

**Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty
2013 Annual Conference**

Changing the Conversation
Conference Program

February 23, 2013

**St. Edward's University
Austin, Texas**

@TCADPdotORG #changingconversation



**ST. EDWARD'S
UNIVERSITY**

Welcome from Kristin Houlé, Executive Director, TCADP

It is my sincere pleasure to welcome you to the TCADP 2013 Annual Conference, *Changing the Conversation*. I am particularly delighted to welcome our special guests from Japan and our colleagues from other anti-death penalty groups around the country who have traveled to Austin to be with us today.



This year's theme reflects our conviction that it is no longer a question of whether we should or will end the death penalty but, rather, what it will take for us to work together and find common ground in order to hasten its demise. Our conversations about the death penalty in Texas are changing both in terms of *who* we are talking to and *how* we are framing our message. We know that to be successful, we must continue to broaden our outreach efforts and put aside pre-conceived notions of who may or may not stand with us on this issue. We also must reframe the conversation by addressing what local communities attain through pursuit of the death penalty and what they sacrifice in return. This conference provides ample opportunities for conversation (with topics proposed by you!) as well as guidance for engaging in constructive dialogue with others.

I am grateful to all of you for your steadfast commitment to ending the death penalty and support for TCADP. I am particularly indebted to the members of the 2013 Conference Committee – Angelle Adams, Shannon Haynes, Mary Ann Kaiser, Vicki McCuiston, Liza Manjarrez, Estrus Tucker, and Bob Van Steenburg – for their work in putting together this special event and to the Campus Ministry program here at St. Edward's University for co-sponsoring this event.

I also want to acknowledge my colleague, my mentor, and, above all, my friend, Bob Van Steenburg, who has served as the President of the TCADP Board of Directors for the last four years. I can't possibly list all of the contributions that Bob has made to our organization and to the abolition movement at large. I must tell you that he has been an instrumental part of TCADP's evolution into the sophisticated and strategic organization we are today, providing critical leadership during a time of transition and growth. Bob is moving on from his role as a board member but we won't let him go too far! He will remain active at the State Capitol in leading the TCADP Lobby Corps and other efforts.

I hope this conference leaves you inspired by our incredible award winners, informed by our expert panelists and workshop presenters, and energized to work within your own communities. Let's all use this day to share ideas and discover best practices for changing the conversation to how we can hasten the day that Texas ends the death penalty, once and for all!

A handwritten signature of Kristin Houlé in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Welcome from Bob Van Steenburg, President, TCADP Board of Directors

Welcome to Our TCADP Annual Conference,

We are very glad that you are able to join us this year here in Austin. As you may recall, the conference is held here in those years when our state legislature is in session. This helps to emphasize the importance of your critical role in the legislative process, specifically that each of you simply must contact those members of the legislature who represent you and let them know your concerns about the death penalty in Texas. You will hear much about this during the conference. You will also hear about the progress that the organization has made in the recent past, especially in 2012. We are definitely moving forward. That is due in no small way to the work and effort of each of you. You are the lifeblood of TCADP. You are its arms, hands and, most importantly, its voice. I, along with our Executive Director, Kristin Houlé, cannot thank you enough for all that you continue to do for our organization. TCADP's success is directly related to your support.



This year completes my tenure as a member of the Board of Directors. I have been both pleased and honored to have served you. I look back with amazement about how much we have accomplished as a board in these past four years. This includes a major change in the purpose and direction of the board, receipt of significant funding from external sources, and the initiation and growth of our presence in the State Capitol. I have been most fortunate to have been part of the board during this fantastic period of TCADP history. And while I am leaving the Board at this time, I will continue to work with you to achieve our goal of repeal of the death penalty.

As we move into 2013 and beyond I am convinced more than ever that we are on the right side of history and that it is only a matter of time until the death penalty is eliminated both here in Texas and in the entire country. The tide is with us. Our jobs, yours and mine, are to make sure our family, friends, neighbors, and, oh yes, our legislators know this. We need to encourage them to jump on the band wagon now! Our cause has never been more right. Our cause has never been more assured of success. We are winning!

Thanks again to each of you for bringing us to this point and for continuing to carry us forward.

Continuing in the effort...

Bob Van Steenburg
President, Board of Directors

Thank You!

TCADP expresses its sincere appreciation to everyone who helped ensure the success of our 2013 Annual Conference. We are particularly grateful to Lifespark, a Swiss organization that supports our efforts to end the death penalty and provides pen pals to death row inmates in the United States, the Death Penalty Mobilization Fund of Tides Foundation for their generous financial support of TCADP, and the Campus Ministry of St. Edward's University for cosponsoring this year's conference.

We also thank all of our volunteers, our program advertisers, our speakers, and our exhibitors for their participation in this event. Finally, we express our sincere appreciation for TCADP's Sustaining Members, who provide an annual, recurring donation, and to our Partners for Justice, who provide monthly or quarterly recurring contributions to the organization. Thank you for your generous investment in our work!

2013 TCADP Annual Conference Committee

Angelle Adams, TCADP Board of Directors
Shannon Haynes, TCADP Member
Kristin Houlié, TCADP Executive Director
Mary Ann Kaiser, Youth Director and Mission & Justice Associate,
University United Methodist Church
Vicki McCuiston, TCADP Program Coordinator
Liza Manjarrez, Assistant Director, Campus Ministry,
St. Edward's University
Estrus Tucker, TCADP Board of Directors
Bob Van Steenburg, TCADP Board of Directors

Conference Exhibitors

Methodist Federation for Social Action – Southwest Chapter
Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation
Reprieve
Texas After Violence Project

Awards Luncheon Sponsors

John Mimbela, President, Mimbela Contractors Inc. (El Paso)
Paul Nugent, Nugent and Peterson Law Firm (Houston)
Kevin Werner, Executive Director, Ohioans to Stop Executions

2012-2013 TCADP Board of Directors

Bob Van Steenburg, President
Les Breeding, Vice President
Rich Woodward, Treasurer
Angelle Adams, Secretary
Helene Burns
Kay Duffy-Taylor
Mary Heartlein
Rev. Bernard Kern
Pat Monks
Estrus Tucker

TCADP Staff

Kristin Houlié, Executive Director
Vicki McCuiston, Program Coordinator
Christina Dunigan, Intern

TCADP Partners for Justice

Angelle Adams
Tina Arredondo
Dave Atwood
Kathleen Barrett
Niki Bergin
Les Breeding
Rev. Susan Buchanan
Helene Burns
Karen Clifton
Jim and Sherry Coombes
Art Dietz
Deborah Due
Peggy and Jose Duran
Kay Duffy-Taylor
Tom and Jean Egan
Martha Eberle
Kelly Epstein
Shirley Farrell
Judith Harris
Mary Heartlein
Jan Heinrichs
Judy Holloway
John Houlié
Paula Keeth
Vincent Maggio
Father John Manahan
William R. Mefford
Pat Monks
Anne Mund
Catherine Schneider
Jennifer Simmons
Barbara and Louis Sklar
Annette Spanhel
St. Thomas More Parish (Austin)
Lynn and Samuel Stahl Family Philanthropic Fund
of the San Antonio Area Foundation
Bob and Jean Van Steenburg
Jared Tyler
Lynn Walters
Steven Warach
Linda White
Rich Woodward



Conference Schedule

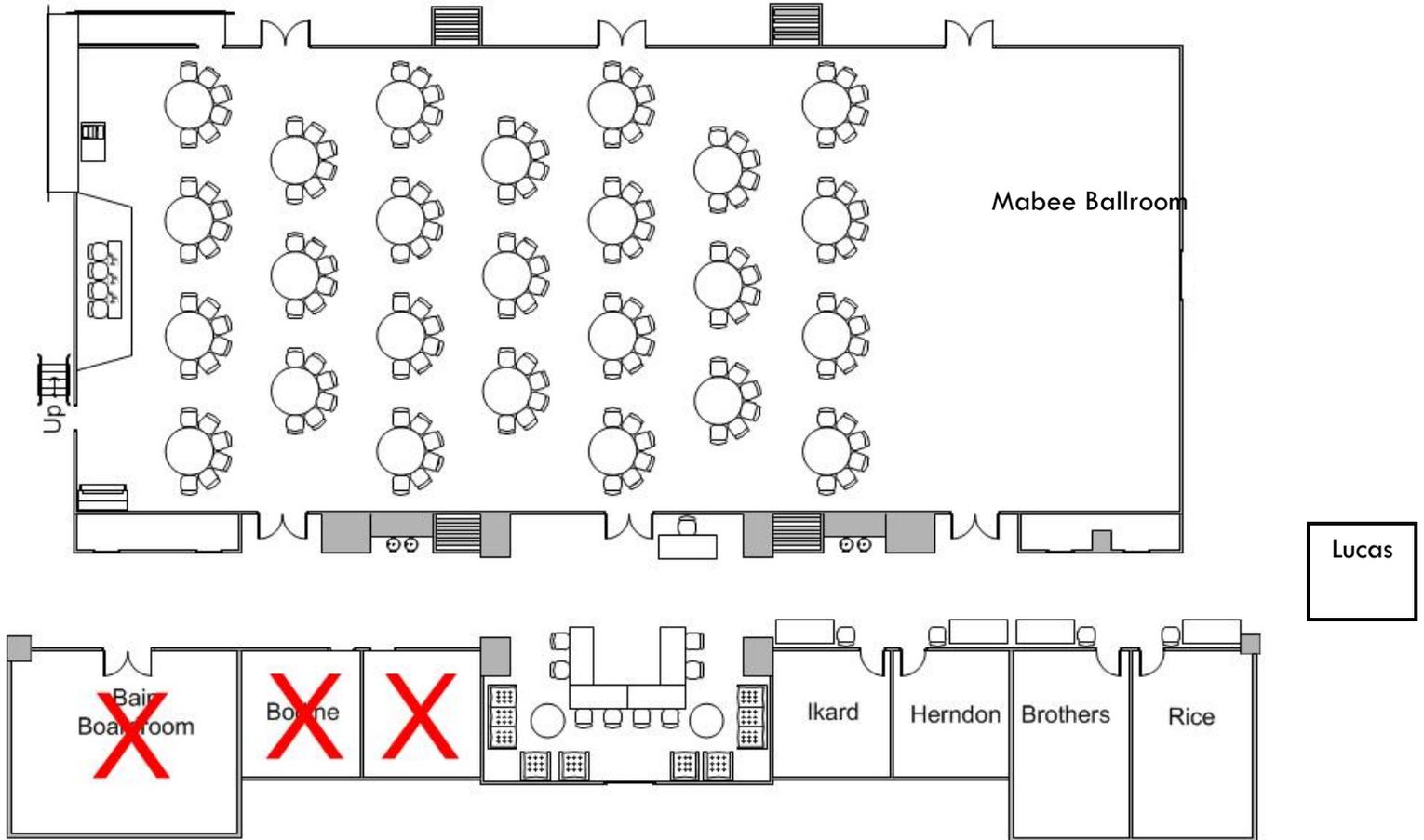
- 8:00 - 9:00 AM** **Registration, Continental Breakfast, and Networking**, Mabee Ballroom
- 9:00 - 10:15** **Welcome; General Membership Meeting**, Mabee Ballroom
- 10:15 - 10:30** **Break**
- 10:30 - 12:30 PM** **Panel Discussion: How are instances of wrongful convictions and evidence of wrongful executions changing the conversation on the death penalty?** Mabee Ballroom
- 12:30 - 1:45** **Lunch and Award Presentations**, Mabee Ballroom
- 1:45 - 2:00** **Break**
- 2:00 - 3:15** **Workshop/Small Group Conversation Session #1** (Choice of One)
- Workshop descriptions and bios can be found on pages 10-13...
- [Beginners' Guide to Legislative Advocacy](#)
Led by Cliff Walker and Casey Magnuson, Fleck Building Room 305
- [Collaborating with Litigators to Stop Executions and Drive Down Death Sentences](#)
Led by Kate Black, Kathryn Kase, and Kristin Houlé, Mabee Ballroom
- [Conservatives Concerned about the Death Penalty](#)
Led by Marc Hyden and Vicki McCuiston, Fleck Building Room 306
- [Changing the Death Penalty Discourse: What You Can Do to Diminish the Culture of Violence](#)
Small Group Conversation, Ragsdale Center—Rice Room
- 3:15 - 3:30** **Break**
- 3:30 - 4:45** **Workshop/Small Group Conversation Session #2** (Choice of One)
- [Answering the Tough Questions](#)
Led by Jim Coombes and Shannon Haynes, Fleck Building Room 305
- [The Habits of the Heart: Bridging the Divide and Building Common Ground](#)
Led by Estrus Tucker, Fleck Building Room 314
- [Increasing Awareness of the Needs of Murder Victims' Family Members](#)
Led by Jan Brown, Helene Burns, and Chris Castillo, Fleck Building Room 315
- [Hands on Social Multimedia](#)
Small Group Conversation, Ragsdale Center—Rice Room
- [Interacting with Death Row Inmates and Their Families](#)
Small Group Conversation, Fleck Building Room 306
- [Student Organizing on the Death Penalty](#)
Small Group Conversation, Ragsdale Center—Lucas Room
- [Assisting European Nationals on Death Row](#)
Small Group Conversation, Ragsdale Center—Brothers Room
- Tweeting today?
@TCADPdotORG
#changingconversation
- 5:00 - 5:30** **Closing Session**, Mabee Ballroom
- 5:45** **Happy Hour** at Red's Porch (3508 S Lamar Blvd, Austin)—All Welcome!

Thank you for joining us in Austin. We look forward to seeing you at events in your area and at the 2014 TCADP Annual Conference in Fort Worth - February 2014.

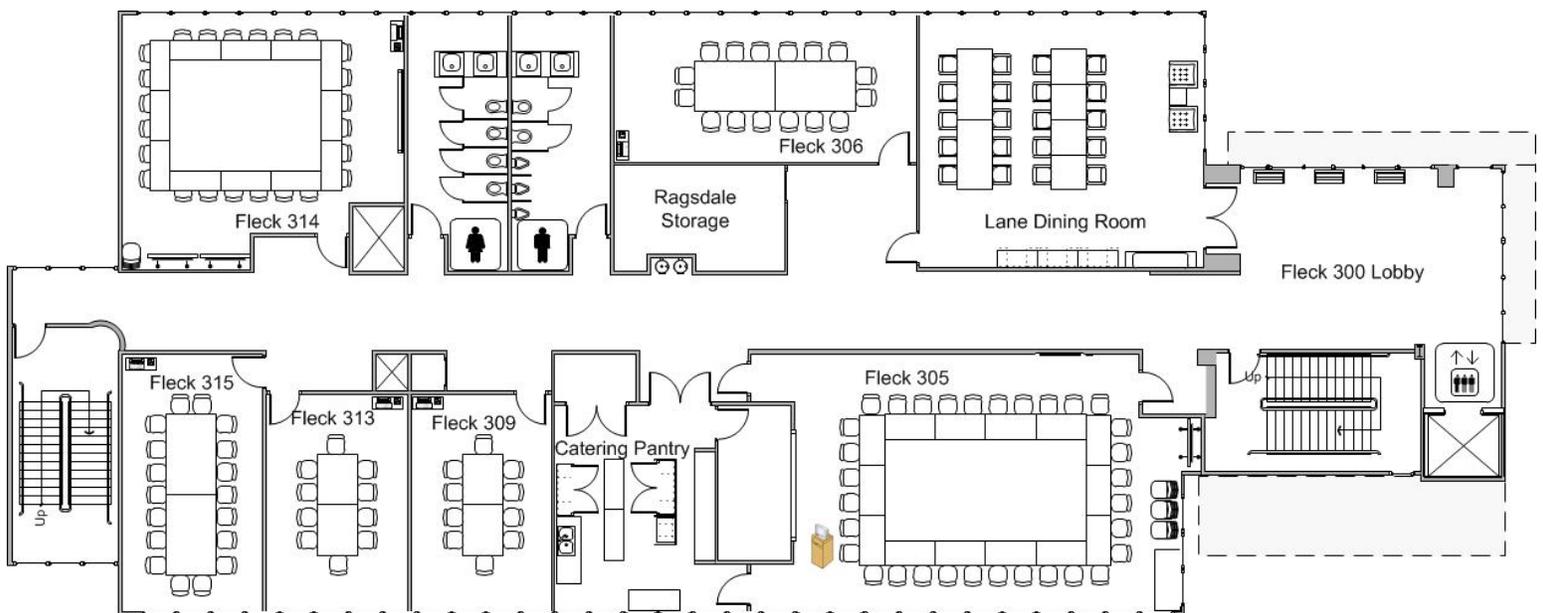


Please turn in your evaluation form before leaving the conference.

Ragsdale Center—3rd Floor



Fleck Hall—3rd Floor



See a campus map on page 9 of this program.

Timeline of Significant Events in TCADP History (1995 – 2012)

- 1995 TCADP founded by Dave Atwood and other concerned citizens
- 1997 National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty holds its Annual Conference in Houston
- 1998 TCADP acquires status as a 501 (c)(3) organization
- 1999 TCADP holds its first annual statewide conference (Austin)
- 2003 Donation from the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, Houston allows TCADP to hire a part-time program coordinator
- 2004 State office established in Austin
- 2005 Journey of Hope visits Texas
National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty holds its Annual Conference in Austin
- 2007 TCADP Board develops first strategic plan for the organization
First Annual Report on death penalty developments in Texas released to the media and distributed to the Texas legislature
Bill for repeal of the death penalty filed in the state legislature by Rep. Jessica Farrar
- 2007-2008 “Music for Life” tour with Sara Hickman takes place in 12 cities in 12 months
- 2008 TCADP receives major grant from the Tides Foundation
TCADP hires full-time executive director
- 2009 Board of Directors transitions to a governing board
Major “branding” effort of TCADP undertaken, with new logo and new website
Repeal bill filed by Rep. Farrar receives a hearing in a sub-committee of the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee
TCADP holds first Lobby Day at the Capitol
TCADP establishes formal partnership with Murder Victims’ Families for Reconciliation
- 2010 Partners for Justice and Sustaining Member programs established
TCADP holds five regional leadership trainings around the state
Interfaith Statement of Opposition to the Death Penalty launched
- 2011 TCADP Advisory Board established
TCADP launches Bexar County Campaign to End the Use of the Death Penalty
Repeal bill filed by Rep. Farrar receives a hearing in full House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee
“Champions of Justice” recognition event held in Houston
- 2012 TCADP hosts information table and workshop at the Texas State Democratic Convention featuring Anthony Graves and State Rep. Jessica Farrar
TCADP surpasses 3,000 likes on Facebook and launches Twitter feed
TCADP forms volunteer Lobby Corps

2013 Panel Discussion: How are instances of wrongful convictions and evidence of wrongful executions changing the conversation on the death penalty?

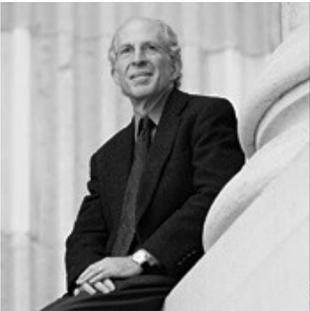
Karen Boudrie is an award-winning journalist, news director and public relations consultant with over 20 years of television production experience. Karen covered the trial of Carlos DeLuna in Corpus Christi in 1983 and was the last person to speak with him before his wrongful execution in 1989. Karen shared some aspects of her experiences with Carlos DeLuna in the documentary film, "At the Death House Door". After nearly 10 years as a television News Reporter and Anchor at FOX 8 News in New Orleans, Karen established Boudrie Communications in 2002 offering private business and governments her unique insight into media relations and media buying.



Anthony Graves is known by most as death row exoneree 138. But he is known by those close to him as a loving son, brother, father and friend taken away from them at a young age. Anthony lost eighteen years of his life when he was wrongly convicted of a brutal crime and incarcerated in Texas prisons, twelve of those years on death row, sixteen in solitary confinement. Approximately two years after his release, Anthony is an accomplished motivational speaker; community advocate; consultant and investigator in both the legal and criminal justice systems; and presenter at CLE workshops on ethics. He also serves on the TCADP Advisory Board; co-hosts The Prison Show weekly on 90.1FM; is launching The Anthony Graves Foundation to inspire at-risk youth to dream and believe; and tours around the world sharing his story. Anthony has shared his story at prestigious schools and events, testified at a U.S. Senate Judiciary Hearing on Solitary Confinement, and been featured on two cover stories in *Texas Monthly*, and in the CBS News 48 Hour Mystery special "Grave Injustice", which received an Emmy Award.



James S. Liebman is the Simon H. Rifkind Professor of Law at Columbia Law School. He graduated with a B.A. from Yale in 1974 and a J.D. from Stanford in 1977. Jim served as law clerk to Judge Carl McGowan of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit from 1977 to 1978, and to Justice John Paul Stevens of the U.S. Supreme Court from 1978 to 1979. He was Assistant Counsel at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund from 1979 to 1985 and joined the Columbia law faculty in 1985 where he served as Vice Dean from 1991 to 1992. From January 2006 to July 2009, he took a partial leave of absence from Columbia Law School to serve as Chief Accountability Officer at the New York City Department of Education. Jim is the author of many articles, papers, and speeches on criminal law, the death penalty, habeas corpus, evidence and public education reform and is a recipient of the Law & Society Association Article Prize, the National Association of Criminal Defense lawyers Champion of Justice Award, a Soros Senior Justice Fellowship, and New York City's Overall Excellence in Technology Award. Jim is the lead author of *Los Tocayos Carlos: An Anatomy of a Wrongful Execution*.



Estrus Tucker (Moderator) is an independent consultant specializing in facilitation and designing and leading conversations and retreats in support of personal and professional development, community renewal, conflict transformation, healing and reconciliation, appreciation of cultural diversity, and strategies of inclusion. He is a seasoned practitioner of the Circles of Trust, Social Change for Leadership Development and other models of civic engagement. For the past 14 years, Estrus has served as President & CEO of Liberation Community, Inc., a social justice network, and as Past President & Moderator of the Minority Leaders & Citizens Council. He has also served as President & CEO of the Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce and Vice President of United Way of Tarrant County. Estrus' current volunteer service includes Commissioner and Chair of the Fort Worth Human Relations Commission, member of the Tarrant County Workforce Development Board, International Association of Human Rights Agencies Board, the National Center for Courage & Renewal Board, and the Fellowship of Reconciliation Tarrant County Steering Committee. He is a Vietnam-era Veteran and an ordained minister active in interfaith and ecumenical initiatives, and has served congregations in Baptist, Presbyterian and non-denominational Churches. Estrus is an alumnus of the University of Texas at Arlington, Leadership Fort Worth, and the John Ben Shepherd Texas Public Leadership Forum. He lives in Fort Worth, Texas, and joined the TCADP Board in 2012.



2013 TCADP Annual Award Recipients

Media Award: Steve Mims and Joe Bailey, Jr.

Presented by Jordan Smith, Staff Writer, Austin Chronicle



Steve Mims and Joe Bailey, Jr. are the filmmakers of “Incendiary,” which focuses on the case of Cameron Todd Willingham. Willingham was executed by the State of Texas on February 17, 2004. He was convicted and sentenced to death for setting a fire to his Corsicana home in 1991 that killed his three young daughters. Every fire expert who has examined the case since the time of Willingham’s conviction has found that local investigators had a poor understanding of fire science and relied on outdated theories to justify their determination that the fire had been set deliberately. These experts agree that there was no evidence to support the finding of arson.

“Incendiary,” which was released in 2011, exposes the political manipulation of the Texas Forensic Science Commission as it sought to determine whether flawed forensic science played a role in Willingham’s conviction and ultimate execution. Described as equal parts murder mystery, forensic investigation and political drama, it documents the haunted legacy of a prosecution built on “folklore.”

Steve Mims’s award-winning short films have screened widely in festivals and on television. He also has produced numerous musical videos. Mims enjoys teaching through the University of Texas and Austin Film Works.

After graduating from the University of Texas School of Law, Joe Bailey, Jr. began working as a cinematographer and sound recordist in Austin. Finishing up a postdoctoral fellowship at the law school in 2009, he enrolled in Steve Mims’ Production Two course. A conversation after class about clemency, criminal process, and forensic science went on for days, and became this film.

Like many films, “Incendiary” has created opportunities for Texans to engage in a critical dialogue about the human frailties surrounding the administration of justice. Steve and Joe have provided an insightful film that will continue to provoke audiences for a long time to come. Learn more at <http://incendiarymovie.com/reviews.html>.

Appreciation Award: JC Dufresne

Presented by Kristin Houlé, TCADP Executive Director



JC Dufresne is an elected member of the State Democratic Executive Committee (SDEC) of the Texas Democratic Party, representing Senate District 25. He also is the President of Dem’s Café in Guadalupe County and the Recipient of the 2012 Buck Massey Legacy of Leadership Award. JC has engaged in critical conversations about the death penalty within the SDEC, raising awareness of the issue within that political body. He played an instrumental role in efforts to secure an endorsement for abolition from the Texas Democratic Party. Thanks to the work of JC and other TCADP members, delegates to the Texas State Democratic Convention voted overwhelmingly in favor of including a call for abolition of the death penalty in the 2012 Texas Democratic Party Platform.

Appreciation Award: Methodist Federation for Social Action—Southwest Chapter

Presented by Vicki McCuiston, TCADP Program Coordinator



The Methodist Federation for Social Action-Southwest Chapter is one of TCADP’s most reliable coalition partners and steadfast organizational members. The chapter supports our work in myriad ways... it is always the first group to sign up as a co-sponsor of our events, whether special presentations by speakers like Sister Helen Prejean or the annual conference. It regularly promotes TCADP’s activities, events, and calls to action in its communications with members and encourages United Methodist Churches in the area to become involved. MFSA-Southwest Chapter also was one of the first groups to sign the Statement of Support and Organizational Affiliation with TCADP.

Workshop/Small Group Conversation Descriptions

Workshop Session #1 2:00 to 3:15

Beginners' Guide to Legislative Advocacy: Fleck 305

Led by *Cliff Walker and Casey Magnuson*

In this workshop, our experts will provide an overview of the Texas legislature and the lobbying process as well as tips for developing relationships with legislators. You'll also learn about TCADP's new volunteer lobby corps and our goals for the 83rd Texas Legislature. This workshop is geared specifically to those who are new to citizen lobbying and the legislative process.

(Pairs well with "Answering the Tough Questions")

Collaborating with Litigators to Stop Executions and Drive Down Death Sentences: Mabee Ballroom

Led by *Kate Black, Kathryn Kase, and Kristin Houlé*

Attorneys and organizers in Texas have developed successful models of collaboration to stop executions and drive down death sentences. This workshop will provide real-life examples of effective coordination of litigation, grassroots organizing, and strategic communications efforts in clemency campaigns and other initiatives aimed at stopping executions and creating a climate that supports alternatives to the death penalty. You'll hear from capital attorneys and TCADP's executive director about the core elements of these successful partnerships and the critical role your local outreach and organizing activities play in our efforts.

Conservatives Concerned about the Death Penalty: Fleck 306

Led by *Marc Hyden and Vicki McCuiston*

Do you identify politically as independent or conservative? Please join this conversation to learn about ways conservatives across the country are involved in repealing the death penalty and how your important voice can play a role in ending the death penalty in Texas.

(Pairs well with "Answering the Tough Questions" and "The Habits of the Heart")

Changing the death penalty discourse: What you can do to diminish the culture of violence in Texas: Rice—Ragsdale Center Small Group Conversation led by The Texas After Violence Project, a non-profit organization committed to cultivating narratives for justice. Through the Storytelling Program, oral history interviews are conducted with people affected by capital punishment and murder in Texas

This conversation will feature a screening of a short documentary based on oral histories, "The Corner." The Corner raises questions about how we think and talk about the death penalty. The screening will also feature two stories of death row family members, who openly share their experiences in witnessing their loved ones' execution. The small group will include an interactive discussion about the stories, and about how we can work together to change the conversation about the death penalty to include the personal experiences of people affected by it.

(Pairs well with "Increasing Awareness of the Needs of Victims' Family Members" and "Interacting with Death Row Inmates and their Families")

Workshop Session #2 3:30 to 4:45

Answering the Tough Questions: Fleck 305

Led by *Jim Coombes and Shannon Haynes*

Have you ever been stumped by a tough question about the death penalty? This workshop will address some of the common arguments in favor of the death penalty and suggest ways of responding that promote constructive conversation.

The Habits of the Heart: Bridging the Divide and Building Common Ground: Fleck 314

Led by *Estrus Tucker*

"The Five Habits of the Heart" are deeply ingrained ways of seeing, being and responding to life that involve our minds, our emotions, our self-images, our concepts of meaning and purpose in life. Together we will explore in large and small group dialogue how these habits equip us to honestly and respectfully engage others with differing viewpoints in service of advancing the well being of our human community. Building on the writings and work of Parker J. Palmer, *Healing the Heart of Democracy* (2011) and the Center for Courage and Renewal.

Workshop descriptions continued...

Workshop descriptions continued...

Increasing Awareness of the Needs of Murder Victims' Family Members: Fleck 315

Led by Jan Brown, Helene Burns, and Chris Castillo

Murder victims' family members play an essential role in our efforts to end the death penalty. As we do this work, it is critical to recognize that all family members come to this issue with a particular and personal perspective based on their own interactions with the criminal justice system and their experience of losing a loved one to murder. In this workshop, members of Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation will speak to the ripple effect that violent crime has on families. They will provide anti-death penalty activists with ideas for how we all can be sensitive to the needs of victims' family members, both in terms of personal interactions and in the way we communicate about crime and punishment.

Student organizing: Encouraging students on your campus to support repeal of the death penalty: Lucas—Ragsdale Center *Small Group Conversation, Facilitated by Anne Kuhnen, Student Area Coordinator for Amnesty International USA*

Come together with students interested in raising awareness on their campuses and brainstorm ways to increase education, involvement, and opportunities for dialogue.

Hands on Social Multimedia: Rice—Ragsdale Center

Small Group Conversation, Facilitated by Mary Anne Kaiser and Vicki McCuiston

Learn and brainstorm ways you can engage social media to further the reach of grassroots organizing and education.

Interacting with death row inmates and their families: Fleck 306

Small Group Conversation, Facilitated by Paula Keeth and David Noblin

Learn guidelines for initiating contact with death row inmates, and share ideas for engaging community and faith groups in offering support to inmates and their families. TCADP members from Dallas will share their experiences with visiting and corresponding with death row inmates.

Assisting European Nationals on Death Row: Brothers—Ragsdale Center

Small Group Conversation, Led by Staff Members of Reprieve

With experienced capital litigators and mitigation specialists, Reprieve assists European national clients in myriad ways, both pre- and post-trial. Learn about Reprieve's work to provide pro bono assistance, from amicus brief writing to investigation in the U.S. and overseas.

Workshop Presenters

Kate Black represents indigent persons who have been convicted and sentenced to death in Texas. She additionally provides training, consultation and assistance to attorneys appointed by federal courts to represent indigent death-sentenced persons in custody pursuant to the judgment of a Texas state court in their federal habeas corpus proceedings. Kate received her law degree from the University of Denver. She spent four years as a staff attorney in the Habeas Unit of the Texas Defender Service, where she focused on the direct representation of death-sentenced individuals in state and federal court.

Jan Brown is a paralegal and a business structure consultant. She is also a life coach and a publicist. Jan has been a volunteer with Bridges to Life – a restorative justice program aimed at reducing the recidivism rate of inmates – for 11 years and has participated in over 50 Bridges to Life projects. In 1987, Jan's 9 ½ year old daughter, Kandy Kirtland, was kidnapped and murdered. The offender was sentenced to death and executed 12 years later. Jan is a murder victim family member who opposes the death penalty.

Helene Burns is a Registered Nurse with a certification in Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing. She is also a murder victim family member. After her father brutally murdered her mother in 1985, she worked with the local District Attorney's office in Los Angeles, California in preparing the case and in testifying at the trial. Although it was a capital case, Helene did not wish death for her father; he was convicted and is currently a "lifer" in the California prison system. Helene has worked with the Travis County Sheriff's Office as a volunteer with Victim Services 10 years and is currently a member of the Sheriff's Department Critical Incident Stress Management Team where she debriefs first responders following traumatic events. She has served as a member of the TCADP Board of Directors since 2011.

Chris Castillo started his career as a reporter for a Texas newspaper and was covering the court beat when he learned that his mother, Pilar Castillo, had been murdered in her Houston home. Soon after his mother's death in 1991, he began working with crime victims in Jefferson County and attending their annual Candlelight Vigil. Chris has been involved with Bridges to Life and other prison ministry programs aimed at bringing faith into the prison and changing the hearts of inmates. From 2010 to 2013, he served as the National/Texas Outreach Coordinator for Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation.

Workshop presenters continued...

Workshop presenters continued...

Jim Coombes is a retired U.S. Air Force Colonel with over 28 years of service, including more than 6,000 flying hours, 1,000 of which were in combat. He is President Emeritus of the Academy of Oriental Medicine in Austin, Texas, where he teaches professional ethics and jurisprudence. Jim became interested in the anti-death penalty movement in 1998 when he heard a presentation on the error rate in capital cases. He has been a member of TCADP since 1998 and served on its Board of Directors from 2000-2009. In addition, Jim served one year as the president of TCADP, two years as vice-president, and two years as the secretary of the organization. He is a member of the TCADP Advisory Board.

Shannon Haynes was born and raised in South Carolina, where she first started campaigning against the death penalty and the use of the electric chair. She is a United States Marine Corps veteran and served for four years. Shannon has been a member of TCADP for three years and currently serves as a member of the TCADP Lobby Corps.

Kristin Houlé has served as the Executive Director of TCADP since December 2008. As a Soros Justice Fellow from 2007-2008, she conducted research and public education around the intersection of the death penalty and severe mental illness in Texas. Kristin served for five years as the Program Associate for Amnesty International USA's Program to Abolish the Death Penalty in Washington, DC. She has been involved with the human rights and anti-death penalty movements since 1995.

Marc Hyden recently joined Equal Justice USA from the National Rifle Association (NRA), where he served as a Campaign Field Representative in the State of Florida. Prior to his service with the NRA, he was the Campaign Manager of a Congressional race in Western North Carolina. Marc has additionally served as the Legislative Liaison/Public Affairs Specialist with the Georgia Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security and as the Legislative Aide to the Georgia Senate President Pro Tempore.

Kathryn Kase is the Executive Director of the Texas Defender Service, a non-profit legal organization that aims to improve the quality of representation afforded to those facing a death sentence and to expose and eradicate the systemic flaws plaguing the Texas death penalty. Kathryn has represented capital clients at trial in the state courts of Texas and New York, and has served as learned counsel in federal court. Her capital defense work has addressed the complexities of intellectual disability, mental illness, and international law. She also consults with and assists trial-level defense teams. Kathryn received a law degree, cum laude, in 1990, from St. Mary's University School of Law, where she was an Articles Editor for the St. Mary's Law Journal. After a period in private practice in San Antonio and later in Albany, New York, she joined Texas Defender Service in 2002.

Casey Magnuson is a self-described "Freelance Lobbyist and Lege Junkie". Born and raised in Austin, only a 20 minute walk from the Capitol building, Casey was hanging around the Capitol's chambers, halls, and offices as far back as she can remember and has been involved in the legislative process since the age of 13. She has a BA in Government and a MA in Public Law from UT Austin and interned at the Texas Capitol and Texas Supreme Court. Her legislative passion is in the Clean School Bus Program, Smoke-Free Texas, Public Education and Finance, and the Abolition of the Death Penalty. Casey utilized her experience to help the Clean School Bus Program be written into law in 2005 and funded in 2007, 2009, and 2011 with bipartisan support, and in 2009 she stepped out of her comfort zone and testified at a House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee about her personal story with violent crime. Casey has worked on city council, mayoral, legislative, and presidential campaigns and enjoys meeting new people. She is a member of the new TCADP Lobby Corps.

Vicki McCuiston has served as the TCADP Program Coordinator since 2005. She is also the Program Director for the Barnabas Connection of the Wimberley United Methodist Church, an outreach ministry helping people in need in Hays County. She is a past program assistant and field manager for Texas Citizen Action. Vicki serves in multiple capacities within the United Methodist Church, with a particular focus on social justice issues. She graduated from Southwestern University and resides in Wimberley, Texas.

Estrus Tucker is an independent consultant specializing in facilitation and designing and leading conversations and retreats in support of personal and professional development, community renewal, conflict transformation, healing and reconciliation, appreciation of cultural diversity, and strategies of inclusion. He is a seasoned practitioner of the Circles of Trust, Social Change for Leadership Development and other models of civic engagement. He is a Vietnam-era Veteran and an ordained minister active in interfaith and ecumenical initiatives, and has served congregations in Baptist, Presbyterian and non-denominational Churches. Estrus is an alumnus of the University of Texas at Arlington, Leadership Fort Worth, and the John Ben Shepherd Texas Public Leadership Forum. He lives in Fort Worth, Texas, and joined the TCADP Board in 2012.

Workshop presenters continued...

Workshop presenters continued...

Cliff Walker is the Executive Director of the Texas House Democratic Campaign Committee (HDCC). A San Antonio native, Cliff has volunteered on various campaigns over the years. In 2005, he helped establish newly elected Congressman Henry Cuellar's local district office. Cliff then went on to direct the field effort for State Representative Joe Farias in his first campaign, one of the most hotly contested general election races of 2006. After two legislative sessions and another successful campaign, Cliff left to run a newly created political action committee called Back to Basics. In December 2010, Cliff began working as the Executive Director of the Texas HDCC, and has since worked closely with Democratic lawmakers and allies to recruit and field quality Democratic candidates for the Texas House.



Save the Date!

TCADP 2014 Annual Conference
February 2014
Fort Worth, Texas
Date and Location TBA

EJUSA
EQUAL ★ JUSTICE USA

Justice that works.
For everyone.

Congratulations to the award winners and thanks to our friends at the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (TCADP) for all the amazing work you do.

Equal Justice USA is a national, grassroots organization working to build a criminal justice system that is fair, effective, and responsive to everyone impacted by crime.

www.ejusa.org



texas after violence project

Cultivating Narratives for Justice

Texas After Violence Project is working to elevate the voices of people affected by the death penalty and serious violence through a dynamic storytelling program. Learn more about how you can join the conversation.

www.texasafterviolence.org
info@texasafterviolence.org
512-916-1600

"The most courageous thing we will ever do is to bear humbly the mystery of our own reality."

~ Richard Rohr

Bob, you have been our courage. You championed the mission of TCADP in the midst of challenges and celebrated our success with a contagious spirit of community. You led us with tenacity and civility, expertise and humility, fierce reality and grace. You walked tall, spoke clear, and left an indelible mark on the character of our organization and on the hearts of the TCADP membership.



Your many important contributions are helping Texas 'seize the momentum to change the conversation' about the death penalty. You inspire us to envision, that soon coming day, when we change our name because our just cause has been fulfilled. Our deepest appreciation for six years of thoughtful, passionate and courageous leadership. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

With Gratitude and Love,

Angelle Adams

Les Breeding

Helene Burns

Kay Duffy-Taylor

Mary Heartlein

Kristin Houlé

Bernard Kern

Vicki McCuistion

Pat Monks

Estrus Tucker

Rich Woodward



Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation looks forward to another year of raising victims' voices in partnership with the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty.

For more information about what families and communities need in the aftermath of murder and to support our members in advocating for those needs contact Marcelle Clowes • mclowes@mvfr.org or visit us online.

**mvfr.org • facebook.com/mvfrus
• youtube.com/mvfrus • [@mvfrus](https://twitter.com/mvfrus)**

Witness to Innocence
congratulates and thanks
Texas Coalition to Abolish
the Death Penalty for its
extraordinary efforts to end
the death penalty in Texas!



To learn more about innocence and the death penalty, and our unique
Speakers Bureau, visit www.witnesstoinnocence.org or call 267-519-4584.

Email: info@witnesstoinnocence.org



Congratulations to



for their work across the state of Texas to end the death penalty!

hpjc.org



Join us
in working to
end the
death penalty
in Texas!

www.paxchristitexas.org



Methodist Federation for Social Action

MFSA - Methodist Federation for Social Action

"I am setting a plumbline in the midst of my people..."
Amos 7:8

An Independent Voice for Justice within Methodism for over 100 Years



The United Methodist Church was one of the first denominations in the U.S. to formally come out against the death penalty (1956). Our Book of Discipline concludes: "...we urge all United Methodists in their churches to practice transformative love, to comfort the victims of crime, to humanize those convicted of crime, and to advocate for an end to the death penalty in our criminal justice system."

The Methodist Federation for Social Action is an independent movement of progressive United Methodists that has been working for justice, peace, and

reconciliation since 1907. Abolishing the death penalty is just one of many justice issues we support. For more information about MFSA's work, go to www.mfsaweb.org (national office), www.swtmfsa.org (Austin-area chapter), or visit the MFSA table during a break in today's conference.

FREE DANIEL VILLEGAS



April 1993, in El Paso, Texas, Daniel Villegas only 16 years old was arrested and later convicted of a double murder he did not commit. Without the presence of his parents or an attorney he was interrogated for hours into the late night. He was threatened with the death penalty and told he would be taken to the county jail to get raped if he did not confess. Daniel went to trial in 1995 with a court appointed attorney, John Gates, who was given 60 days to prepare for the trial. Mr. Gates was assigned a private investigator 6 days before Daniel's trial. Unprepared, he went to trial, called one witness to the stand and failed to call 18 available defense witnesses, including Daniel's alibis. Without any physical evidence or eye witnesses tying Daniel to this crime, the prosecution relied solely on Daniel's confession, which was full of impossible and false facts. Daniel has always maintained that his confession was false and coerced by Detective Al Marquez, a harsh and relentless interrogator. Nevertheless, after a 3 day trial, Daniel was convicted and sentenced to life in prison. Our judicial system that guarantees us the right to a fair trial failed Daniel. He has now been in prison for 18 years.

My name is John Mimbela and in the last five years I have spent well over \$200,000 in Daniel's attorney fees, private investigators, expert witnesses, and other expenses in seeking his release and bringing awareness to his wrongful conviction. I believe in Daniel's innocence because after 5 years of investigating his case. With the help of private investigator Freddie Bonilla, with 40 years in law enforcement, we have gathered overwhelming facts that were never presented in Daniel's murder trial which prove his innocence. As a homicide detective of 20 years, Mr. Bonilla stated, "There is no way Daniel could have committed this crime". After researching Daniel's case, the Northwestern Law Center on Wrongful Conviction of Youth from Chicago, Illinois and Dr. Richard Leo, a world famous expert on false confessions from San Francisco, also believe in Daniel's innocence. Moreover, Daniel recently passed a polygraph test with flying colors. Even Attorney John Gates recently concluded that he was indeed 'ineffective' in representing Daniel. He admits missing many key factors that could have made a difference in the outcome of Daniel's trial. After attending and hearing the overwhelming evidence in Daniel's evidentiary hearings that was never presented in Daniel's first trials, Ben Hodge, the foreman of the jury that convicted Daniel, agrees Daniel is innocent and deserves a new trial.

We hold no ill feeling towards our D.A. Jaime Esparza, who convicted Daniel. I am sure he never intended to convict an innocent young man, but it happened. Exonerates and DNA have proven that our system isn't perfect, but to try and preserve a wrongful conviction at any cost is wrong. It goes against the principle of what our judicial system stands for, truth and justice for all!

We want to thank Daniel's Attorneys Joe Spencer, Josh Spencer, Louie Gutierrez, and John Mobbs. Additionally, we would like to extend our gratitude to attorneys Laura Nirider and Josh Tepfer from Northwestern Law in Chicago, Ill., for presenting an excellent case in Daniel's writ. On August 16th, 2012, our Honorable Judge Sam Medrano of the 409th District Court, in El Paso County issued an extraordinary detailed "Findings of Facts and Conclusions of Law" recommending that Applicant Daniel Villegas be granted a writ of habeas corpus. The court found that Mr. Villegas was denied the 'effective assistance of counsel' and that the jury in this case could have 'reasonably found the Applicant innocent'. We are now awaiting the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals in Austin, Texas, to uphold Judge Sam Medrano's ruling. We strongly pray that after nearly two decades of proclaiming his innocence, Daniel will finally get the justice he deserves.

For more information on Daniel's case, please visit our website www.Questforjustice.net.

Stay tuned to **NBC Dateline**, which will soon air the truth and reality of Daniel's case. Special thanks to our Mayor John Cook, Congressman Silvestre Reyes, Steve Drizin (co-founder Northwestern Law Center on Wrongful Conviction of Youth) Exonerates Anthony Graves, Chris Ochoa, And Juan Melendez for their support in our **Quest For Justice**.

questforjustice.net



Statement of Support and Organizational Affiliation

Mission

The Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (TCADP) is a statewide, grassroots membership organization working to end the death penalty in Texas. TCADP engages in outreach, education, and advocacy aimed at raising awareness of issues related to the death penalty and mobilizing the citizens of Texas - and their elected officials - to support abolition. We invite your organization to stand with us on this issue.

Background

In recent years, there has been a consistent downward trend in the number of new death sentences across the country and in Texas. The number of new death sentences remained near historic low levels in 2012, with just nine death sentences statewide. A growing number of Texans are moving away from the death penalty in recognition that

- The death penalty costs millions of dollars of county and state resources;
- The death penalty does not deter crime;
- The death penalty is imposed in an arbitrary and discriminatory manner;
- There are a growing number of known cases of wrongful conviction and increasing evidence that there have been wrongful executions; and
- The State of Texas has alternative sentences that punish the truly guilty and protect society without resorting to the death penalty.

Statement of Support

By signing below, we join the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (TCADP) and others in publicly supporting their efforts to abolish the death penalty in our state. We recognize that the sole mission of TCADP is to repeal the death penalty in Texas. We understand that our organization will be listed as a supporter of TCADP and its mission on the TCADP website and in other publications. We agree to inform our members of our affiliation with this campaign and invite them to be active participants.

TCADP Organizational Affiliates

- Bethel Community (Fort Worth)
- Congregation of Divine Providence (San Antonio)
- Dominican Sisters of Houston
- Friends Meeting of San Antonio
- Houston Peace and Justice Center
- Macedonia Baptist Church (San Antonio)
- Methodist Federation for Social Action-Southwest Texas Chapter
- New Jonang Buddhist Community (McKinney)
- North East Bexar County Democrats
- Pax Christi Austin
- Pax Christi Dallas
- Pax Christi San Antonio
- Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate (San Antonio)
- Trinity United Methodist Church (Austin)
- University of the Incarnate Word Interfaith Council (San Antonio)

Talk with you organization/faith community about becoming one too!

Organization: _____

Name and Title of Representative: _____

Signature and Date: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____

Email Address: _____

Please send completed form to:

TCADP Office

2709 South Lamar, Austin, TX 78704

See www.tcadp.org or www.deathpenaltyinfo.org for detailed facts and figures on the death penalty.

NOTES

JOIN TCADP TODAY!

Enclosed is my membership in TCADP:

- _____ \$40.00 Annual Membership
_____ \$60.00 Annual Household Membership
_____ \$100.00 Congregation/Organization
_____ \$250.00 Business Membership
_____ \$ Enclosed is an additional contribution
to support TCADP.

All donations are tax-deductible
TCADP is a 501(c)3 organization.

**I want to be a Partner for Justice!
(credit card donations only)**

I want to make a donation of:

\$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 (circle one)

Monthly Quarterly Yearly (circle one)

Thank you!

Fill in the Information Below and Mail with payment to: TCADP 2709 S Lamar Blvd, Austin, TX 78704

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (Home) _____

Email: _____

Send me a ___print newsletter and/or an ___email newsletter

Referred by: _____

Credit Card Information: Visa AmEx Mastercard

Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____

*If you would like us to process your credit card over the phone,
please call the TCADP office during business hours
512.441.1808 or you can make a secure online donation and/
or join TCADP at www.tcadp.org and click on "Donate".*

Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty

2709 S Lamar, Austin, TX 78704

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