



Dec. 15, 2020

An outpouring of attorneys, law students, and legal workers passionate about defending the rights of protesters called upon the Colorado Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild to engage with and support this summer's Black Lives Matter Uprising. In response, we been fortunate enough to mobilize alongside our in to support this movement.

Since May, a small, but dedicated all-volunteer team has:

- assisted over 45 protesters with volunteer lawyers to represent them,
- supported criminal defense attorneys through strategy meetings, shared resources, and putting on a 5-credit CLE training,
- supported civil rights attorneys in filing lawsuits to hold Denver Police accountable,
- sent Legal Observers to almost 100 actions,
- fielded hundreds of legal line calls, and
- worked alongside organizers to address their concerns about surveillance and repression.

Our Mass Defense efforts have been scaled at the highest capacity in our Chapter's history. We have supported activists in Pueblo, Cortez, Durango, Colorado Springs, Denver, Aurora, Boulder, Fort Collins, and Greeley.

In addition to providing acute legal support, we have developed curriculum and resources so that our growing local movements can be informed while taking action. We have hosted workshops, created printable resources, and also discussed and prepared organizers for the potential consequences of the actions they plan.

All the while, we have also:

- held 9 Legal Observer trainings,
- maintained bi-monthly chapter meetings, and
- partnered with other local organizations and NLG chapters.

The needs of our local BLM Uprising have changed. As tactics, strategy, and focus have shifted toward policy reform, we must also shift our efforts in order to continue to support the movement. At this time, the only change is that we will no longer be matching arrested protesters with volunteer attorneys. As of Dec. 15, 2020, we will be removing the form to request an attorney from our website. We are committed to continue to support the efforts of this movement because we believe successful movements grow into full-fledged societal and cultural change.

All other mass defense efforts will remain. Legal Observers can be requested by emailing [core@nlgcolorado.org](mailto:core@nlgcolorado.org), and those interested in becoming LOs can visit our website to register for upcoming trainings. We will continue to operate our legal line (720-822-5893). Activists can call this line for information or support with regard to police harassment, surveillance, and arrests of protesters. Protesters previously matched with attorneys will continue to receive support in their legal cases as we provide training and assistance to their volunteer attorneys. We will also continue to provide our Movement Security workshops, individualized consultation for organizers, and printable resources, and we are preparing more legal organizing tools for organizers.

We are proud of the organizers, activists, legal workers, law students, investigators, and attorneys who came together over the last 6 months. Despite horrendous police violence and a challenging organizing landscape, this community has made clear: Black Lives Matter. We look forward to continuing with you as we work together towards a more just Colorado.

In Solidarity,

Colorado Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild