

# FERGUSON<sup>AND</sup> BEYOND

National Lawyers Guild Midwest Regional Conference 2015  
Saint Louis University School of Law - March 20-22, 2015



## *Annotated Conference Agenda*

### Friday - March 20

**7:00 - 10:00** | **Welcome Party at Maggie O'Brien's**  
2000 Market Street, St. Louis, MO 63103  
(hosted by **NLG St. Louis**)

### Saturday - March 21

**8:30 - 9:15** | **Registration & Continental Breakfast**

**9:15 - 9:30** | **Welcome & Opening Remarks**  
Maggie Ellinger-Locke, NLG-STL Chapter President  
L. Jared Boyd, President-Elect, Mound City Bar Association  
Pooja Gehi, NLG Executive Director

**9:30 - 10:20** | **Legal Advocacy and Litigation Strategies During the Protest**  
Brendan Roediger, Asst. Professor, Saint Louis University School of Law  
Justin Hansford, Asst. Professor, Saint Louis University School of Law  
Moderated by Jessica Boggs, SLU Law Student

**Brendan Roediger** joined SLU LAW in 2009 and is one of the faculty supervisors in the Civil Advocacy Clinic, concentrating on litigation, and coordinates the SLU LAW's Pro Bono Program. He previously served as a lecturer in law and as a managing attorney for the Civil Justice Clinic at Washington University in St. Louis. After law school, Professor Roediger joined the Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance in Illinois, litigating in the areas of housing preservation, housing discrimination, predatory lending, domestic relations and welfare rights. He served as the Land of Lincoln Regional Specialist on low-wage worker issues and as co-coordinator for the agency-wide Task Force on Health and Economic Security. He continues to serve as the Housing Law Editor for Illinois Legal Advocate, a statewide technology center providing information and resources for legal services and pro bono attorneys.

**Justin Hansford's** research incorporates legal history, legal ethics, critical race theory, human rights, and the Global Justice Movement in a broader attempt to

interrogate injustice in society. He has a B.A. from Howard University and a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center, where he was a founder of The Georgetown Journal of Law and Modern Critical Race Perspectives. He joined the law faculty after clerking for Judge Damon Keith on the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Living just 10 minutes from Ferguson, Professor Hansford has been at the forefront of legal organizing and advocacy in the aftermath of the murder of Mike Brown. He co-authored the Ferguson to Geneva report to United Nations on St. Louis Police human rights violations and has served as a policy advisor for local, state and federal proposed reforms of the criminal justice system. Professor Hansford is a point person for the Ferguson Legal Defense Committee and a board member of the Project for Law Enforcement Accountability for Justice.

**10:30 - 11:20 | *Representing the Activist in Criminal & Municipal Court***

Joseph Welch, Attorney at Law  
Jerryl Christmas, Attorney at Law  
Moderated by Maggie Ellinger-Locke

**Joseph Welch** is a criminal defense lawyer and board member of the St. Louis Chapter of the NLG and former president of the St. Louis Chapter of NORML. His practice focuses on defending protesters and those accused of drug crimes. He represented many of the Occupy St. Louis and Occupy Midwest protesters before the municipal and criminal courts, winning several acquittals. He currently represents several Ferguson protesters accused of looting and other serious felonies. He can be contacted through his website at [www.stldruglawyer.com](http://www.stldruglawyer.com).

**Jerryl T. Christmas** is an American political activist, writer, entrepreneur and veteran litigator with 20 years of experience focusing on Criminal Defense, Personal Injury, and Civil Rights Litigation. Jerryl has a unique understanding of the criminal justice system having served as a Parole Officer, Municipal Prosecutor and St. Louis City Prosecutor for seven years. Jerryl has worked in all areas of the prosecutor's office including Misdemeanors, Felonies, Grand Jury and Sex Crimes. Jerryl is an astute politician who has ran for St. Louis City Prosecuting Attorney and has worked on a number of state and local political campaigns. Christmas helped Senator Claire McCaskill get elected to the United States Senate and served as Legislative Counsel in her Washington, DC office for three years before returning home to St. Louis. Mr. Christmas was raised in St. Louis and has deep ties to the community. Christmas has served as a local radio host and is often called upon to comment on Local and National issues affecting the community. Christmas is active with the Missouri Bar, National Bar Association, Mound City Bar Association (Past President), Imani Rites of Passage, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc, 100 Black Men Metropolitan St. Louis and Central Baptist Church. Christmas and his wife have four daughters.

**11:30 - 12:00 | Civil Rights Litigation After the Protest**

Robert Herman, Attorney at Law

Moderated by Larry Mass

**Robert (Bob) Herman** has been a partner with the St Louis firm of Schwartz, Herman & Davidson since 1984, where he has been continually poking his finger in the eye of government in defense of Constitutional rights, especially the right to free speech. Notable recent cases include the Adopt-A-Highway case, the University of Missouri Tuition case, and the Confederate Flag student speech rights case. Bob graduated from Washington University (B.A. Biology 1975), University of Kansas (M.S. Biochemistry 1978) and St Louis University School of Law (J.D. cum laude 1982). Credit (or blame) is due to Alan Howard and Roger Goldman of St Louis University School of Law for provoking Bob's interest in Constitutional Law, consequently saving him from a life of patent law. Bob is also an active St Louis musician, serving as the principal oboist of the St Louis Civic Orchestra; performing and teaching in Asuncion, Paraguay with the Orchestra of the City of Asuncion (OSCA) and most recently in Posos de Caldas, Brazil. Bob also directs the St Louis klezmer big band: *KLEZUNDHEIT!*

**12:00 - 12:20 | Question & Answer Session with Morning Presenters**

Moderated by Larry Mass

**12:30 - 1:45 | Box Lunch & Keynote Address: Police Practices**

Roger L. Goldman, Professor Emeritus, SLU School of Law

Moderated by Annette Slack

**Roger L. Goldman**, the Callis Family Professor of Law at Saint Louis University School of Law, is the nation's foremost expert on police licensing and license revocation laws. For more than two decades he has been helping states write and adopt laws that provide for removing the license or certificate of an officer who engages in serious misconduct, such as sexual assault and brutality. When Professor Goldman began to address the problem of unfit police officers' moving from one department to another within a state, 15 states were without decertification/revocation laws. Today, only six states remain without revocation authority; he is now working with individuals in those states to enact such laws to keep bad officers off their streets. Professor Goldman's ultimate goal is to help create a federally mandated national data bank of decertified police officers to prevent them from moving and being employed in a different state.

**2:00 - 2:50 | The Activist's Perspective - A Panel Discussion w Ferguson Activist Leaders**

Jamala Rogers, Organization for Black Struggle

Bishop Derrick Robinson, King Dominion International Church

Elizabeth Vega, The Artvists

Moderated by Bill Quick

**Jamala Rogers** is a long-time community organizer. She is a founding member of several groups such as the Organization for Black Struggle (OBS), the Coalition Against Police Crimes and Repression (CAPCAR) and The Justice Institute, to name a few. She is a free-lance writer with a featured column in the St. Louis American and in BlackCommentator.com, and she maintains a blog of her own at jamalarogers.com. She is committed to the fight for human rights and democracy for all.

**Bishop Derrick Demond Robinson** was born in West Point, Mississippi and is one of eight children. In July of 2010, Bishop Robinson was elevated and consecrated to the Office of Presiding Bishop of Kingdom Destiny Fellowship Intl in Columbus, OH at Agape Full Gospel International Church during KDFI's First Annual Holy Convocation. In June 2011, after receiving the vision from God, Bishop Robinson founded New Birth International Church, now known as Kingdom Dominion International Church in Belleville, IL. It is his goal to promote excellence in the lives of people by way of teaching them the value of commitment and accountability to the call of God on their lives, and to be an example and a mentor to all that he comes into contact with, while maintaining a high level of integrity and character in the process. Bishop Robinson has been an active leader organizing protests and direct actions throughout the St. Louis area following the killing of Michael Brown. His protests have brought attention to injustices in the St. Louis region to those who might otherwise seek to ignore the serious issues or who are shielded by virtue of privilege.

**Elizabeth Vega** is a Chicana activist, blogger, community artist and founder of La Loba Life Services an innovative consulting company which focuses on fostering dignity at end-of-life through the use of story, writing and art. Vega has taught creative writing extensively in schools, nursing homes, homeless shelters and juvenile detention centers. Her community art projects include Visible Work/Invisible Workers, a multi-media banner of photography and writing created in collaboration with janitorial staff and commissioned by Jobs with Justice, a Dia De Los Muertos Community Offrenda created in collaboration with BJC Hospice and Prayers, Poems and Affirmations, a multi-media project done in collaboration with Aziza Binti. On Aug. 9, the focus of her work shifted dramatically in the aftermath of the Mike Brown shooting. Like many others she heard the collective snap of a last straw and went to the front lines of the protest that same day. The unaddressed grief and loss she saw changed the trajectory of her life. She has been arrested six times for peaceful civil disobedience, founded The Artvists, a collective of artists who use creativity, courage and direct action to foster social change. Artivists actions have included the Requiem for Mike Brown, the now iconic mirrored coffin, the Carnival of Injustice and Monday Mournings. Vega is currently creating a program to address the collective grief of communities impacted by violence. The program will use artistic collaborations with young people to channel emotional voice into social change through direct art actions.

**3:00 - 3:50     /     *Environmental Justice Issues in the Midwest - Keystone XL, Coal & More***

Robin Martinez, Kansas City MO  
Pete Rasmussen, Morango WI  
Moderated by Molly Armour

**Robin Martinez** is an attorney with the Kansas City firm of Martinez Madrigal & Machicao, LLC, where he focuses primarily on business, real estate, and community economic development. He is actively involved in environmental issues and advocacy through service as a member of the City of Kansas City's Environmental Management Commission, and as a member of the National Lawyers Guild's Environmental Justice Committee. Some of his recent projects include working on the challenge to the construction permitting for the Keystone XL pipeline in regulatory proceedings before the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission, and chairing a task force on behalf of Kansas City's municipal government that studied and made policy recommendations for sustainable use of vacant urban-core properties.

**Pete Rasmussen** is the vice president of the Penokee Hills Education Project and is a professional photographer and carpenter. He lives in Marengo which is just outside of the Bad River Tribal lands in northern Wisconsin. The Penokee Hills Education Project was formed to educate the public about the risks to the Bad River watershed and the Penokee Hills from a large-scale open-pit taconite mine currently being proposed. Pete has been involved in previous challenges to mining operations and most recently is working to oppose a CAFO (concentrated animal feeding operation) that threatens the watersheds of northern Wisconsin.

**4:00 - 4:50     |     *Special Considerations for Non-Citizen Activists***

Sarah Molina, Molina Immigration Law LLC  
Moderated by Larry Mass

**Sarah Molina** began working with immigrants in 1997 at the Immigration Project in Granite City, IL. She continued working with immigrants as a paralegal until starting law school in 2004. While in law school, Ms. Molina twice interned with the Missouri Public Defender and worked at the Federal Public Defender. Ms. Molina's published work on criminal defense counsel's obligations to noncitizens has been cited to the United States Supreme Court three times. Following law school, Ms. Molina served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Rodney W. Sippel of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri and then practiced complex civil litigation before returning to helping immigrants in 2012. Since then, she has represented immigrants in front of United States Citizenship Immigration Services and in Immigration Court and defended individuals accused of immigration-related crimes in federal court.

**7:00 - 10:00** | **Party in University City at Maggie Ellinger-Locke's**  
6925 Cornell Ave., University City, MO 63130  
Come and enjoy delicious food and drink and the company of other NLG Midwest members!

## Sunday Morning - March 22

**9:00 - 9:30** | **Continental Breakfast**

**9:30 - 11:30** | **NLG Midwest Regional Meetings & Caucuses**

## WITH GRATITUDE

The 2015 Midwest Regional Conference planning committee thanks all of our wonderful panelists and presenters for their invaluable contributions, and Saint Louis University School of Law for providing us with a home. Many thanks to our friends who have traveled to come to the Regional, including our out-of-town speakers Robin Martinez and Pete Rasmussen; your presence enriches us all. Special gratitude to the host chapter, NLG St. Louis, for their tireless, behind-the-scenes work to bring our Conference to fruition. A very special thank you to Linda Locke for offering up her home to host our Saturday evening party for our conference participants. We also thank the food service providers (St. Louis University Catering) who have sustained our energy throughout the conference! Lastly, but hardly least, the deepest of thanks to all the Guild organizers from throughout the Midwest who came together to make this gathering possible.

## ***Thank You!***

2015 Midwest Regional Conference Planning Committee:

Molly Armour, NLG Midwest RVP, Chicago  
Len Cavise, NLG Midwest RVP, Chicago  
Annete Slack, Mound City Bar Association  
Larry Mass, NLG St. Louis  
Cynthia West, NLG St. Louis  
Bill Quick, NLG St. Louis  
Jerry Hochshtein, NLG St. Louis  
Jessica Boggs, NLG St. Louis - SLU School of Law