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## ANNUAL REPORT 2007

MCLI faced many challenges in 2007 and participated in many efforts to bring peace law and human rights into government actions in the United States at the national, state and local levels. These efforts led MCLI to work with many individuals and NonGovernmental Organizations. It led MCLI to make presentations to political party clubs, to local government commissions and councils, to Congress members, and to activists from other nations.

### HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTING PROJECT

The Human Rights Reporting Project was MCLI's major activity in 2007. MCLI kept insisting that the U.S. Constitution AND the U.N. Charter AND ratified treaties are the supreme law of the land and cannot be violated by Government officials at any level.

Following these principles, MCLI has:

1. Prepared material on the violations of the rights of the **Katrina** victims, of **indigenous peoples** in the U.S. and Hawaiian Islands, of **immigrants** to the U.S., and of **African-Americans** under the U.N. Convention on Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination to submit as a separate MCLI report to the U.N. Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) for presentation to the CERD Committee meeting in Geneva in February 2008. MCLI also prepared material on the need for/possibilities of obtaining reports from local governments to the U.N. CERD Committee as part of the report for the large, new Human Rights Network.

2. Worked with local activists in **Minnesota** on their major report to the U.N. CERD Committee because it was one of four states selected by the U.S. Department of State for its required report to CERD.

3. Made successful presentations to the Berkeley Commission on Peace & Justice and to **Berkeley City Council** on the need to make a report to CERD, and on an innovative 3-treaty reporting resolution making the commitment to make periodic city reports to all three U.N. human rights treaty committees: CERD and U.N. Human Rights Committee and U.N. Committee Against Torture.

4. Made presentations to activists in San Francisco and Alameda and Santa Clara Counties about MCLI's work to have the activists' jurisdictions make human rights reports to the three U.N. Committees.

5. Met with San Francisco Board of Supervisors Tom Amiano and his aides, and with members of **San Francisco Commission on Human Rights** to spur action on the 3-treaty reporting proposal.

6. Met in Washington, D.C. with **Congressmembers John Conyers** and **Sheila Jackson Lee** of the House Judiciary Committee Nov. 3 on the duty to include U.N. treaty law in all of their work because a treaty is the supreme law of the U.S. under the U.S. Constitution.

7. Met in Washington, D.C. with Venezuelan Judge Fernando Vegas and **Venezuelan Ambassador** to the U.S. Bernardo Alvarez Nov. 2 on whether any nations in the

U.N. General Assembly might ask the International Court of Justice to decide whether the actions of the U.S. and other U.N. members in Iraq and Iran are legal or illegal, as Nicaragua did re: U.S. actions in 1986.

### MCLI PRESENTATIONS

MCLI Officers and Executive Director made many presentations on MCLI issues:

1. Forum on Radical Law Practice, March 31 at the National Lawyers Guild Regional Conference in **Sacramento**.

2. MCLI Vice President Rev. Daniel Buford made presentations of MCLI's peace law and human rights agenda at many meetings and conferences on **Katrina victims'** rights as violations of U.N. treaties in New Orleans; Houston; Gulfport, MS; New York City--Columbia and Fordham Universities; Louisville, KY; Los Angeles; Port Arthur, TX; and Mobile, AL.

3. Executive Director Ann Fagan Ginger made a presentation on March 1 to the Forum to Restore **Habeas Corpus** and Repeal the Military Commission Act and later to the Hayward Dems Alameda Democratic Club.

4. Ginger spoke to the **Gray Panthers** in Berkeley June 27 on Domestic Human Rights Violations.

5. June 27-July 1 at the **U.S. Social Forum** in Atlanta, MCLI Vice President Rev. Daniel Buford, MCLI Secretary Adam Shearer, and MCLI Office Coordinator Jennifer Smith made presentations on MCLI's Human Rights Reporting Project.

### MCLI/NLG CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

Interns and Staff at MCLI worked with Ann Fagan Ginger to prepare a notebook of materials for a **Continuing Legal Education** session in Washington, D.C. at the National Lawyers Guild Convention Oct. 31. Curtis Cooper, of the National Lawyers Guild, and Ginger and others made presentations on complaints to Office of Inspector Generals and the value of convincing local governments to file reports to U.N. human rights committees. The Bar Associations of Virginia and California approved credit for lawyers attending this CLE.

### NEW PATHS FOR ACTION

MCLI made presentations to many Los Angeles/Pasadena organizations on Ginger's tour in 2007, including:

1. The Regional Council of Organizations meeting in **Los Angeles** on Oct. 17.

2. **Westwood**-West Side Democatic Club on Oct. 18.

3. Unitarian Universalist Community Church of **Santa Monica** on Oct. 19.

## OTHER MCLI PRESENTATIONS

1. Ginger also spoke about MCLI's work at Black Oak Books book party on "Feminists Who Changed America 1964-1975" on April 28.

2. MCLI made frequent call-ins on Berkeley KPFA Pacifica station and appearances on Los Angeles KPFF Pacifica station.

## FUND-RAISERS FOR MCLI FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS

MCLI presented two local Bay Area fundraisers:

1. For Ann Ginger's birthday

July 29 in Berkeley at the home of Mickie Tenenbaum.

2. MCLI celebrated with Hon. Claudia Morcom of Detroit at the home of Walter Riley on Sun. Sept. 16, with many folks describing their relationship with MCLI over the decades.

3. Jan Goodman and Cynthia Anderson-Barker presented a fund-raiser for MCLI at the Beverly Hills home of the Barkers on Oct. 13.

## ARCHIVES

1. Margaret Levy of Hartford, CT sent the **Los Macheteros** Case Files from the case against 16 members of the Puerto Rican independence movement.

2. Allan Treseder re-glued the short, printed descriptions of the histories of **11,000 cases** described in publications from 1955 through 1995 ("**Civil Liberties Docket**" through "Human Rights & Peace Law Docket") in 105 binders. Then he began counting the number of cases in each category so that the 105 binders can find their home in a major national or international library or collection.

3. MCLI proposed, and the **National Lawyers Guild** national convention voted to make MCLI the **repository** for records of the NLG western region, and to accept the MCLI proposal to add a member of the NLG to the MCLI Board to consistently work on the NLG archives at MCLI en route to the University of California-Bancroft Archival Collections.

4. The late Rev. James Markunas' documents were entrusted to MCLI by his foundation, relevant to prisoner issues such as prison reform, addressing prison issues such as gay and transgender prisoners, and prison reform.

## INTERNS

In 2007, MCLI welcome a series of Intern volunteers who found MCLI on the web or heard about MCLI's work from older friends and relations:

- High school student Emily Alpert.
- Awaiting law school entry Adam Shearer.
- New College of California Law school student Jessie Speer.

MCLI also welcomed the summer work of Haywood Burns and MCLI law school interns:

- University of Oregon Law School student Kristina Alayan
- University of San Francisco Law School student Amanda Pacheco
- Chelsey Dubiel worked tirelessly on the 12th edition of MCLI's "Human Rights Organizations & Periodicals Directory" of over 1300 organizations and periodicals.

## PUBLICATIONS

1. "**Human Rights Organizations & Periodicals Directory**" (12th edition Oct. 2007) Libraries, career centers, and activist organizations immediately bought out the first edition.

2. "**The Living Constitution**: with Highlights from the Supreme Law of the Land" published Oct. 31, 2007 sold 100 copies in its first 30 days.

3. "**Using International Treaties and the Office of Inspector General To Work for Justice in the U.S.**" was prepared for the National Lawyers Guild CLE on Oct. 31 and orders are coming in as lawyers learn of its publication.

4. MCLI continued to sell copies of its many books, especially including, "How To Use 'New' Civil Rights Laws After 9/11," and "The Cold War Against Labor."

5. MCLI published 5 issues of its periodical, **Human Rights Now!**

6. Publications about MCLI's work:

"New Paths for Action Against Racism and Poverty" by Ann Fagan Ginger in *Poverty & Race Reporter* (Mar.-Apr. 2007, vol. 16, No. 2)

"What Is the U.S. Constitution Today?" by Ann Fagan Ginger in *Journal of Law & Social Challenges* (2007)

## BOARD MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

MCLI Board Members had a busy year in 2007, many making presentations in connection with their work that included MCLI ideas about New Paths for Action and the importance of paying attention to the U.N.-ratified treaties, including Rev. Daniel Buford, Adam Shearer, Jim Syfers, Legislator Lindsley Smith, attorney Walter Riley, and Barbara Blong.

## SERVICES RENDERED

MCLI answered an increasing number of queries from the Baby Boomer and later generations concerning events of the 1930s, '40s and early '50s that now seem relevant.

## UPGRADING OFFICE SYSTEMS

In 2007, MCLI brought its accounting services in-house, and imported financial records from Filemaker into Quickbooks. We standardized and simplified invoicing, allowing financial reports and statements to be made easily. By the end of January, MCLI will have online bank account access, which will tie together our recently-consolidated bank account with Quickbooks, in real-time.

Accounting information, including expenses, income, and real-time bank records are being condensed from several disparate sources and databases into one piece of software, Quickbooks. Sean also standardized income records within the Quickbooks accounting records and the Filemaker database, to permit easy accounting, sales statistics and publishing reporting.

Jennifer Smith upgraded, repaired and optimized the software used on office machines, including teaching Ginger new software.

## CAN ONE BELIEVE IT?

MCLI has made 364,380 copies on our copier since 1998, according to our Copier Technician!