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## Ready, Represent, Radicalize! Demystifying the Dominant Ideology for Activists

Roger Williams University School of Law

National Lawyers Guild

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**NATIONAL LAWYERS  
GUILD**

**2011 Northeast Regional  
Conference**

*Ready, Represent, Radicalize!*

*Demystifying the Dominant Ideology for Activists*

Roger Williams University School of Law  
10 Metacom Avenue, Bristol, RI



## FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 2011

6:00pm – 9:00pm      **WELCOME RECEPTION AT  
REDLEFSEN'S**  
*444 Thames St., Bristol, RI*

## SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 2011

10:00am – 11:00am      **OPENING BREAKFAST**  
*RWU School of Law, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Lobby*

11:00am – 12:30pm      **SESSION (1) WORKSHOPS:**  
  
Law Enforcement Against [Drug] Prohibition  
*Room 286*  
  
Topics on Immigration  
*Room 285*

12:30pm -1:30pm      **LUNCH BREAK**

1:30pm - 3:00pm      **“GOLDSTONE REPORT: FROM GAZA  
TO CAIRO” – Keynote Presentation**  
*Room 286*

3:00pm - 4:30pm      **SESSION (2) WORKSHOPS:**  
  
Land Reform in Venezuela  
*Room 286*  
  
Animal Enterprise Terrorist Act  
*Room 285*

4:30pm - 6:00pm      **SESSION (3) WORKSHOPS:**  
  
Marriage Equality RI  
*Room 285*  
  
Right Wing Attack on Labor  
*Room 286*

7:30pm                      **GATHERING AT AIDAN'S PUB**  
*11 John St., Bristol, RI*

## SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2011

10:00am                    **BRUNCH & REGIONAL MEETING**  
*RWU School of Law, Bayview Room*

## **DETAILED PROGRAM**

### SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 2011

10:00am – 11:00am      **OPENING BREAKFAST, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Lobby**

11:00am – 12:30pm      **SESSION (1) WORKSHOPS:**

**End Prohibition Now: How the War on Drugs is  
Destroying Communities, Room 286**

*Description:* Former law enforcement and prosecutors will speak from their inside experience on how the war on drugs is racist and ineffective, and how we can change these policies, including specific opportunities in Maine, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts.

#### *Presenters:*

**John Amabile** has years of experience in the drug war, from the perspectives of a prosecutor, a public defender, and now a private attorney. He was an Assistant Attorney General from 1982-1986 in the criminal Bureau of the Massachusetts Attorney General's office.

**Jack Cole** retired as a Detective Lieutenant after a 26-year career with the New Jersey State Police, fourteen as an undercover narcotics officer. His investigations spanned the spectrum of possible cases, from street drug users and mid-level drug dealers in New Jersey to international "billion-dollar" drug trafficking organizations.

**Karen Hawkes** is a former Massachusetts state trooper. She has testified at the state house for marijuana decriminalization in Rhode Island.

## Specialized Topics on Immigration, Room 285

*Description:* This workshop will cover various immigration issues from juveniles crossing to ICE raids to workers' rights that are intrinsically entwined with immigration as a whole.

*Presenters:*

**Arthur Smith** is a private attorney in Hartford, Connecticut specializing in immigration and family law.

**Mark Noonan** has more than three decades of experience in the workers compensation brokerage business. He is a managing principal at Integro in Boston, MA and has recently written the first article in a two part series about the morality of providing workers compensation benefits for undocumented workers.

**12:30pm – 1:30pm LUNCH BREAK, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Lobby**

*Lunch provided by Roger Williams University School of Law, courtesy of Dean Logan.*

**1:30pm – 3:00pm LIZZY RATNER & PHILIP WEISS - KEYNOTE PRESENTERS, Room 286**

*Description:* Two editors of The Goldstone Report: The Legacy of the Landmark Investigation of the Gaza Conflict, will give a presentation about recent revolutions in the Middle East and their impact on Palestine.

*Presenters:*

**Lizzy Ratner**, a former reporter for the *New York Observer*, writes for *The New York Times* and *The Nation*.

**Philip Weiss** is the co-editor of *Mondoweiss*. He has written for the *New York Observer*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *Esquire*, and *Harper's*.

**3:00pm – 4:30pm SESSION (2) WORKSHOPS:**

## **Land Reform Law and Political Violence in Rural Venezuela, Room 286**

*Description:* Since the Land Reform Law was enacted by the Chavez administration in 2001, a wave of violence against farmer leaders began, resulting in more than 300 assassinations. Only a handful of investigations of the attacks have proceeded, and there have been few convictions thus far.

*Presenters:*

**William Camacaro**, originally from Venezuela, is a co-founder of the Alberto Lovera Bolivarian Circle in New York City, a plastic artist, radio host, and a long time social justice activist in New York City.

**Omar Sierra** is the Consul General of Venezuela in Boston. A sociologist by training, Sierra is currently pursuing graduate studies in International Conflict Resolution. He has a background in Latin American history, political and social movements, Indigenous issues, and US-Latin America relations.

## **The Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act: Free Speech Activists -- the New Terrorists?, Room 285**

*Description:* With implications for civil rights, the anti-war movement, the LGBT movement and other social justice movements, this Act introduces anti-terrorism enhancements for the right to protest. Find out how this Act protects industries that are recidivist violators of the law, yet treats them as a protected class against the right to protest peacefully.

*Presenter:*

**Odette Wilkens Esq.** is the Executive Director of the Equal Justice Alliance

**4:30pm – 6:00pm SESSION (3) WORKSHOPS:**

**The Future for Marriage Equality, Room 285**

*Description:* Marriage Equality Rhode Island (MERI) is the only organization in Rhode Island whose mission is solely to achieve LGBTQI equality through policy change. Come hear members of Marriage Equality Rhode Island discuss recent efforts to obtain marriage equality in the state and how these efforts could impact the national movement.

*Presenters:*

Representatives from **Marriage Equality RI** will conduct this workshop.

**Why the Attack on Public Employee Unions and What We Need to Do to Protect Worker Rights, Room 286**

*Description:* We have all witnessed the recent legislative attacks on public employee union rights orchestrated by Republican Governors across the country, particularly in the Midwest and New Jersey. These attacks cannot be viewed as coincidental but are in fact a part of a larger right-wing strategy to balance the budget crises in the various states on the backs of the public employees. These legislative changes are a giant step backwards in the evolution of workers' rights in the U.S. Fortunately, the public is not buying it. We can build on the positive response in Wisconsin and other states but how do we do it?

*Presenter:*

**Mike Ortiz**, is Senior Counsel with the Civil Service Employees Assn. ("CSEA") in New York which is affiliated with AFSCME. He has worked for CSEA for 22 years. Mike is a 1975 graduate of Wayne State Univ. Law School in Detroit, MI, and an NLG member since 1972.

**7:30pm GATHERING AT AIDAN'S PUB**

*11 John Street, Bristol, RI*

**SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2011**

**10:00am – 12:00pm CLOSING SESSION**

Brunch and Regional Meeting  
*RWU, Bayview Room*