



SEEKING JUSTICE IN TEXAS

TEXAS COALITION TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY

WORKING THROUGH EDUCATION AND ACTION

SUMMER 2009

Inside This Issue:

From the Executive Director

- 2** Now you can hop on the phone with TCADP members and supporters around the state who are working to end the death penalty in Texas. TCADP is hosting quarterly conference calls that will focus on particular aspects of the issue and provide a forum for sharing ideas. See page 3 for information on the next call and how you can participate.

Statewide Conference Call

3

Legislative Update

4

New Report on Mental Illness

5

Chapter News

6-7

Event Spotlight

8

Jesus on Death Row

9

Impending Executions

July

23 Roderick Newton

August

20 David Wood

September

16 Stephen Moody

22 Christopher Coleman

24 Kenneth Mosley

30 John Balentine

Execution Vigils:

<http://www.tcadp.org/index.php?page=vigils>

Texas Death Penalty News and Alerts

Statewide Conference Calls

- The 81st Legislative Session ended on June 1, 2009. Find out what happened to the bills TCADP followed during the session, read an evaluation of TCADP's work at the Texas legislature, and check out a national update on page 4.

Legislative Update

- Double Tragedies: Victims Speak Out Against the Death Penalty for People with Severe Mental Illness* is a new publication from Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights and the National Alliance on Mental Illness. This groundbreaking report brings together the many victims of the failing mental health and criminal justice systems and looks for proactive solutions. Learn more about *Double Tragedies* and how to obtain copies on page 5.

New Report on Murder, Mental Illness, and the Death Penalty

- Chapter News**
- TCADP is excited to be working with new chapters in Waco, The Woodlands, and Odessa. Learn about some of their efforts and see pictures of multiple events hosted by TCADP chapters over the last few months on pages 6 and 7.

Jesus on Death Row

- Jesus on Death Row*, written by Mark Osler, a Baylor University Law Professor, compares the Jewish and Roman society that convicted Jesus with the modern American society that continues to pursue the use of the death penalty as the ultimate punishment. See page 9 for more about this intriguing book.

Does your faith community or civic group have an annual meeting or conference?

- TCADP has been hitting the streets, attending and exhibiting at multiple conferences and meetings around Texas to gather direct support from Texans! Do you know of meetings or conferences where TCADP should have a presence? See page 8 to learn where TCADP has been and how to help the organization find additional opportunities for expanding its presence in Texas.

Dallas Morning News Launches Death Penalty Blog

- The new blog includes news from *Dallas Morning News* reporters as well as commentary from members of the editorial board. Read and respond to the blog at deathpenaltyblog.dallasnews.com.



From the Executive Director

Page 2, Summer 2009

This spring, TCADP, Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation, and the Catholic Mobilizing Network to End the Death Penalty jointly sponsored an exhibit at the Second National Conference on Restorative Justice, which took place May 13-15, 2009 in San Antonio, Texas. The conference provided our organizations with the opportunity to interact with nearly 300 attendees and practitioners from all over the world and to share information about our work against the death penalty. On a personal level, the conference greatly enriched my understanding of restorative justice, which one presenter defined as "a theory of justice that emphasizes repairing the harm caused or revealed by criminal behavior." This philosophy of justice, which is best accomplished through cooperative processes that include all stakeholders, aims to move...

- From punishment to reconciliation;
- From vengeance to healing for victims; and
- From hostility and negativity to redemption, healing, forgiveness, and mercy.

Restorative justice also has these underlying principles:

- Justice requires that we work to restore those who have been injured: victims, communities, and offenders.
- Those most directly involved and affected by crime – victims, offenders, and the community – should have the opportunity to participate as fully in the response as they wish.
- While government is responsible for preserving a just public order, the community's role in establishing a just peace must be given special significance.

Restorative justice often takes the shape of victim-offender mediation programs, impact panels, or circle strategies. It can be used in prisons to develop an awareness of and empathy for victims and to help an offender establish or reestablish meaningful relationships within the community.

Clearly the death penalty is the antithesis of restorative justice. Yet those of us in the abolition movement can and should work to restore those who have been injured by violent crime. Earlier this summer, the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (NCADP) launched Rachel's Fund, a national campaign aimed at providing direct support to the families of violent crime victims and the families of death row inmates, as well as ongoing support for criminal justice reform efforts. The Rachel's Fund campaign recognizes the continuing need to broaden the base for abolition work and break the cycle of violence in our society. Rachel's Fund is named for, and inspired by, the life and work of the late abolitionist and activist Rachel King and by thousands of families of murder victims.

From September through November, TCADP will participate in the Race to Heal Initiative, an online fundraising drive that is part of the Rachel's Fund campaign. Through this initiative, TCADP members and supporters will be able to share personal stories about their work against the death penalty and encourage their friends and family members to contribute funds toward TCADP's outreach programs. The initiative also will lay the foundation for TCADP's efforts to build bridges to communities that have been impacted by violence. More details about the Race to Heal Initiative will be available later this summer.

Thank you all for the role you play in embracing the principles of restorative justice and helping to create a society that moves from punishment to reconciliation and from vengeance to healing.

In solidarity,

Kristin Houli



SEEKING JUSTICE IN TEXAS

Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty

2709 S. Lamar, Blvd, Suite 109
Austin, TX 78704

(512) 441-1808, www.tcadp.org

Newsletter Editor: Vicki McCuistion, info@tcadp.org

Issue #26, Summer 2009 (Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall)

Send your name, address, and phone number with your annual membership dues to the TCADP office to receive quarterly newsletters. All donations are tax-deductible.

Thank you! If you are already a member and would like to receive the TCADP newsletter via email, send your name and email address to info@tcadp.org.



Save the Date!

2010 TCADP ANNUAL CONFERENCE

CO-SPONSORED BY THE
SMU HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION PROGRAM

FEBRUARY 20, 2010
DALLAS, TX

HIGHLAND PARK
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MORE DETAILS AND HOTEL INFO TO COME IN THE
FALL AND WINTER TCADP NEWSLETTERS.
WATCH FOR IT!

LOOK FOR EXCITING CHANGES IN THE PROGRAM
AND A DISCOUNTED REGISTRATION RATE FOR
TCADP MEMBERS.

The Newly Elected Steering Committee of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty

- Amnesty International
- Arab Coalition Against the Death Penalty
- Barreau de Paris -France
- Coalition marocaine contre la peine de mort -Morocco
- Collectif de soutien à Mumia Abu Jamal -France
- Culture pour la Paix et la Justice -DCR
- Death Penalty Focus -USA
- ECPM -France
- FIACAT
- FIDH
- FSU -France
- Lawyers for Human Rights International -India
- Murder Victims' Family for Human Rights -USA
- National Association for Criminal Defense Lawyers -USA
- Penal Reform International
- Puerto Rico Bar Association -Puerto Rico
- Sant'Egidio Community -Italy
- Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty -Taiwan
- **Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty -USA**
- Tuscany Region -Italy

TCADP Launches Statewide Conference Calls



On June 9, 2009, TCADP conducted its first-ever statewide conference call, which engaged members and supporters throughout Texas in dialogue about legislative advocacy on the death penalty. The call featured TCADP Board Members Bob Van Steenburg and Les Breeding, who provided an overview of the dozens of death penalty-related bills that were introduced during the 81st State Legislative Session. Bob and Les also outlined some of the next steps for advancing TCADP's legislative agenda. To download a recording of the call, please visit <http://tcadp.org/uploads/File/ConferenceRecording-06-09-09.mp3>.

This was the first in a series of statewide conference calls that will be taking place on a quarterly basis. Each call will feature a guest speaker and will highlight a TCADP program or upcoming event. The next call is scheduled tentatively for the evening of September 14 and will focus on outreach to murder victims' family members. Check the TCADP website or call the office for details.

These calls are open to all TCADP members and supporters. If you would like to suggest a topic or speaker for future calls, please contact Kristin at khoule@tcadp.org or 512-441-1808. We look forward to talking with you!

Daily News
on the
Texas
Death Penalty



Subscribe to the
Texas Abolition Blog
<http://tcadp.blogspot.com/>

2009 Legislative Update by Bob Van Steenburg

Page 4, Summer 2009

The 81st Legislature Regular Session concluded on June 1st. Dozens of bills relating to the issue of capital punishment were introduced during the session. Some passed; most did not. So, how should we evaluate the legislative session, and how should we measure the results of TCADP's efforts this session? Here is a recap of the more significant actions by the legislature on bills of interest to TCADP.

Repeal of the Death Penalty (HB 682)

Rep. Jessica Farrar (D-Houston) sponsored HB 682. TCADP worked very closely with Rep. Farrar and her office on this piece of legislation. TCADP's goal was to get the bill to a hearing in the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee. The bill received a hearing by the Criminal Jurisprudence Committee's Subcommittee on Capital Punishment. The hearing was excellent with several diverse and extremely qualified speakers. However, the bill was left pending in the subcommittee without further action.

A positive aspect of our efforts was that four other members of the House signed on to the bill as co-sponsors: Reps. Burnam (D-Ft. Worth), Edwards (D-Houston), Hodge (D-Dallas) and Marquez (D-El Paso). In summary: TCADP accomplished its goal of having a hearing on the bill and also identified new allies in the House.

Bills Passed and Signed by the Governor

Indigent Defense (HB 2058)

This bill provides for specific standards for attorneys representing indigent defendants in the appeals process in capital cases.

Compensation for Wrongful Conviction (HB 1736)

HB 1736 increases the compensation (from \$50,000 to \$80,000 for every year of incarceration) paid to persons who have been wrongfully convicted and sent to prison for crimes they did not commit. This bill has been named the Tim Cole Act, honoring Mr. Cole, who died in prison while serving time for a crime he did not commit.

Establishment of a Capital Writs Office (SB 1091)

This legislation establishes a state-wide office to provide qualified defense for indigent defendants in capital cases. This is a critical measure to ensure that all those facing the death penalty are provided competent defense.

Innocence Commission (HB 498)

This bill establishes an advisory panel to assist with a study regarding the prevention of wrongful convictions.

Bill Passed without a Signature from the Governor

Jail House Snitch Testimony (SB 1681)

SB 1681 prohibits the conviction of a defendant

based on testimony provided by someone who was incarcerated with the defendant unless that testimony is corroborated by other evidence.

Other Legislation

There were several other pieces of legislation introduced this session that either passed in one chamber (Senate or House) but failed in the other, or failed in committee in one chamber and did not proceed any further. A full list of all legislation of interest to TCADP can be found at www.tcadp.org. Please review these bills to learn more about the legislative process and the real difficulty that bills face in becoming law.

Summary

The 81st Legislative Session was an important, positive initial step in our work to repeal the death penalty. We solidified our relationship with Rep. Farrar and her office. We

have identified several new allies, in both the House and the Senate. We have made important strides upon which we intend to build in the next session. And while January 2011 may seem a long way off, it really is not. We will begin to prepare for the next session in earnest this summer.

We have seen dramatic examples this year of how important it is for constituents to speak with their legislators and we appreciate the participation of TCADP members and supporters in this year's session. We will only succeed when each of us tells those who work for us in the Capitol that we want to end the use of the death penalty in Texas. Your help is needed in this effort. Please continue to contact your Senators and Representatives, and tell them you oppose capital punishment.

National Update

There is a wave moving across the nation that seems to be turning states away from the use of capital punishment. Significant legislative progress includes the following:

- New Mexico abolished the death penalty in March.
- The Connecticut State Legislature voted to abolish the death penalty, but Governor Jodi Rell vetoed this bill.
- Repeal bills passed the Montana Senate, the New Hampshire House, and the Colorado House but did not succeed in the other legislative chamber.
- Abolition bills were seriously considered by legislatures in Kansas and Maryland. (Maryland has changed the application of capital punishment so that it seems that it will be very difficult for the death penalty to be applied.)

The tide is moving in our direction!

Groundbreaking New Report

The Intersection of Murder, Mental Illness, and the Death Penalty

Page 5, Summer 2009

On July 6, 2009, Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights (MVFHR) and the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) released a powerful new report, *Double Tragedies: Victims Speak Out Against the Death Penalty for People with Severe Mental Illness*. This report is the culmination of a project that the two organizations launched last fall in San Antonio.

NAMI - Grading the States 2009

Texas - "D"

49th in per capita spending on mental health care.

In *Double Tragedies*, NAMI and MVFHR seek to draw attention to the nexus of suffering between two groups of families whose opposition to the death penalty is grounded in personal tragedy. Bringing together the perspectives both of families of victims killed by persons with severe mental illness and families of persons with severe mental illness who have been executed, the report raises numerous important questions:

- What obligations does a society have both toward those who live with mental illness and the victims of the crimes some have committed?
- What is the appropriate response when an individual with severe mental illness commits murder?
- What could have been done to prevent these crimes from occurring in the first place?
- What rights do victims have to information and participation in the proceedings when the crime involves an offender with severe mental illness?
- How does the notion of diminished culpability relate to accountability?
- How do we balance the personal autonomy and civil liberties of persons with severe mental illness with the need for intervention and prevention?

In light of these unresolved and complex questions, the report asserts that "the death penalty is not only inappropriate and unwarranted for persons with severe mental illness but ... also serves as a distraction from problems within the mental health system that contributed or even led directly to tragic violence."

The issues addressed in this report could not be more urgent. Earlier this year, NAMI released *Grading the States 2009*, an update to its 2006 report in which it sought to provide a baseline for measuring progress on a variety of criteria related to mental healthcare. In 2006, the State of Texas received a C grade; three years later, it has dropped to a D. On another measure, Texas fell two positions in terms of per capita spending on mental health care – it now ranks 49th among all states. As NAMI clearly articulates, "greater investment is needed in order for the state to truly transform and move toward an evidence-based, cost-effective mental health care system."

Double Tragedies presents the voices of more than 20 families nationwide who have lost loved ones to murder or execution, including two from Texas. It also

contains policy recommendations related to reforming the criminal justice and state mental health systems.

TCADP plans to distribute copies of the report to state legislators, attorneys, victims' advocates, mental health advocates, and coalition partners. If you would like to receive a hard copy of the report, please contact Kristin at khoule@tcadp.org or 512-441-1808. Please note that a PDF file will be available online at www.mvfr.org and also by request.

Additional resources on the intersection of mental illness and the death penalty are available on the TCADP website under the "Programs" button.

From the Foreword...

"I am outraged that families try desperately to get help for their loved ones with mental illness, and instead innocent people end up getting murdered by persons who could and should have been helped.

And I am outraged that states are willing to put money and effort into medicating someone so they are competent enough to be executed, but not willing to put money into medication earlier, when they could help the person become well and avoid a senseless murder. ...

I hope that NAMI and MVFHR can help us turn our outrage into constructive dialogue and political action that can bring about changes, which will stop lives from being lost—both on our streets and in execution chambers."

- Pete Earley, author of *Crazy: A Father's Search Through America's Mental Health Madness*

Membership Alert!

Please check the date on the address label of this newsletter to determine whether your TCADP membership is current. If the date listed on your label is prior to July 1, 2009, your membership has expired.

For lapsed members: This is the last newsletter you will receive in the mail if you do not renew your membership by September 30, 2009! You can make a secure online donation with your credit card at <http://www.tcadp.org/index.php?page=top-donate>, or send a check or money order (made out to "TCADP"), along with your [membership form](#) (found on the back page of this newsletter), to: TCADP; 2709 S. Lamar;

El Paso Chapter... in solidarity with faith groups throughout the state is holding an evening vigil on each day of a scheduled execution in Texas. El Paso's Saint Patrick Cathedral will hold its first such vigil at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 16. All are invited. In a setting of quiet reflection, prayers will be offered in remembrance of murder victims, in compassion for their family members, and on behalf of all victims of violence. Participants will pray for prisoners, especially those on death row, their families, and the executioners.

Houston Chapter... has been very busy, with participation in multiple outreach opportunities including a "Living Library". Dave and Peggy Atwood participated in the "Living Library" at the Houston Public Library as "living books" - the title was "Detour to Death Row". People would "check them out" and then be told Dave and Peggy's personal story of involvement with Texas' death row . Dave found it an effective way of connecting with people on the death penalty issue. The concept of the Living Library started in Europe and has recently come to the United States. In Houston, the program was sponsored by the Houston Public Library and the Center for the Healing of Racism.

NEW—Odessa Chapter... organizers held a public witness in front of the Court House on April 30. The event, which attracted about 20 people, sought to remember the many acts of violence that have occurred in the month of April, including the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the tragedy at Waco, the Oklahoma City bombing, and the school shooting at Columbine. The Odessa chapters consists both of ministers and lay people; it currently reflects participation from representatives of the Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Baptist, and Church of Christ faith traditions.

NEW—The Woodlands Chapter... is busy planning its kick-off event. The chapter will host a viewing of "At the Death House Door" on September 15, 2009 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the South Montgomery County Library located at 2101 Lake Robbins Drive, The Woodlands, Texas 77380.

"At the Death House Door" is an intimate look at the death penalty in the state of Texas through the eyes of Reverend Carroll Pickett, who served 15 years as the death house chaplain to the infamous "Walls" prison unit in Huntsville. The film also focuses on the execution of Carlos De Luna, a convict who Rev. Pickett firmly believed was innocent. Join us after the documentary for a discussion session with Rev. Pickett.

Check with your chapter leader for dates and times of meetings!

Chapters also have pages on the website listing vigil and meeting times and locations:

www.tcadp.org

Chapters (C) and Regional Reps (RR)

STATE OFFICE—Austin (512) 441-1808 info@tcadp.org

Amarillo (RR) Eileen Dolan amarillo@tcadp.org

Austin (C) Bob Van Steenburg austin@tcadp.org

Beaumont (C) Bob Gazaway beaumont@tcadp.org

Brazos Valley (C) Carole Johnson collegestation@tcadp.org

Corpus Christi (C) Jeanne Adams corpuschristi@tcadp.org

Dallas (C) Rick Halperin dallas@tcadp.org

El Paso (C) Wayne Daniel elpaso@tcadp.org

Ft. Worth (RR) Curt Crum ftworth@tcadp.org

Houston (C) Nancy Bailey houston@tcadp.org

Huntsville (C) James Moore huntsville@tcadp.org

Laredo (RR) Sr. Rose Marie Tresp laredo@tcadp.org

Killeen (RR) Adele Mark killeen@tcadp.org

Lubbock (C) Vince Gonzales lubbock@tcadp.org

Odessa (RR) Father Mark Miller odessa@tcadp.org

Rio Grande Valley (C) Sylvia Garza riogrande@tcadp.org

San Angelo (RR) Robert Leibrecht sanangelo@tcadp.org

San Antonio (C) Roger Barnes sanantonio@tcadp.org

The Woodlands (RR) Angelle Adams thewoodlands@tcadp.org

Victoria (C) Rev. Wanda Ritchea victoria@tcadp.org

Waco (RR) Russell Doncouse waco@tcadp.org

INTERNATIONAL Sandrine Ageorges international@tcadp.org

(Please call the state office if you need a contact phone number or check the chapter page on the TCADP website.)

TCADP Chapters Across the State

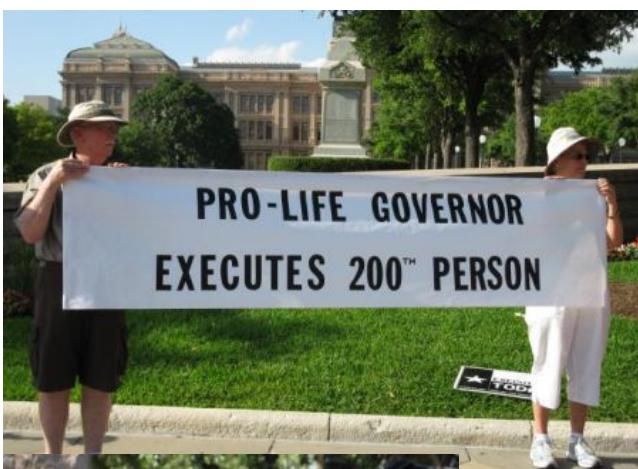
Page 7, Summer 2009



Austin Chapter play and silent auction fundraiser.



Houston demonstration on the 200th Execution under Governor Rick Perry



Austin 200th execution vigil, with approximately 50 people in attendance and with Sara Hickman on guitar.



↑ NAMI Walk with Houston Chapter.

Work with your local chapter on raising awareness about the death penalty in Texas! Contact your local chapter leader or regional representative for more information!

Thank you TCADP chapter members for providing these pictures!

In the last few months, TCADP has had a presence at numerous religious conferences and community events throughout Texas. These events serve as critical opportunities for membership recruitment and outreach to key constituencies. Here's where we've been:

- International Women's Day March, San Antonio
- The Bishop's 16th Annual Catholic Pro-Life Dinner, hosted by the Bishop of the Diocese of Dallas
- Houston International Festival
- Houston, San Antonio, and Austin Pride Festivals
- Second Annual National Conference on Restorative Justice, San Antonio
- Annual Conference of the Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church, The Woodlands
- Annual Conference of the Southwest Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church, Corpus Christi
- Annual Meeting of the South Central Conference of the United Church of Christ, Huston-Tillotson University in Austin
- 2009 Harvest of Justice Conference, sponsored by St. Ignatius, Martyr Catholic Church in Austin

TCADP would like to thank all the local volunteers who helped to staff these tables: Angelle Adams, Angie Agapetus, Dave Atwood, Nancy Bailey, Roger Barnes, Joan Cheever, Herb and Angela Diener, Tom Egan, Reverend Bruce Felker, Lynn Furay, Sharon Gabel, Katie and Caleb Goodwin, Tom Keene, James Klein, Alexis Konevich, Kay Leonard, Johnny Martinez, Isis Meltzer, John Reiser, Ann Smith, Bob Van Steenburg, and Linda White.

If you know of any upcoming tabling opportunities in your community, please contact Vicki McCuistion at info@tcadp.org or 512-441-1808. TCADP will provide you with literature and merchandise and pay any registration fees for the booth/exhibit. In return, you commit to collecting petition signatures and signing people up for TCADP's mailing list, which helps to grow our movement. It's a win-win situation!

Education Event Spotlight... w/Angelle Adams - The Woodlands, TX



How did you learn about TCADP?

I first learned about TCADP while attending the Texas Democratic Convention in 2008. I have always had a strong interest in prisoner rights and injustices within our criminal justice system for as long as I can remember, and this passion motivated me to get involved with the organization.

What or who motivated you to organize an educational event on the death penalty in your community?

At the 2009 annual conference, I was approached by Executive Director Kristin Houlé and asked whether I would be interested in starting a new chapter in The Woodlands area. I instantly agreed to help out and take part in these efforts. One of the great things about TCADP is the abundance of resources available on event ideas, planning tools, and support from fellow members.

Describe the event you hosted in The Woodlands.

On May 5, I hosted a viewing of the documentary, "70x7: The Forgiveness Equation" at our local library.

How did you publicize your event?

The event was publicized by contacting TCADP members in The Woodlands area. I also posted fliers at the library and grocery store. In addition, I went to meetings of local organizations and invited their members to attend.

What did you learn in organizing and hosting this event in your community?

I learned that it is important to get the word out early and to advertise in a variety of places. It is also important to promote the activity as an inclusive, educational event to make it appealing to many people.

What was the most positive outcome of this event?

One person who attended told me that the documentary and discussion after the event helped to change her perspective on the death penalty.

What are the next steps you are taking in your community?

On September 15, 2009, The Woodlands Area chapter will host a viewing of "At the Death House Door" from 7-9:00 p.m. at the South Montgomery County Library located at 2101 Lake Robbins Drive, The Woodlands, Texas. Following the documentary, Reverend Carroll Pickett will be on hand to answer audience questions and discuss death penalty issues.

We plan to publicize the event in local newspapers, church bulletins, school papers, college campuses, and spread the word through other organizations. I feel that it is important to advertise this event as an educational event, as opposed to an anti-death penalty event. There are many people out there who may not be decided on the issue, and we do not want to dissuade them from attending. The goal of the event is to spread awareness and share information and experiences. Of course we hope that an end result will be continued participation in our organization and a shift in perspectives and opinions on the death penalty.

We hope to have a great turnout and a wonderful discussion. Please join us to help make our kick-off event a success!

Thank You for Your Generous Support

Page 9, Summer 2009

TCADP would like to thank the following individuals and organizations who contributed between March 16 and June 16, 2009. Your financial assistance is critical to TCADP's outreach, education, and advocacy efforts.

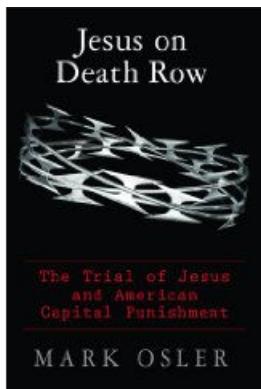
Tom Allen	Clay Hess and Wendy Wallin	Rabbi Samuel Stahl
Kathleen Barrett	Brenda Janssen	Sharon Starnes
Nancy C Boddeker-Blais	Jessie Johnson	Myriam Stubbe
Les Breeding	Daniel Kaminski	Doris Sykora
Joan Cheever	Tom Keene	Rita Taubenfeld
Peggy Cline	John King	Claudia and Jim Tracy
Jim and Sherry Coombes	Irmgard Klingst	Robert Trent
Robert and Shirley Cooper	Christel Kollmann	Rev. Edward and Barbara Triem
Sister Germaine Corbin	James Legare	Karen Tuel
Barbara Cowan	Roberta Leichnitz PhD	Dorothy Van Soest
Curt Crum	Pete Mefford	Bob and Jean Van Steenburg
Gayle and Mike DeGeurin	Dr Alan Northcutt MD	William Vaught
Paul Devera	Patricia and Joseph Nixon	Sigrid Walsh
Alison A Dieter	Laura Nye	Joe Watt
Arthur Dietz	George and Estela Phillips	Elisa Weber
Sal Digiocomo	Rev. Carroll and Jane Pickett	Linda White
Shirley Farrell	Joyce Pulich	Gerhard and Christel Wieding
Archbishop Joseph Fiorenza	Ram and Lalli Ramchandran	Leo and Emma Woods
Rodney Florence	John Reiser	Inside/Outside
Daniel Foyt	Richard Reyna	Lifespark
Lynn Furay	Joyce L. Richardson	Marianist Social Justice Collaborative
Glenda Fontenot and Pat Hardesty	Amy Sharp	
Susan Gries	James Randy Sisk	

Please let us know if we inadvertently have left you (or your spouse) off of this list.
We apologize in advance if we have missed anyone.

Thank you for supporting TCADP!

Jesus on Death Row, a book by Mark Osler

Review by Vicki McCuistion



In Chapter One of *Jesus on Death Row*, Mark Osler defines the purpose of his book as the following: "My point here and in the rest of this book in drawing out the similarities between the (criminal conviction) procedure that Christ faced and our criminal procedure today is not to compare Christ with the murderer, but to compare the society that executed him with our own."

Mark Osler is a Professor of Law at Baylor University School of Law in Waco, Texas. He is a former federal prosecutor and an expert on federal sentencing guidelines. His work on sentencing has been cited and extensively quoted by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Mark Osler's background as a prosecutor makes his evaluation of Jesus Christ's "trial" that much more interesting. He weaves his own experience and knowledge of modern criminal prosecution into his account of what Jesus faced during his own trial. This book will not only give you a better understanding of the trial that led to Jesus' crucifixion, but will also provide insight into what current capital defendants face in the American capital punishment system.

As the author compares Jesus' trial with modern day capital trials, one has to wonder if Jesus came again today and ended up being prosecuted in a Texas court, would he not again be faced with a trial that included entrapment, a paid witness, and denial of clemency?

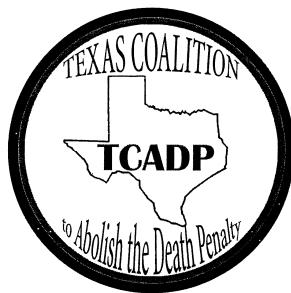
The book includes extensive footnotes and a scriptural index; it is available on Amazon.com.

Please note that Professor Osler recently joined the TCADP Speakers Bureau. Contact the TCADP office for more information about scheduling him as a speaker for your civic group or faith community!

TEXAS COALITION TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY

2709 S. Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78704
(512) 441-1808

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage PAID
Permit # 882
Austin, TX



If there is **no date** on your address label or a date prior to **7/01/2009**, please take the time to renew your membership or become a new member. See below for membership form.

↓ Don't miss the Special TCADP Membership Offer available through July 31. Join or Renew Today!

JOIN TODAY!

If you join TCADP between June 15 and July 31, 2009, you will receive six BONUS months of member benefits. In addition, your name will be entered into a raffle. Three lucky new members will win a copy of Within These Walls: Memoirs of a Death House Chaplain by Reverend Carroll Pickett.

I want to be counted as a member of TCADP and as actively working to end the death penalty in Texas.

\$15.00 Student/Fixed Income Annual Member

\$40.00 Annual Individual Member

\$60.00 Annual Household Member

\$100.00 Sustaining/ Organization Member

\$250.00 Business Member

\$ Enclosed is an additional contribution to support TCADP.

Please make checks payable to TCADP. Mail to TCADP, 2709 S Lamar, Austin, TX 78704. Secure online contributions can be made at www.tcadp.org.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

TCADP Quarterly Newsletter: Print and/or email

I would like to host a program in my faith community, civic organization, or school.

I want to host a new member party in my area with support from TCADP.