

PLANNING LEGAL SUPPORT FOR BAY AREA DEMONSTRATIONS AND DIRECT ACTION



Legal support for current Bay Area protests is a collaborative effort by the following organizations:

The Center for Protest Law & Litigation was launched by the Partnership for Civil Justice Fund to bring a nationally coordinated and strategic fightback against the attacks on democracy and fundamental civil rights and liberties. For more than 25 years, we have been leaders in bringing high impact, landmark civil rights and First Amendment litigation. This work is carried out in partnership with those most affected, centering the social and political demands of frontline communities and activists. CPLL is working with the NLG and other groups to provide legal consultation and coordinate representation for protestors.

<https://www.protestlaw.org/>

The National Lawyers Guild (NLG) was founded in 1937 "in the service of the people, to the end that human rights shall be regarded as more sacred than property interests" and the Bay Area Chapter has been supporting protests since the 1960s. Its members now include lawyers, law students, activists, legal workers, and jailhouse lawyers and it is active on many issues. It sends Legal Observers in green hats to monitor law enforcement at demos, mobilizes lawyers to advise and defend protestors, and more. <https://nlgsf.org/>

Legal Solidarity Bay Area (LSBA) is a legal worker collective committed to mutual aid, an each-one-teach-one approach to legal support that demystifies the criminal justice system and builds power for our movements in confrontation with the legal system. LSBA will be running the legal hotlines for No2APEC actions and working with other groups in the legal support coalition. They take calls from people in jail and track cases through the early phases of the court system so people can get the support they need and start organizing for legal solidarity.

The Bay Area Anti-Repression Committee (ARC) stands against political repression and is in solidarity with all those who challenge the state, capitalism and other forms of systemic oppression and domination. ARC provides support in the form of education, information and referrals, and will be helping track cases and supporting those arrested at APEC and Palestine actions. It also manages an anti-repression bail fund. <https://antirepressionbayarea.com/>

The Demo Legal Hotline System: 415-285-1011 and 415-909-4NLG (415-909-4654)

After our hotline came under attack by fascists, we upgraded the security of these NLG phone lines. We limited the capacity of our jail support line 415-285-1011 to only take calls from local jails. *Other incoming calls will not connect but sound like the caller gets a busy signal.* We have a second line for outside-of-jail calls. That legal hotline number is 415-909-4NLG (4654).

Call 415-285-1011 if you are in jail after being arrested at a demonstration or action for which legal support has been requested and is being provided. Write this number in permanent ink on your body when you attend a political action where you could be arrested. This number can **ONLY** be called from inside of a Bay Area jail. All other numbers have been blocked to ensure that arrestees can reach us in case anyone attempts to flood our lines.

Call 415-909-4NLG if you are NOT in jail, but want to get in touch with the hotline operator. *Please program this number in your phone contacts.* Circumstances where you might call 415-909-4NLG:

- Your friend or loved one is in jail and you want to find more information on their status.
- You are at an action or demonstration and witnessing an arrest. Please try to get the arrestee's legal name, birthdate and/or support people's contacts.
- You were arrested, but are out of custody or in temporary detention and calling on your cell phone. We ask all arrestees to check back in with us after they are let out so we know your most up-to-date information on your well-being, charges, and next court date so we can attempt to coordinate further support. We also will need the best way to contact you.

Email baylegalhotline@proton.me if you cannot reach us over the phone. We run the hotline on volunteer labor we do not have someone answering the phone all the time. Also, the email serves as a fail-safe if for any reason our phone line is incapacitated. Please note that the email will only be secure *and encrypted end-to-end* if you write us from another ProtonMail email account. (ProtonMail accounts are free.)

What legal support CAN do, if volunteers are available

Before the Demo:

- ◆ Provide Know Your Rights education or the legal component of direct action training;
- ◆ Meet with organizers to answer legal questions regarding planned actions, assess legal needs, and discuss what you will need to do to plan legal support for your action;
- ◆ Train members of your group as NLG Legal Observers;
- ◆ Train members of your group to help staff our legal hotline or to set up your own legal hotline.

During the Demo:

- ◆ Provide NLG Legal Observers to monitor the police, document arrests and police misconduct, and help communicate with off-scene legal support regarding arrests;
- ◆ Line up lawyers who will be "on call" to deal with arrests including doing jail visits, jail release, and immediate court hearings. If arrestees are booked in jail, joint coordination from legal and organizers is essential through release and initial court date;
- ◆ Provide a legal hotline. The demo legal hotline is not automatically available, but must be requested in advance, and volunteers must be available.

After the Demo:

- ◆ We will track any arrestees until everyone is out of custody and will track their cases through the legal system.
- ◆ We will try to find lawyers to meet with and defend arrestees on criminal charges. We can often, but not always, find lawyers willing to work for free, and often work with Public Defenders and court appointed lawyers.
- ◆ CPLL, NLG or other organizations may follow up on police misconduct issues.

What legal support and legal observers do NOT do

- ◆ Communicate with the police on behalf of the demonstrators, except in an emergency or some particular situation where this has been agreed beforehand. We ask the organizing group to designate your own police liaisons or spokespeople;
- ◆ We do not collect information as arrestees are being released from custody, we count on you to do that. We rely on the organizers to gather specific information before and after arrests. See "What We Expect From You" below.
- ◆ Handle jail support logistics such as picking people up when they are released, contacting employers etc. We expect organizers to do this.
- ◆ CPLL and NLG cannot provide bail or bonds, but the Bay Area Anti-Repression Committee may be able to in certain cases. See <https://antirepressionbayarea.com/>.

What We Expect From YOU

- **Request legal support** as far in advance as possible by filling out this form: <https://nlgsf.ourpowerbase.net/legal-support-request>. You may indicate on the form that there are secure details you need to share over Signal or in person and someone will get back to you. You can also call CPLL at 415-508-4955.
- If you anticipate arrests, work with us to **plan for a legal support team. We can train members of your group as legal observers or to help** staff the legal hotline.
- For planned actions, gather a **list of people risking arrest** in advance, with complete legal names, dates of birth, and any special needs such as medical issues, non-citizens, juveniles, out-of-state ID, ID listing a different gender, warrants, etc. You should have a contact person who has this list and will be in touch with the on-call lawyers and the legal support team / NLG office. We suggest using the Arrestee Form attached at the end of this handout. The “Intake Information” can be filled out prior to the action.
- **Train people considering risking arrest** so they know what to expect. We can provide a legal portion to a direct-action training.
- If your group is considering using **solidarity tactics** in jail, discuss these in advance and communicate with the NLG about your legal support needs in relation to solidarity.
- Make sure that people who plan to risk arrest have **support people** who are planning to avoid arrest, who are prepared to deal with the arrestees' prescription medication, children, pets, jobs, transportation from jail, and other logistical needs. In some situations support people may also be able to help arrestees obtain release without bail by gathering community references.
- If arrests occur, it is CRUCIAL that we quickly obtain a **complete list of arrestees** with complete legal names, contact info, dates of birth, court dates and emails. In the Bay Area *most* demo arrestees are released from custody the same day with a citation, rather than held in jail. This may occur at a temporary processing area (often near the jail) or at a police station. Arrestees can also be cited out from the jail itself. Action organizers should station support people wherever arrestees are being released and have them fill out the **ARRESTEE FORM** attached to this document.
- Following the action, please put the arrestee information into a **spreadsheet** format we can import into our secure system – contact us for instructions.

ARRESTEE FORM
Confidential Attorney-Client Communication for Legal Team Only

Intake Information

Name and date of event: _____

Complete Legal Name _____

Preferred Name if different: _____

Date of birth: _____ Gender marker on I.D.: _____

Gender pronouns used: _____ Gender: _____

Cell phone: _____ Other phone(s): _____

Email (please write clearly): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Medical condition(s): _____

Meds/ dosage instructions: _____

Doctor name: _____ Dr.'s Phone: _____

U.S. Citizen? Yes No CA ID? Yes No

Support contact #1: _____

Support contact #2: _____

Notes: _____

Outtake Information

Date and time of arrest: _____

Location of arrest: _____

Charge(s): _____

Jail facility: _____ PFN _____

Was Arrestee injured: _____

Court date, time, location: _____

Arresting officer, agency, badge # (from citation): _____

Incident No. _____ Citation No. _____

Lawyer: _____

Witnesses, if known, with contact info: _____

Notes: _____

CONFIDENTIAL

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