

Cuban Law and Current Reforms

A Research trip to Cuba for lawyers and legal professionals

May 21-30, 2011.

Organized by Marazul Charters, Inc.

The National Lawyers Guild International Committee serves as consultant to Marazul for the development of the research program for this trip.

2011 marks a critical point in the Cuban Revolution. In order to face mounting economic problems brought on by 3 devastating hurricanes in 2008, the global economic crisis, the tightening of the US embargo and inefficiencies in the Cuban socialist system, major reforms will be adopted at the Congress of the Cuban Communist Party to preserve the gains of the Cuban Revolution and to keep it on the path of a society based on social and economic justice. These reforms, which will be adopted at the Party Congress in April or this year, will have significant impact on Cuban law and society. At this juncture in both US and Cuban history it is essential that progressive lawyers gain an understanding of contemporary developments in Cuban law. This 10 day research program will provide an overview of Cuban law and judicial system and will explore the impact of reforms on environmental law as well as gender and diversity rights in Cuba, two areas in which Cuba is out in front in the hemisphere. The research trip is a unique opportunity to learn how law and society intersect in critical areas of social well being in Cuba.

Past NLG president and Cuba expert, Debra Evenson, will meet with the group in Havana. In addition, to the extent possible, informal meetings will be arranged with Cuban lawyers for participants interested in areas of law not included in the program. Background materials will be sent to participants prior to departure.

Participants will spend 7 days in Havana and 2 days in the province of Pinar del Rio. A tentative schedule is listed below. The 10 day research program is open to all full time attorneys, law professors and legal workers. Unfortunately, as of this writing US regulations do not allow law students to participate under the general license for professional research.

The estimated cost for the 10 day trip, based on 15 participants,* is \$2,150 /shared room) and \$2,400 single room at the Hotel Telegrafo on the edge of Old Havana. Space in the program is limited. A deposit of \$200 is due by March 15 along with a completed application.

Costs include:

Round trip airfare from Miami to Havana and transportation to and from the Havana airport
Research program in cooperation with the UNJC (Cuban Jurists Association)

Accommodations for 8 nights in Havana with breakfast daily and 1 night in Viñales with dinner and breakfast.

3 lunches during the program

Transfers and bus transportation for the programmed activities.

Bi-lingual Cuban guide

For further information about travel arrangements and to obtain an application form to participate, contact Bob Guild at Marazul Charters—bguild@marazul.com.

For information about the program, contact Judy Somberg of the NLG International Committee—judy_somberg@igc.org.

Tentative Schedule

Saturday May 21

Arrival in Havana and transfer to Hotel.
Meeting with Debra Evenson.

Sunday May 22

10:00am

Tour of the City of Havana.

6:00pm

Informal meetings with Cuban lawyers of different specialties and lawyers who have had relations with the NLG.

Monday May 23

9:00

Meeting with program coordinators

10:00am-1:00pm

Meeting with National Society of Constitutional Law and leaders of the National Assembly. Topic: Cuban Legal System/ proposed reforms.

Lunch

On your own

3:00pm

Visit to Environmental Project in Havana with specialists and professors.

Evening free for cultural activities and informal meetings with Cuban lawyers

Tuesday May 23

10:00AM:

Meet with CENESEX, the Center for sex education, particularly the team working on campaign against homophobia.

1:00pm

Lunch at Casa de Amistad.

2:30PM

Meet with the Women's Federation at their headquarters or one of their local houses to discuss gender and family issues.

Evening free for cultural activities and informal meetings with Cuban lawyers

Wednesday May 25

10:00AM-12:30pm

Meet with Lawyers of Bufete Colectivo, Cuba's legal services offices to learn about its structure and functioning.

1:00-3:00pm

Final Lunch and meeting with the UNJC.

Thursday May 26

8:00am

Leave for Pinar del Rio, lunch at Las Terrazas **vegetarian restaurant**, Las Terrazas is located in a bioreserve. Drive to City of Pinar del Rio.
Meet with Environmental popular education project and visit local bufete to discuss agricultural law.

Overnight in Viñales

Friday May 27

Visit sites in Viñales, lunch in Viñales, visit an organic farm, return to Havana

Saturday May 28

Free for individual follow up.

Sunday May 29

Free for individual meetings and follow up.

The option of a day trip to Santa Clara to visit Che Memorial and spend afternoon in Santa Clara. Return to Havana late afternoon or evening. Cost additional. Participants will also be given information about cultural options for free time outside of the research program.

Monday May 30

Depart for US