



# SEEKING JUSTICE IN TEXAS

TEXAS COALITION TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY

WORKING THROUGH EDUCATION AND ACTION

WINTER 2009

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## Texas Death Penalty News and Alerts

### TCADP Hires Executive Director

The Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty is pleased to announce that Kristin Houlé has been selected as the organization's Executive Director. Kristin was a 2007-2008 Soros Justice Fellow. Her 18-month fellowship involved conducting public education around the intersection of the death penalty and severe mental illness in Texas. Previously Kristin served for five years as the Program Associate for Amnesty International USA's Program to Abolish the Death Penalty in Washington DC. Kristin also currently serves on the board of The Journey of Hope. See Page 3 for her message.

### TCADP Releases 2008 Annual Report

The Annual Report summarizes trends and developments with the Texas death penalty in 2008. One highlight includes the continued dramatic decline in new death sentences. See page 4 for more developments and a link to the report.

### Texas Legislature to Convene January 13

The Texas Legislature is about to be back in session. See page 7 for how TCADP members plan to be involved and how you can help.

### TCADP Annual Conference, *Raising Our Voices For Abolition* in February

Read all about the annual conference coming soon to Austin, TX. The conference is a great way to meet new friends from your local area and across the state interested in this issue and is the best place to obtain the tools you need for ending the death penalty in Texas. Also consider advertising in the program or exhibiting at the conference to promote your organization and its work. Online registration is available. Make your plans now! See pages 9—12 for all the details!

### TCADP Founder Publishes Personal Story

[Detour to Death Row](#), a book about David Atwood's journey with the death penalty was recently published by the San Antonio Peace Center. It is the compelling story of one man who answered a request for help from his church and then became fully engaged in a very difficult issue. Read more about the book and how to purchase it on page 3.

### Capital Defense Training Coming in June

A training for families that deals with the ins and outs of capital trials is coming to Dallas and Houston. See page 3 for more information.

## Impending Executions

### January

- 14 Curtis Moore
- 15 Jose Garcia Briseno
- 21 Frank Moore
- 22 Reginald Perkins
- 28 Virgil Martinez
- 29 Ricardo Ortiz

### February

- 4 David Martinez
- 12 Johnny Johnson

### March

- 3 Willie Earl Pondexter
- 10 James Edward Martinez
- 11 Luis Salazar



# A Note from the Chair

Friends--

I hope you all enjoyed a healthy and happy holiday season.

As we embark on a new year, it seems appropriate to take a moment to reflect on the opportunities and challenges that TCADP confronted in 2008 - a rollercoaster year with the death penalty issue in Texas.

Following the U.S. Supreme Court decision that the current lethal injection protocol used by most death penalty states *does not* constitute cruel and unusual punishment, Texas nullified the *de facto* moratorium that had existed from September 26, 2007 until April 16, 2008 and resumed executions on June 11, 2008. The state executed 18 people over five months, accounting for half of the total executions in the nation. That was an average of nearly one execution per week.

Since December 1982 Texas has executed a total of 423 men and women. Eleven execution dates already have been set in Texas for the first three months of 2009.

Not all news pertaining to the death penalty in Texas last year was bad, however. 2008 also was notable for the executions that did not occur, including that of Lester Bower, who received a stay of execution so that DNA testing could be conducted on evidence that might support his claim of innocence, and Charles Hood, for whom there now is solid evidence that the judge who presided over his original trial was romantically linked to the prosecutor who sought his death sentence. Such cases continue to plant seeds of public doubt as to the fairness and reliability of the criminal justice system.

Another area for optimism is the growing acceptance of alternative punishments, as indicated by a marked decrease in the number of new death sentences in Texas in 2008. Eleven people were sent to death row last year, in sharp contrast to the late 1990s, when as many as 48 people received death sentences in a single year. Perhaps one of the most positive statistics related to the death penalty was that Harris County, the "capital" of capital punishment, did not sentence a single person to death in 2008.

Against this backdrop, TCADP embarked on an ambitious five-year strategic plan aimed at achieving real legislative change in Texas. A major component of this plan is the continuation of our public education efforts regarding the flaws and failures of the capital punishment system. We also have developed a comprehensive victims' outreach program and continue to reach out to faith communities, civic groups, and students throughout the state.

Last October, TCADP concluded its year-long statewide tour with Austin-based musician and singer-songwriter Sara Hickman. Covering more than 5,000 miles, the "Music for Life" concert series visited a different city in Texas each month and provided a forum for dialogue on the issue of capital punishment.

TCADP will be honoring Sara and other outstanding abolitionists at our 2009 Annual Conference on Saturday, February 21, 2009 in Austin. This exciting event will provide you with the tools and information you will need to take action at the 2009 Texas Legislature, which convenes in January. Read the enclosed flier for further details, and register today!

Clearly, much more work needs to be done before we attain the goal of complete abolition of the death penalty. On behalf of the TCADP Board, I would like to thank you for your past support and urge your continued activism until we have a state in which people no longer face the threat or reality of execution.

Rick Halperin,  
President, Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty

<b>U.S. Executions in 2008</b>	
(May 6 – December 5)	
<b>Texas</b>	<b>18</b>
Virginia	4
Georgia	3
South Carolina	3
Mississippi	2
Florida	2
Oklahoma	2
Ohio	2
Kentucky	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>



**SEEKING JUSTICE IN TEXAS**  
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Newsletter Editor: Vicki McCuiston, info@tcadp.org

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Send your name, address, and phone number with annual 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.



## From the Executive Director

Dear TCADP Members,

I hope this finds you well as we begin what surely will be an exciting – and busy – year for abolitionists. Our colleagues in Maryland, Montana, and New Mexico are poised to pass legislation to abolish the death penalty, while other states will be seeking to limit its application or secure other criminal justice reforms.

Our efforts here in Texas also will focus on creating change at the legislature. TCADP will have a real presence at the 81<sup>st</sup> Session of the Texas Legislature, which begins on January 13, 2009. All of you will have a major role to play in fulfilling our legislative goals for this year. Stay tuned for legislative action alerts, which will notify you about opportunities for you to contact your legislators and ensure that your voice is heard on issues related to the death penalty.

I am deeply honored to have been selected as TCADP's Executive Director and am delighted to be serving the organization and the abolition movement in this new capacity. One of my priorities over the next few months is to strengthen and expand our local chapters in order to significantly grow TCADP's membership. As such, I will be visiting each of our existing chapters throughout the state and will be exploring the possibilities for creating new ones. In the meantime, if you have any ideas or concerns that you would like to share with me, please feel free to call me at the office – 512-441-1808 – or send an email to [khoule@tcadp.org](mailto:khoule@tcadp.org).

Thank you all for your steadfast commitment and support as TCADP enters this critical new phase in its life as an organization. I look forward to meeting you in the weeks and months ahead and hope to see many of you at the TCADP Annual Conference on February 21.

Onwards to abolition!

Kristin Houlé  
Executive Director, Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty

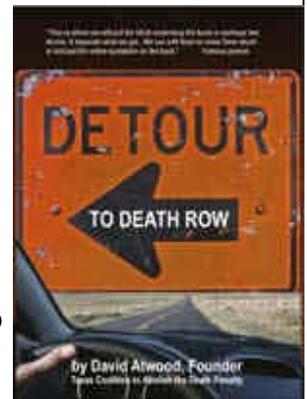
## Capital Defense Handbook Training

A couple of years ago, Claudia Whitman, Director of the Grassroots Investigation Project, Quixote Center, and Director of the National Death Row Assistance Network of CURE, visited Houston and presented an excellent training program with information on the criminal justice system and how to support persons dealing with the legal aspects of their convictions. This workshop was developed for families and supporters of people on death row. In addition to the oral and visual aid presentation, attendees were given a packet containing a copy of the Capital Defense Handbook and some very helpful forms. Claudia also presented this program to a group in McAllen.

Claudia will be returning to Texas to repeat this program. She will present it in Houston and Dallas in June on dates yet to be determined. Please begin to spread the word that this training will take place again in Texas. We would like this event to benefit as many people as possible. There will be an announcement of the times and locations in the Spring newsletter. The Spring newsletters to death row will contain 2 flyers which can be mailed to families and supporters. Please email Nancy Bailey at [Houston@tcadp.org](mailto:Houston@tcadp.org) or call her at 281-933-4925 to express your interest in this opportunity.

## New Book by TCADP Founder

The San Antonio Peace Center has just published a new book by Dave Atwood, founder of TCADP. The book is entitled Detour to Death Row and it chronicles how Atwood became interested in the death penalty in Texas as well as the early days of TCADP. The book includes accounts of Texans who oppose the death penalty even though they have lost a loved one to murder; stories of



Atwood's visits with prisoners on death row; the contributions of the faith and international communities; and a detailed description of the Texas death penalty system, which Atwood calls the "Texas Death Machine". The book contains several historical pictures and documents on the death penalty. It is a good resource for people who are interested in the anti-death penalty movement in Texas. The book can be obtained from the San Antonio Peace Center ([www.salsa.net/peace/ebooks](http://www.salsa.net/peace/ebooks)) or directly from Amazon.



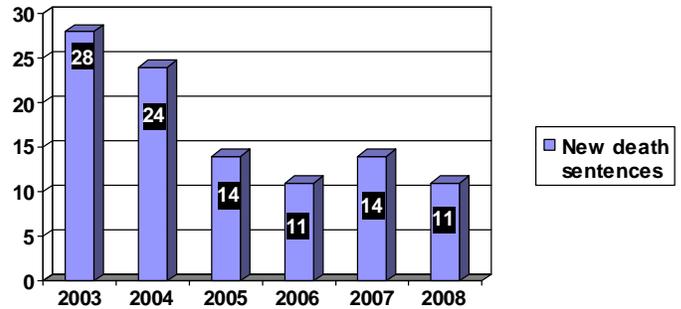
On December 4, 2008, TCADP released its annual report on death penalty developments in Texas. Timed around the anniversary of the resumption of executions in Texas on December 7, 1982, the report aims to inform Texans about events and issues associated with capital punishment in the past year. It presents information about executions, stays, commutations, and new death sentences; judicial decisions; exonerations; and other developments affecting the criminal justice system in the nation's most active death penalty state. This is the second such annual report published by TCADP.

Highlights of *Texas Death Penalty Developments in 2008* include the following:

- Texas' first execution of the year took place on June 11, 2008, when Karl Chamberlain was put to death. The State executed a total of 18 people in five months, accounting for half of all executions in the United States this year.
- Only eight other states carried out executions this year; none executed more than four people. Texas has executed 423 people since 1982.
- Texas juries newly condemned eleven people (ten men and one woman) to death row in 2008, tying 2006 for the lowest number of new death sentences since official reinstatement of the death penalty in 1976. Juries also resentenced two individuals to death. Currently there are 354 inmates on death row in Texas – 344 men and 10 women.
- Michael Blair became the 9<sup>th</sup> inmate exonerated from

death row in Texas after DNA testing failed to connect him to the crime for which he was convicted and sentenced to death.

- Seven other inmates were removed permanently from death row in 2008; their sentences were commuted to life in prison. This includes Thomas Miller-El, Johnny Paul Penry, and LaRoyce Smith, whose convictions and/or death sentences had been overturned at various junctures by the U.S. Supreme Court.
- Jurors rejected the death penalty in at least four capital murder trials in 2008, opting instead for the punishment of life in prison without the possibility of parole.
- Harris County, which accounts for more executions than any state in the country (besides Texas), did not send a single person to death row in 2008.
- Texas defied federal officials and the International Court of Justice when it executed Mexican national Jose Medellin on August 5, 2008, despite the fact that he had been denied the right to contact his consular office upon his arrest in 1993 as afforded by the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.
- The U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Kennedy v. Louisiana* on June 25, 2008 invalidated the death penalty provision of "Jessica's Law," which the Texas Legislature passed in 2007. The Justices ruled 5-4 that the death penalty is unconstitutional as a punishment for the crime of raping a child and they effectively barred its



imposition for any crime that does not take the life of the victim.

The Associated Press filed two articles about the report, which generated media coverage throughout Texas and nationwide and included stories in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, MSNBC, and *Fox News*. Spanish media outlets *El Diario* and *Univision* also provided coverage of the report. All told, coverage of TCADP's annual report appeared in more than 80 media outlets!

*Texas Death Penalty Developments in 2008: The Year in Review* is available on the TCADP website: at

<http://www.tcadp.org/uploads/documents/2008annualreport.pdf>. To receive a copy directly by email or in the mail, please contact Kristin Houle at [khoule@tcadp.org](mailto:khoule@tcadp.org).



**Daily News on the Texas Death Penalty**

Check out the Texas Abolition Blog  
<http://tcadp.blogspot.com/>



TCADP expresses its sincere appreciation and gratitude to Pedro Gonzalez in Dallas for voluntarily translating press materials for the annual report into Spanish.

Muchas gracias, Pedro!



TCADP also thanks Sandrine Ageorges for translating the annual report materials into French and for securing Italian translations.

Merci Beaucoup, Sandrine!

**Become a member online, at**



[www.tcadp.org](http://www.tcadp.org)

**Thank you!**

On October 1, 2008, the finale of the Music for Life Tour was held at Scholz Garten in Austin. The event was attended by 200 people who enjoyed music by Sara Hickman, El Paso Mayor John Cook, Shelley King, Jon Hogan and the Austin Lounge Lizards as well as the testimony of entertainer/author/gubernatorial candidate Kinky Friedman and an essay by Eliza Turner. The event was a fitting and lively climax to a great year-long tour.

Interesting facts about the tour:

- Purpose: To increase awareness across the state about the death penalty and its application in Texas
- Miles traveled: over 5400
- Cities visited: 12 (in order: Austin, Huntsville, San Antonio, Corpus Christi, Houston, Beaumont, El Paso, Denton, San Angelo, Dallas, Ft. Worth, and Waco)
- Entertainers involved: Sara Hickman and her friends—Barbara K, Shelley King, Stacey Earle, Mark Stuart, Trish Murphy, El Paso Mayor John Cook, Carl Finch, Cindy Jordan, Colin Boyd, Austin Lounge Lizards, John Hogan
- Speakers: Linda White, Rev. John McMullen, Rev. Bobbi Kay Jones, Rev. Carroll Pickett, Professor Dennis Longmire, Professor Joe McGee, Ruth Massingill, Professor Roger Barnes, Sam Millsap, Matt Tedrow, Les Cassidy, Dave Atwood, Deacon Harry Davis, Carmen Velasquez, Gloria Espinosa, Lois Robison, Rev. Mark Miller, Emma and Lupe Fabela, Professor Rick Halperin, Rev. Mike Piazza, Curt Crum, Rev. Nathan Stone, Bob Van Steenburg, Eliza Turner and Kinky Friedman
- Attendance: over 1200
- Media contacts: at least 17 that are known (newspaper, radio, TV coverage)

At the beginning of the tour, Sara stated that her goal was to start a dialogue across Texas about the issue of the death penalty. Sara and TCADP were able to do this by establishing contact with hundreds of people, many who had never seriously thought about the death penalty before learning about and attending a concert. Now, **they** are talking about the issue. Based on this fact alone, the Music for Life Tour was a huge success and Sara was indeed instrumental in starting a dialogue about the death penalty across the state of Texas.



Sara Hickman during the Finale



Closing Song with the Austin Lounge Lizards, Mayor Cook, Sara Hickman, Shelley King, Jon Hogan, and friends (listed in no particular order.)



## Cities for Life...Cities Against the Death Penalty

"Cities for Life" was initiated by the Sant' Egidio Community in Rome, Italy several years ago. On November 30 of each year, cities around the world are encouraged to illuminate a public monument or building as a symbolic gesture that the city opposes the death penalty. Rome, for example, illuminates the Coliseum. Over 900 cities around the world participated in the program this year. In Texas, cathedrals and churches have been illuminated. This year, the Catholic Dioceses of Beaumont and Brownsville participated. Dave and Peggy Atwood of TCADP traveled to Italy to participate in the activities in Rome, Terni, Parma, Reggio Emilia and Ravenna. (Celeste Fitzgerald, David Atwood and the Sant' Egidio Community pictured in front of the Coliseum.)

**Austin Chapter** ...sponsored its second play (with the local community theater group Paradox Players) and silent auction as a TCADP fundraiser in September. This followed a profitable 2007 collaboration by the two groups. Once again the chapter was able to net over \$2500. This type of fundraiser has proven to be easy, successful, only a little work and fun for organizers and participants. The chapter plans to make this an annual event. If any other groups are interested in trying the play/silent auction as a fundraiser, please contact [austin@tcadp.org](mailto:austin@tcadp.org) for information on organizing.

The chapter is now gearing up for the 2009 legislative session. With the legislature meeting in Austin, many chapter members plan to meet with legislators, contact them by phone and write letters to them concerning legislation that TCADP and individuals support.

**Beaumont Chapter...** at dusk on Sunday November 30, 2008 held a short ceremony at St. Anthony Cathedral in downtown Beaumont. The ceremony was part of Cities for Life Day, A World-Wide Initiative of Cities Against the Death Penalty. (See article on Page 5 for more information.)

Deacon Harry Davis, Director of the Criminal Justice Ministry for the Catholic Diocese of Beaumont, lead the Beaumont event. At dusk, the Minor Basilica of St. Anthony Cathedral was illuminated to mark the occasion. A small but dedicated group braved the cold to attend and joined in a moving expression of hope that the United States, and especially Texas, would end the use of capital punishment in our federal and state criminal justice systems.

As part of the ceremony Robert Gazaway, President, SE Texas/Beaumont Chapter - prayed a corporate prayer of confession that can be found on the Beaumont page of the TCADP website. Deacon Harry Davis was interviewed by Channel 4 News.

**Dallas Chapter...** is experiencing well attended and active chapter meetings. Their most recent activity involved sending out Christmas cards to death row inmates that contained signatures on from 17 chapter members. Plans are in the works for a spring fundraiser with Witness to Innocence, a national organization representing exonerated death row inmates.

**El Paso Chapter...** This past July the Diocese of El Paso began the work of forming a Criminal Justice Ministry (CJM). This ministry is in response to the Statement of the Catholic Bishops of the United States entitled *Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice*.

The Criminal Justice Ministry includes service to the incarcerated and their families, death row inmates, victims of crime and their families, and ex-offenders returning to the community. It also involved advocating for structural change within the criminal justice system. CJM realizes that to be truly effective and all inclusive, it is beneficial to collaborate with existing organizations that currently support the work of criminal justice. While the CJM is a Catholic organization, it is collaborating with non-denominational organizations such as El Pasoans Against the Death Penalty (EPADP), as well as civic groups whose main purpose is to build a better community by reaching out to victims of crime, their families, and offenders within the system and upon their release.

This collaboration has enabled EPADP to expand its education of the death penalty. We now send our newsletter to CJM members as well as organizations throughout the city. It has also encouraged people interested in Criminal Justice to join EPADP. We at EPADP have as our focus this year to expand our membership through education. Collaboration with the Criminal Justice Ministry of the Diocese of El Paso has allowed us to do just that.

## Chapters (C), Regional Reps (RR), and Affiliates (A)

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<b>Austin (C)</b> Bob Van Steenburg <a href="mailto:austin@tcadp.org">austin@tcadp.org</a>	<b>Killeen (RR)</b> Adele Mark <a href="mailto:killeen@tcadp.org">killeen@tcadp.org</a>
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<b>Lamar University Students (C)</b> <a href="mailto:lamarstudents@tcadp.org">lamarstudents@tcadp.org</a>	<b>Rio Grande Valley (C)</b> Sylvia Garza <a href="mailto:riogrande@tcadp.org">riogrande@tcadp.org</a>
<b>Brazos Valley (C)</b> <a href="mailto:collegestation@tcadp.org">collegestation@tcadp.org</a>	<b>San Angelo (RR)</b> Robert Leibrecht <a href="mailto:sanangelo@tcadp.org">sanangelo@tcadp.org</a>
<b>Corpus Christi (C)</b> Jeanne Adams <a href="mailto:corpuschristi@tcadp.org">corpuschristi@tcadp.org</a>	<b>San Antonio (C)</b> Roger Barnes <a href="mailto:sanantonio@tcadp.org">sanantonio@tcadp.org</a>
<b>Dallas/Ft. Worth (C)</b> Rick Halperin <a href="mailto:dallas@tcadp.org">dallas@tcadp.org</a>	<b>Victoria (C)</b> Rev. Wanda Ritchea <a href="mailto:victoria@tcadp.org">victoria@tcadp.org</a>
<b>El Paso (C)</b> Wayne Daniel <a href="mailto:elpaso@tcadp.org">elpaso@tcadp.org</a>	

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

## Texas Legislature to Convene Jan 13<sup>th</sup>

The Texas Legislature will convene for its 81<sup>st</sup> session on January 13, 2009.

*Does your State Senator or Representative know you do not support the Texas Death Penalty?*

*Tell them now!*

*Write a letter or  
Schedule a visit.*

It is expected that there will be several bills introduced that will be of interest to all who oppose capital punishment. One of these will be a bill filed by Rep. Jessica Farrar of Houston calling for the abolition of the death penalty. TCADP is working

very closely with Rep. Farrar's office on this piece of legislation. Our goal with regard to this bill is to move it to a hearing in the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee. In anticipation of that, we are now lining up individuals who will provide supporting testimony. However, to get to that point we need the help of our TCADP members. You can help us by contacting your Texas State Representative and telling them that you want this bill to receive a committee hearing. You can help us further by getting others to do the same. It is particularly important that recognized community leaders, such as clergy, educators,

by Bob Van Steenburg

business/civic leaders and members of the law enforcement/legal community do this as well. Large numbers are not needed. Two, three or four such individuals is a significant number from each community. Talk to the community leaders that you know or suspect agree with our efforts and encourage them to contact members of the Texas Legislature. It is extremely important that constituents contact their own legislators. In our conversations with legislators, we are told time and again that until their own constituents contact them about the death penalty, they are not inclined to take any action toward its abolition.



During the session TCADP will be closely following the progress of the bill mentioned above. We will be contacting you during the session at critical times asking for your action and support. Once the committee assignments are made and we know the composition of the Criminal Jurisprudence Committee, we will be contacting those of you who are constituents of the committee members urging you to ask them to bring the bill forward for a hearing.

So, stay tuned, and stay involved. We will keep you informed about this bill, as well as others that we believe to be important pieces of legislation along the path to ending capital punishment in the state of Texas.

## Death Penalty Teach-In Hosted by Houston Chapter



On October 11, the Houston Chapter held the first of what is planned to be an annual event in commemoration of World Day Against the Death Penalty. There was an excellent panel of speakers which included Clarence Brandley, an exonerated death row

Above: Teach-In participants

L: Clarence Brandley

prisoner, Linda White, mother of a murder victim, Nicole Casarez, faculty member at U. of St. Thomas and one of the attorneys representing Anthony Graves, Jared Tyler, attorney with Texas Defender Service, and Les Breeding, an authority on the Texas Legislature. Attendees left with a lot of information and inspiration to work to abolish the death penalty.



**Check with your chapter leader (listed on page 6) for dates and times of meetings!**

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

[www.tcadp.org](http://www.tcadp.org)

On October 3, 2008, in San Antonio, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights (MVFHR) launched a groundbreaking new project, *Prevention Not Execution*. The project aims to bring together victims' families and families of the executed who have been affected by mental illness, murder, and the death penalty.

After a private gathering involving the participants -- who travelled from Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina, California, Maine, Massachusetts, and elsewhere in Texas -- the organizations held a press conference that featured the compelling stories of several family members. Ed Dickey, the head of NAMI San Antonio, and Ron Honberg, the Legal and Policy Director of NAMI, also spoke about this collaborative effort from the perspective of the nation's mental health advocacy organization.

The press conference included a powerful ceremony during which all of the participants placed a rose in a vase and lit a candle in remembrance of their loved ones, the victims' of these crimes, and the perpetrators.

You can view photos from the event and read the moving statements of each speaker at <http://mvfhr.blogspot.com/>.

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On October 4, 2008, several members of the TCADP Austin Chapter (pictured right) participated in the NAMIWalks for the Mind of America, sponsored by NAMI-Austin. The 5K walk took place on a sunny morning in downtown Austin and helped to raise funds to support NAMI's programs. Thanks to Marj Loehlin, Anne Mund, Carol Peters, and Bob and Jean Van Steenburg for supporting the TCADP team!



**TCADP Religious Outreach Continues**

Members of the Religious Outreach Program, a part of the Outreach and Education component of TCADP's Strategic Plan, worked successfully throughout the fall to engage and educate faith communities in Texas about the death penalty.

In coordination with the Texas Catholic Conference, TCADP contacted each bishop in the dioceses of Texas. Several bishops gave permission for TCADP to contact parishes with an offer to provide an education program for their consideration. Through this effort several exciting events took place, including: a program for the Jail Ministry program (Diocese of Dallas); a speaking engagement at all Sunday masses with St. Mary Queen of Peace Parish in Brownwood (Diocese of

San Angelo); film showings and follow-up discussions at St. Mary's in Wimberley, St. Ignatius, Martyr, and San Jose in Austin (Diocese of Austin), and Pax Christi and El Pasoans Against the Death Penalty (Diocese of El Paso).

TCADP also provided information to participants in the 2008 Scripture Seminar, which took place in Austin from October 6-9.

On November 16, 2008, the Social Justice Forum at Wildflower Unitarian Universalist Church in Austin hosted a presentation on the death penalty by TCADP Executive Director Kristin Houlé. Earlier in the fall, Kristin and TCADP Program Coordinator Vicki McCuiston spoke at the October luncheon of the National Council of Jewish Women in Austin, which is an affiliate member of

TCADP.

Several education programs are scheduled for early 2009 and will include death penalty information, religious teaching, and tips for being a successful advocate with the Texas legislature.



TCADP display at Scripture Seminar



The Dallas Jail Ministry of the Dallas Diocese hosted a death penalty presentation in September 2008.

If your faith community is interested in hosting an educational program in the future, please contact [outreach@tcadp.org](mailto:outreach@tcadp.org) or call

the TCADP office at 512-441-1808 for further information and/or to set a date for an event.

# *Raising Our Voices for Abolition*

**2009 TCADP Annual Conference**

**Saturday, February 21, 2009**

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM (registration opens at 8:00 AM)

Schmidt-Jones Family Life Center - First United Methodist Church  
Corner of 13th and Lavaca, Austin, TX



## **Keynote Speaker: Celeste Fitzgerald**

Celeste Fitzgerald is the Director of New Jerseyans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (NJADP), a statewide grassroots organization with 12,000 members and 200 supporting organizations. Celeste led New Jersey's successful legislative campaign to become the first state since 1965 to abolish the death penalty. New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine signed the historic death penalty abolition bill into law on December 17, 2007.

Celeste is the recipient of the 2002 Pax Christi New Jersey Dorothy Day peacemaker award, the 2006 National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty Abolitionist of the Year award, the 2008 Catholic Diocese of Metuchen's Pro Vita award, and the 2008 New Jersey Council of Churches Distinguished Leadership award. In 2007 and again in 2008, she was named to [www.politicsnj.com](http://www.politicsnj.com)'s "power list" of the 100 most politically influential people in New Jersey.

We look forward to hearing from Celeste about the lessons learned from New Jersey and how we can become power players here in Texas!

- **Annual Courage & Appreciation Awards**
- **Legislative Agenda**
- **Quickshops and Workshops**
- **Networking and Coalition Building**

Register online at [www.tcadp.org](http://www.tcadp.org)

(under Programs, click on "Annual Conference")

or contact

the TCADP office at (512) 441-1808.

Pre-Register by February 1, 2009

Adults—\$45

Students—\$25

Registration fee includes continental breakfast and buffet lunch.

***Raising Our Voices for Abolition* will provide you with the information and tools you'll need to build power and create change at the Texas Legislature. We look forward to seeing you there!**



**Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty**

2709 S. Lamar; Austin, TX 78704

(512) 441-1808

[info@tcadp.org](mailto:info@tcadp.org) \* [www.tcadp.org](http://www.tcadp.org)

# Raising Our Voices for Abolition

Saturday, February 21, 2009

## Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty Annual Conference

### Conference Program

**8:00 - 9:00** Registration and Continental Breakfast

**9:00 - 10:15** General Membership Meeting

**10:25 - 11:15** Keynote Address—Celeste Fitzgerald

**11:30 - 12:15** Quickshops

Tentative topics include:

- How to reach out to victims' family members
- How to organize a program in your faith community
- How to organize a successful fundraiser
- How to sponsor an event
- How to use new technology/social networking to mobilize activists

**12:30 - 2:00** Lunch / Award Presentations

**2:15 - 3:15** Plenary: TCADP goes to the Legislature!

**3:30 - 4:45** Workshops - Choice of one (Tentative)

- Legislative Advocacy

This session will equip participants to take action on legislation related to abolition and criminal justice reforms at the 81st Session of the Texas Legislature.

- How to Answer the Tough Questions

(Back by popular demand)

Have you ever been stumped by one of those tough questions about the death penalty? This workshop will address some of the common pro-death penalty arguments and help participants learn to respond in ways that promote constructive conversation.

- Death Penalty 101

This session is geared towards people who are new to the issue/abolition movement and those who want to be up to date on the latest developments. It will present the nuts and bolts of the death penalty, including: the state of the law and new legal developments; who is on death row; an overview of the stages of a capital trial and the appellate process; and a summary of the clemency procedure.

- Local Chapter Development

In this session, TCADP chapter leaders and other active members will learn how to set goals and develop action plans in accordance with TCADP's strategic plan. A refresher on membership recruitment and retention also will be provided.

**5:00 - 5:30** Closing Session and Door Prizes

### Conference Cost

Advance registration by February 1 (payable by cash, credit card, check or money order):

Standard — \$45

Student / Youth — \$25

On-site registration — \$50

Secure online registration options are available at [www.tcadp.org](http://www.tcadp.org).

Registration information is also available at (512) 441-1808.

Registration fee includes continental breakfast and buffet lunch.



**Super 8 Motel** [www.super8.com](http://www.super8.com)

**1201 N IH 35, Austin, TX**

A limited number of rooms have been blocked out for Friday and Saturday nights. Each room is non-smoking with two queen-sized beds and a large bathroom. The motel is 5 minutes by car from the conference location. The rooms are \$85 per night.

To reserve one of the blocked rooms, please contact Sherry Coombes at [treasurer@tcadp.org](mailto:treasurer@tcadp.org) or (512) 339-9574 by **February 10**.

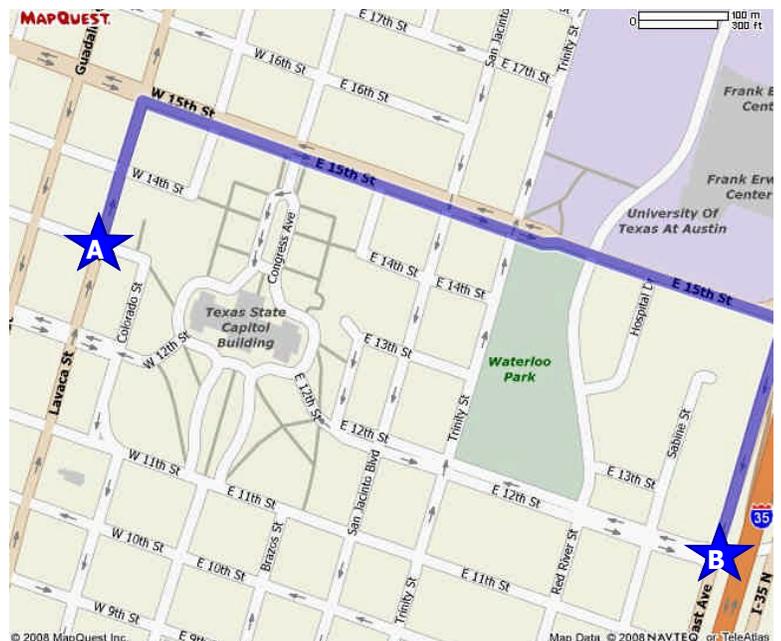
#### A: Conference Location

**1300 Lavaca**

#### B: Motel Location

**1201 N IH 35**

All metered parking is free downtown on Saturdays. At the conference location, the parking garage for the Texas Trial Lawyers' Assoc. will be available for free parking. It is located on the SW corner of 13 and Lavaca; enter on 13th Street.



# Thank You for Your Generous Support

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TCADP thanks the following members and donors who have contributed generously from **August 16—December 18, 2008**. Your financial assistance is essential for TCADP to continue to GROW its advocacy and education efforts to end the death penalty in Texas. Forgive us if we have missed you and please let us know. In some instances we do not have spouses names.

Barbara Acuna Jeanne Adams Jan Anderson Cyril & Angela Arney Chauncey Ashburn Nancy Bailey  
Eugene Balaguer Roger & Karin Barnes John Barringer Ms. H.M. Beardsley Carol Biggs D. Clark Boykin  
Karim Alkadhi & Ann Bragdon Marian Breen Bette Bronstad E. Wayles Browne Samuel Bustamante Jean Bybee  
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Bob & Jean Van Steenburg Julie Walters & Eric Van Steenburg Elke Varnskuhler Lynn Walters  
Linda & Charles Wesley Ruth Westfall Carol Williamson Phivan Wright  
Benedictine Sisters Region XII Diocese of Austin Des Mains Unies Pour La Justice Assoc.  
Holy Name Province of OFM Inside/Outside

TCADP urges all members to keep their dues current. Maintaining your membership allows us to count the number of people against the death penalty. **Thank you for your generous support!**

## Ways You Can Support TCADP's 2009 Annual Conference

**Buy an ad in the conference program** that promotes your business, book or organization. It is a great way to support the work of TCADP!

- Full Page 6.5" x 10" \$100
- Half Page 6.5" x 4.75" \$75
- Quarter Page 3.5" X 4.75" \$50
- 1/8 Page - Business Card 3.5" X 2.25" \$25

Email camera-ready ads (JPG) to [info@tcadp.org](mailto:info@tcadp.org).

### **Be an exhibitor at the conference!**

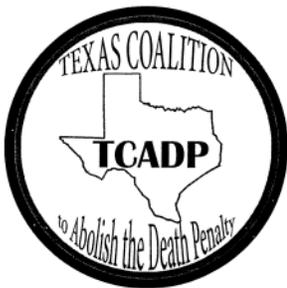
Provide information about your organization or business, promote your book, sell your art work and more!  
\$25 per table. Table and chairs provided.

Mail checks made out to "TCADP" to 2709 S. Lamar, Austin, TX 78704. Call the office for more information (512) 441-1808. The deadline for submitting ads and/or securing a display table is **February 6, 2009**. The exhibitor/advertising form can be found on the TCADP website under the 2009 Conference button.

TEXAS COALITION TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY

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

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Austin, TX



*If there is **no date** on your address label or a date prior to **01/01/2009** please take the time to renew your membership or become a new member. Check with the TCADP office if concerned.*

# Register TODAY!

TCADP Annual Conference Austin, TX  
February 21, 2009 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

I want to network, learn from, and celebrate with other death penalty abolitionists in Texas so we can effectively end the death penalty together!

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 Student

\_\_\_\_\_ \$45.00 Individual

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00 After February 1 or on-site!

\_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is an additional contribution to support TCADP.

Please make checks payable to TCADP. Mail payment and registration form to: TCADP; 2709 S. Lamar; Austin, TX 78704. Secure online registration and contributions can be made at <http://www.tcadp.org> under the 2009 Conference button.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration includes continental breakfast and buffet lunch.