

Statement NLG

Cowdrey

Americans have a right to defend themselves from foreign invasion, targeting, smuggling, and trafficking within the law and within civil society.

When I first envisioned our Union, before the pandemic, life was more peaceful. I hoped to work with organizations such as the National Lawyers Guild in a professional and balanced legal environment. Over time, I saw a shift in political tone and approach that I could not align with, including the association with terrorist movements such as ANTIFA. For these reasons, I chose to step away.

I want to state clearly that members of the Republican Party are Americans. Political disagreement does not change that. No matter political affiliation, dehumanization of Americans should never be tolerated.

The use of inflammatory labels such as fascist reflects a lack of humanity in public discourse. It discourages mutual respect and increases fear. While this language may be protected under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution as opinion, it can still contribute to harassment, exclusion, and discrimination in practice. Repeated or targeted use of such language raises concerns under laws such as Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Escalating dehumanizing rhetoric carries consequences. It can intensify division and contribute to an environment where acts of violence become more likely. As we have seen in recent years, it may even lead to terrorism. This is a serious concern that should not be ignored.

We can defend our principles without dehumanizing others. Clear standards of respect strengthen institutions and protect the rights and safety of all Americans.

Email Received Post Unsubscribing:

“All Eyes on Prairieland: Judge Attacks Right to Fair Trial in First ‘Antifa’ Case”

(As circulated by the National Lawyers Guild)

After spending over seven months in multiple jails across North Texas, the Prairieland Defendants finally had their federal trial start on Tuesday, February 17. But then, as soon as the first defense attorney started asking questions to the prospective jurors, presiding Judge Mark Pittman declared a mistrial. Why? Because attorney MarQuetta Clayton, the only Black woman among the defense lawyers and counsel for defendant Maricela Rueda, was wearing a T-shirt featuring civil rights leaders of the past. Judge Pittman also took issue with Ms. Clayton’s voir dire questions, which reasonably probed jurors’ feelings about protest.

As experienced defense attorneys, we can attest that Ms. Clayton did nothing wrong. Despite both the prosecution and the defense opposing more delays, Judge Pittman nevertheless declared a mistrial and dismissed the entire jury pool. Significantly, immediately before the

judge's decision, prospective jurors had overwhelmingly expressed criticism of ICE, and several took the position that the Second Amendment extends to protests.

Ms. Clayton now faces a threat of being held in contempt at a hearing that Judge Pittman has announced will take place after the trial commences. NLG affirms that Ms. Clayton is clearly facing anti-Black retaliation for her zealous advocacy while wearing a T-shirt with civil rights icons.

Alarming, this mistrial order is presented as part of broader concerns regarding the Prairieland Defendants' constitutional rights, including access to counsel, a fair and impartial jury, an adequate defense, and a public trial. The following actions are cited:

- Refusal to allow local counsel to represent a defendant, with threat of contempt
- Limitations on defense objections during proceedings
- Financial penalties imposed on attorneys for filing discovery motions
- Strict time limits on opening statements and witness presentation
- Relocation of the trial to a smaller courtroom with limited public access
- Restriction of voir dire questioning to the Court

The National Lawyers Guild expresses concern that defendants' rights under the First, Fifth, Sixth, and Second Amendments are at risk and warns of broader implications if such decisions go unchecked.

Signed,
Executive Council

Marco Galaviz Luna <communications@nlg.org>
to me ▾

[Unsubscribe](#)

Feb 20, 2026, 2:24 PM



[Unsubscribe](#)

[View in your browser](#)



Summary:

Anti-Capitalist? Note that these are all anti "ist," meaning people, rather than anti behaviors. This is their current logo?

I apologize, but in court, a certain level of professionalism is standard in this country. T-shirts are not appropriate for lawyers representing clients.

Secondly, this reflects the “blame shift” pattern that we are very concerned about. I identified multiple fallacious arguments within this email alone, many of which are attacks, including “poisoning the well.”

Not only did this lawyer appear to disregard courtroom standards by not wearing business professional attire, but the National Lawyers Guild then characterizes the judge’s actions as racist. This smearing and framing of professional judges raise serious concerns.

My position: I stand with the judge for maintaining normal courtroom etiquette. These types of behaviors are not acceptable in a court of law.