



Winter 2011

# Seizing the Momentum

Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty

## Only 2% of Texas Counties Imposed Death Sentences Last Year, According to TCADP Report

*Death sentences, executions drop in 2010 as concerns about reliability and fairness plague Texas death penalty system.*

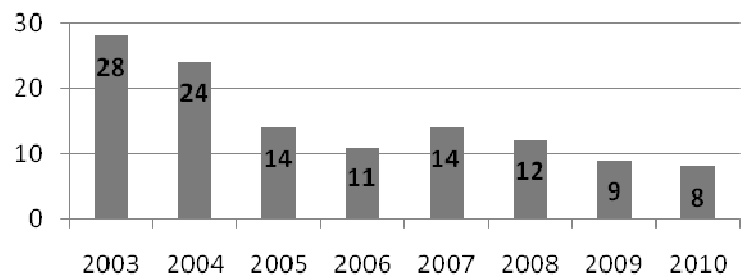
On December 13, 2010, TCADP released its annual report on death penalty developments in Texas. Published in conjunction with the anniversary of the resumption of executions in Texas in 1982, it presents information on executions, stays, and new death sentences; exonerations; legislative developments; and other issues impacting the criminal justice system in the nation's most active death penalty state. This is the fourth such annual report published by TCADP.

### According to the report, death sentences in Texas have dropped more than 70% since 2003.

#### Juries

condemned eight new individuals to death in Texas in 2010, the lowest number of new death sentences since the U.S. Supreme Court upheld Texas' revised death penalty statute in 1976. These new sentences occurred in six counties: Brazos; Dallas; Harris; Nueces; Rusk; and Travis.

### New death sentences



Recent sentencing trends illustrate the arbitrary and biased imposition of the death penalty. An analysis of data from 2007 to 2010 reveals that **only 21 counties** – 8% of the 254 counties in Texas – meted out death sentences over the last four years. Out of a total 43 death sentences imposed statewide between 2007 and 2010, Dallas County leads with seven, followed closely by Harris County, with six new sentences. Nearly three-fourths of all death sentences in Texas over the last four years have been imposed on people of color – 40% African American, 30% Hispanic/Latino, and 2% other.

**The number of executions also dropped in 2010.** The State of Texas executed 17 people, the lowest number since 2001. The state remains the nation's leading executioner, accounting for 37% of U.S. executions in 2010. The number of executions in Texas this year represents a smaller percentage of the national total than it has in recent years, however.

Other highlights of *Texas Death Penalty Developments in 2010: The Year in Review* include the following:

- ⇒ **In three capital murder trials, juries rejected the death penalty** and opted for a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole. Over the last three years, juries have rejected the death penalty in a dozen cases.

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### In this issue:

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Upcoming Events: January, February, March  
TCADP 2011 Award Winners  
Thank You, Members, Donors, and Partners for Justice!

### Scheduled Executions

#### January

11 Cleve Foster

#### February

15 Michael Wayne Hall

22 Timothy Adams

Execution Vigils: [tcadp.org](http://tcadp.org) under  
"Get Involved - Stop Executions"



## From the Executive Director

Dear TCADP Members and Supporters,

In an article that appeared in the October 4, 2010 issue of the *New Yorker*, Malcom Gladwell, the author of *The Tipping Point* and *Blink*, discusses the differences between “traditional” social change efforts and activism based on social media such as Facebook or Twitter. In “Small Change: Why the revolution will not be tweeted,” Gladwell observes that activism associated with social media is based on increasing participation while at the same time lessening the level of motivation that participation requires. Traditional social change efforts, on the other hand, require high levels of motivation, commitment, and sacrifice: “Activism that challenges the status quo – that attacks deeply rooted problems – is not for the faint of heart.”



TCADP members and supporters have been challenging the status quo for more than 15 years now... and the status quo is responding like never before! Just this month, the *Houston Chronicle* called for an end to the death penalty and *Texas Monthly* endorsed a moratorium. Both media outlets cited concerns about the risk of wrongful convictions and increasing evidence of wrongful executions that have taken place in Texas. In another challenge to the status quo, nearly 60 public officials, former prosecutors, death row exonorees, and murder victims’ family members from Texas and throughout the country signed on to an amicus brief urging the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals to let a historic hearing on the constitutionality of the death penalty continue in a Houston courtroom.

Gladwell argues that people join movements because of their personal connection to other participants, what sociologist Doug McAdam calls the “strong-tie” phenomenon. These personal connections lend themselves more readily to “high-risk activism,” the kind that was required during the civil rights movement, for example. Gladwell notes that this “was also, crucially, strategic activism: a challenge to the establishment mounted with precision and discipline.”

In building a powerful movement capable of challenging the status quo, TCADP has focused on cultivating strong ties among its members and mounting a precise, disciplined, and strategic campaign for repealing the death penalty in Texas. One of the best opportunities to become part of these efforts is the TCADP 2011 Annual Conference. This annual gathering will take place on Saturday, February 19, 2011 in downtown Austin. It promises to be a stimulating day filled with conversations on such topics as restorative justice, the impact of the death penalty on the county level, and best practices for moving our statewide vision forward through local action.

This year’s conference also provides us with an occasion to honor individuals whose strong ties to TCADP laid the foundation for our development as an organization as well as those whose high-risk, strategic activism has advanced the abolition movement in Texas in countless ways. Jim and Sherry Coombes and Marj Loehlin will receive Appreciation Awards for their years of service and their efforts to create a community of abolitionists in our state. Professor Dennis Longmire will receive an Appreciation Award for his activism in protesting the death penalty outside the Walls Unit in Huntsville on the evening of every execution.

TCADP will honor Reverend Carroll Pickett with the first-ever Founder’s Atwood for his high-risk activism in speaking out about the system after serving 15 years as the death house chaplain at the Walls Unit. Pamela Colloff will receive a Media Award for her extraordinary coverage of the serious miscarriages of justice in the Anthony Graves’ case. And Anthony Graves and his family will be honored with the Courage Award for their grace and fortitude during his 18 years of incarceration for a crime he did not commit.

I hope you will join us for this special occasion and look forward to our work together throughout the coming year to seize the momentum and challenge the status quo in Texas!

Kristin Hauke



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

Issue #32, Winter 2011  
(Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall)

Editor: Vicki McCuiston  
Contributors: Kristin Houlé, Chris Castillo,  
Bob Van Steenburg

Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty  
2709 S Lamar, Suite 109  
Austin, TX 78704



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### Volunteers

Thank you Ruby Moshenska, Jade Herman and Evan Tormollen for all of the data entry assistance over the last few months!

## Calendar of Events

### January

- 2 Odessa Chapter meeting – 4:00pm (First Sunday of the month)
- 11 Scheduled execution – Cleve Foster
- 13-16 NCADP Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, [www.ncadp.org](http://www.ncadp.org)
- 17 El Paso Chapter meeting, 6:00pm, [el Paso@tcadp.org](mailto:el Paso@tcadp.org) (Third Monday of the month)
- 18 Religious Leaders Dialogue on the Death Penalty, Houston, 7:30pm
- 19 Dallas Chapter meeting – 7:00pm, [dallas@tcadp.org](mailto:dallas@tcadp.org) (Third Wednesday of the month)
- 22 Sister Helen Prejean at St. Angela Merici Catholic church 11:00am, Missouri City. Public event. All are welcome.
- 25 Austin Chapter meeting – 7:00pm, [austin@tcadp.org](mailto:austin@tcadp.org)
- 28 “At the Death House Door” Film Showing, Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest Cafeteria, Austin, 6:00pm potluck dinner, 7:00pm film and discussion

### February

- 2 Dinner, Discussion and Opera featuring David Dow and the Dead Man Walking Opera - sponsored by the University of Houston Law Center 6:00pm Tickets and info at <http://www.law.uh.edu/alumni/calendar/2011-02-02.pdf>
- 15 Scheduled execution - Michael Wayne Hall
- 19 TCADP Annual Conference - Austin
- 22 Scheduled execution - Timothy Adams

### March

- 1 International Death Penalty Abolition Day
- 8 TCADP Lobby Day at the Capitol—**Save the Date!**

*Full event descriptions and monthly chapter meeting dates with active links can be found at [www.tcadp.org](http://www.tcadp.org) under “Get Involved - Attend Events”*

## Become a Partner for Justice Today!

Looking for a quick and easy way to contribute to TCADP? Become a **Partner for Justice** today! Through TCADP's secure online donation system, you can set up recurring donations to be repeated every month, quarter, or year and linked automatically to a credit card or checking account. Anyone who signs up for a recurring donation (minimum \$10 on a quarterly basis) will be considered a Partner for Justice and will be acknowledged in TCADP's annual conference program and quarterly newsletter.

Avoid those annoying dues renewal notices, save a stamp, and support TCADP - all in five minutes! Just go to [www.tcadp.org](http://www.tcadp.org) and click on Donate to get started.

*Make a difference.*  
**DONATE**

# Seizing the Momentum...

## Advancing Statewide Vision through Local Action



### 2011 TCADP Annual Conference

**Saturday, February 19, 2011**

Schmidt-Jones Family Life Center  
First United Methodist Church  
1300 Lavaca, Austin, TX 78701

- **Annual Courage, Media, & Appreciation Awards**
  - **General Membership Meeting**
  - **Workshops**
- **Networking with TCADP Members and Allies**
  - **Exhibitors and Door Prizes**
  - **Panel Discussion**

#### **Confirmed Panelists Include:**

Sam Millsap, former Bexar County District Attorney

Karen Peissinger, El Paso TCADP Chapter Leader

Sachin Chheda, NCADP Deputy Director (moderator)

#### **SAVE THE DATE!**

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

or contact  
the TCADP office at 512 441-1808  
for assistance.

#### **Conference Registration**

##### **Pre-Register by February 1, 2011:**

TCADP Member \$45

Non-Member \$55

Student \$25

##### **After February 1, 2011:**

TCADP Member \$50

Non-Member \$60

Student \$25

**Registration fee includes Continental Breakfast and Lunch**

#### **La Quinta Inns and Suites—Austin Capitol**

**February 19 and 20, 2011.**

Deadline for booking: January 28.

Call 1-866-527-1498,

Identify yourself with TCADP, #0907GRKTFJ.

## Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty

2709 S Lamar, Austin, TX 78704    [www.tcadp.org](http://www.tcadp.org)    [info@tcadp.org](mailto:info@tcadp.org)    (512) 441-1808

**Seizing the Momentum... Advancing Statewide Vision through Local Action**  
**Saturday, February 19, 2011**  
**2011 TCADP Annual Conference**

**Conference Program**

- 8:00 Registration and Continental Breakfast
- 9:00 General Membership Meeting
- 10:30 Panel Discussion  
Impact of the Death Penalty on Texas Counties
- 12:00 Lunch and Award Presentations
- 2:15 Workshop: Training for Legislative Action
- Conference attendees will attend one of four workshops, each designed to provide specific tools and skills that can be used for interfacing with their legislative representative.
- 3:45 Workshops  
(Choice of one)
- Best Practices from the Field
  - County Level Initiatives
  - Introduction to Restorative Justice
  - Briefing Room on Hot Topics
- 4:55 Closing Session/ Wrap-up
- 5:15 Adjourn and Begin Seizing the Momentum!
- 5:30 No Host Cocktail Party - El Mercado  
1702 Lavaca, All Welcome!

*Invite your friends,  
and see you in Austin!*

**Congratulations 2011 TCADP Award Winners:**

Courage: Anthony Graves and his family  
Media: Pamela Colloff, *Texas Monthly*  
Appreciation: Jim and Sherry Coombes  
Appreciation: Marj Loehlin  
Appreciation: Dennis Longmire  
Founder's Award: Reverend Carroll Pickett

*Awards will be presented during the conference.*

**Conference Cost**

Advance registration by February 1, 2011 (payable by cash, credit card, check, or money order):

TCADP Member—	\$45
Non-Member—	\$55
Student/Youth —	\$25

**Registration fee includes  
breakfast and luncheon.**

Registration after February 1, 2011

TCADP Member—	\$50
Non-Member—	\$60
Student/Youth—	\$25

Secure online registration options are available at **[www.tcadp.org](http://www.tcadp.org)** under the "Donate" button or mail payment to TCADP, 2709 S Lamar, Austin, TX 78704!

Call the TCADP office at (512) 441-1808 for more information.

**On the TCADP Website:** Under the "What We Do—Annual Conference" button you can find:

- the conference flyer for download and distribution,
- online/mail registration,
- a link to the hotel registration information,
- the schedule as it becomes updated,
- information on program advertising (for example, your congratulations to the annual award winners),
- and information on exhibiting at the conference.

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

**Accommodations**

La Quinta Inns and Suites — Austin Capitol  
300 East 11th St, Austin, TX 78701  
Phone: 1-512-476-1166

To place a reservation, please call 1-866-527-1498 and identify yourself as a member of the TCADP party. Reservation confirmation number is 0907GRKTFJ.

Requests for reservations within the block should be made prior to **January 28, 2011**; after this date rooms will be released for general sale.

A limited number of rooms have been blocked for Friday and Saturday nights at the following rates:

1-person room: \$94.50 per night  
2-4 persons: \$103.50 per night

**Please note:** Hotel accommodations may be limited due to the legislative session and Austin marathon the same weekend. Book early!



## 82nd Texas Legislative Session

The next session of the Texas Legislature will begin on January 11<sup>th</sup>, and what a session it is going to be!

As you all probably know, the Republican Party will dominate the Texas House (101 to 49) and will control the Texas Senate (19-12). There are several critical issues that the legislature will address this year. Among those that are “for sure” are the budget and redistricting. Both will probably be very tough issues. And once again a bill calling for repeal of the death penalty will be introduced in the House.

The goals of TCADP remain the same as they were in the last legislative session: have a bill introduced; increase the number of members of the House to sign on as co-sponsors; and hold a hearing on the bill. We will work in earnest to accomplish these goals.

You can help in this work by:

1. Contacting your representative in the House to determine where he or she stands on the issue of the death penalty. Let them know what you think and ask for their opinion.
2. If your representative is supportive of our efforts, ask him or her to be a co-sponsor of the bill. (Note: We do not yet have a bill number; look for this information in future communications.)
3. Communicate with either Kristin or Vicki in the state office the results of the conversation that you have with your representative.

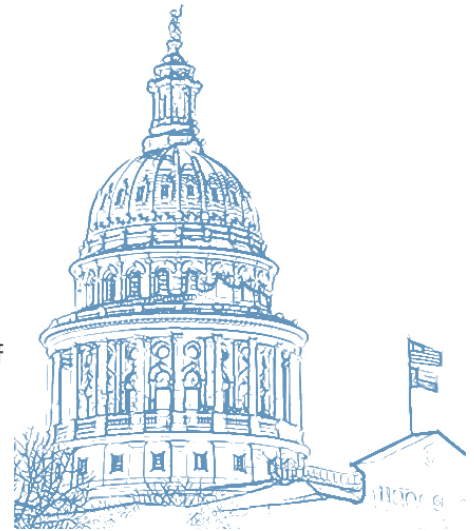
It is extremely important that we have feedback from such conversations. Our team in Austin will follow-up with representatives on any conversations that you have. Your input is invaluable. We can be more effective in seeking bill co-sponsors when we know where the representative stands on the issue.

During the session, **TCADP will host a Lobby Day on Tuesday, March 8.** This is a day when we invite TCADP members to come to Austin to visit their representative and talk about the death penalty. The Lobby Day in 2009 was a great success in regards to participants and the results. We expect the same this year. Stay tuned for more details and mark the date on your calendar.

Recently someone asked me if TCADP knew what we did wrong in the 2009 session, implying that we must have failed since we did not get a bill calling for abolition passed. My response was that we didn't do anything wrong. We accomplished every one of our objectives.

It is important to realize that being successful in getting legislation passed, especially on something like the death penalty, is a long process. We must have a dialogue on the subject and build relationships over time. Eventually we will get to the point where we have a sufficient number of friends to take that giant step of having a vote on the House and Senate floors. But we only take that step when we are properly positioned for success.

In the meantime, we work step by step, knowing that each one brings us closer to our ultimate goal: **ABOLITION!** And we remain convinced that we will reach that point in Texas. History is on our side!



### Chapters (C)

#### STATE OFFICE—Austin

(512) 441-1808

[info@tcadp.org](mailto:info@tcadp.org)

#### Austin (C)

Bob Van Steenburg

[austin@tcadp.org](mailto:austin@tcadp.org)

#### Beaumont (C)

Bob Gazaway

[beaumont@tcadp.org](mailto:beaumont@tcadp.org)

#### Brazos Valley (C)

Athena Griffith

[collegestation@tcadp.org](mailto:collegestation@tcadp.org)

#### Brownsville (C)

Joe Kraus

[brownsville@tcadp.org](mailto:brownsville@tcadp.org)

#### Corpus Christi (C)

Jeanne Adams

[corpuschristi@tcadp.org](mailto:corpuschristi@tcadp.org)

#### Dallas (C)

Rick Halperin

[dallas@tcadp.org](mailto:dallas@tcadp.org)

#### El Paso (C)

Karen Peissinger

[elpaso@tcadp.org](mailto:elpaso@tcadp.org)

#### Houston (C)

Nancy Bailey

[houston@tcadp.org](mailto:houston@tcadp.org)

#### Huntsville (C)

James Moore

[huntsville@tcadp.org](mailto:huntsville@tcadp.org)

#### Lubbock (C)

Vince Gonzales

[lubbock@tcadp.org](mailto:lubbock@tcadp.org)

#### Odessa (C)

Father Mark Miller

[odessa@tcadp.org](mailto:odessa@tcadp.org)

#### Rio Grande Valley (C)

Sylvia Garza

[riogrande@tcadp.org](mailto:riogrande@tcadp.org)

#### San Antonio (C)

Roger Barnes

[sanantonio@tcadp.org](mailto:sanantonio@tcadp.org)

#### The Woodlands (C)

Angelle Adams

[thewoodlands@tcadp.org](mailto:thewoodlands@tcadp.org)

#### Victoria (C)

Rev. Wanda Ritchea

[victoria@tcadp.org](mailto:victoria@tcadp.org)





## Recent Death Penalty Developments

⇒ On December 21, 2010, the United Nations General Assembly passed (for the third time) a resolution calling for a global moratorium on the death penalty as a step toward its ultimate abolition. The vote was 109 in favor, 41 against, 35 abstentions, and 7 absent. Among those who voted against the resolution were the United States, China, Iran, and Saudi Arabia.

⇒ The Death Penalty Information Center's (DPCI) year-end report, issued on December 21, 2010, chronicles the 12% drop in executions last year and the continued low number of new death sentences. The glaring exception to the national decline in death sentences is California, where 29 people were sentenced to death in 2010 (compared with 8 in Texas). DPCI's report also presents details on a recent public opinion poll, in which 39% of voters selected life in prison without parole plus restitution as the proper punishment for murder. Read the full report at <http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/documents/2010YearEnd-Final.pdf>.

⇒ On December 22, 2010, the Third Court of Appeals ruled that Judge Charlie Baird should not have held an October court of inquiry regarding the case of Cameron Todd Willingham. 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.

Last October, Navarro County District Attorney R. Lowell Thompson, whose office prosecuted Willingham, accused Baird of bias and asked for his recusal. After Baird declined to recuse himself and proceeded with the hearing, Thompson successfully petitioned the court to bar Baird from issuing a decision in the case. Lawyers for the Willingham family asked the court to reconsider, but in the meantime, Judge Baird has retired from the bench and entered private practice. The case may fall to his successor in the 299th District Court, former Assistant District Attorney Karen Sage.

⇒ On December 6, 2010, Judge Kevin Fine began an unprecedented hearing on the constitutionality of Texas' death penalty statute, in light of the substantial risk of convicting and executing innocent people. The pre-trial hearing relates to the case of John Edward Green, who faces capital murder charges and a possible death sentence. After two days of compelling testimony, during which the prosecutors from the Harris County District Attorney's Office were ordered to "stand mute," the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals granted a motion from the District Attorney to halt the proceedings. Attorneys for both sides filed briefs on December 22; it is unclear when the CCA will rule and whether the hearing will be allowed to proceed.

# Register TODAY!

**TCADP Annual Conference - Austin, TX**  
**February 19, 2011 9:00 AM to 5:15 PM**  
**Schmidt Jones Family Life Center**  
**First UMC Downtown**

**I want to "Seize the Momentum" with my fellow death penalty abolitionists in Texas so we can advance the statewide vision through local action!**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$45 TCADP Member  
 (After February 1, \$50)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$55 Non-Member  
 (After February 1, \$60)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25 Student

\_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is an additional contribution to help cover the cost of providing the TCADP Annual Conference.

Circle Your  
 Lunch  
 Choice:  
 Vegetarian  
 Vegan  
 Omnivore

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 "Donate" button.

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

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

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

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

Credit Card Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration includes continental breakfast and lunch.

*Information about advertising in the conference program or exhibiting at the conference is available online or through the TCADP office (512) 441-1808. Thank you!*



*"It's been a long process. The biggest change in my life has to do with compassion. Before my loss, I was probably more prone to judge others for their predicament. But now I am able to put myself in another person's place and empathize with them in a real and meaningful way."*

*- Joy Strickland*



DALLAS, Texas - It was about 2 a.m. on Father's Day when Joy Strickland heard a knock on the door. Two Dallas police officers delivered the earth-shattering news that her son Chris had been shot to death.

Chris Lewis met Kendrick Lott in the summer of 1993. The two struck up an instant friendship because Chris was a freshman at Morehouse, the same college Kendrick planned to attend. But instead of becoming Morehouse brothers, the two died together, brutally slain by two drugged out gang-bangers looking for someone to carjack. "Chris was an amazing young man. He was not only tall, handsome and athletic, but he was also extremely intelligent and compassionate. I am amazed by the impact that he had on people even though his life was relatively short," Joy said.

When her son was killed 17 years ago, Joy believed in the death penalty. But she has come to think differently about capital punishment. "Life without parole is the obvious alternative," she said. "I am opposed to the death penalty because I believe the criminal justice system is flawed. The more I've learned, the more impressed I've become with the degree to which inequity is inherent," said Joy, who chronicles her journey of grief in her book, *Joy in the Morning*. "Unfortunately, affluent individuals have greater access to better attorneys and therefore, have a decided advantage. I see this as a system in which the ability to pay may be as important a factor in determining the outcome as guilt or innocence," she explains. "Incredible disparities, largely related to class and race from arrest to conviction, are primarily responsible for my change in thinking," she said.

Over the years, Joy has seen herself change in many ways. "It's been a long process. The biggest change in my life has to do with compassion. Before my loss, I was probably more prone to judge others for their predicament. But now I am able to put myself in another person's place and empathize with them in a real and meaningful way." Joy isn't sure if victims who support the death penalty get closure when the offender is executed. "I think it's healthier for victims to decide that we deserve to have joy and peace in our lives despite our loss, and certainly despite what happens or doesn't happen with the justice system. This isn't easy, but it has worked for me," she said.

After her son was murdered, she was informed that funds were available from the state to help her family with burial and counseling expenses. Her family took advantage of counseling benefits, and found it to be quite helpful. For Joy, the most surprising thing that she has learned from her experience is how long it can take to find a sense of normalcy in your life after a significant loss, and how it can change your whole life—your attitudes, your beliefs, and your outlook—not just some small, isolated part of it.

Since more than 85 percent of all crimes are drug related, Joy believes prevention, inmate rehabilitation and other public policy changes that reduce the harm caused by drug trafficking and drug use would be a smart and effective way to reduce violent crime. Money spent today on the death penalty could be repurposed for prevention and rehabilitation.

"I believe that everyone—especially victims—stands to benefit when an offender has access to educational and drug rehabilitation services. The cost to prosecute a single death penalty case can exceed one million tax dollars. If we could increase funding to prepare offenders to be productive citizens, we could lower recidivism rates, reduce crime, improve public safety and reduce the number of victims!"

"Also, it must be said that the mindless prosecution of the ineffectual laws and policies known as the drug war—with 1.5 million arrests annually for possession of a controlled substance—has taken resources away from solving violent crimes. As one person put it, we are chasing people with joints instead of people with guns."

Joy oversees the non-profit organization Mothers Against Teen Violence, which aims to educate the public about the harmful impact of drug prohibition and advocate for prevention, public health and public safety. Joy



earned a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics with a double minor in English and German from The University of Texas at Austin. Her story has been featured in USA Today; on CNN and CNN Headline News; on USA Radio; the Dallas Morning News and other media. She is a member of First Presbyterian Church of Dallas.

Submitted by Chris Castillo, the National Outreach Coordinator for Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation, [ccastillo@mvfr.org](mailto:ccastillo@mvfr.org).





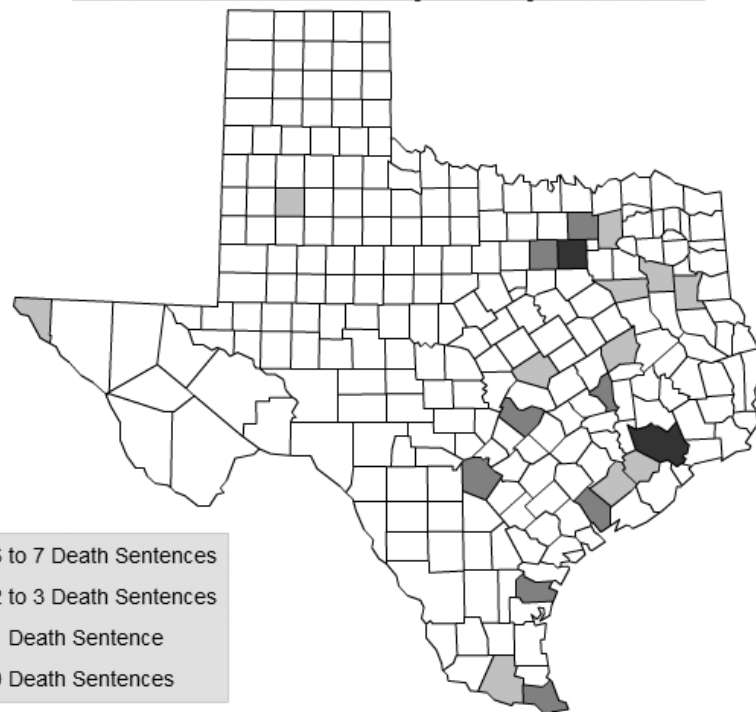
*Continued from page 1.*

- ⇒ **Three inmates scheduled for execution in 2010 received last-minute stays;** the execution date of another inmate was withdrawn. On March 24, Henry “Hank” Skinner received a stay from the U.S. Supreme Court shortly after eating his “last meal.” In October, the Court heard arguments to determine whether Skinner can seek access to post-conviction DNA testing through the federal Civil Rights Act. Texas officials have refused to release key pieces of evidence gathered at the crime scene in 1993 for testing.
- ⇒ **At least six inmates received reduced sentences in 2010** and were removed from the death row population, including several inmates whose death sentences were overturned because jurors did not hear mitigating evidence during their original trials. Three other inmates died in custody, including Ronald Chambers, who spent 35 years on death row and was awaiting a fourth sentencing hearing related to the 1975 murder of Mike McMahan.
- ⇒ **A nationwide shortage of the first drug used in the lethal injection protocol,** sodium thiopental, led some states to postpone executions as their supplies dwindle or expire. In November, officials with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice revealed that they had enough drugs on hand to execute 39 people, but that doses of sodium thiopental will expire in March 2011.
- ⇒ **There currently are 317 people (307 men and 10 women) on death row in Texas.** Texas holds the third-largest death row population in the nation, after California (713) and Florida (393).

2010 may go down in history as the “Year of Doubt,” when case after case exposed the flaws and failures of the Texas death penalty and shook public faith in the criminal justice system to its core. The system is broken beyond repair, and the continued decline in new death sentences shows that jurors and prosecutors in Texas are seeking other ways to address violent crime. TCADP urges all elected officials to take a good hard look at the death penalty system and ask whether this is a good use of taxpayers’ dollars when there are alternative ways to protect society and punish those who are truly guilty.

In conjunction with the report, TCADP produced two interactive maps highlighting new death sentences by county from 2007 to 2010 and from 1976 to 2010. Clicking on each county reveals the total number of sentences, the number executed, the number awaiting execution, and the number exonerated. Go to <http://tcadp.org/death-sentences-by-county1976-2010/> to view the maps and learn sentencing information for your county.

**New Death Sentences by County, 2007-2010**



To stay up to date on all developments with the death penalty in Texas, visit the TCADP blog --

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

-- or become a fan of TCADP on Facebook!

Search for TCADP!



## The TCADP 2011 Awards will be presented at the TCADP Annual Conference on February 19, 2011 in Austin.

### Courage: Anthony Graves and his family

Anthony Graves and his family exhibited great courage and perseverance throughout the ordeal of his wrongful conviction and 18 years in prison, including 12 years on death row, for a crime he did not commit. He has handled his newfound freedom with grace and dignity.



Anthony and his family never gave up, continually seeking opportunities to prove his innocence and staying hopeful through the many years of appeals.

### Media: Pamela Colloff

Pamela Colloff is the author of "Innocence Lost", an exhaustive article on the case of Anthony Graves that appeared in the October 2010 issue of *Texas Monthly*. Within one month of the publication of this story, the Bursleson County District Attorney dropped all charges and released him from the county jail where he was awaiting retrial.



Pamela Colloff's story helped bring to light a great miscarriage of justice in Texas and undoubtedly contributed to the resolution in favor of Anthony Graves.

### Appreciation: Jim and Sherry Coombes; Marj Loehlin; and Dennis Longmire

Jim and Sherry Coombes both served as officers of the TCADP board and assisted the organization in countless other capacities. They both have sacrificed time and effort and always sought to expand the scope and influence of TCADP, with the ultimate goal of ending the use of the death penalty.

Marj Loehlin has been active in anti-death penalty work for many years and was one of the original members of the TCADP Austin Chapter. She is a constant voice of reason in explaining why capital punishment is bad public policy.

Dennis Longmire, a professor at Sam Houston State University, provides a peaceful and respectful presence outside the Walls Unit in Huntsville on the evening of every execution in Texas.

**Dave Atwood Founder's Award: Rev. Carroll Pickett**  
Rev. Pickett served as the death house chaplain at the Walls Unit for 15 years and witnessed 95 executions. He has worked tirelessly to make more Texans aware of issues related to the death penalty. Rev. Pickett is the author of "Within These Walls" and the subject of the documentary film, "At the Death House Door."

## Vigil Locations [tcadp.org](http://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... January-March - St. Paul's United Methodist Church, at 5501 Main St., the corner of Binz and Main. Vigils are scheduled from 5:30 to 6:20.

**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.



## Thank You for Your Generous Support

TCADP thanks the following individuals and organizations for their generous contributions in the past quarter (October 5, 2010 – January 4, 2011). Your financial gifts support all of the activities and events described in this newsletter. We apologize in advance if we have inadvertently left anyone off of this list.

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Sisters of the Incarnate Word, Social Concerns Committee (Corpus Christi)

\*signifies Partners for Justice

Learn more about the  
"Partners for Justice  
Program" on Page 3!



## TEXAS COALITION TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY

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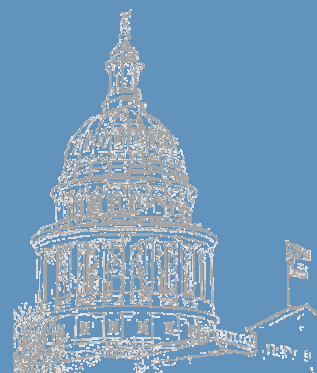
If there is **no date** on your address label or a date prior to **1/15/2011** please take the time to renew your membership or become a new member. See [tcadp.org/join-tcadp/](http://tcadp.org/join-tcadp/) for membership form. Thank you!

### **Seizing the Momentum... Advancing Statewide Vision Through Local Action TCADP Annual Conference**

**February 19, 2011**

**Schmidt Jones Family Life Center,  
First United Methodist Church, Austin, TX**

**Register Today!**



**Conference Registration:** Available Online under the “Donate” Button  
or Mail-In Form on page 7.  
Early-Bird Rates end February 1, 2011.

**Conference Hotel:** La Quinta Austin (Capitol Location)  
A limited number of rooms have been blocked at a special rate.  
Contact information on page 5.  
Book room by January 28, 2011.

**Conference Advertisers/Exhibitors:** Advertising and Exhibitor Rates available online at  
<http://tcadp.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/2011-program-advertising-rates.pdf>  
or by calling 512.441.1808, need Ad copy by February 1, 2011.