

COMMON GRANT APPLICATION

(for Racial & Economic Justice Fund, Future Fund, Media Justice Fund, & Phoebus Criminal Justice Initiative)

Grant Application Checklist

Please use the checklist below to determine whether the application is complete. We must receive all the

information listed below to consider your grant proposal. Proposals will not be considered unless all these materials are received by 5:00 p.m. on the day of the deadline.
(Please call us ahead of time if you are not sure how to complete any of the sections. We can offer jassistance and samples of most of the pieces to help you with your application process.)
Cover Sheet (see below) with contact information and a summary of the key points of the proposal.
Proposal narrative (no more than 5 pages), answering all the questions listed below.
Timeline of proposed activities including plans for publicity, outreach, and evaluation.
Last year's financial information:
• A record of actual income and expenses from the past fiscal year for your organization.
Current or next year's financial information:
 A detailed budget showing expected income and expenses for the current or upcoming fiscal year, including a list of funds already available or pledged from other sources.
Composition of Board:
 A list of the officers and directors of the board, advisory board, steering committee, or other leadership, including their addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, and occupations.
 Description of how the leadership reflects the diversity of your constituency in any of the following areas that are relevant: race, ethnicity, class, gender, age, sexual orientation, and disability status.
Grantee Progress and Fiscal Report:
• The most recent Grantee Progress and Fiscal Report if your organization received funding from Bread & Roses in the past three years.
Internal Revenue Service letter:
 A copy of the organization's IRS letter granting it tax-exempt status; OR
 A copy of the fiscal sponsor's IRS letter along with a letter from that organization agreeing to act as fiscal sponsor.
☐ Anything else?
• If you wish to share supporting materials such as newsletters, leaflets or brochures, please share

NOTE: Please do not staple proposals or place them in binders. Use paper clips if necessary.

them with the Committee during a site visit.



GRANT APPLICATION COVER SHEET

Name of Organization National Lawrence Guild	Philadelphia Chapter
Office Address P.O. Box 53972, Philadelphia, F Website http://www.nlaphilly.org	Office Phone <u>215-667-8298</u>
Person to contact about this proposal Ryan Hancock Role/Title Regional VP Contact's Phone 215-965-77	Contact's Email <u>r.a.hanwek Pgma</u> il.com L'Contact's Alternate Phone <u>215-913-17</u> 49
Name of Organization Serving as Fiscal Sponsor, if applicable Address 55 Sixth Avenue, 3 rd Floor, New York	e National Lawyers Guild Foundation L. NY 10013
Contact Michael Sciame Contact's Phone 718-780-613	Contact's Email Λ/Λ
Fund Category (Check only one. If applying to different Fur	nds, please submit separate proposals)
Racial & Economic Justice Fund Future Fund	·
☐ Media Justice Fund ☐ Oppo	rtunity Fund
Amount requested from Fund	\$ 6,000.00
Total organizational budget for current fiscal year	\$ 15,130.32.
Specific purpose budget (if applying for a specific project)	\$15,000.00
What grants has the organization received from Bread & Rose	es during each of the past three years?
200_ <u>\$ n/a</u> 200_ <u>\$ n/a</u>	
If applying for project support, please indicate: Start date	End date
In the space below summarize the key points of your propo	osal.
(It's usually best to complete this part after you've finished the	e rest of the proposal!)
Criminal records present a significant obstacle-	to employment for thousands of Philadelphian
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3) Direct service work to prepare and file expungement , 4) Political advocacy work to reduce the impact of crimin	
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expungament statutes. We aim to complete these goals through the sup	port of the legal community and those
affected for enminal records.	
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Signature of the person completing application title	phone date

BREAD & ROSES COMMUNITY FUND: PROPOSAL NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

1. Mission and long-term vision of social justice

The National Lawyers Guild (NLG) is an association dedicated to the need for basic change in the structure of our political and economic system. We seek to unite lawyers, law students, legal workers, and jailhouse lawyers in an organization that 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 scared than property interests.

Our aim is to bring together all those who recognize the importance of safeguarding and extending rights of workers, women, farmers, people with disabilities and people of color, upon whom the welfare of the entire nation depends; who seek actively to eliminate racism; who work to maintain and protect our civil rights and liberties in the face of persistent attacks upon them; and who look upon the law as an instrument for the protection of the people, rather than for their repression.

Our long-term visions for social justice are:

- a. Our aid in the establishment of governmental and professional agencies to supply adequate legal services to all who need it but cannot obtain it.
 - **b.** Our work will promote justice in the administration of the law.
- **c.** Our advocacy will result in the adoption of laws for the economic and social welfare of the people.
- **d.** Our programs will keep people informed upon legal matters affecting the public interest.
- e. At our encouragement, legal education will include the study of social and economic aspects of the law.

2. Brief history of organization

Founded in 1937, the NLG was the nation's first racially integrated bar association in the United States. Since then, we have been an important part of the American people's struggle, for economic and social justice, and against oppression and discrimination based on race, ethnicity, immigration status, class, gender or sexual orientation. Our diverse work includes: the organizing of unions in the 1930s; the founding of storefront law offices of the Legal Services Corporation in the 1940s and 1950s; the organizing of thousands of volunteers to provide legal support for the Civil Rights Movement in the South long before the federal government's involvement in the 1960s; the legal representation of Vietnam War draft resisters and antiwar activists in the late 1960s and early 1970s; the use international law in support of the anti-nuclear movement in the 1980s; and the defense of Haitian refugees in the 1990s. After the 9-11 tragedy and the government's subsequent attacks on civil liberties, the NLG has focused on preserving democracy by lobbying Congress and working with the House Judiciary Committee to reform the USA PATRIOT Act.

On a local scale, the Philadelphia Chapter assesses and recognizes marginalized Philadelphians who need a voice in our society. Currently, the Philadelphia Chapter is focusing on immigration and criminal records issues, two of the more compelling and significant issues facing Philadelphians today. Our Committees also focus on: (1) the Judiciary Committee surveys and

publishes reports on the qualifications and public opinions of the candidates for every election; (2) the Drug Policy Committee is collaborating with other organizations to organize a conference to educate the public about drug policy reform; (3) the Next Generation Committee reaches out to young lawyers and law students to assist them in finding public interest careers during the economic downturn; (4) the Permanent Prison Voting Project registers eligible inmates in local prisons to ensure that their voices are heard in the political system; and (5) the Mass Defense Project provides legal support to protesters and demonstrators.

3. Problem and the root causes of the problem

Criminal and arrest records pose an almost impassable barrier to securing employment for tens of thousands of Philadelphians, especially among the poor, Black, and Latino populations in the city. Because criminal background checks have become a routine part of the hiring process, a job applicant with any criminal record may find it impossible to obtain a job. Many companies have hiring policies that exclude not only serious violent offenders, but people with any criminal past: 20-year-old arrests for simple assault, minor possession charges, and arrests that never led to convictions. Although blanket policies are often unlawful with respect to convictions and are always unlawful with respect to arrests, employers continue to use them to exclude many residents of this city from the gainful employment that so many desperately need.

An unfortunate consequence of our criminal justice system is that those who have had any contact with the system are marked, often for life. This creates a number of serious problems. First, research shows that unemployment is a key factor in elevated rates of recidivism among ex-offenders. A 2007 American Bar Association report stated that "the ability to get and maintain employment has been identified as a reliable predictor of a criminal offender's ability to successfully reenter society after a term in prison, and remain law-abiding." Policies that exclude those with any type of record from the employment market necessarily set people up to fail and reenter the criminal system.

Second, hiring practices that look at criminal records have a disparate impact on Black and Latino populations in Pennsylvania. Research consistently shows that a prior conviction affects Black applicants more severely than White applicants. In fact, Black and Latino applicants with no criminal backgrounds do not fare better than White applicants just released from prison. Such inherent bias within the system makes it important to help all residents of Philadelphia clean up their criminal records.

Finally, persons of color are arrested, convicted, and incarcerated at higher rates than Whites, further increasing the effect that employer use of criminal records has on these communities. The incarceration rate for Black people, for example, is 9.2 times higher that of White people in Pennsylvania. Similarly, the incarceration rate in Pennsylvania for Latinos is 5.6 times higher than that of White people. Because people of color and the poor are statistically more likely to come in contact with the criminal justice system, a far higher proportion of these populations have criminal records. In many cases, these records are nothing more serious than arrests in neighborhood crime sweeps that were ultimately dropped or convictions for low-level misdemeanors relating to domestic matters that would not have come to the attention of the police in White communities.

4. Affected constituents and their involvement in decision-making and leadership Any Philadelphian with an arrest or conviction record faces a high barrier to obtaining steady employment. The effects of this barrier is felt most acutely by the poor, Black, and Latino populations in Philadelphia, as they are disproportionately involved with the criminal justice system and are treated more harshly by employers.

The NLG membership and leadership include incarcerated persons, legal workers with criminal records, and attorneys with criminal records. The Expungement Project is consistent with the NLG's continuing efforts in not only helping the affected communities, but focusing on their viewpoints and encouraging their participation in challenging the system. We believe this is the only approach to meaningful change. We plan to reach our constituents through public outreach and education programs, as well as recruiting members to the advisory board. The Expungement Project will be evaluated on the affected community's opinion of the project as well as the level of active participation by the affected community in our work.

- 5. Strategy: focusing on root causes of the problem and changing the system
 The NLG Expungement Project hopes to address the problem of criminal records and
 employment in three key areas: 1) direct services to clear criminal records, 2) education and
 outreach, and 3) policy advocacy to change the criminal records retention policy in
 Pennsylvania:
- 1) Expungement Clinic This will be a direct legal service program whereby volunteer attorneys and law students will assist those with criminal or arrest records in preparing expungement petitions to clear their records. The volunteers will handle expungement cases through all stages, including advising the client, preparing and filing the expungement petition, and representing the client in court. By helping ex-offenders clear their criminal records, we can remove a serious obstacle to employment and create the conditions necessary for successful reentry into society. This is the most direct and expedient approach to resolving the immediate hardships faced by persons with arrest records and persons convicted of summary offenses. The effect will lessen the disparate impact felt by the Black and Latino job seekers who have prior criminal convictions or arrests.

2) Public Education and Community Outreach

- a. Know-Your-Rights Seminars In these seminars, volunteer attorneys and law students will provide Philadelphia residents with simple pamphlets that explain the rights of job applicants with criminal or arrest records and explain the ways applicants may clean up their record. By educating people with criminal records of both their rights and methods to clear their record, we can lessen the disparate impact of criminal records on all communities within Philadelphia as well as engage affected communities to confront these barriers. Changing the system requires teaching affected populations about their legal rights and how to protect themselves in order to avoid the harms of the system.
- b. Continuing Legal Education Courses We will set up courses to instruct legal professionals on the problems faced by job applicants with prior criminal convictions or arrests, related law, developing trends, and the existing solutions. This approach focuses on educating legal professionals on how they can change and challenge the system through legal advocacy. In addition, the trained advocates can help the NLG seek expungements for Philadelphians.
- 3) Policy Reform We will start a meaningful dialogue with the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office to change how the current expungement process is handled in Philadelphia. We

will also advocate at the state level for automatic expunction of charges that do not lead to a conviction and findings of not guilty. Additionally, we will advocate to expand the current program that allows expungements for summary offenses, if certain conditions are met, to include misdemeanors. This approach focuses on directly changing the system itself by reforming the way expungements are processed in Philadelphia.

6. Expected activities and outcomes

First, the volunteer attorneys, law students, and legal workers for the Expungement Clinic will assist persons with prior criminal arrests and convictions in expunging their records. We plan to hold a monthly clinic where those with criminal records can gather information and meet with the clinic to begin the expungement process. This will allow people with criminal and arrest records to obtain stable employment, which will help them reenter society, and lower the rate of recidivism in Philadelphia.

Second, volunteers with expertise in the area of expungements will educate both the affected community as well as other legal professionals. This will not only increase the knowledge base within Philadelphia about the obstacles that criminal records create, but will increase the quality and number of attorneys doing expungements in Philadelphia for little or no fee. Again, this will help those with criminal and arrest records obtain stable employment.

Finally, we will conduct outreach by partnering with organizations that already help people with criminal records, such as JEVS Human Services, the Philadelphia Unemployment Project, the Pardon Me Clinic, and faith groups. Collaborating with other local organizations will give us a solid knowledge base, which will increase our project's productivity. This will strengthen our position when we approach the District Attorney's Office and the Commonwealth in discussing change to the system.

7. Structure of organization and individuals responsible for proposed work

The National Lawyers Guild is governed by the National Executive Committee, which consists of 5 Executive Officers, 3 National Vice Presidents, a National Legal Worker Vice President, 2 Co-Jailhouse Lawyer Vice Presidents, 2 National Student Vice Presidents, Regional Vice Presidents from 9 regions, and Committee Representatives for each of the 11 Committees.

The Philadelphia Chapter chaired by the President, a staff organizer, and an open advisory board. The advisory board is open to all anyone interested in attending the monthly meetings. The Philadelphia Chapter has 3 Committees: Drug Policy, Judiciary, and Next Generation. Each Committee has a representative and open membership.

Two members of the Philadelphia Chapter advisory board, Ryan Hancock and Michael Hollander, will be responsible for the proposed work. Ryan Hancock is an Assistant Chief Counsel with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, the Commonwealth's civil rights agency. Michael Hollander is a staff attorney in the Employment Unit at Community Legal Services. Hollander deals with criminal records as a barrier to employment as a regular part of his case load.

8. How the work will be evaluated

The work will be evaluated according to the following factors:

- a. Number of attendees at the meetings;
- b. Ratio of the number of expungements filed and the number of expungements granted;
- c. The success rate of expungements in Philadelphia compared to the success rate in other Pennsylvania counties;
- **d.** The continued participation of affected persons after their records have been cleared (i.e., participation as a volunteer or on the advisory board);
 - e. Success in changing the District Attorney's approach to expungements; and
 - f. Success in changing expungement laws on a statewide level.

Each of these factors will help us determine which areas we need improvement. Both our immediate and long term goals are to obtain as many expungements as possible so that Philadelphians with conviction and arrest records may reenter society and become productive individuals as smoothly as possible. Part of our long term strategy is to work with the District Attorney's Office and the Commonwealth to change expungement laws and practices.

9. Plans for fundraising

Our primary goal is to offer expungement services for free. However, clients that can afford to pay will pay what they can, up to the amount of filing fees (\$15 per arrest) plus fifty dollars to cover our costs. Clients that cannot afford to pay will not have to pay anything. We will encourage clients with successful expungements to donate money after obtaining steady jobs with disposable income.

We also expect to raise money through our Continuing Legal Education classes. We will charge public interest attorneys \$30 and private attorneys \$50 for these classes. To maintain a Pennsylvania bar license, each attorney in the state must complete 12 CLE credit hours per year.

We will also establish relationships with law firms for both monetary and administrative support. We are hoping that firms can contribute money to cover filing fees for the expungements as well as administrative costs (e.g., paper, printing, copying, office supplies) for the Expungement Project.

10. Phoebus Criminal Justice Initiative: Working within criminal justice systems

In a perfect world, only the guilty would be arrested and arrests rates would reflect a community's proportion in our city. In a perfect world, employers would only consider those past convictions that are related directly to the job position in question (e.g., a past drunk driving record should disqualify a person from driving a school bus). Unfortunately, we do not live in a perfect world. While changing the system and society to exhibit greater equality and rationality is our ultimate goal, our short term goals require us to work within the criminal justice system to reduce the impact that a criminal record can have on an individual's employability. By working within the system that already exists by seeking expungements for those with arrest records and summary convictions, we can reduce the barriers to employment that so many face without the uphill battle that always comes with systematic change. At the same time, we can work to change the system within which we are working to help minimize the barriers caused by criminal records in the future.

BREAD & ROSES COMMUNITY FUND: TIMELINE OF PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

Upon notice of a grant award or upon independently raising \$500

Project directors will recruit two attorneys experienced in expungements to oversee work by volunteer attorneys and law students. Through the NLG Philadelphia's Next Generation Committee, the Project directors will recruit volunteer attorneys and law students. Project directors will notify relevant local organizations of the Project and request collaboration.

Month 1

Project directors will form an advisory board. The board will assess the needs of the city and the amount of work the Expungement Project can handle in the first six months.

Month 1 to Month 2

Project directors will contact local non-profit organizations for donated office space. The two expert attorneys will train volunteer attorneys and law students for the Expungement Clinic. Law students will collect relevant information and draft a Know-Your-Rights pamphlet under the supervision of the Project directors and two expert attorneys.

Month 2

Project directors and the two expert attorneys will finalize the Know-Your-Rights pamphlet and determine who will present the materials.

Month 2 to Month 3

Project directors coordinate with volunteers on community outreach. Project directors will advertise the first monthly meeting in relevant newspapers, email lists, and bulletins.

Month 3

The first monthly public meeting will be held. This meeting will include a Know-Your-Rights presentation.

Month 3 to Month 4

Volunteer attorneys will start meeting with clients and start the expungement process, under the supervision of the two expert attorneys.

Month 4

Project directors will develop a CLE course and approach speakers for the CLE. The second monthly meeting will be held.

Month 4 to Month 5

Volunteer attorneys will continue to represent clients in the Expungement Clinic.

Month 5

Project directors will submit the CLE course outline to the Pennsylvania CLE accreditation board for approval. The third monthly meeting will be held.

Month 5 to Month 6

Volunteer attorneys will continue to represent clients in the Expungement Clinic.

Month 6

Project directors will develop an evaluation sheet. The fourth monthly meeting will be held.

Month 6 to Month 7

Law students will update the Know-Your-Rights materials and develop other relevant literature. Volunteers will continue to represent clients in the Expungement Clinic.

Month 7

CLE speakers will finalize their materials for the CLE presentation and present the CLE. The fifth monthly meeting will be held, with a Know-Your-Rights portion.

Month 7 to Month 8

Project directors will evaluate the Project and determine with the advisory board where the Project needs improvement. The evaluation will include feedback from the affected communities. Volunteer attorneys will continue to represent clients in the Expungement Clinic.

Month 8

Project directors target weak areas and develop strategies for strengthening those areas. The sixth monthly meeting will be held.

Month 8 to Month 9

Under the supervision of the Project directors, law students research expungement laws in other states and comparable cities. The research will include substantial input from the affected communities. Volunteer attorneys will continue to represent clients in the Expungement Clinic.

Month 9

Project directors and the advisory board review expungement laws in other states and cities. The seventh monthly meeting will be held.

Month 9 to Month 10

Under the supervision of the Project directors and the advisory board, law students and volunteer attorneys prepare a memorandum on recommendations for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's expungement policies. Project directors and the advisory board will develop a collaborative effort with relevant non-profit organizations to begin discussions with the District Attorney's Office about changing the way expungements are handled in Philadelphia. Volunteer attorneys will continue to represent clients in the Expungement Clinic.

Month 10

The eighth monthly meeting will be held, with a Know-Your-Rights portion. The Project directors will actively recruit volunteers and advisory board members from the affected communities if no or few affected constituents are involved in the decision-making or leadership positions of the Project.

Month 10 and on

Volunteer attorneys will continue to represent clients. Law students will continue to do any required research to fulfill the Project's needs, including updating Know-Your-Rights pamphlets and other materials. Project directors and the advisory board will continue to solicit input from the affected communities, including recruiting volunteers from such groups. Project directors will continue to evaluate the Project with emphasis on how the Project is received and perceived by the affected communities. The Project directors, advisory board, and volunteers will continue to collaborate with relevant organizations to push for change in the District Attorney's Office and eventually in the state legislature.

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60.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	Office Maintenance
490.3	40.86	40.86	40.86	40.86	40.86	40.86	40.86	40.86	40.86	40.86	40.86	40.86	Vontage telephone
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BREAD & ROSES COMMUNITY FUND: COMPOSITION OF BOARD

Steven Gotzler

Title: Chair, Philadelphia NLG

Occupation: Philadelphia ACLU, Legal Program Assistant

Address: PO Box 40008, Philadelphia, PA 19106

Phone: 215.592.1513

Email: sgotzler@aclupa.org Diversity: Ex-offender

Janet Ginzburg

Title: Advisory Board Member Expungement Project Expungement Project

Occupation: Community Legal Services, Senior Staff Attorney

Address: 1424 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102

Phone: 215.981.3745

Email: jginzburg@clsphila.org

Ryan Hancock

Title: Vice President, Mid-Atlantic Region, Project Director Expungement Project, NLG Occupation: Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, Assistant Chief Counsel

Address: 110 N. 8th Street, Suite 501, Philadelphia, PA 19107

Phone: 215,965,7711

Email: rhancock@state.pa.us

Michael Hollander

Title: Next Generation Committee Member, Project Director Expungement Project, Philadelphia

NLG

Occupation: Community Legal Services, Staff Attorney Address: 1424 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102

Phone: 215.981.3794

Email: mhollander@clsphila.org

Michael Lee

Title: Next Generation Committee Social Direct, Philadelphia NLG

Occupation: Attorney, Private Practice

Phone: 215.868.2704

Email: mikelee215@gmail.com Diversity: African-American

Jennifer Sang

Title: Next Generation Committee Chair, Project Director Expungement Project, Philadelphia

NLG

Occupation: Attorney, Private Practice

Address: 400 Ridge Lane, Springfield, PA 19064

Email: jennifer.sang@nlgphila.org

Diversity: Asian, Female

Internal Revenue Service
District Director
U.F.O. BUX 1250
BROUKLYN, NY 11202

Department of the Treasury

Dates

JUN 17 igaa

NATIONAL LAMYERS GUILD FOUNDATION INC 55 SIXTH AVENUE BRD FLLOR NEW YORK: NY 10018 Employer Identification Number: 13-3036640 Contact Person: MICHAEL SCIAME Contact Telephone Number: (718) 780-6134

Our Letter Dated: MAY 7: 1787 Cavest Applies: NO

Dear Applicant

This modifies our letter of the above date in which we stated that you would be treated as an organization which is not a private foundation until the expiration of your advance ruling period.

Based on the information you submitted: we have determined that you are not a private foundation within the meaning of section 509(a) of the internal Revenue Code because you are an organization of the type described in section 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi). Your exempt status under Code section 501(c)(3) is still in effect.

Grantors and contributors may rely on this determination until the Internal Revenue Service publishes notice to the contrary. Howevers if you lose your section 507(a)(1) status, a grantor or contributor may not rely on this determination if he or she was in part responsible for, or was aware of, the act or failure to act that resulted in your loss of such status, or acquired knowledge that the Internal Revenue Service had given notice that you would be removed from classification as a section 507(a)(1) organization.

If the heading of this letter indicates that a caveat applies, the caveat below or on the enclosure is an integral part of this letter.

Because this letter could help resolve any questions about your private foundation status, please keep it in you permanent records.