



NACDL NEWS

NACDL Calls For Volunteers To Assist Guantanamo Bay Detainees

By Jack King, NACDL Director of Public Affairs & Communications

Speaking at the Board of Directors meeting August 6, Past-President Nancy Hollander (1992-93) called for volunteer lawyers to represent detained persons held by U.S. armed forces in the prison camps at the U.S. Navy Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. She said she was gratified by the responses to her membership e-mail of July 19. As of the meeting she had over 300 messages in her inbox awaiting reply. The e-mails will be sorted by a student volunteer studying with International Affairs Committee Co-chair Speedy Rice and replied to shortly, she said.

The Federal Public Defender Offices will be handling the initial unassigned cases from prisoners who have submitted handwritten pleas to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, she explained. Those notes are being treated as *pro se habeas corpus* petitions — and as of early August, there were enough federal public defenders to accommodate those prisoners who have sent notes and who do not yet have counsel.

The next group includes about 200 “next friend” petitions that do not yet have individual lawyers. The Federal Public Defender for the District of Columbia, A.J. Kramer, will be working with the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) to get lawyers assigned to those cases. These are where NACDL volunteers will come in. This process should be underway in September and October. Finally, there may be more prisoners who need counsel but who have not submitted notes or have next-friend petitions.

As of press time, Hollander still had no definitive word on attorneys’ fees for prisoners who cannot afford counsel, but NACDL still plans to litigate for

compensation, if necessary.

Attorneys who would like to add their name to the assigned counsel list should send an e-mail to gitlawyer@nacdl.org. Attorneys fluent or conversant in Arabic, Pashto, Dari, Farsi, and Balkan languages are especially needed.

Bergman Assumes Helm

Immediate-Past-President Barry Scheck swore in Barbara Bergman as the 47th President of NACDL in Portland. A professor at the University of New Mexico School of Law, she is currently on a one-year visitorship to teach evidence, trial practice, and criminal law and procedure at the Columbus School of Law of The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Before turning to teaching fulltime in 1987, she was a staff attorney at the Public Defender Service in

Washington, D.C. She is a co-author (with Past-President Nancy Hollander) of the *EVERY TRIAL CRIMINAL DEFENSE RESOURCE BOOK* and the 15th edition of *WHARTON’S CRIMINAL EVIDENCE*. Bergman served on the defense team of Terry Nichols’ state capital case in Oklahoma.

Previously, Bergman has served as president-elect, first vice president, second vice president, treasurer, secretary, and member of the board of directors. She has also chaired the NACDL Budget Committee and Investment Committee and co-chaired the *Amicus Curiae* Committee. She received NACDL’s most prestigious award, the Robert C. Heeney Memorial Award, in 2000 for her outstanding service to the criminal defense bar.

Scheck remains on the Executive Committee in his position as Immediate Past President.

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Outgoing NACDL President Barry Scheck administers the oath of office to 47th President, Barbara E. Bergman.