



Seizing the Momentum

Summer 2010

Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty

Another Case of Wrongful Execution in Texas?

In June, State District Judge Paul Murphy granted a motion from the Innocence Project and the *Texas Observer* and ordered local prosecutors to turn over a one-inch strand of hair that was collected over 21 years ago at a crime scene in San Jacinto County. That scene involved the murder of liquor store owner Allen Hilzendager, a crime for which Claude Jones was executed by the State of Texas on December 7, 2000. (December 7 is the date on which executions resumed in Texas in 1982. Jones' execution also was the final death penalty case that George W. Bush presided over as Governor of Texas.)

According to the *Observer*:

"If DNA evidence exonerates Jones, it would mark the first time an innocent person was executed for a crime that DNA tests would later prove they didn't commit. DNA tests have freed nearly 20 death row inmates in the United States before they were executed. Innocence attorneys and reporters have also uncovered quite a few troubling cases in which states executed inmates who were likely innocent. That includes the infamous case of Cameron Todd Willingham-the North Texas man put to death for starting the fire that killed his three children and who forensic experts say was convicted on flawed evidence."

In 2008, a Collin County court dismissed all charges against Texas death row inmate Michael Blair for the 1993 rape and murder of seven-year-old Ashley Estell after new testing on DNA evidence failed to connect him to the crime. Blair spent 14 years on death row. He now is serving life sentences for other crimes.

Dave Mann of the *Observer* goes on to note that "questions about Jones' guilt have long lingered." The case against Claude Jones included fuzzy eyewitness testimony, snitch testimony from Kerry Dixon and Timothy Jordan (two men Jones was hanging out with at the time and who were spared the death penalty for their testimony), and the hair from the liquor store counter. Jones claimed he never entered the store.

Read more in the *Texas Observer*,
"DNA Could Show If Claude Jones Was Wrongly Executed" (June 15, 2010),
<http://www.texasobserver.org/contrarian/>,
and the *Houston Chronicle*,
"Judge orders DNA testing for man executed in 2000" (June 16, 2010),
<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mplmetropolitan/7054585.html>.

TCADP Launches New Website

Be sure to check out the new look of the TCADP website, tcadp.org! We hope to have it fully functional in July. The new website will feature streamlined information, as well as easy access to death penalty resource information and print materials. It integrates the TCADP Blog and Facebook page and presents a more professional look for our growing organization.

Scheduled Executions

July

1 Michael Perry
20 Derrick Jackson

August

17 Peter Cantu

October

14 Gayland Bradford

Execution Vigils: tcadp.org
under "Get Involved"



From the Executive Director

Dear Members and Supporters,

Have you noticed that TCADP's got a brand-new look?! After months of working with a local graphic designer, we are thrilled to "unveil" our new logo, which has been incorporated into all of our online, marketing, and print materials. This new image of TCADP symbolizes our maturation and professionalization as an organization – growth that would not be possible without your support.



TCADP is growing in other ways, as well. This past month, we welcomed a new chapter in Brownsville, Texas, which is a direct result of our South Texas Regional Leadership Training this past March. TCADP's participation in numerous conferences and conventions this summer has led to hundreds of new contacts and broadened our outreach efforts beyond the "usual suspects." Our new interfaith initiative is providing faith leaders across Texas with an opportunity to affirm their opposition to the death penalty. And our partnership with Chris Castillo, the new Texas/National Organizer for Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation, is significantly expanding efforts to engage murder victims' family members in our work.

While many things have changed at TCADP over the last two years, our dedication to raising awareness of the flaws and failures of our state's death penalty system remains the same. Over the past few months, we waited anxiously to learn whether the U.S. Supreme Court would agree to consider the case of Hank Skinner, who has been denied critical DNA testing that could resolve lingering questions about the 1993 murders for which he was convicted and sentenced to death. Skinner had already eaten his so-called last meal when the Court granted a last-minute stay of execution on March 24, 2010.

On May 24, 2010, the Court announced that it would hear arguments in the case this fall. The justices will use Skinner's case to decide whether prison inmates may use a federal civil rights law to petition for DNA testing that was not performed prior to their conviction. Federal appeals courts around the country have been inconsistent in their treatment of this legal issue.

Of course, the Court that will hear the Skinner case will not include Justice John Paul Stevens, who is retiring at the end of the current term. Stevens joined the Court in 1975 and was part of the *Gregg v. Georgia* decision on July 2, 1976 that upheld the newly revised death penalty statutes of several states (including that of Texas) and allowed for the resumption of executions. His views on the issue evolved tremendously over his three decades as justice, however, and he became a consistent vote in favor of narrowing the application of the death penalty and, more recently, in questioning its very utility. In 2008, Justice Stevens wrote:

"... I have relied on my own experience in reaching the conclusion that the imposition of the death penalty represents the pointless and needless extinction of life with only marginal contributions to any discernible social or public purposes. A penalty with such negligible returns to the State is patently excessive and cruel and unusual punishment..."
(*Baze v. Rees*, April 16, 2008)

Here in Texas, we are all too familiar with the unnecessary extinction of human life and the realities of this cruel and unusual form of punishment. Yet with your steadfast support and involvement, we will continue to educate our fellow citizens about the death penalty and move forward in exciting new ways as we seize the momentum for abolition.

In solidarity,

Kristin Haueli



TCADP *Seizing the Momentum*

TCADP Seizing the Momentum is published quarterly by the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, the only statewide grassroots organization working to end the death penalty in Texas through education, outreach and advocacy.

Subscription Information: *TCADP Seizing the Momentum* is distributed to TCADP members and allies. To find out more about the organization and become a member, visit our website at www.tcadp.org.

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(Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall)

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New Resources Available from TCADP

Film:

"Inside Death Row", which focuses on the pending executions of three individuals on Texas' death row, aired last fall on National Geographic. In intimate interviews we meet three men facing imminent execution in early 2009 and learn how they struggle through each day, knowing the exact date and hour of their deaths. The film provides a rare look inside the Walls Unit in Huntsville, where Texas carries out its executions.

Print Materials:

Ideas for Involvement—Lists ways to support the TCADP Strategic plan

Includes these ideas:

Organizational Development - Download a petition, circulate it, and mail signatures to TCADP. Petitions can be found under the "Get Involved" button at www.tcadp.org.

Education and Outreach - Ask your clergy to sign the interfaith sign-on letter (available from TCADP).

Legislative Advocacy- Learn where candidates for elected office (including state legislators, judges, and district attorneys) stand on the death penalty.

Why is the Death Penalty So Expensive?—A new fact sheet that focuses on the cost of the Texas death penalty, with specific county level examples:

In 2009, Gray County spent nearly \$1 million in its pursuit of the death penalty for Levi King. His case, which was moved to Lubbock County, consisted only of a punishment hearing that resulted in a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole. The cost to Gray County for seeking a death sentence for Levi King was a contributing factor in the county commission's decision to withhold employee raises and increase tax rates. King was already serving two consecutive life sentences in Missouri and had pled guilty to the murders of three Texans.

Texas Death Penalty 4 page fact sheet—updated quarterly

Includes information on executions, wrongful convictions, resources, death sentences, mental illness and mental retardation, and other statistics.

Contact the TCADP office at 512.441.1808 or info@tcadp.org for more information or to receive copies of any of these resources.



TCADP Seeks Faith Leaders for Interfaith Sign-On Letter

This spring, TCADP began circulating an interfaith sign-on letter that expresses opposition to the death penalty. Ordained clergy, retired clergy, deacons, nuns, rabbis, monks, and leaders of “peace” or “humanist” churches (such as Mennonites or Quakers) who live in Texas are all eligible to sign.

TCADP aims to collect at least 50 signatures by the end of this year. We will release the letter and a list of signatories at a strategically opportune moment in our legislative campaign to repeal the death penalty.

We need **your help** to ensure that the letter is distributed to local faith leaders throughout Texas! Please contact TCADP Program Coordinator Vicki McCuiston at info@tcadp.org or 512.441.1808 to receive a copy of the letter and instructions on how to submit signatures to TCADP.

For Our Catholic Members

Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston, has recently been designated as the Chairman of the U.S. Catholic Bishop’s Committee on Pro-Life Activities. Cardinal DiNardo has spoken out against capital punishment and in 2008 led a Pilgrimage for Life in Huntsville that ended at the Walls Unit, where executions are carried out in Texas. Catholics Against Capital Punishment has mounted a campaign to send letters to Cardinal DiNardo urging him to have his committee place greater emphasis on the issue of the death penalty as an integral component of the Catholic Church’s pro-life message. Bishop Daniel Flores of Brownsville is also on the committee. We ask that our Catholic members write to both Cardinal DiNardo and Bishop Flores asking them to ensure that opposition to capital punishment is a component of the U.S. Catholic Church’s pro-life message whenever and wherever that message is preached:

- His Eminence Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, P.O. Box 907, Houston TX 77001
- Bishop Daniel E. Flores, Diocese of Brownsville, P.O. Box 2279, Brownsville TX 78520

Thanks for your help. More info on the Catholics Against Capital Punishment is available at <http://www.cacp.org/>.

The Kairos Conference

SAVE THE DATE: November 16 & 17, 2010

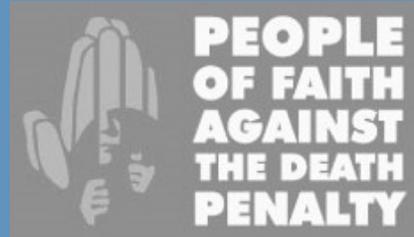
People of Faith Against the Death Penalty's National Conference

Emory University Atlanta, GA

Sr. Helen Prejean, Honorary Chair

Who should attend:

- You!
- Your pastor and staff
- Senior clergy and staff of religious judicatory bodies and associations
- Clergy
- Death penalty abolition activists
- Your friends and colleagues



More info: <http://www.pfadp.org//> under the “National Conference” button

The first national interfaith conference on religious action on the death penalty held in the United States this century.

The conference is part of a new effort to help the abolition movement build new levels of support among religious communities across the country.



Recent Texas Death Penalty Developments

(as of June 22, 2010)

- So far in 2010, the State of Texas has carried out 13 executions (out of 29 executions nationwide). Five more executions are scheduled through October.
- Texas juries have determined six new death sentences to date in 2010, from Brazos, Dallas, Harris, Montgomery, Nueces, and Travis Counties. There were nine new death sentences in 2009, the lowest number since the U.S. Supreme Court upheld Texas' revised death penalty statute in 1976.
- In March, a jury in Victoria County rejected the death penalty for Joe Estrada and instead sentenced him to life in prison without the possibility of parole. The case had been moved from San Antonio because of pretrial publicity. Estrada was convicted of the capital murder of Viola Barrios.

Expansion of West Texas Regional Public Defender for Capital Cases:

- On June 9, 2010, the Texas Task Force on Indigent Defense approved a modest expansion of the West Texas Regional Public Defender for Capital Cases, which was created in 2007 and is based in Lubbock. The office currently covers 85 counties in West Texas and is charged with providing quality representation to indigent defendants facing the death penalty. It consists of attorneys and investigators with specialized training in capital cases. Officials estimate that the program has saved the 70 participating counties \$637,000 in the first two years. Of the 24 cases the West Texas office has handled since its inception, only 1 defendant has been sentenced to death.

Over time, each county will contribute financially using a formula based on population and a 10-year average of capital cases.

The task force approved a one-year, \$2.2 million grant that will expand the program by 55 counties in far West Texas and south Texas. The 140 counties now eligible under the plan are not liable for the cost of defending those facing the death penalty. Under the proposal, state funding to the office will gradually decrease over six years, and counties' contributions will increase commensurately. Each county will contribute using a formula based on population and a 10-year average of capital cases, ranging from \$1,000 to \$350,000 per county. Conservative estimates place the cost of trying one death penalty case at \$250,000.

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Officials eventually want to expand the program to include all 240 Texas counties with populations of less than 300,000. (Sources: *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*, June 10, 2010 and *Houston Chronicle*, June 9, 2010)

- In April 2010, the Texas Forensic Science Commission established a four-person subcommittee that will examine the case of Cameron Todd Willingham and, eventually, report conclusions to the full commission. Willingham was executed by the State of Texas on February 17, 2004. He had been convicted and sentenced to death for setting a fire to his Corsicana home in 1991 that killed his three young daughters. Nine fire experts who have examined the case since the time of conviction all have concluded that there was no evidence to support the finding of arson.

Because of its small size, the subcommittee is not subject to state laws requiring open meetings and will be allowed to conduct its work in private. There is no timetable for when the subcommittee – or the commission as a whole – will resolve the longstanding issues in the Willingham case.

To stay up to date on all developments with the death penalty in Texas, visit the TCADP blog -- www.tcadp.org/blog

-- or become a fan of TCADP on Facebook!



“After it happened I was so angry and hurt. I hated the person who did it. That kind of hate that some people end up clinging on to is destructive.” - Steve Bishop



Steve Bishop was a typical high school senior, living in Hearne, Texas, when a man wielding a firearm murdered his father.

His father, Roy Lee Bishop, was running a 24-hour café when the incident occurred. A man showed up at the café drunk and was asked not to return. A few weeks later the man returned and was refused service. After threatening a waitress, Roy was called to sort out the problem. Roy went to the café to talk to the man, and the two men stepped outside to talk.

Steve said his father didn't know the man had a gun. After the man pulled the gun on Roy someone ran inside the café to call the sheriff, “he was shot in the heart.” Roy, 47, was taken to the emergency room. He was shot at about 11 p.m. and died at 4 a.m. that next morning.

The murder case ended in a mistrial. In the second trial, the gunman was charged with voluntary manslaughter. He was sentenced to 15 years in prison and served three years.

“After it happened, I was so angry and hurt. I hated the person who did it. That kind of hate that some people end up clinging on to is destructive,” Steve said. He figured out that the best thing he could do was live a good life and honor the memory of his father. He decided he couldn't live with the hate, so he had to move forward.

Steve said his high school friends helped him move forward in the days after his father's murder. “I had great high school buddies that spent the entire day with me. There was always somebody coming by. That really helped me the most.” The first three or four days after his father's death were horrible. “I spent most of the time crying,” Steve said. His friends didn't try to say the right thing; they were just there to comfort him.

Years later, July 5, 1995, his brother, Mark David Bishop, was killed while driving his motorcycle at night. An 18-year-old kid was driving a car with the headlights off and struck his brother, who died instantly. The driver was charged with criminally negligent homicide and placed on probation.

Although he views his brother's death as an accident, Steve was very angry with the driver because he didn't have a license, wasn't insured and was driving with the headlights off. “The kid just borrowed the car to take some girls on a joyride,” Steve said.

The most difficult thing about the loss of his father and brother is that he can't share his life experiences with them. “The biggest impact is in not having them around when you have a major life experience like the birth of your children, his grandchildren,” he said. Holidays like Father's Day are also difficult.

Soon after his father's death, Steve said, he believed that the gunman should die. But he really hadn't thought much about the death penalty prior to his father's death. “My views have really developed over time.”

Steve says he is against the death penalty because it doesn't do society any good. He also feels nobody has the right to take a person's life.

“People who haven't gone through this experience are frequently in favor of the death penalty. Often those people won't listen to people who have been through my experience. Some people have so much passion around it when it really hasn't touched their life,” Steve said.

Now, 52, Steve says he has survivor's guilt. “I am seeing life that my father hadn't seen, and my brother died so young. It makes me melancholy.”

Steve Bishop now teaches at the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin. He has a Bachelor's of Science from Abilene Christian University in Ministry and Evangelism and a Master's of Science in Counseling and Psychology from Texas A&M University. He earned a Master's in Theological Studies from Boston University School of Theology; then he obtained a Master's of Arts in Comparative Literary Studies and a Ph.D. in Biblical and Literary Studies at Boston University.



Submitted by Chris Castillo. Chris is the Texas/National Organizer for Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation, ccastillo@mvfr.org.



Regional Training Provides Unified Direction

The East Texas Regional Leadership Training hosted at University of St Thomas in Houston on May 22, 2010, provided TCADP members and supporters with a great opportunity to receive direction and plan local strategy. Supporters from the Houston, College Station, Huntsville, Beaumont, Victoria and surrounding areas were invited to attend this free training.

Participants learned about state and national death penalty developments, and received an



Kristin Houlé, TCADP Executive Director, lays out the plan for the day.

overview of the TCADP Strategic Plan. They also took part in sessions on organizational development, legislative advocacy, framing the message (communications), and outreach and education to: victims' family members; civic and faith groups; and criminal justice professionals. Participants then worked briefly in the afternoon to develop local work plans.

In the breakout sessions on membership recruitment, event planning, and outreach to high-priority constituencies, participants shared ideas and learned from each other. They received information on new initiatives from TCADP like the interfaith sign-on letter and ways to reach out to law enforcement (whose name was changed to "outreach to criminal justice professionals" after group discussion and feedback).

The purpose of the regional trainings is to provide local TCADP members with information and tools to support the TCADP Strategic Plan, as well as bring people together geographically to develop local work plans that build on what they have learned. In the process, we have learned from each other and found new faces interested in becoming involved!

The East Texas Training was the fourth of five trainings being hosted by TCADP around the state. The trainings are supported in part by funding from the Butler Family Fund and are provided at no cost to participants. The fifth training is planned for North Texas in the fall.



Les Breeding, TCADP Board Member, leads the legislative advocacy portion of the training.



TCADP Chapter News

New Chapter: Brownsville!

TCADP is delighted to announce the formation of a new local chapter in Brownsville, Texas! The chapter will be led by Cindy Johnson, Mike Johnson, Robert Andrade, Jean Krause, and Joe Krause. Meetings will be held in conjunction with vigils that take place on the day of executions in Texas, from 4:30-5:30 PM at 802 and Paredes Line. For more information and to become involved, please contact Joe Krause at 956.831.4354 or brownsville@tcadp.org.

El Paso Chapter

EPADP member Charlie Doyle discussed the Texas criminal justice system and the death penalty with the West El Paso Tejano Democrats on Thursday, April 29th. He shared information about the declining support for the death penalty. Of the 195 countries in the world, 139 have abolished the death penalty. In the United States, fifteen states have no death penalty. Where the death penalty still exists in the U.S., its use is declining. The use of the death penalty is declining in Texas even more dramatically; in 1999 there were 48 new death sentences, but in 2009 there were nine. Doyle believes it is not a question of "if" the death penalty will be repealed but "when." As people become more informed of the realities of the death penalty and of the better alternatives available, support for it declines.

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Huntsville (C) James Moore huntsville@tcadp.org	

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

EPADP is currently preparing to host Juan Melendez for a three-day speaking tour, September 25-27. Melendez was wrongfully convicted of murder and spent seventeen years on Florida's death row before finally being exonerated and released from prison in January of 2002. A committee has been established to prepare for this important tour. The committee welcomes your suggestions and assistance in raising funds, securing venues, and promoting this tour.

EPADP is available to make a presentation or to provide literature to your civic organization, faith-based group, or other organization. Contact Karen Peissinger-Venhaus at 915.740.7076 or elpaso@tcadp.org to request literature, schedule a presentation, or for more information.



Vigil Locations tcadp.org under “Get Involved”

Huntsville (Location of Executions) Corner of 12th and Ave. I (in front of Walls Unit) at 5:15 pm

Austin (Site 1) - On Congress at 11 St., 5:30 - 6:30 pm, **(Site 2)** - Prayer vigil at St. Ignatius Martyr Catholic Church on Oltorf and Congress at 6:00pm (approx 20 minutes)

Beaumont Diocese of Beaumont, Diocesan Pastoral Office, 703 Archie St. @ 4:00 pm on the day of an execution.

Brownsville 802 and Paredes Lane from 4:30 -5:30pm

College Station 5:30 to 6 pm, east of Texas A&M campus at the corner of Walton and Texas Ave. across the street from the main entrance.

Corpus Christi Sisters Of Incarnate Word Convent, 2930 Alameda, 6:00 pm

Cuero At Gazebo on Main Street , next to Library, 5:45 pm. Public Invited. For information call 361-676-2921

Dallas SMU Catholic Center at the corner of University Blvd. and Airline Rd., starting at 6 pm

El Paso 6:00 pm Saint Patrick Cathedral, 1118 N Mesa St

Ganado At Assumption Catholic Church Pro-Life Monument, 5:45 pm Public invited. For information call 361-771-3325.

Houston Rotating Locations... July, August, September will be from at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church at 1805 W. Alabama St. (5:30 to 6:20 pm)

Lubbock St. John's United Methodist Church, 1501 University Ave., 5:30 to 6:30 pm

McAllen In front of The Monitor, corner of Nolana and Jackson at 5:30 pm

McKinney St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Community located at 110 St. Gabriel Way, the last Sunday of the month, following the 11:00 mass to remember those scheduled for execution in the following month, as well as the victims of their crimes and family members on both sides.

Odessa Public vigil takes place from 5:00 to 5:30 pm in front of St. Joseph Catholic Parish, 907 S. Dixie, Odessa 79761. Prayer takes place inside the church from 5:30 to 6:00 PM. All are welcome. The church phone number is 432-337-2213.

San Antonio (Site 1) - Archdiocese of San Antonio, in the St. Joseph Chapel at the Chancery, 2718 W. Woodlawn Ave. (1 mile east of Bandera Rd.) at 11:30 am on the day of execution. Broadcast on Catholic Television of San Antonio (Time-Warner cable channel 15) at 12:30 pm and 6:30 pm on the day of execution. **(Site 2)** - Main Plaza across from Bexar County Courthouse and San Fernando Cathedral - Noon **(Site 3)** - Join the Sisters of Divine Providence and friends in vigil and prayer from 6:00 - 6:30 pm on Texas execution days in front of Our Lady of the Lake Convent by the large crucifix. 515 S.W. 24th Street.

Spring Prayer Vigil at 6 pm on evenings of executions at St Edward Catholic Community, 2601 Spring Stuebner Rd, Spring, TX 77389 for the murder victim, for family and friends of the murder victim, the prison guards and correctional officers, for the family of the condemned man/woman, for the man/woman to be executed and to an end to the death penalty.

Victoria At Incarnate Word Convent, 5:45 pm. Public Invited. For information call 361-575-7111.

Calendar of Events

July

- 1 Execution—Michael Perry
- 4 Odessa Chapter meeting, 4:00pm
- 11 Houston Chapter meeting, 4:00pm
- 19 El Paso Chapter Meeting, 6:30pm
- 20 Execution—Derrick Johnson
- 21 Dallas Chapter meeting, 7:00pm

August

- 1 Odessa Chapter Meeting, 4:00pm
- 16 El Paso Chapter Meeting, 6:30pm
- 17 Execution—Peter Cantu
- 18 Dallas Chapter Meeting, 7:00pm

September

- 5 Odessa Chapter Meeting, 4:00pm
- 15 Dallas Chapter Meeting, 7:00pm
- 20 El Paso Chapter Meeting, 6:30pm
- 25-27 Juan Melendez Speaking Tour, El Paso, email elpaso@tcadp.org
- 28 Austin Chapter Meeting, 7:00pm

El Paso Chapter Receives New Leadership

Karen Peissinger-Venhaus has replaced Wayne Daniel as the El Pasoans Against the Death Penalty (EPADP) Coordinator. Wayne provided terrific leadership for EPADP after Carol Tures' departure in 2007. Thank you, Wayne!

Karen is originally from central New York State, moving to Texas in 1997 and to El Paso in 1999. While in New York, she was involved with the Syracuse Peace Council. Also, Karen was a volunteer worker, and a member of the board of directors, at the Syracuse Real Food Co-op. In the mid-1990s, she was drawn to the Quaker faith and its focus on peace and social justice issues, of which the death penalty is one. Karen's non-profit experiences, along with her Quaker beliefs, will inform her efforts as she helps facilitate the work of repealing the death penalty in Texas.



Member Spotlight...

Jessica Chong Dallas, TX



How did you come to be against the death penalty?

My experiences with others gradually taught me that everybody has a story to tell – some uglier than others, but important to hear with an open mind and heart. As a child, I was always attuned with the underprivileged, underestimated, and misunderstood people. When I read *The Stranger* by Albert Camus, I gathered a general dislike for capital punishment; I mean, isn't the death penalty the highest premeditated murder? It wasn't until my second year of college, in my ethics class, when I formed a more thorough and clear stance against the death penalty.

How did you learn about TCADP?

I was in the midst of compiling a binder full of everything regarding the death penalty. Naturally, I was engrossed in how the system worked (notoriously, mind you) in Texas. I first became a fan on Facebook, and then I came across the official web page.

What are your expectations in becoming a member of TCADP for yourself? For the organization?

I truly expect to stir some positive change in my peers. I want to emulate TCADP's mission to abolish the death penalty, by reaching out to those who are undecided and/or uneducated about the system. Couple months ago, I tried to host an information night (food and drinks included) to discuss the death penalty with my friends. Though they were reluctant – and only five out of eighty people made reservations – I plan on resurrecting the plan again, soon. I hope to gain more signatures on the petitions.

What is the most compelling argument for you that the death penalty is wrong?

The possibility of executing an innocent person or, worse, somebody who changed for the better and could have/would have/should have been a positive contribution to our society if given the chance. I primarily look at people on a human level, or try to in the very least. As such, I dislike stripping away a criminal's humanity solely based off of their actions. At the end of each and every day, we all bleed the same. I can't take away a human being's humanity because I deem their action(s) evil.



Jessica moved to Texas in 2008 from Orange County, CA. She is starting at SMU this coming fall after two years at Richland College. Jessica plans to double-major in English and philosophy (ethics) with a minor in human rights.

YES, I want to help TCADP continue the momentum toward abolition!

Name/Organization _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address (Help us verify that we have your current email address!) _____

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation:

- \$100 Annual Organization Membership
- \$60 Annual Household Membership
- \$40 Annual Individual Membership
- \$15 Annual Student/Restricted Income Membership
- \$80 Sustaining Membership (Two Years)
- \$_____ Additional donation for TCADP
- \$_____ **Total amount of your gift**

Please make checks out to TCADP. All donations are tax deductible and should be mailed to: TCADP; 2709 S. Lamar; Suite 109; Austin, TX 78704. A secure online donation can be made through the TCADP website: www.tcadp.org (click on "Donate"). **THANK YOU!**

Credit Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Credit Card - VISA

MasterCard



Thank You for Your Generous Support

TCADP thanks the following individuals & organizations for their generous contributions in the past quarter (March 17 – June 15, 2010). Your financial assistance supports all of the activities and events described in this newsletter! We apologize in advance if we have inadvertently left anyone off of this list.

Jeanne Adams
 John Adcock and Charles Spain
 Tom Allen
 Robert Andrade
 Roger Barnes
 Kathleen Barrett
 Niki Bergin
 Mary Berwick
 Carol Biggs
 Marian Breen
 Rev. Chloe Breyer
 Fr. Wilfred S. Canning
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 Br Richard Daly
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 Arthur Dietz
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 Kelly Epstein
 Vicky Faure
 Archbishop Joseph Fiorenza
 Joseph Forman
 Sharon Gabel
 Bert Golding
 Phyllis Guest
 Br Brian Halderman
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 Genevieve Tarlton Hearon
 Deacon Paul Hinojos
 Winnie Honeywell
 Carol Ann Hunt
 Ray Jacobson
 Cindy and Mike Johnson

Nettie Johnson
 John and Shirley Johnson
 Daniel Kaminski
 Devin Kasper
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 Bob and Jean Van Steenburg
 Karen Peissinger-Venhaus and
 Matthew Venhaus
 Sigrid Walsh
 Joe Watt
 Linda and Charles Wesley
 Linda White

Rev. Mark Woodruff
 Richard Woodward
 Gay Z. Wright

Dallas Friends Meeting
 Holy Name Province of OFM
 Marianist Social Justice Collaborative
 The Riverside Church Sharing Fund
 St. Ignatius Martyr Catholic Parish



TCADP would like to take this opportunity to express its appreciation for long-time Houston member Phivan Wright, who is moving with her husband to Indonesia this fall. Phivan, we are so grateful for all of your work on behalf of TCADP and Amnesty International Group #23. We will miss you terribly but wish you and your family all the best in your new home!

TCADP also would like to thank all of the local members who have volunteered their time at conferences and conventions that have taken place across the state in recent months. We truly appreciate your involvement in these critical outreach and education efforts.

TEXAS COALITION TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY

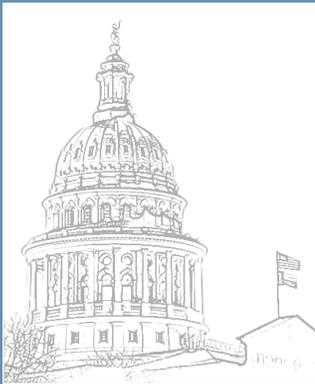
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Save the Date: TCADP's Next Annual Conference
February 19, 2011
Schmidt Jones Family Life Center,
First United Methodist Church, Austin, TX



Staying Informed

TCADP provides several ways to keep up with breaking news and action opportunities.

Visit TCADP's website to subscribe to the email list through which you will receive action alerts, links to breaking news, and information on upcoming local events. This also adds you to the TCADP Database, which is vitally important as we move forward with our legislative activities.

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