



**LOCAL ENFORCEMENT OF IMMIGRATION LAWS  
2010 NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD CONVENTION  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**

**WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION**

This workshop will address the impact that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) programs like 287(g), Secure Communities, and the “Criminal Alien” Program (CAP) are having on immigrant communities. It will include an overview from advocates on the national level as well as provide examples of successful local and state responses to these programs. It will provide a mechanism for NLG members to plug in and to support these organizing and legal efforts on all levels.

**MODERATOR & PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES**

**Marcela Diaz, Executive Director, Somos Un Pueblo Unido, Santa Fe, New Mexico**

Marcela is Executive Director and an immigrant’ rights advocate for *Somos un Pueblo Unido* (“We Are One People”). *Somos un Pueblo Unido* is a statewide membership-based immigrants’ rights organization that has worked to pass local and state policies benefiting immigrant workers and their families in New Mexico. It is also New Mexico’s representative on the steering committee of FIRM (Fair Immigration Reform Movement), the largest coalition of grassroots organizations working to support immigration reform.

**Dan Pochoda, Legal Director, ACLU of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona**

Dan is the Legal Director of the Arizona ACLU and was counsel in successful statewide racial profiling litigation against the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS); currently he is representing plaintiffs in the challenge to profiling by Sheriff Joe Arpaio. He joined the ACLU after ten years of private practice focusing on civil rights and racial discrimination matters. From 1990 through 1996, Dan served as Special Master for the U.S. District Court in three cases involving constitutional challenges to conditions of confinement in the Arizona prison system. He also was adjunct professor in 2001 at Arizona State University’s School of Justice and Social Inquiry. Prior to relocating to Arizona, Dan served as an Associate Professor at the City University of New York School of Law, a position he held from 1986 through 1995. In addition, he taught constitutional law at CUNY’s Center for Urban Legal Studies from 1982 through 1985. He served as Special Counsel to the New York City Board of Correction and as a

staff attorney for the New York City Legal Aid Society Prisoner's Rights Project, arguing numerous cases at the trial and appellate levels, including before the U.S. Supreme Court. Dan began his legal career with the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. He received his J.D. from Harvard Law School, and his bachelor's degree from Amherst College. Dan is a member of National Police Accountability Project (NPAP) and the National Immigration Project, both national projects of the National Lawyers Guild.

**Paromita Shah (MODERATOR), Associate Executive Director, National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild**

Paromita Shah is Associate Director of the National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild (NIPNLG), which provides legal assistance and other technical support to immigrant communities, legal practitioners, and advocates working to advance the rights of noncitizens. NIPNLG seeks to promote justice and equality of treatment in all areas of immigration law, the criminal justice system, and social policies related to immigration. For nearly forty years NIPNLG has served as a progressive source of advocacy-oriented legal support on issues critical to immigrant rights. Paromita joined the NIPNLG as associate director in 2005 and specializes in immigration detention and enforcement. She is a contributing author and co-presenter of the "Deportation 101" curriculum, participates in regular advocacy efforts with ICE officials, and has created an abundance of resources for communities affected by heightened immigration enforcement efforts. Previously, Paromita served as director of Capital Area Immigrants' Rights (CAIR) Coalition in Washington, DC, where she conducted presentations in regional county jails, trained attorneys, assessed detainee claims for relief, and conducted liaison meetings with DHS and DOJ. She also worked as a staff attorney at Greater Boston Legal Services.

**Azadeh Shahshahani, Director, National Security/Immigrants' Rights Project, ACLU of Georgia, Atlanta, Georgia**

Azadeh Shahshahani is the Director of the National Security/Immigrants' Rights Project at the ACLU of Georgia. The project is aimed at bringing Georgia and its localities into compliance with international human rights and constitutional standards in treatment of refugee and immigrant communities, including immigrant detainees. To that end, a variety of strategies are employed, including the development of impact litigation, legislative advocacy, providing training to attorneys, human rights documentation and the publishing of reports, public education, and coalition and movement building. Azadeh is the editor of two human rights reports on 287(g) and racial profiling: "Terror and Isolation in Cobb: How Unchecked Police Power under 287(g) Has Torn Families Apart and Threatened Public Safety" and "The Persistence of Racial Profiling in Gwinnett: Time for Accountability, Transparency, and an End to 287(g)." Azadeh currently serves as the Southern Regional Vice President and International Committee Co-Chair for the National Lawyers Guild; Chair of Georgia Detention Watch; and Vice Chair of Refugee Women's Network. Azadeh is also one of the Founders of Human Rights Atlanta and currently serves on its Coordinating Council. Azadeh was born in Iran, moved to the United States at age sixteen, and is a 2004 graduate of the University of Michigan Law School. She is the recipient of the University of Georgia Law School 2009 Equal Justice Foundation Public Interest Practitioner Award.