October 24 – Global Spotlight
Supporting Human Rights Work in Guatemala

Hosted by the International Law Society, the Center for Human Rights and Justice and the Gates Public Service Law Program

117 William H. Gates Hall, 12:30-1:20pm; Lunch served

“To Walk in Solidarity: International Accompaniment of Human Rights Defenders in Guatemala”

Phil Neff, Program Coordinator, NISGUA - ACOGUATE

Phil Neff is a human rights and solidarity activist living in Guatemala, Central America. Originally from the U.S. Pacific Northwest, Phil Neff currently serves as Program Coordinator for the Guatemala Accompaniment Project of the Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala (NISGUA). He will share information about the Guatemalan causes that NISGUA accompanies, as well as potential volunteer opportunities to serve as human rights observers in Guatemala.

NISGUA’s Guatemala Accompaniment Project (G.A.P.) places volunteer international observers alongside Guatemalan human rights defenders who find themselves at risk of further violations due to their activism. G.A.P. assists individuals, communities and organizations working on sensitive issues ranging from precedent-setting legal cases to indigenous rights and environmental justice. They accompany witnesses and legal advocates in legal cases seeking justice for crimes of the past, such as the historic case for genocide and the recent case for the 1982 Dos Erres massacre which resulted in convictions for crimes against humanity. They also accompany indigenous and peasant communities which have organized to defend natural resources in their territories.

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