



Winter 2012

# Seizing the Momentum

Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty

## State of Texas Carries Out Fewest Executions Since 1996, According to New Report from TCADP

*New Death Sentences Remain at Record-Low Level, Imposed by Just Six Counties in the State*

On December 15, 2011, TCADP released its annual report, *Texas Death Penalty Developments in 2011: The Year in Review*. The report details the continued decline in new death sentences in the last decade and presents information on executions, reduced sentences, and stays; legislative developments; and other issues affecting the nation's most active death penalty state. Data from the report was featured recently in editorials in the *Dallas Morning News* and *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, as well as an article in the *Dallas Observer* (among other media coverage).

According to the report, executions in 2011 dropped to the lowest number since 1996 and death sentences in Texas remained at a historic low level. Last year, the State of Texas carried out 13 executions, which is 50% less than in 2007. It accounted for 30% of the national total, once again a smaller percentage than years past but still twice as many as any other state. Texas has executed a total of 477 people since 1982; 238 executions have occurred during the administration of Texas Governor Rick Perry, more than any other governor in U.S. history.

For the second year in a row, juries condemned eight new individuals to death in Texas. This remains the lowest number of new death sentences since the U.S. Supreme Court upheld Texas' revised death penalty statute in 1976. Once again, just six counties in the state of

Texas accounted for the new death row inmates: Fort Bend (1); Galveston (1); Harris (3); Harrison (1); Tarrant (1); and Travis (1). This represents 2% of all Texas counties.

In conjunction with the report, TCADP updated its interactive maps presenting new death sentences by county from 2007 to 2011 and from 1976 to 2011. You can find them online at <http://tcadp.org/1976-2011-county-map/>.

Texas' Highest Sentencing Counties, 2007-2011							
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Total 2007-2011	Total Since 1976
Harris	4	0	0	2	3	9	289
Dallas	1	3	1	2	0	7	102
Travis	1	0	1	1	1	4	19
Tarrant	0	2	1	0	1	4	70
Bexar	2	0	1	0	0	3	75
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>555</b>

Significantly, no new death sentences were imposed in Dallas County for the first time in five years. Prosecutors sought the death penalty for Charles Payne, but the jury rejected the charge of capital murder and instead found him guilty of murder in the shooting of police officer Senior Cpl. Norm Smith. This represented the first time since 1996 that prosecutors in Dallas

### *In this issue:*

*Voices of Texas: Stanley Allridge*  
*Register for the TCADP Annual Conference*  
*Celebrating the 2012 Annual Award Winners*  
*News from the Field*  
*Thank You, Members, Donors, and Partners for Justice!*

County did not secure a capital murder conviction in a case in which they sought the death penalty. In another Dallas case, prosecutors dropped their pursuit of the death penalty and agreed to a life sentence for Johnathan Bruce Reed after he was found guilty for a third time in the 1978 murder of Wanda Jean Wadle. Overall, Dallas County accounts for 102 death sentences since 1976.

*Continued on page 8.*

### Scheduled Executions

#### January

26 Rodrigo Hernandez

#### February

1 Donald Newbury

28 Anthony Bartee

29 George Rivas

#### March

7 Keith Thurmond

28 Jesse Hernandez

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



## From the Executive Director

Dear TCADP Members and Supporters,

Happy New Year! 2012 promises to be another momentous year for our collective efforts to end the death penalty, as several states are poised to pass repeal legislation and our colleagues in California seek to pass a ballot initiative. Although the Texas Legislature is not in session this year, TCADP will continue to focus its efforts on engaging in dialogue with elected officials and collaborating with local and state partners to drive down executions and new death sentences.



As we work to create political openings that reflect a changing climate on the death penalty issue, we must take into account the tremendous demographic shifts that have occurred over the last decade. No matter what the final redistricting maps of Texas look like, there's no question that our state's population is experiencing dramatic changes. Overall, the population of Texas increased by 20% in the last decade, and the Hispanic/Latino population increased by 42%. Hispanics/Latinos now comprises 38 percent of the state's population, growing at 10 times the rate of the Anglo population.

In addition, U.S. census data for Texas shows that the most populous county is Harris, with a population of 4,092,459, an increase of 20.3 percent since 2000. The other counties in the top five include Dallas, with a population of 2,368,139 (increase of 6.7 percent); Tarrant, 1,809,034 (increase of 25.1 percent); Bexar, 1,714,773 (increase of 23.1 percent); and Travis, 1,024,266 (increase of 26.1 percent). Not surprisingly, these highly populated areas also represent the top five death sentencing counties in the state over the last five years (see page 1 for more information from our annual report). And yet according to recently released statistics, crime rates in both Houston and Dallas dropped last year. In fact, in 2011 Houston experienced its lowest murder rate since 1965.

The impact of these demographic changes will be a focus of the 2012 TCADP Annual Conference, which is taking place on Saturday, February 18, 2012 in San Antonio. This annual gathering promises to be a stimulating day filled with conversations on such topics as increasing our sensitivity to the needs of victims' family members, reaching out to the African American and Hispanic/Latino communities, and organizing within your political party. Given the large number of colleges and universities in San Antonio, this year's conference aims to attract increased participation by another important demographic... young people!

The conference also provides an opportunity to honor those individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to our organization and to the movement to abolish the death penalty. We are thrilled that Anthony Graves, the recipient of last year's Courage Award, will be with us in San Antonio to present our tributes to the recipients of the 2012 Appreciation, Courage, Media, and Founder's Award. Read more about the award winners on page 7.

I hope you will join us for this special occasion, and I look forward to our work together throughout the year to continue the dialogue on the death penalty and create the climate for change!

*Kristin*

## 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 #35, Winter 2011-2012  
(Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall)

Editor: Vicki McCuiston  
Contributors: Kristin Houlié, Chris Castillo,  
Anita Grabowski, Alexandra Noll

Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty  
2709 S Lamar, Suite 109  
Austin, TX 78704  
512.441.1808, [info@tcadp.org](mailto:info@tcadp.org)



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### Volunteers

Thanks so much to the following individuals who have volunteered in the TCADP Office or provided administrative support in recent months: Tom and Jean Egan, Alexandra Noll, and Margot Cromack. We are immensely grateful for your assistance!

## Calendar of Events

Page 3, Winter 2012



### January

- 1 Odessa Chapter Meeting, 4:00pm [odessa@tcadp.org](mailto:odessa@tcadp.org)
- 16 El Paso Chapter Meeting, 7:00pm, [elpaso@tcadp.org](mailto:elpaso@tcadp.org)
- 18 Dallas Chapter Meeting, 7:00pm, [dallas@tcadp.org](mailto:dallas@tcadp.org)
- 26 Scheduled Execution: Rodrigo Hernandez
- 26 Houston Chapter Meeting, 7:00pm, [houston@tcadp.org](mailto:houston@tcadp.org)
- 30 Last Day to Book Hotel Rooms for Annual Conference, <http://tcadp.org/what-we-do/annual-conference/>
- 30 At the Death House Door Film Screening, Baptist University of the Americas (BUA), San Antonio, 7:00pm
- 31 Panel Discussion with Rev. Carroll Pickett, BUA, San Antonio, 7:00pm

### February

- 1 Last Day for Early Bird Rates for Annual Conference, <http://tcadp.org/what-we-do/annual-conference/>
- 1 Scheduled Execution: Donald Newbury
- 4 Death Penalty workshop with Rev. Carroll Pickett, Our Lady of the Lake Library 1:30 - 5:00pm, Ethics CEUS
- 5 Odessa Chapter Meeting, 4:00pm [odessa@tcadp.org](mailto:odessa@tcadp.org)
- 15 Dallas Chapter Meeting, 7:00pm, [dallas@tcadp.org](mailto:dallas@tcadp.org)
- 18 TCADP Annual Conference, San Antonio
- 20 El Paso Chapter Meeting, 7:00pm, [elpaso@tcadp.org](mailto:elpaso@tcadp.org)
- 28 Scheduled Execution: Anthony Bartee
- 29 Scheduled Execution: George Rivas

### March

- 3 Amnesty International Texas State Conference, College Station
- 4 Odessa Chapter Meeting, 4:00pm, [odessa@tcadp.org](mailto:odessa@tcadp.org)
- 7 Scheduled Execution: Keith Thurmond
- 19 El Paso Chapter Meeting, 7:00pm, [elpaso@tcadp.org](mailto:elpaso@tcadp.org)
- 21 Dallas Chapter Meeting, 7:00pm, [dallas@tcadp.org](mailto:dallas@tcadp.org)
- 23-24 Lynching and the Death Penalty Symposium, UT School of Law
- 28 Scheduled Execution: Jesse Hernandez

## TCADP Welcomes High School Intern!

Hello! My name is Alexandra Noll, and I began interning at TCADP in November 2011. I am a homeschooled high school senior from Austin, Texas and I firmly believe that the death penalty should be abolished nationwide. My interest in the death penalty began in the eighth grade. Over the summer, I read John Grisham's *The Innocent Man*, which told the true story of Oklahoman Ron Williamson, who spent eleven years on death row for a murder he did not commit. His story sickened me, but I soon learned that Mr. Williamson's story was not unusual. It horrified me to discover that many other innocents had been wrongfully incarcerated and executed. As I continued to read and research the issue throughout my early high school years, I realized that our culture was proliferating injustice. No person should have the right to take another's life in the name of the law, no matter how heinous the crime. Even though I was only a teenager, I wanted to contribute, to raise my voice against the status quo. I kept my beliefs quiet, unsure how my convictions would manifest. Exactly how they would manifest became clear when I was sixteen. After three years of competitive speech and debate, I began competing in mock trial and moot court. That year, I fell in love with the law. I knew that I wanted to become an attorney. Specifically, I wanted to work on the appeals of death row inmates. Even then, I figured there wasn't much I could do until I reached, or perhaps even graduated from, law school.

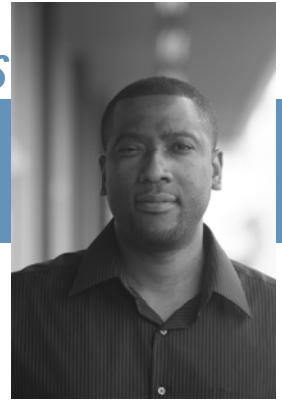
All of my ideas about 'waiting until law school' changed in October, when my mother brought me to the Witness to Innocence Program at First United Methodist Church in Austin. There, I learned about TCADP, and approached Board President Bob Van Steenburg about the possibility of interning with TCADP. After meeting with Kristin Houlié, I began work at TCADP, and absolutely love it. I am finally making a difference for a cause I believe in, despite my age.



## Voices of Texas

"From the time that I watched my oldest brother executed in 1995, it totally changed my outlook on life. It made me value life itself..."

- Stanley Allridge



Stanley Allridge didn't have his grandmother or his grandfather around when he was growing up. All he knew was that they had both died when he was very young. Little was said about their passing.

It wasn't until he was an adult – and after his two brothers were executed by the State of Texas – that he learned his grandfather, grandmother, and aunt were murdered in two unrelated incidents.

In May 1995, Stanley graduated from high school, was named "Most Athletic," and attended his prom with a sense of accomplishment. But those moments of triumph were dashed the following month when he witnessed the execution of his brother, Ronald, at the Walls Unit in Huntsville, Texas.

Because Stanley had lived much of his life with two brothers on death row, he said, he never really thought they would die. He always thought there would be another appeal. That wasn't the case.

Stanley vividly remembers that he was watching television one night with his brother when his father walked in. His father's hands were covering his face as he collapsed on the bed. It was the first time Stanley had seen his father cry. When they asked him what was wrong, he said he brothers were in trouble. His two oldest brothers (in a family of five sons), Ronald and James, had been involved in a series of armed robberies. One night they entered a Whataburger in Fort Worth to commit a robbery and someone was shot to death. It wasn't long until both brothers were tried, convicted of capital murder, and sentenced to death.

Stanley was too young to understand what was happening during the trial stage, but by the time his first brother was executed, he was 18 years old. The guards and other prison officials told him what to expect, but none of that prepared him for the execution. He says it seemed like it was happening in slow motion. His family was in one room and the reporters and any relatives of the victim were in another room; both witnessed the execution at the same time but saw it from a very different perspective.

"It was eerie. You could see (in the reflection of the glass) that other people were there," Stanley said. It was such a blur that Stanley doesn't remember whether Ronald had any last words.

Stanley's second brother, James, was executed in 2004. He apologized to the victim's family before he was put to death by lethal injection.

"I oppose the death penalty because I believe killing a human being is wrong, no matter the circumstances, and also because it continues the cycle of violence." Stanley believes in life in prison without the possibility of parole rather than the death penalty.

Stanley believes that people don't think about the ripple effect that the death penalty has on families on both sides. When he hears about an upcoming execution in Texas, he feels deeply for the family of the victim and for the family of the person who will be executed. After working with numerous family members, it has been his experience that the death penalty does not give families closure.

"From the time that I watched my oldest brother executed in 1995, it totally changed my outlook on life. It made me value life itself. I have always said that I felt like I had an obligation to help others that were headed down the same path, or had already experienced a similar situation."

*Stanley Allridge comes from a very religious family. He is a sales manager in financial services and lives in the North Dallas area, about an hour from where he grew up. He is a former board member of the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty and currently serves on the board of Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights.*



*Submitted by Chris Castillo, National Outreach Coordinator for Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation, ccastillo@mvfr.org.*

# Seizing the Momentum... Creating the Climate for Change



**2012 TCADP Annual Conference**  
**Saturday, February 18, 2012**

University of the Incarnate Word Sky Room  
Dr. Burton E. Grossman International Conference Center  
847 E Hildebrand, San Antonio, Texas

- Annual Courage, Media, & Appreciation Awards
  - General Membership Meeting
  - Workshops
- Networking with TCADP Members and Allies
  - Exhibitors and Door Prizes
- Panel Discussion: *The Impact of Texas' Changing Demographics on the Death Penalty*

## Confirmed Panelists to Date Include:

Moderator: Jim Henson, Director of the Texas Politics Project

Michael Cline, Associate Director - Hobby Center for the Study of Texas at Rice University

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Registration information online at  
[tcadp.org/what-we-do/annual-conference/](http://tcadp.org/what-we-do/annual-conference/)

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

## Conference Registration

Advance Registration by February 1, 2012:

TCADP Member \$45  
Non-Member \$55  
Student \$25

After February 1, 2012:

TCADP Member \$50  
Non-Member \$60  
Student \$25

Registration fee includes Continental Breakfast and Lunch

Hyatt Place—San Antonio Airport  
February 17 and 18, 2012, \$99 a night.  
Deadline for booking: January 30.

**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... Creating the Climate for Change

Saturday, February 18, 2012  
2012 TCADP Annual Conference

## Conference Program

- 8:00 Registration and Continental Breakfast  
9:00 General Membership Meeting  
10:30 Panel Discussion:  
The Impact of Texas' Changing Demographics on the Death Penalty  
12:00 Lunch and Award Presentations  
2:15 Workshops: (Choice of one)
- Overview of the Bexar County Campaign
  - Organizing in the Hispanic/Latino Community
  - Organizing Within Your Political Party
  - Student Track - Hot Topics in the Abolition Movement
- 3:45 Workshops: (Choice of one)
- Organizing in the African-American Community
  - Legislative Advocacy
  - Increasing Awareness of the Needs of Murder Victims' Family Members
  - Student Track - Organizing on Campus
- 5:00 Closing Session  
5:15 Adjourn and Begin Seizing the Momentum!  
5:30 After Party - All Welcome!

## 2012 TCADP Award Winners:

Courage: Jan Brown  
Media: Jordan Smith, *Austin Chronicle*  
Appreciation: Brother Brian Halderman  
Appreciation: Kelly Epstein  
Founder's Award: Bishop Joe Wilson  
*Awards will be presented during the conference.*

## Conference Cost

Advance registration by February 1, 2012 (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, 2012:

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 or to check the status of your membership.

**Exhibitors/Advertisers:** Purchase an ad in the conference program to congratulate an award winner and/or promote your business or organization. Exhibit on-site for personal outreach and contact with TCADP members.

*Ad copy (JPG/PDF format—high resolution) must be emailed to [info@tcadp.org](mailto:info@tcadp.org) by February 1, 2012. Download form at [tcadp.org/what-we-do/annual-conference/](http://tcadp.org/what-we-do/annual-conference/)*

**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/what-we-do/annual-conference/](http://www.tcadp.org/what-we-do/annual-conference/)

## Accommodations

Hyatt Place San Antonio Airport  
7615 Jones Maltsberger Road  
San Antonio  
210-930-2333

A limited number of rooms have been blocked for Friday and Saturday nights at \$99 a night.

The Hotel will have a free shuttle available to the conference location.

*Book by phone at 210-930-2333 and ask for the "Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty Group Rate" or go online to [www.hyatt.com](http://www.hyatt.com) and use the code "G-TXCL" in the Corporate/Group# field to get the group rate.*

Requests for reservations within the block should be made prior to **January 30, 2012**; after this date rooms will be released for general sale.

*Invite your friends,  
and see you in San Antonio!*



Please make plans to join us in celebrating these extraordinary individuals at the [2012 TCADP Annual Conference – \*Seizing the Momentum... Creating the Climate for Change!\*](#)

**Courage Award - Jan Brown** is a murder victim family member who opposes the death penalty. Her 9 1/2 year-old daughter, Kandy, was kidnapped and murdered in 1987. The offender was sentenced to death and executed 12 years later.

Jan bravely shared her story with the Senate Criminal Justice Committee on March 22, 2011 in testifying against Senate Bill 377, which expanded the scope of the death penalty to those who murder children under 10 years of age (the previous statute applied to the murder of children under age 6).

**Media Award - Jordan Smith** is a staff writer for the [Austin Chronicle](#) who provides consistent, in-depth, and fair treatment of the death penalty and other criminal justice issues in the weekly publication. The Board seeks to recognize Jordan's coverage of the case of Larry Swearingen in 2011 and her recent article, "Perry the Executioner" (September 16, 2011).

**Appreciation Award - Brother Brian Halderman** is the University Minister for Social Justice at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas; he also serves as an Adjunct Professor in the Sociology Department. The Board presents him with this award in recognition of his tremendous support for the Religious Leaders Dialogue on the Death Penalty in San Antonio (October 2011) and his overall support for and participation in the Bexar County Campaign to End the Use of the Death Penalty.

**Appreciation Award - Kelly Epstein** is a long-time TCADP member and activist in the abolition movement. The Board particularly would like to acknowledge Kelly's involvement in all of the activities of TCADP's Houston Chapter, including numerous tabling events each year, as well as her participation in TCADP's Donor Development Committee, through which she provided valuable feedback on the creation of our Partner for Justice online giving program and other ideas for increasing donations to the organization. We could go on and on about all of Kelly's outstanding contributions to TCADP over the years!

**TCADP Founder's Award - Bishop Joe Wilson**, retired Bishop of the United Methodist Church, is a persistent voice for justice on multiple issues who works to raise awareness and advocate for change. Bishop Wilson has been a steadfast supporter of TCADP for many years and can always be counted on to participate in clergy-focused efforts.

On February 16, 2011, Bishop Joe Wilson represented nearly 100 faith leaders who joined a sign-on letter calling for mercy for Timothy Adams, who was executed by the State of Texas on February 22, 2011. Bishop Wilson also stayed with TCADP staff and members for more than 9 hours at the Capitol on March 29, 2011, when the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee conducted a hearing on HB 819, the abolition bill. His testimony on the death penalty from a faith perspective was critically important for the committee members to hear.

Read more about the winners online at <http://tcadp.org/2011/11/21/tcadp-announces-2012-annual-award-winners/>

# Register TODAY!

TCADP Annual Conference  
February 18, 2012 8:00 AM to 5:15 PM  
University of the Incarnate Word Sky Room  
San Antonio, Texas

I want to "Seize the Momentum" with my fellow death penalty abolitionists in Texas so we can create the climate for change!

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

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

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

**Circle Your Lunch Choice:**  
Vegetarian  
Vegan  
Omnivore

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

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!*



Continued from page 1.

Bexar County, which has sentenced the third highest number of people to death in Texas, has not imposed any new death sentences since 2009.

Notably, six out of the eight new death sentences were imposed on people of color, including four African Americans and two Hispanics/Latinos. Over the last five years, nearly three-fourths of all death sentences in Texas have been imposed on people of color – 41% African American, 29% Hispanic/Latino, and 2% other. In Harris County, where these patterns are even more pronounced, 12 of the last 13 defendants sentenced to death are African American and the 13th is Hispanic/Latino.

Five inmates scheduled for execution in 2011 received stays, while the execution date for another inmate was withdrawn.

- On September 15, 2011, the U.S. Supreme Court temporarily stayed the execution of Duane Buck, pending a conference on his cert petition. During his trial, psychologist Walter Quijano, a witness for the defense, testified on cross-examination that the fact that Buck is African American increased the likelihood of his being dangerous in the future. Such improperly elicited, racially-based testimony by Dr. Quijano led to new sentencing hearings in six other cases where the State of Texas conceded error – but not for Duane Buck. On November 7, 2011, the Court declined to review Buck's case.
- On November 7, 2011, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals issued a stay to Henry "Hank" Skinner, who was scheduled for execution on November 9. Key pieces of evidence collected at the crime scene have never been subjected to DNA testing, and for the last 10 years officials have refused to release it for analysis. The court stayed the execution to consider Skinner's case in light of recent legislative changes to the statute related to post-conviction DNA testing. This was the second stay of execution for Skinner in two years.

Other highlights of *Texas Death Penalty Developments in 2011: The Year in Review* include the following:

- In one capital murder trial, the jury rejected the death penalty and opted for a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole. In two other cases, death-qualified jurors convicted the defendant on a charge less than capital murder, which took the death penalty off the table. In the last four years, death-qualified juries have rejected the death penalty in at least 14 cases.
- Six inmates received reduced sentences in 2011 and were removed from the death row population, including Chelsea Richardson, one of ten women on death row.
- The State of Texas executed Humberto Leal on July 7, 2011 for the 1994 rape and murder of Adria Saucedo in San Antonio. As a Mexican national, Leal was legally entitled to seek assistance from the Mexican consulate, which could have provided him with competent legal counsel. Texas authorities failed to inform him of this right, which is afforded to Americans and foreigners who travel abroad by the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.
- In July, the capital murder trial of John Edward Green, which was in its sixth week of jury selection, ended abruptly when Harris County prosecutors accepted an offer from the defense. In the deal, Green pled guilty to a lesser murder charge in exchange for a 40-year prison term; he had faced a possible death sentence if convicted. A pre-trial motion in his case prompted two days of unprecedented testimony on the risk of wrongful conviction last December.

*"Notably, six out of the eight new death sentences were imposed on people of color, including four African Americans and two Hispanics/Latinos. Over the last five years, nearly three-fourths of all death sentences in Texas have been imposed on people of color."*

TCADP will deliver a copy of the report to every legislative office at the State Capitol on Tuesday, January 31, 2012. Now, more than ever, we urge concerned citizens and elected officials to engage in dialogue about the realities of the death penalty system and reconsider this irreversible punishment by focusing on its local impact as an expensive, arbitrary, and error-prone public policy.

*Texas Death Penalty Developments in 2011: The Year in Review* is available online at [www.tcadp.org/TexasDeathPenaltyDevelopments2011.pdf](http://www.tcadp.org/TexasDeathPenaltyDevelopments2011.pdf). Contact Kristin Houle at [khoule@tcadp.org](mailto:khoule@tcadp.org) to receive a copy directly via email.





## News from the Field

**Austin:** On October 18, 2011 the First United Methodist Church's Family Life Center hosted exonorees Ron Keine, Greg Wilhoit, Dan Bright, and Albert Burrell. This event was supported in part by the UMC General Board of Church and Society. TCADP Board President Bob Van Steenburg and NCADP Texas Campaign Coordinator Anita Grabowski participated in the Q & A. Approximately 100 people attended the event.

On October 20, St. Albert the Great hosted a screening of "Grave Injustice," a 48 Hours Mystery focused on the case of Anthony Graves. The event was organized by local member Karen Carrizales and attracted a dozen participants from at least four different parishes.

On October 26, TCADP held an informal volunteer/information meeting for new members and supporters in the area who have expressed an interest in becoming involved.

On December 12, TCADP convened 25 Austin-area religious and lay leaders to discuss plans for a year-long religious outreach program that will culminate in an event involving Sister Helen Prejean in October 2012.

**Corpus Christi:** On October 15, the chapter hosted a presentation by members of Witness to Innocence at the Unitarian Universalist Church. Approximately 175 people attended the event.

**Dallas:** In October, local members participated in Oktoberfest in Lancaster and Fiesta Latinoamericana. Laura Seipp, the chair of the local TCADP Religious Organizing Committee, provided handouts at two events featuring members of Witness to Innocence – one at SMU and one at the Unitarian Universalist Church.

On October 28-29, TCADP members staffed an information table at the University of Dallas Ministry Conference, which attracted thousands of people and has led to several important new contacts in the Catholic communities in Dallas and Fort Worth.

In December, TCADP participated in the Dallas PeaceCenter's annual dinner, which honored Rais Bhuiyan as its PeaceMaker of the Year.

**El Paso:** From October 17-19, EPADP hosted a visit by TCADP Executive Director Kristin Houlié. Kristin spoke at the EPADP meeting on October 17, which attracted more than 35 people. EPADP also met with Rep. Marquez (pictured).

EPADP members are collaborating with the new local chapter of CURE, which focuses on prison conditions, re-entry, and other criminal justice issues (including opposition to the death penalty). In December, EPADP and CURE jointly hosted a holiday potluck.

In January, a film screening of "The Empty Chair" is being provided.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel in El Paso now holds bi-lingual vigils on the evenings of executions in Texas; their program is modeled exactly on St. Patrick's Cathedral.

**Houston:** On October 9, in observance of World Day Against the Death Penalty, the Houston chapter co-hosted a special event with Amnesty International Group 23. The program featured remarks by SMU Professor Rick Halperin, the former Chairperson of Amnesty International USA and past TCADP President, and the personal testimonies of exonorees Anthony Graves and Clarence Brandley.

**Odessa:** On October 23, the Odessa Chapter raised \$1,100 for TCADP by selling an "all you can eat" healthy meal at the cost of \$10 per person.



### TCADP Office and Local Contacts

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

**Austin**  
Bob Van Steenburg  
austin@tcadp.org

**Brazos Valley**  
Athena Griffith  
collegestation@tcadp.org

**Brownsville**  
Joe Krause  
brownsville@tcadp.org

**Corpus Christi**  
Jeanne Adams  
corpuschristi@tcadp.org

**Dallas**  
Rick Halperin  
Lauren Zielinski  
dallas@tcadp.org

**El Paso**  
Lety Moreno  
elpaso@tcadp.org

**Houston**  
Nancy Bailey  
houston@tcadp.org

**Odessa**  
Lorina Martinez  
odessa@tcadp.org

**San Antonio**  
Roger Barnes  
sanantonio@tcadp.org

Look for TCADP on Facebook and "Like" today! See photos of activities and links to important news developments.

**facebook**



## News from the Field cont.

**San Antonio:** Approximately 250 people attended the Religious Leaders Dialogue on the Death Penalty in San Antonio on October 24 at the Laurie Auditorium of Trinity University. Video clips are available on the TCADP YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/user/TCADP](http://www.youtube.com/user/TCADP)

On December 3, TCADP held a second Community Activist Training for the Bexar County Campaign. Participants learned about TCADP's statewide strategy as well as the specific goals of the Bexar County Campaign. They participated in a hands-on exercise to practice public speaking and answering tough questions about the death penalty, and they identified opportunities for reaching out to new organizations and individuals in San Antonio to be a part of the campaign.

The Bexar County Campaign is utilizing local interns in organizing efforts:

*Kristine Brown* was born in the Philippines to a military family, moving around the world before arriving in Texas. An international relations and psychology major at St. Mary's University, Kristine serves as the Vice President of Amnesty International and focuses on research regarding cross-country education policy. Her hobbies include Mandarin Chinese and playing video games. As a community organizing intern for the Bexar County Campaign, Kristine's responsibilities include: helping to build an inter-campus network of student organizations committed to ending the death penalty; reaching out to local political and social justice organizations to build collaborative relationships; and helping with planning and promotion of special events like the Religious Leaders' Dialogue on the Death Penalty last October and TCADP's upcoming annual conference in San Antonio.



*Lavinia Bendandi* was born in Bologna, Italy, and lived there as well as Pamplona, Spain. When she was in high school, she moved to Florida to attend the IMG Bollettieri Tennis Academy and graduated with honors from the Pendleton School. Lavinia is currently double majoring in International Studies with a concentration in International Affairs and Psychology at Trinity University. Lavinia focuses on outreach to faith communities in San Antonio. Some of her responsibilities include: helping with planning and promotion of special events like the Religious Leaders' Dialogue on the Death Penalty last October and TCADP's upcoming annual conference in San Antonio and reaching out to congregations that are interested in hosting an educational event, with a particular focus on building relationships with Spanish speakers who want to learn more about the problems and failures of the death penalty.



## 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 and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, 131 S Zaragosa Rd.

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

**Houston** Rotating Locations... January-March 5:30 to 6:20 at the St. Anne's Catholic Church, at the corner of Shepherd and Westheimer.

**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 1, 2011 to January 6, 2012). Your financial assistance is critical to all of the activities and events described in this newsletter! Please let us know if we have inadvertently left you (or your partner) off of this list. We apologize in advance if we missed anyone.

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*Seizing the Momentum...  
Creating the Climate for Change*  
TCADP Annual Conference

Saturday, February 18, 2012

University of the Incarnate Word Sky Room  
San Antonio, Texas



**Conference Registration:** Available Online under the "Donate" Button or Mail-In Form on page 7.  
Early-Bird Rates end February 1, 2012.

**Conference Hotel:** Hyatt Place San Antonio Airport  
A limited number of rooms have been blocked at a special rate.  
Contact information on page 5.  
Book room by January 30, 2012.

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