGELES CHAPTER
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Alan Diamante

**Stop LAPD Spying Coalition
Litigation Team**

Jorge Gonzalez

Maria Hall

UCLA Labor Center

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2020

Alan Diamante



Alan Rodolfo Diamante was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. His mother was a union activist, and his father was a blue-collar worker from Argentina. Alan attended and graduated with honors from U.C. Berkeley, where he found solidarity with other Latino students who learned to transform their awareness of social inequality and injustice into activism. His public activism led to a passion for civil rights defense.

His sensitivity towards immigrants grew in college when he gained first-hand experience of the foreigner's plight while studying abroad in a small town in England. After learning his financial aid had been terminated, he was given a choice to give up his dream to study in a foreign land or stay and find work. He chose the latter after a Colombian expat, one of the few Latinos in town, reassured him it would be easy to find unauthorized employment. After washing dishes for hours at the only Chinese restaurant in town, he would ride his bike home across town in the midnight drizzle.

After graduation, Alan attended Loyola Law School in Los Angeles. The 1994 passage of Proposition 187, the California state initiative to prohibit undocumented immigrants from using public health care and education, sparked outrage on campus. He and other fellow La Raza students took to the streets and participated in demonstrations against the racist and



unconstitutional referendum. This experience crystalized his desire to further represent voiceless and vulnerable immigrants.

Today, Alan practices immigration and civil rights advocacy in Los Angeles. He has devoted his entire career to the protection of immigrants. He was chair of the American Immigration Lawyers Association's (AILA) National Consumer Protection Committee and has served as a consumer protection liaison for its Southern California Chapter for numerous years. He was president of the Citizens against the Unauthorized Practice of Law (CAUPL), a non-profit organization with the purpose of hindering "immigrant consultant fraud" through civil enforcement. CAUPL has successfully sued numerous individuals who committed fraud against immigrants.

In 2002, Alan gained a public profile when he successfully defended Alex Sanchez, a Salvadoran former gang-member turned activist, in an asylum case. Mr. Sanchez was nearly deported because he was outspoken against the LAPD Rampart Division's corruption. Mr. Sanchez's story shed light on the human rights violations of U.S. deportees in the U.S. and Central America. Alex's story was featured in the late Senator Tom Hayden's book, *Street Wars, Gangs and the Future of Violence*, and the documentary, *Fruits of War*. Since winning his asylum case, Mr. Sanchez has tirelessly served the immigrant community as the executive director of Homies Unidos, a Los Angeles non-profit organization.

Alan was also president of the Mexican American Bar Association (MABA), the nation's largest ethnic bar, and served as a board member for many years. In 2003, MABA honored him with the "Attorney of Year" award, and he continues to be the organization's immigration legal expert at its annual legal fairs in Los Angeles and Jalisco, Mexico.

Alan was petitioner's counsel in Ninth Circuit decision *Galeana-Mendoza v. Gonzales*, 465 F.3d 1054 (9th Cir. 2006). In that case, the court ruled that a conviction of domestic battery is not a crime of violence nor a crime involving moral turpitude. He successfully argued that a conviction of domestic battery is neither a deportable nor inadmissible offense. After creating a safe harbor for immigrant defendants facing domestic violence charges, criminal defense

attorneys across California may now have their clients plead to domestic battery as an alternative to corporal injury on a spouse in order to avoid severe immigration consequences.

Alan was co-counsel in *Hootkins v. Napolitano*, 645 F. Supp. 2d 856, 858 (N.D. Cal. 2009), a class action holding that the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) summary revocations of spouse-based petitions of widows married less than two years were invalid under the Ninth and Sixth Circuits. The publicity behind this lawsuit motivated the DHS to change its regulations in 2009 and triggered a favorable change in the law by Congress and President Obama. On October 28, 2009, President Obama signed into law the FY10 DHS Appropriations Act (P.L. 111-83), which included a provision eliminating the requirement that the surviving spouse of a U.S. citizen be married for two years prior to the death in order to self-petition for permanent lawful status. Moreover, the law created section 204(l) of the Immigration and Nationality Act to protect and expand the rights of surviving beneficiaries and derivatives of certain approved or pending family petitions. The new provisions created after the *Hootkins* decision might be the only pro-immigrant legislation passed under the Obama administration.

In 2017, Alan took on the case of Romulo Avelica-Gonzalez pro bono. The legal team thwarted Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) efforts to immediately deport a father while he was dropping his 13-year-old daughter, Fatima, at school. Her cell phone video of her father's arrest went viral and brought a community together, attracting worldwide attention to the Trump administration's harsh, inhumane immigration policies. Mr. Avelica-Gonzalez's removal order was ultimately vacated, and he was reunited with his family six months after his arrest. Many publications, including the *Los Angeles Times* and *National Geographic*, featured Romulo and Fatima's story. Today, Fatima knows she and her family have a future in the U.S. and is considering a career as an immigration attorney. The Avelica-Gonzalez case represents another story in the emerging social movement in the U.S. to protect immigrants from the excessively repressive and discriminatory enforcement of immigration laws.

Alan continues to be dedicated to defending the legal protections of immigrants and assurances of dignity for all people. Mr. Diamante is also the founder of the Immigration Dream Center, a non-profit with a mission to empower, educate and engage immigrant communities to achieve their dreams through education and community activism. He believes immigrants and advocates are ready to lead a social movement to fight against structural racism and governmental repression.





NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD / L.A. CHAPTER

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Stop LAPD Spying Coalition Litigation Team

The Stop LAPD Spying Coalition is working to expose the inner workings of police violence and end the incorporation of counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency tactics and programs into local policing. The Coalition's vision is abolition of police surveillance, spying, and infiltration. These practices violate human rights, undermine basic democratic principles, and impact our political, structural, economic, and cultural lives.

Formed in 2011, the Coalition is a grassroots, community-based effort that has primarily been volunteer driven. Its work is led by community members from diverse backgrounds including youth, immigrants, formerly incarcerated people, academics, undocumented people, unhoused people, artists, lawyers, journalists, students, and faith-based and community organizations. Working alongside other community groups and networks, the Coalition is leading multiple campaigns using an innovative organizing model that is Los Angeles-based but has implications regionally, nationally, and internationally. The Coalition actively engages in grassroots organizing and outreach in order to develop community-led popular education, dialogue, strategy, and analysis. Grounded in those efforts, the Coalition uses community research, direct action, media advocacy, grassroots advocacy, and strategic litigation to dismantle police surveillance.

The Coalition's work also documents the individual and collective experiences of police surveillance, exposing the deep human impact and trauma of these programs. Its outreach and education are anchored in a human rights framework that looks beyond the limitations of constitutional protections, civil rights, and civil liberties. The Coalition's goal is to broaden understanding of policing's harm. For the Coalition, the primary indication that its efforts are working is when people go beyond a privacy-focused view, to look at policing through a racial justice lens that sees the police as a tool of social control. It is through this shared understanding that communities otherwise stuck in the cycle of relying on remedies through the judicial system or legislative process can instead build people power to fight for abolition.

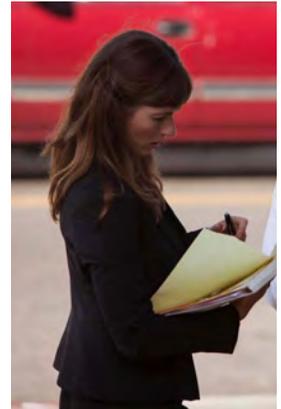
For further information, please email us at stoplapdspying@gmail.com.

Website: <https://stoplapdspying.org>

Instagram, Twitter, Facebook: @stoplapdspying

Colleen Flynn

is a civil rights attorney and has been a member of the NLG-LA Chapter since law school. She represents protesters in both civil litigation and criminal matters. She also represents journalists and activists such as the Stop LAPD Spying Coalition to secure the release of public documents from both state and federal agencies.



Jamie Rae Garcia



Hamid Khan



Matthew Strugar

is an attorney in solo practice who focuses on advancing animal rights, fighting government repression, and supporting grassroots activists.



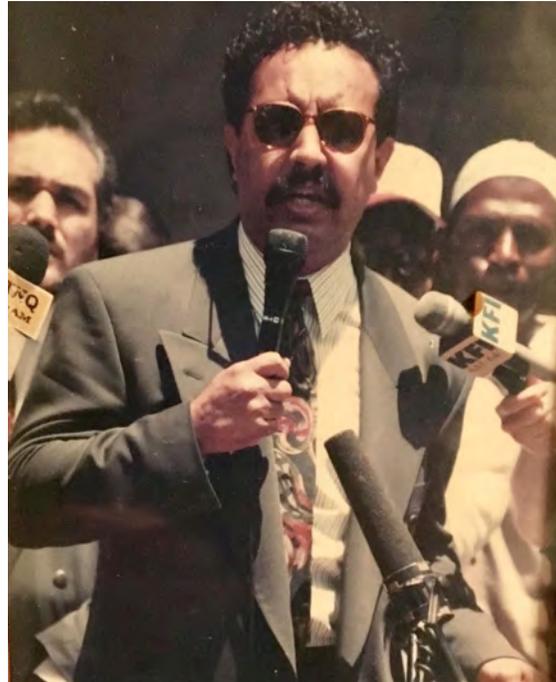
Jorge Gonzalez

Jorge came into the law as an activist, cutting his teeth in Colorado during the height of the Chicano movement. He was exposed to a great many influences, not the least of which was his unique upbringing, the eldest son of two Mexican immigrants, and a father who joined the military just after the Korean war and served for 20 years—a lifer. He grew up in Arizona and California, and during his teenage years the war in Viet Nam was raging, causing severe dissonance in his home. As he matured and became more aware of his surroundings, he realized there was a certain war going on all around him having to do with racial issues. Jorge turned 14 in Panama City, Florida, in the panhandle, closest to Alabama in both distance and culture. He spent 2½ tumultuous years there, during which the outside influences began to manifest as deep anger and rage. The family moved to Colorado Springs when he turned 16, and he eventually ran away from home due to conflicts with his Dad. They would remain distant for at least five different Presidents.

In 1973, Jorge went to college practically on a whim and studied to be a teacher. During his first year he was struck by a mean *cachetada* as he became increasingly aware of the realities of racism against Blacks and Mexicans. He began to run with other Chicanos discovering their identities just as he was. Fighting against the system became their only purpose in life. During this period, he was fortunate to meet people who counseled him to go to law school, a profession he knew nothing about. Wanting to return to his roots in Califas, he was accepted to the Gould School of Law at the University of Southern California.

He was immediately drawn into the struggles here, even as he struggled to keep up with his studies while in law school. History had changed the course of his focus, as revolutionary struggles in third world countries became more pronounced. The Sandinistas defeated Somoza in Nicaragua, and Salvadorans began to flee their native country to escape persecution. Landing in the thick of the movement to organize the undocumented, he began to meet many Central-Americans, primarily Salvadorans.

After graduation in 1981, Jorge took a job at El Rescate, the first non-profit agency in the country dedicated to the legal defense of Central Americans. He became involved in impact litigation with a trio of legal superstars (Schey, Barker, Holguin), helping develop the factual basis for *Orantes Hernandez v. I.N.S.*, a major precedent-setting case



establishing the rights of Salvadoran immigrants to be advised of their right to seek political asylum in the United States. He successfully passed the bar exam his first time, and suddenly, he inherited 400 open cases defending people from deportation. Baptism by fire. He worked there for two more years.

After that, Jorge's career began to shift to representing people in the juvenile dependency court, dealing with child abuse and neglect cases, then juvenile delinquency, defending youth accused of committing crimes. He began to represent many youthful gang members during the period in which the murder rate in the City skyrocketed. He worked closely with Father Greg Boyle, a well-known Catholic priest deeply engaged in gang intervention efforts, and his *carнал*, Antonio H. Rodriguez, his first true mentor.

By the mid-'80s, he started working on civil rights cases suing the police for the excessive use of force. By the time of the Rodney King case, he was a veteran trial lawyer, including being asked to serve as trial counsel on *Thomas v. County of L.A.*, a major case in which his team uncovered the existence of a deputy gang called the Vikings, well known for its violent and racist proclivities.

For the past decade, Jorge has been involved in numerous important cases, including many during the Rampart era, and later on the May Day cases, part of the team suing LAPD for its attack on a demonstration of 5,000 people demanding immigration reform. He has handled numerous excessive force and wrongful arrest cases, encompassing a variety of issues, including both fatal and non-fatal shootings, Taser cases, positional asphyxiation, traumatic brain injuries, and unlawful search warrant cases. During this time, he has also handled hundreds of criminal cases, mostly felony charges,



including numerous murder cases. He successfully defended two special circumstance cases, including one in which Ted Yamamoto and he hung, 11 to 1, for not guilty, based on a false confession defense. He has led or participated in the defense of numerous political activists, including Greg Boyle, Antonio Rodriguez, Mario Beltran, Carlos Montes, 100 UCLA students who took over the Faculty Center during a campaign demanding a Chicana/o Studies Center, and 12 NLG lawyers arrested for blocking deportation buses at B-18 four years ago.

Jorge is currently class counsel in *Black Lives Matter v. City of Los Angeles*, a case involving the less than constitutional response of the LAPD to mass protests in the city, and *Berg v. County of Los Angeles*, a similar class action targeting the corrupt Sheriff's Department. Jorge's memoir, *At the Crossroads: A Glimpse at the Life of a Chicano Lawyer*, is pending publication.



Maria Hall

Maria Hall is an employment and housing rights lawyer. She is director of the Los Angeles Incubator Consortium (LAIC), a post-graduate program funded by UCLA, Southwestern, and Loyola Law Schools, that helps new lawyers build community-based, solo law firms to help bridge the justice gap. She has served on the Los Angeles Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild's (NLG-LA) Executive Board since 2009 and served as Co-President from 2015 through 2019.

Before law school, Maria worked for Physicians for Social Responsibility, advocating for policies and practices that improve public health and address health disparities. Through her coalition work, Maria met Jim Lafferty, who introduced her to the Guild, sparked her interest in law, and helped her apply to law schools.

When she started at USC Gould School of Law, Maria was in awe of her classmates' achievements. She felt she did not belong; her background was so different. She earned her undergraduate degree by working during the day and taking classes at community college and state university at night. In contrast, her classmates showed the confidence that comes naturally with academic pedigree. She quickly found and appreciated the unconditional support she received in the student chapters of both NLG and La Raza. She found especially inspiring the annual Disorientation Retreat weekend in Idyllwild, hosted by NLG-LA board member Bob Myers. During her second year, she hit her stride by working as a student supervisor for the school's Post-Conviction Justice Clinic, where she represented clients at California Institution for Women who had been imprisoned for killing their abusers. She had the rare opportunity to draft writs of habeas corpus, appear at parole hearings, and advocate for better medical care for her clients. The following year, she interned with Communities for a Better Environment (CBE), a grassroots environmental health and justice organization that supports communities who are unfairly impacted by industrial pollution. At graduation, in recognition of her public service, Maria received USC's Miller-Johnson Equal Justice Prize, as well as the USC Irmis Post-Graduate Fellowship and Earthjustice Sutherland Fellowship, which funded her first two years as a staff attorney at CBE.

While working alongside CBE's community members as a staff attorney in Southeast LA, Maria saw firsthand how the legal profession was failing to meet their needs, especially undocumented people and people with limited English-speaking ability. While every family had brushed up against legal issues—from custody disputes



to illegal eviction to wrongful termination—very few even thought to hire a lawyer. Those who thought of it usually ended up hiring an unlicensed *notario* instead, or gave up because they did not know where to find help within their budget.

In 2005, Maria launched a solo practice aimed at providing affordable legal services in the areas of employment and housing to people without access. She relied upon the mentorship of co-counsel such as Ken Nathanson, as well as NLG-LA lawyers, shadowing them while accepting referrals and contract work. Little did she know that ten years later, she would be supporting new solo lawyers as they sought to fulfill the same dream: to start solo practices that meet the needs of communities throughout Los Angeles, bridging culture, income, immigration status, language and other gaps.

In 2015, Maria became the Attorney Development Director of what was then a pilot project of the California Bar Foundation and State Bar's Access to Justice Commission: the Los Angeles Incubator Consortium (LAIC). Designed by Luz Herrera and Laura Cohen, LAIC enjoys the support of three law schools: UCLA, Loyola and Southwestern; six public interest organizations: Bet Tzedek, Public Counsel, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, Community Legal Aid So Cal, Neighborhood Legal Services, and Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law; and the Los Angeles Law Library. NLG-LA members have been steadfast mentors, and most LAIC participants become NLG-LA members. Along with the collective knowledge, pro bono opportunities, and training they receive, LAIC participants have the benefit of subsidized research materials and hub space, peer support, coaching on business and practice management, and substantive law mentorship.

Since LAIC formed in 2015, more than 60 diverse lawyers have launched sustainable solo practices throughout LA County, speaking a total of 24 different languages, and practicing in dozens of legal practice



areas. Collectively, the incubator attorneys have donated 7,000 pro bono hours to help Angelenos who otherwise would have had no access to legal services or justice.

In 2018, Maria founded Lawyers and Communities Together (Lawyers ACT), a non-profit organization that connects LAIC alumni and other team-spirited lawyers with innovative community-lawyering projects and opportunities for policymaking. Lawyers ACT partners with social services agencies to provide free weekly bilingual Know Your Rights workshops and free legal consultations in many areas of law.

In addition to her service on the NLG-LA Executive Board, Maria serves on the board of trustees for the Mexican American Bar Foundation, a scholarship organization with a mission of diversifying the legal profession that has awarded over 2 million dollars in scholarships to diverse Los Angeles-area law students. She also serves on Los Angeles County Bar Association's Access to Justice Committee and Lawyer Referral Service Advisory Committee; the Friends of the Los Angeles Law Library Board; and as Outreach Chair for So Cal Regional Pro Bono Collaboration's Disaster Legal Services. She was also recently appointed to serve on California Lawyers Association's Future of the Profession Taskforce.

Maria was named Inspirational Alumna of the Year in 2017 by USC School of Law's Latinx Law Students Association, and received Southwestern Law School's Public Service Program's Annual Award in 2018. She speaks regularly on panels about pro bono work, diversifying the legal profession and launching community-based solo law firms.

Maria, her husband (Craig), and their dog (Preston), are all Los Angeles natives. They live within a 10-mile radius of Maria's grandmothers, parents and brother. Maria loves to hike with incubator attorneys and friends, and loves any opportunity to play guitar and sing with her family band.



UCLA Labor Center



The UCLA Labor Center was established in 1964 through a joint agreement between the California Federation of Labor and the State of California that a public university belongs to the people and should advance quality employment for all.

For more than 50 years, the UCLA Labor Center has served as a bridge between the university and the broader community to advance worker rights, conduct education and research to serve the needs of working people, and to promote leadership development and policy change to advance economic and social justice.

Every day it brings together workers, students, faculty, and policymakers to address the most critical issues facing working people today. Its research, education, and policy work lifts labor standards, creates jobs that are good for communities, and strengthens immigrant rights, especially for students and youth.

The major projects of the UCLA Labor Center include:

The Dream Resource Center advances the leadership of immigrant youth to promote equal access to higher education and to defend the rights of immigrants. The Dream Resource Center launched Dream Summer in 2011, the first national immigrant-led youth leadership program to recruit and train a new generation of activists. Dream Summer fellows and alumni were instrumental in the passage of the California Dream Act, and the national campaign that won passage of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA.)

The Global Solidarity Project

collaborates with labor leaders, scholars, and activists to address common worker issues in the United States, Mexico, and the Pacific Rim. The Labor Center is working with the AFL-CIO Solidarity Center to launch a new Labor Center in Mexico City, and has supported the establishment

of the first Labor Center in Tokyo, Japan. The Labor Center has also advanced solidarity projects with labor scholars and labor leaders in China and Vietnam.

The ReWork Institute for Worker Justice

partners with worker centers and unions to improve conditions in low-wage industries and strengthen the enforcement of existing workplace laws. The ReWork Institute has conducted pathbreaking research on the gig economy, on young workers, on Black workers, and on immigrant workers.

The UCLA Labor Studies Major trains students to tackle real-world community and workplace issues through interdisciplinary courses, leadership training, and internship opportunities. The UCLA Labor Studies Major was established in 2019, and became the first in history within the nine campus University of California system. In 2020, 110 Labor Studies Majors and Minors graduated with Bachelor of Arts degrees.

The Center for the Advancement of Racial Equity at Work

(CARE) was launched in 2019. It builds on the decade of history of the Los Angeles Black Worker Center, which was the first of its kind in the country, and has now been instrumental in developing a national network of Black Worker Centers. The BWC, which was first incubated at the UCLA Labor Center, advances economic justice and policy change in order to improve the lives of Black workers.

The UCLA Labor Center is housed in the Institute for Research on Labor and Employment, a multidisciplinary research center



dedicated to the study, teaching, and discussion of labor and employment issues at UCLA.

In 2020, the UCLA Labor Center began purchasing the building it has occupied for the past 18 years at 675 Park View Street across from MacArthur Park. The UCLA Downtown Labor Center will now secure its place as a permanent center to advance worker justice for generations to come.

The UCLA Labor Center has enjoyed a long partnership with the National Lawyers Guild. The NLG has held its meetings and legal observer trainings at the Downtown Labor Center over the years, NLG law students from UCLA routinely work at the Labor Center on various projects, and the Labor Center has partnered with the NLG on numerous campaigns concerning immigrant rights, racial justice, and human and civil rights.





YEAR IN REVIEW: The LA Chapter's Work in 2020

It will come as no surprise to learn that this past year has been one of the busiest yet for the Los Angeles Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild. Of course, much of our energies went into defending the greatest anti-racist, anti-police abuse and anti-white supremacist movement in our lifetimes. Thousands of protests, in countless cities around America and here in the greater Los Angeles area, were powerful, multi-racial and multi-generational. And they are still taking place until the just demands of this movement are finally realized. Our chapter has been in the thick of these protests, defending the Black Lives Matter protesters as we've monitored the all-too-frequent police interference with their rights and abusive behavior police have used towards them. And, as you will see below, we've also been in the thick of the struggle against federal policies that chip away at human rights, tear apart families, offend human dignity, and threaten the livability of our environment's climate. Below is a sampling of that work:

We provided legal observers at more than 150 protest actions this year—serving to deter and document violations of protesters' civil rights for ally groups like the Black Lives Matter movement, LA Tenants Union, labor partners, and dozens of community-based groups. We used information we learned at these demonstrations to demand that police agencies cease interfering with free speech activities. And our lawyers are on the legal teams that have brought massive class action lawsuits against the LAPD and the LA County Sheriff Department for their many violations of the law in recent months.

Since COVID-19, we have helped activists adapt to new forms of resistance—like vehicle protests and residential picketing. We regularly conducted know-your-rights trainings about tactics and civil rights in a rapidly changing political landscape.

We hosted a weekly "Ask an Attorney Hour" to provide much needed information and answer questions related to housing rights, worker

protections, and immigration. Responsive to community need during the health crisis, this program is the only time many of the participants have spoken to an attorney about their pressing legal issues.

We provided post-arrest legal support at dozens of actions—including representing homeless activists defending their encampment at Echo Park Lake, obtaining citation dismissals for more than a dozen housing rights activists, and successfully representing brave activists who claimed vacant homes to raise awareness about housing insecurity. We are currently representing homeless activists who publicly took over a hotel room at the Ritz Carlton to demand that vacant rooms be opened to unhoused people.

We provided pre-protest support for multiple actions—including helping activists to understand their rights; educating activists on the risks related to planned actions; conducting warrant searches so that activists can clear up existing warrants; connecting activists with volunteer lawyers to answer questions about unique risks based on their immigration status or background.

We provided know-your-rights trainings to dozens of groups throughout the region. Our curriculum includes: COVID-19 protest tactics, civil rights and emergency government powers, students' rights, workers' rights, street vendors' rights, protesters' rights, and legal considerations during civil disobedience actions. We also provide numerous **CLE trainings** for lawyers practicing law for the people.

We continued our efforts to promote street vendor rights, in collaboration with community partners. We staged a pop-up legal clinic on the beach in Santa Monica, staffed by Guild law students, to assist street vendors in dismissing old vending convictions, as well as substantially reducing their fines and fees for pending administrative citations. We have also deployed legal observers to document law enforcement confiscations of street vendor property, and we recently

hosted several know-your-rights trainings for vendors. Guild attorneys are currently working with street vendors to vindicate their rights.

We co-founded Court Watch Los Angeles, a volunteer-led effort that has trained hundreds of community members to observe criminal court hearings throughout LA County. The program's goals are to monitor and expose ways that exorbitant fines are imposed on those who can least afford to pay them, as well as our region's criminalization of poverty and the disparate punishments for communities of color. Observing in the courtroom is also a powerful radicalizing experience. In the words of one volunteer, "I haven't stopped talking about my experience [court watching]. It was truly the wild, wild west in there. It's one thing to know injustice exists and it's another to witness it."

We continue to provide a progressive voice in the media through our weekly public affairs radio show on Pacifica Radio, *The Lawyers Guild Show*. It airs Wednesday afternoons at 2pm on KPFC 90.7. Each week on *The Lawyers Guild Show*, we have on Guild lawyers who provide our listeners with information about the changing legal scene during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as legal information on tenants' rights, immigrants' rights, workers' rights, criminal defendants' rights, and news topics as they arise.

We worked alongside coalition partners in the #CheckTheSheriff Campaign. The campaign brings together families who have been directly impacted by the Sheriff's Department with community advocates, clergy, and allies to check the Department's abuses of power. The campaign calls for real transparency, accountability, zero tolerance of intimate partner and sexual violence by sheriff deputies, and an end to all Sheriff's Department's entanglement with ICE. We hold that no county funds or time should be spent to facilitate ICE arrests and deportations.



We offered legal support to asylum seekers in Tijuana, in coalition with partner organizations. We are currently organizing virtual know-your-rights trainings for *pro se* asylum seekers, as well as coordinating volunteer lawyers and law students to assist with individual asylum cases. All of this support is being done "virtually" during the pandemic.

Our attorneys fought crucial legal battles. Guild attorneys sued jails, prisons, and police on behalf of people whose rights were violated, and people who were otherwise mistreated or killed by law enforcement. Guild attorneys representing the Stop LAPD Spying Coalition won a victory for free speech, forcing the department to turn over records about police spying on activists and communities of color throughout the region.

We offer two monthly homeless legal clinics, in partnership with LA-CAN and Venice Justice Committee, in Venice and Skid Row. Volunteers conduct intake interviews, and lawyers provide free representation to fight infractions related to the criminalization of homelessness. Attorneys routinely get cases dismissed in the interest of justice and obtain favorable outcomes. (Come volunteer in the clinics!)

The chapter's TUPOCC Committee (The United People of Color Caucus) provides a dedicated space and events for chapter members who identify as People of Color.

Our Immigration, Workers' Rights, and Housing Committees hold regular educational panels on topics of interest to attorneys and advocates in these practice areas, as well as those from impacted communities. Our Workers' Rights Committee continued to distribute its Know Your Rights in the Workplace booklet in English and Spanish, providing an overview of legal protections for workers in California. The committee also hosted several educational events, and it worked closely with the Rideshare Drivers Union in its struggle for fair pay and better working conditions.

We hosted our largest Law Student Activist Retreat yet, with approximately 100 participants representing every law school in LA and OC. Students participated in panel discussions about activism and people's lawyering. We also hosted more than 100 students at our annual **Summer Law Student Mixer**, providing a space for students to meet Guild members and attorneys. Importantly, we work to foster **mentorship between Guild attorneys and law students** in hopes

of building meaningful friendships, collaborations and guidance for newer Guild members.

We also sponsored many community forums, teach-ins, and trainings for the progressive community, including two well-attended trainings that provided practical advice on how to request vital records for activist and legal campaigns.

We have renewed our close partnership with People's College of Law (PCL). Established in the 1970s as the "Guild Law School,"

the collectively-run law school is founded on principles of people's lawyering. PCL generously donates office space to us at its MacArthur Park building. Please let us know if you would like to volunteer as a professor at PCL!

We have accomplished a lot since the last Annual Awards Celebration, but there is so much more to do. There is every reason to believe the next twelve months will require our services as much, or more, than the past twelve. We take this occasion to thank you for your ongoing support as friends and members of the Guild, which allows us to continue to do this critically important work. We welcome your leadership and active participation in the chapter. Please reach out at any time. It is an honor to work by your side for justice.

In Solidarity,
Gilbert Saucedo
President





UFCW LOCAL 1442

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Los Angeles Chapter
of the
National Lawyers Guild
2020 Annual Awards**

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**CONGRATULATIONS,
MARIA!**

Southwestern Law School congratulates Maria Hall, LAIC Attorney Development Director, for being honored by the National Lawyers Guild – Los Angeles. As a founding sponsor of the Los Angeles Incubator Consortium, Southwestern thanks you for uplifting the next generation of People’s Lawyers. Congratulations to Maria Hall and all 2020 NLG-LA honorees!

www.swlaw.edu/NLG

Congratulations, Maria Hall!!

**We are grateful for you
and all you do for the
Los Angeles Incubator
Consortium.**

Luz Herrera & Laura Cohen

LAIC Los Angeles Incubator Consortium
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I have no doubt whatever of the future. I know there are times in the history of all reforms, when the future looks dark. . . . I, for one, have gone through all this. I have had fifty years of it, and yet I have not lost either heart or hope. . . . I have seen dark hours in my life, and I have seen the darkness gradually disappearing, and the light gradually increasing.

—Frederick Douglass (1890)

**THANKING THE
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FOR ALL IT HAS DONE
TO INCREASE THE LIGHT**

THE WORKERS RIGHTS COMMITTEE
OF THE
NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD,
LOS ANGELES CHAPTER



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Congratulations to our friends at
UCLA Labor Center and all the
honorees.

***We shall not, we shall
not be moved!***

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CONGRATULATIONS, ALAN DIAMANTE!

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CONGRATULATIONS MARIA!

YOUR TIRELESS COMMITMENT TO ADVANCING SOCIAL JUSTICE HAS BECOME A MUCH-NEEDED STEADY SOURCE OF INSPIRATION DURING THESE DARK AND POLITICALLY UNCERTAIN TIMES. AS CO-FOUNDER OF THE LOS ANGELES INCUBATOR CONSORTIUM, YOU CREATED A MODEL MENTORSHIP PROGRAM FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF COMMUNITY-BASED LAWYERS; YOU LED NLG AS CO-PRESIDENT FOR FOUR YEARS; YOU BECAME A FAMILIAR FIXTURE AT DEMONSTRATIONS AS YOU SAFEGUARDED THE RIGHTS OF PROTESTORS IN YOUR GREEN HAT; YOU CONTINUE TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS AND TENANTS AS A LITIGATOR; YOU ENCOURAGED AND MENTORED A GENERATION OF LAW STUDENTS THROUGH MABA AND THE NLG USC CHAPTER; AND YOU REAWAKENED OUR YEARNING FOR A MORE JUST SOCIETY BY LEADING OUR CAMPFIRE WOBBLY SONGS AT GUILD STUDENT RETREATS.

WE ARE HONORED TO CELEBRATE YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

PATRICK DUNLEVY
COLLEEN FLYNN
ZACHARY GENDUSO
KATHY KHOMMARATH
CAROL KIM
MICHEL MARTINEZ
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KAIMIPONO WENGER



The Past Presidents of the Los Angeles Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild congratulate this year's warrior honorees—

**Maria Hall, past president of the
Los Angeles Chapter of the NLG;**

Alan Diamante;

Jorge Gonzalez;

the UCLA Labor Center; and

**the Stop LAPD Spying Coalition Litigation Team
of Colleen Flynn, Hamid Khan,
Jamie Rae Garcia, and Matthew Strugar**

Cynthia Anderson Barker

Phil Brimble

Erin Darling

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in the many
activities
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sponsors as we
seek justice,
equality, peace,
and an unbiased
legal system**



THE NLG-LA IMMIGRATION
COMMITTEE CONGRATULATES

ALAN DIAMANTE

For this well-deserved recognition!



Thank you for your leadership and
tireless pro bono work that has advanced
immigrant rights and protected our
activists and communities.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL
OF THE HONOREES!

Maria Hall
Jorge Gonzalez
UCLA Labor Center
Stop LAPD Spying Coalition Legal Team

Congratulations to
all the honorees!

I'm honored to share
this night with you.

And an extra-special thanks
to Carol Sobel for her
support and mentorship.

**LAW OFFICE OF
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**A Heart-Felt
Congratulations to
Alan Diamante for this
tremendous recognition!**

**From your Friends,
Colleagues, and
Biggest Fans!**

We are always with you!

**Noemi Ramirez
Merlyn Hernandez
Maggie Castillo
Victor D. Nieblas**



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**Congratulations to
Jorge Gonzalez for
being honored for his
outstanding career
fighting for civil rights.**

**Thanks to Colleen Flynn
and Matthew Strugar for
their important work in
exposing LAPD spying.**

**Congratulations to
the Honorees!**

Linda Sullivan



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Felicidades!

***Perez & Caballero Congratulates
This Year's NLG-LA Honorees***

***Our Compadre, Alan Diamante
and
Jorge Gonzalez***

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**WE SALUTE THE INVALUABLE WORK OF THE
NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD OF LOS ANGELES
AND CONGRATULATE THE 2020 NLG-LA
ANNUAL AWARD HONOREES**

Alan Diamante

Maria Hall

Jorge Gonzalez

UCLA Labor Center

Stop LAPD Spying Coalition Litigation Team



MABA CONGRATULATES THE

2020 NLG-LA
Award Recipients

ALAN DIAMANTE
2005 MABA PRESIDENT

MARIA HALL

JORGE GONZALEZ

UCLA LABOR CENTER

STOP LAPD SPYING
COALITION LEGAL TEAM



WE CONGRATULATE JORGE GONZALEZ ON BEING RECOGNIZED
AS A 2020 HONOREE BY THE NATIONAL LAWYERS
GUILD OF LOS ANGELES.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO DEFENDING CIVIL RIGHTS,
JUSTICE, AND DEMOCRACY. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR KINDNESS,
HONESTY, AND PASSION.

Mario Beltran
Principia Group, LLC.



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FREEDOM OF SPEECH
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Congratulations to
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and Jorge Gonzalez
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NLG-LA IS THANKFUL AND GRATEFUL TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE, FOR MAKING THE MOST OUT OF 2020, A MOST CHALLENGING YEAR, AND FOR THE LEADERSHIP THEY HAVE DEMONSTRATED DURING THE YEAR

- Kath Rogers, for her service as executive director
- Karen Suri, for her service as co-president
- Pedram Esfandiary, for his service as secretary
- Our legal observers
- Carolyn Gomez and Addie Tinnell, for organizing, training and leading our legal observers
- Our mass defense volunteers
- Rachel Steinback and Jerod Gunsberg, for building the mass defense program into a major component of NLG-LA



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 and the rights of ecosystems shall be regarded as more sacred than property interests. . . .

—Preamble to the NLG Constitution

