



Summer 2013

Seizing the Momentum

Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty

A Shameful Milestone: State of Texas Carries Out 500th Execution Since 1982

On June 26, 2013, the State of Texas reached an appalling milestone in its death penalty history: the execution of the 500th person since 1982. That evening, Kimberly McCarthy became the fourth woman and the 500th person put to death by lethal injection since the resumption of executions. This figure stands far above any other state – and most countries.

Among these 500 men and women are names that symbolize everything that can go wrong with the death penalty, resulting in the ultimate nightmare: the execution of an innocent person. Numerous questions continue to haunt the cases of Gary Graham, Claude Jones, Ruben Cantu, Carlos Deluna, Cameron Todd Willingham, and others who were put to death despite significant doubts about their guilt and the reliability of their convictions.

These 500 cases also include individuals who suffered from severe mental illness or who had diminished intellectual capacity, those whose trials were tainted by egregious racial discrimination or woefully inadequate legal representation, and those who were convicted of crimes as 17-year-olds and put to death before the U.S. Supreme Court finally recognized the cruelty of executing juvenile offenders.

Through the efforts of attorneys, journalism students, and community leaders, Anthony Graves and 11 others were not mistakenly put to death by the State of Texas. They are among the 142 people released from death rows nationwide due to evidence of their wrongful convictions. Hundreds of other individuals spent decades in prison before DNA or other evidence led to their exonerations.

Public awareness of the risk of wrongful convictions, the exorbitant cost of death penalty trials, improved legal counsel for defendants, and the now available sentencing option of Life in Prison without the Possibility of Parole (LWOP), among other factors, account for the steep decline in new death sentences over the last decade and a half.

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Thank You, Members, Donors, and Partners for Justice!

USA TODAY
Texas soon to hit grim milestone: 500th execution
Rick Jervis, USA TODAY 7:38 p.m. EDT June 25, 2013
The planned execution of a 52-year-old woman has reignited a debate over the use of the death penalty. Texas has killed far more inmates than any other state.
HUNTSVILLE, Texas — Texas, the nation's most prolific executioner of criminals, is about to put its 500th inmate to death since the mid-1970s.
Barring a last-minute reprieve, Kimberly McCarthy, a 52-year-old former Black Panther wife, will be given a lethal injection of pentobarbital at around 6:10 p.m. Wednesday for the murder of a 70-year-old Dallas County woman during a 1987 robbery.
And while McCarthy's crime was a notorious one — she used a butcher knife and candlestick to beat and fatally stab a retired college professor — her Texas has executed nearly five times as many people as the next closest state.

dallasnews OPINION
Editorial: Texas' grim death penalty milestone

the guardian
News | US | World | Sports | Comment | Culture | Business | Money | Environment
News > World news > Capital punishment
500th execution in Texas stirs emotions for exonerated death row prisoner
Anthony Graves's conviction for multiple murder was overturned after appeals court learned that case was riddled with problems
Ed Pilkington
guardian.co.uk, Wednesday 26 June 2013 20:36 EDT

THE TEXAS TRIBUNE
Visualization: Executions on Perry's Watch
by Ryan Murphy, Brandi Grissom and Noah Seger | September 2, 2011 - Updated: June 26, 2013
Wednesday's execution of Kimberly McCarthy, 52, for the 1997 stabbing death of her neighbor will mark the 261st during Gov. Rick Perry's tenure. Those statistics represent the largest number of executions recent governor in the United States. Perry has rarely used his power to grant clemency, granting 31 in 2005 — the result of a 2005 U.S. Supreme Court decision banning capital punishment for minors.
Despite lawyers' attempts to stay McCarthy's execution, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals declined of habeas corpus and denied her a reprieve on Tuesday.
There have been 261 executions since Gov. Rick Perry first took office on December:

2013 8 executions
2012 15 executions
2011 13 executions
2010 17 executions
2009 24 executions
2008 18 executions

A protest against the execution of Kimberly McCarthy outside the Huntsville unit of the Texas department of criminal justice. Photograph: David J. Phillip/AP
When Texas crossed the gruesome milestone on Wednesday night by

The 500th execution generated headlines in state, national, and international media outlets, many of which included references to TCADP.

Scheduled Executions

July

16 John Quintanilla, Jr.
18 Vaughn Ross
31 Douglas Feldman

September

19 Robert Garza
26 Arturo Diaz

October

9 Michael Yowell

Execution Vigils: tcadp.org under
"Get Involved - Stop Executions"

Continued on Page 6.



From the Executive Director

My recent reading of the *Texas Civic Health Index*, a joint report by the Annette Straus Institute for Civic Life and the National Conference on Citizenship, left me feeling proud of TCADP members and supporters but rather dismayed about our state overall. The report, which was released in June 2013, reveals that Texas ranks near the bottom of states in rates of political participation, both in terms of voter turnout and engagement with elected officials. Not surprisingly, rates of participation vary according to such factors as age, income, education, geography, and race.



According to the report, “the state’s booming economy and population growth are not matched with equally strong levels of citizen participation in politics and civic life. Indeed, Texas may be living with an undiagnosed crisis of *civic health*.”

While 61.6% of Texans reported being registered to vote in 2010, only 36.4% actually reported voting, and our state consistently has had lower voter turnout than the national average over last four decades. Rates are particularly low among young voters, ages 18-29, where only 16% voted in the 2010 election.

On measures of civic involvement, including donating to charities, volunteering, and belonging to community organizations, Texans improved somewhat. Close to 50% of Texans report donating to charitable or religious organizations, 25% reported volunteering, and 38% reported belonging to some kind of group in the community.

As you know, political engagement is essential to our efforts to end the death penalty. I am immensely grateful to everyone who

participated in the legislative process this year – either by attending the committee hearing on House Bill 1703, visiting or contacting your legislators, serving in the TCADP

“...inaction allows a minority of citizens to make decisions that affect the majority”

If you’re reading this newsletter, chances are that you’re among the 8.9% of Texans who say they have contacted or visited a public official. The national average in 2011 was 12.3%. Texas is 49th in the nation on this measure. Although these numbers of civic engagement are disappointing, they do represent a tremendous opportunity for TCADP members to influence what our elected officials hear regarding constituent support for the death penalty.

Lobby Corps, or calling the members of the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee. Your voices are critical to changing the conversation on the death penalty and to the civic health of our state!

We must continue to increase the number of voices that elected officials hear on the death penalty issue and to improve levels of political and civic engagement overall. It is in our interest both as an organization and as a society to have a healthy, vibrant, and engaged electorate.

The next Texas legislative session is now less than 18 months away. For ideas on how you can work with TCADP during this interim period to lay the groundwork for 2015, please contact me at khoule@tcadp.org. Thank you for being an active and engaged member of our community!

p.s. To read the *Texas Civil Health Index* and engage in an online discussion of its findings, go to txcivichealth.org.

TCADP Seizing the Momentum

TCADP Seizing the Momentum is published quarterly by the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, the only statewide grassroots advocacy organization dedicated solely to ending the death penalty in Texas.

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.

Issue #41, Summer 2013 (Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall) <http://tcadp.org/get-informed/newsletter-archives/>

Editor/Contributor: Vicki McCuiston Contributors: Chris Castillo, Kristin Houlé, Jess Stoner, Joyce Townsend

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(Affiliation listed for identification purposes only.)

Volunteers

Thanks so much to the following individuals who have volunteered in the TCADP Office or provided administrative support in recent months: David Mitschlen and Jess Stoner. We are immensely grateful for your assistance!



Calendar of Events

July

10: "Dead Man Walking" University UMC Austin, 6:00pm
15: El Paso Chapter Meeting 7:00pm, elpaso@tcadp.org
16: Scheduled Execution - John Quintanilla, Jr.
17: Dallas Religious Organizing Committee 6:00pm,
Chapter meeting 7:00pm, dallas@tcadp.org
18: Scheduled Execution - Vaughn Ross
25: Calhoun County Democrats Meeting 5:30pm, Angelle
Adams (TCADP Board Pres.) to speak
31: Scheduled Execution - Douglas Feldman;
"Incendiary" film showing University UMC Austin,
6:00pm

August

19: El Paso Chapter Meeting, 7:00pm, elpaso@tcadp.org
21: Dallas Religious Organizing Committee 6:00pm,
Chapter meeting 7:00pm, dallas@tcadp.org

September

7-9: Sister Helen Prejean at St. Philip the Apostle Catholic
Church, Lewisville, 6:00pm (pg. 6)
11: Austin Membership Luncheon (bi-monthly) w/guest
speaker Marilyn Armour of the UT School of
Social Work and Institute of Restorative Justice,
12:00pm
16: El Paso Chapter Meeting, 7:00pm, elpaso@tcadp.org
18: Dallas Religious Organizing committee 6:00pm,
Chapter meeting 7:00pm, dallas@tcadp.org
19: Scheduled Execution - Robert Garza
26: Scheduled Execution - Arturo Diaz

October

9: Scheduled Execution - Michael Yowell

*Full event descriptions can be found at www.tcadp.org under
"Get Involved - Attend Events".*

*Vigil Locations on Days of Execution can be found at
www.tcadp.org under "Get Involved - Stop Executions"*

***Are you aware of regional or local civic and
religious conferences/festivals that allow
exhibitors? Share these opportunities with TCADP
so we can continue to reach new people!
info@tcadp.org or 512-441-1808***

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**Breaking news, coming
events, things you
should know! RETWEET!**





Voices of Texas: Lilly Gernale

*"It's one of the Ten Commandments - not to kill."
-Lilly Gernale*

Mother of peace officer grateful for life in prison

Conrad Gernale had been working as a Beaumont police officer for 12 years when he was murdered while on duty. In addition to being a dedicated police officer, Conrad was also a son, a brother, a father and a husband – only 34 years old.

On September 6, 2002, Conrad responded to a call and went to investigate a domestic dispute. A man fleeing the scene in a vehicle ran over Conrad and killed him.

Lilly Gernale, his mother, can't forget the day. She had heard an officer had been struck by a vehicle and was lying in the road. That night, she said a prayer for the family whose son was struck by a car. Hours later, she was awakened by her daughter-in-law, who told her that Conrad had been killed – run over during a domestic dispute.

The suspect was charged with capital murder and was sentenced to life in prison. He will be eligible for parole in 2033.

"I was relieved when the verdict came," Lilly Gernale said. Gernale, who is against the death penalty, didn't want to see another man die. "My son was one victim. I didn't want to see another loss for the (suspect's) parents."

Lilly Gernale's husband, Marino, who died two years ago, was for the death penalty. "He died grieving for his son," she said. "He would pass by the cemetery almost every day."

Gernale's faith and support from the community helped her get on with her life "My son, Conrad, died at 34. Our Lord died when he was 33. I say the Lord gave me one more year with my son."

Another death will not bring her son back, she said. There has been enough loss of life already. Gernale said she would rather the killer do life in prison. "To me, it's a very easy way out to give him death. I hope he can do good deeds for people when he gets out. I hope he comes out of prison reformed," she said.

A devout Catholic, Gernale said she has always been against the death penalty. "It's one of the Ten Commandments –not to kill," she said.

The Gernale family has been invited to many crime victim vigils over the years. Lilly no longer attends the vigils because it's too hard on her. "It's like it was yesterday," she said about her son's death.

In Conrad's death, so much was taken from his family – a son, a brother, a best friend, a husband and a father. Now, Gernale helps her daughter-in-law with her children. Plus, the 100 Club has assisted the family with financial and other support. Conrad had a twin brother, Gernale said. They were best friends. The loss has been very difficult for him.

After Conrad's death the family suffered with a lot of anger and bitterness. "I prayed for the softening of hearts and it helped," Gernale said.

Lilly Gernale retired from Christus St. Elizabeth Hospital after working in medical records for 25 years. Now, she volunteers 4 ½ hours a week as a greeter at the hospital's outpatient pavilion.

Submitted by Chris Castillo.





Executions

To date this year, the State of Texas has carried out 10 executions, out of 20 nationwide. There currently are 4 executions scheduled to take place in Texas between now and the beginning of October.

On June 26, 2013, the State of Texas put Kimberly McCarthy to death for the 1997 murder of Dorothy Booth in Dallas County. McCarthy was the fourth woman and the 500th person to be executed in Texas since 1982. Her attorneys argued that the jury selection process in her second trial was tainted by racial discrimination. While two earlier execution dates were postponed, the courts refused to intervene a third time.

New Death Sentences

Texas juries have sentenced five men to death in 2013 (Dallas, Hays, Harris, Hunt, and Jefferson Counties). In 2012, nine new death sentences were imposed statewide, reflecting a 75% drop over the last decade.

Stay of Execution

In El Paso, a state district judge granted a motion to withdraw the July 10 execution date of Rigoberto Avila, Jr., in order to give his attorneys more time to litigate new scientific evidence relevant to the merits of his case. El Paso District Attorney Jaime Esparza did not oppose the motion, which was based largely on a new Texas law that goes into effect on September 1, 2013, which allows greater access to the courts in cases where there is newly available evidence or where the science presented at trial has changed. Avila was convicted of the 2000 death of 19-month-old Nicolas Macias; evolving scientific understanding of infant trauma lends credence to an alternative theory as to what caused the baby's tragic death. This is the third delay of execution for Mr. Avila. His previous execution date of December 12, 2012 was withdrawn.

Duane Buck

More than 50,000 people have signed an online petition by former Harris County prosecutor Linda Geffin, calling for a new sentencing hearing for Texas death row inmate Duane Buck. During his original trial, the prosecutor elicited testimony from a psychologist who claimed that Mr. Buck was more likely to pose a future danger to society because he is African American. The prosecutor then relied on this testimony in arguing in favor of a death sentence. Three years later, then-Texas Attorney General (now U.S. Senator) John Cornyn identified six cases in which Texas improperly relied on testimony linking race to future dangerousness, including Mr. Buck's. The Attorney General promised not to oppose new sentencing hearings for these six defendants. Texas upheld this promise in all of the cases – except for Mr. Buck's. Ms. Geffin, former Governor Mark White, and many other prominent Texans believe that Mr. Buck deserves a new sentencing hearing that is free from racial bias.

A short documentary film, *A Broken Promise in Texas: Race, the Death Penalty, and the Duane Buck Case* has received national attention in recent months. Watch the film and learn more about the case at <http://www.naacpldf.org/update/ldf-video-broken-promise-texas-race-death-penalty-and-duane-buck-case>.

Updates on Other Cases

- On May 28, 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Trevino v. Thaler* "that a death-row inmate in Texas can make the claim of ineffective counsel for the first time in a federal habeas petition because the rules of Texas procedure made it virtually impossible for him to raise that issue during an appeal in state court." The case was an extension of a 2012 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Martinez vs. Ryan*, a case from Arizona, that if a state habeas corpus lawyer provides ineffective assistance of counsel in failing to investigate and raise a claim that trial counsel provided ineffective assistance, the federal courts in federal habeas proceedings now can consider the claim that trial counsel was ineffective.

As of June 4, 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court has ordered the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to review six Texas death penalty cases – including four from Harris County – as a result of the *Trevino v. Thaler* ruling. One of the cases involves an inmate who was convicted in 1986.

- On June 12, 2013, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals acknowledged that former death row inmate Jerry Hartfield has been imprisoned for 33 years despite the fact that he has not been validly convicted. Mr. Hartfield's original conviction was overturned in 1980, because the jury that convicted him had been improperly selected. Mr. Hartfield was granted a new trial, though he never received one. Governor Mark White tried to commute Mr. Hartfield's sentence in 1983; however, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals ruled that Governor White could not commute Mr. Hartfield because had no legal conviction. Mr. Hartfield has petitioned for release.



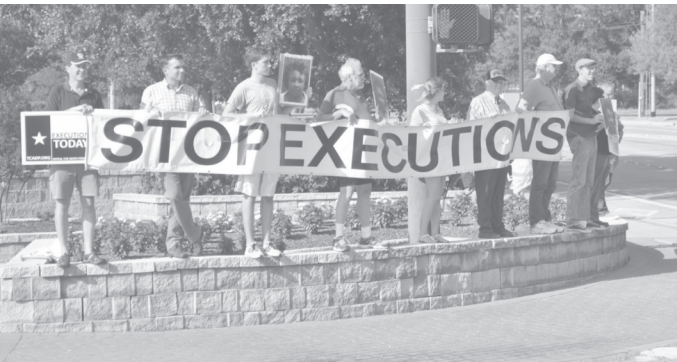
New death sentences in Texas peaked in 1999, when juries sent 48 people to death row, but have since fallen to single digits in the last few years.

As Texas moves away from the death penalty, the punishment remains geographically isolated to a few jurisdictions statewide. Just five counties account for 54% of death sentences in the last five years. In addition, the death penalty continues to be applied in an arbitrary way, disproportionately impacting people of color. Over the last five years, nearly 3 of 4 new death sentences in Texas have been imposed on people of color – 46% African-American and 28% Hispanic.



Houston area TCADP members and supporters on the day of the 500th execution.

The 500th execution provides an important moment to reflect on the well-documented history of racial bias in Texas' death penalty system and the discrimination that still pervades the system today. Kimberly McCarthy, an African American woman, was sentenced to death in Dallas County for the 1997 murder of Dorothy Booth, a white woman, by a jury that was all white but for one person. Dallas County is notorious for its longstanding practice of excluding African Americans from criminal juries. In Ms. McCarthy's 2002 capital trial, the state employed this practice to exclude three of only four non-white potential jurors. The biased practices used by Dallas County and in Ms. McCarthy's case reflect a capital system riddled with prejudice.



Bryan/College Station TCADP members during 500th execution vigil.

The 500th execution in Texas comes at a time of national momentum away from the death penalty, as six states have abandoned it in the last six years.

"Attitudes toward the death penalty are shifting as public confidence in the ultimate punishment erodes," said Kristin Houllé, TCADP's Executive Director. "At this moment in our state's experience with the death penalty, TCADP urges concerned citizens and elected officials to confront the realities of this irreversible and costly punishment and seek alternative ways of achieving justice."

TCADP is grateful to all of our members who participated in vigils on June 26th, wrote letters to the editor, or otherwise acknowledged this grim milestone. Thank you for standing with us as we work to stop the 501st, 502nd and all other executions in our state.

Sister Helen Prejean Discusses 20th Anniversary of Dead Man Walking in Lewisville

Sister Helen Prejean has been instrumental in sparking national dialogue on the death penalty and helping to shape the Catholic Church's newly vigorous opposition to state executions. She is the author of Dead Man Walking: An Eyewitness Account of the Death Penalty. Sister Helen will be speaking at St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church in Lewisville, Texas to discuss the 20th anniversary of its publication and to speak about her journey. Sister Helen is a member of the Congregation of Saint Joseph and a native of Louisiana. Since 1984, she has divided her time between campaigning against the death penalty and counseling individual death row prisoners. She is presently at work on another book, River of Fire: My Spiritual Journey. Mark your calendars for Monday, September 9 at 7PM in the St Philip the Apostle Catholic Church Worship Center to hear her amazing story. All are welcome! St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church 1897 West Main Street, Lewisville, TX www.stphilipcc.org (Sister Helen will also be speaking during Mass services September 7-8.)

Outreach Opportunity: "Dead Man Walking" is a great film to show audiences—many have not seen it or do not remember all that it has to offer! The film is also fairly easy to come by. If you are interested in hosting a showing of the film be in touch with TCADP for assistance. 512-441-1808 or info@tcadp.org



TCADP Member Spotlight: Joyce Townsend, San Antonio, Texas

I have always been against the death penalty. Although I was raised in a home that supported it, I could never get my head around the logic of their arguments. If there is no absolute crime, how can there be an absolute punishment?

I knew I had to get actively involved in 2000 after the 1999 atrocity in Florida, when Allen Lee Davis's execution by electrocution was grossly mismanaged (a large man, he was the first to try out Florida's new electric chair designed especially to accommodate a man of his size). Before he died, blood poured out of his mouth and chest and the evidence of the cruel and unusual punishment that had been his final sentence was too much for me. I began writing letters to numerous organizations and wrote small checks to support their efforts.

I live near Trinity University so I subscribe to their calendars of events. I saw the religious leaders dialogue on the death penalty hosted by TCADP and immediately RSVP'ed! As I stated, the death penalty has always been an issue of great passion for me so I try to stay abreast of events in the area that I can attend to learn more. I realized that the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty was a strong group that I could channel support to and see the impact of an organized resistance to the death penalty.

I expect TCADP to continue to grow and to increase their outreach efforts. Additional advocacy, introduction of legislation and election of judges that will reflect fairness in litigation efforts are all issues to be addressed. This is a perfect time to stand against the death penalty. Capital punishment is losing support.

I am increasingly optimistic. Groups such as The Innocence Project and others have shown a light on the unfairness of the death penalty. And, TCADP allows for a structured way to organize on a local and state level to get the message out to elected officials as well as the community. We can, as a group, let them know we consider the death penalty to be inconsistent with the fundamental values of our democratic system. The death penalty is uncivilized in theory and unfair and inequitable in practice.



Join Joyce Townsend and become a member of TCADP for the first time, or renew today! Please use the form below or join online. Your financial support makes outreach and education events like the Religious Leaders Dialogue possible!

Commit to a future without the death penalty!

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
- ☐ Sustaining Membership (Renews Annually)*
- ☐ \$_____ Additional donation for TCADP
- \$_____ Total

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*Credit/Debit Cards only—www.tcadp.org/donate/partners-for-justice/

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Make a difference.
DONATE

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!**



83rd Texas Legislature Advances and Disappoints on Criminal Justice Issues

Now that the Texas Legislature is nearing the end of its second special session, the 83rd Regular Session, which concluded on May 27, 2013, may feel like a distant memory. Still, it's important to take stock of what happened – and what didn't – at the State Capitol in the regular 140-day session, during which legislators considered more than 4,000 pieces of legislation and passed 1,436 of them.

Among the dozens of bills related to the death penalty and broader criminal justice issues, several critical reform bills passed and were signed into law by Governor Rick Perry, including:

- Legislation requiring all available DNA evidence in capital cases to be tested before trial (Senate Bill 1292).
- Senate Bill 344, which will give defendants greater access to the courts if they can provide scientific evidence that (1) was not available to be offered by a convicted person at the convicted person's trial; or (2) contradicts scientific evidence relied on by the state at trial.
- The Michael Morton Act, which requires prosecutors to turn over all evidence (not just potentially exculpatory evidence) to defense lawyers. The bill aims to prevent wrongful convictions like that of Michael Morton, who spent 25 years in prison for the murder of his wife before DNA evidence exonerated him in 2011. According to the Texas Tribune, the act is the first significant reform to Texas discovery laws since 1965. It was the first bill that Governor Perry signed into law this year.
- Expansion of the authority and budget of Texas Forensic Science Commission (Senate Bill 1238).

In our Spring newsletter, we told you about House Resolution 478, which congratulates Bob Van Steenburg on his service to the people of Texas and his tireless efforts to engage legislators and the public on the death penalty issue. Bob served as President of the TCADP Board of Directors from 2009 to 2013. On April 29, 2013, State Representative Jessica Farrar acknowledged Bob and TCADP on the floor of the Texas House of Representatives. What an honor for our organization and one of its most dedicated leaders!

Many other important bills, including legislation that would repeal the death penalty and efforts to create an innocence commission to investigate wrongful convictions, require separate trials for co-defendants facing a possible death sentence, and establish a Racial Justice Act were left pending in committees in either the House of Representatives or Senate.

TCADP and its citizen Lobby Corps played an active role in the legislative session, urging support for House Bill 1703, the death penalty repeal bill, and for other measures aimed at improving fairness for those facing the ultimate punishment. While these bills did not pass this year, our issues were the focus of intense and thoughtful dialogue in the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee and in meetings with dozens of legislative offices. We look forward to advancing these conversations throughout the state as we build towards the next legislative session in 2015.

Look for an announcement this fall regarding the expansion of the TCADP Lobby Corps program. Policy wonks and novice lobbyists alike are encouraged to apply!

Join Us in Welcoming Jess Stoner, TCADP Summer Intern

Jess Stoner is an educator and writer who moved to Austin in 2011. Since her arrival, she has worked for local nonprofits that provide creative writing instruction and encouragement to underserved students and adults throughout Central Texas. In addition, she has worked as a writer for the Texas Legislative Council, and she has volunteered in the offices of members of the Texas House of Representatives. Jess received her PhD in English from the University of Denver, and she has taught at schools and universities in the United States and abroad.

Jess is a published author. Her book I Have Blinded Myself Writing This is available at <http://www.hobartpulp.com/books/>.



News from the Field

Here's a snapshot of activities that TCADP staff, Board members, and local members have sponsored or participated in April—July:

April

As part of the Willson Lectures series at Texas Wesleyan University in **Fort Worth**, TCADP Advisory Board Member Sister Helen Prejean shared her passion for justice with students, professors, and the public on April 11, 2013.

TCADP Board President Angelle Adams spoke about the death penalty in front of an audience of nearly 100 students at Prairie View A & M University in **Prairie View** on April 23, 2013.

May

On May 10-12, 2013, TCADP Advisory Board Member Jim Coombes, TCADP Board Members Pat Monks, and Helene Burns staffed a table with Marc Hyden and Conservatives Concerned about the Death Penalty at the Republican Liberty Caucus National Convention in **Austin**.

TCADP helped facilitate an event in **Denton**, featuring Darryl Burton, of Kansas City, Missouri, on May 26, 2013. Hosted by the Reverend Jeff Hood, the dinner included a conversation with Mr. Burton, who served 24 years in prison for a murder he did not commit.

TCADP sponsored a booth at the Dallas International Festival on May 25, 2013. **Dallas** chapter members Sister Patricia Ridgley, Maria Castillo, and Laura Seipp spoke with visitors throughout the celebration, hosted by the DFW International Community Alliance.

Members of **El Pasoans Against the Death Penalty** (EPADP), a chapter of TCADP, continued to host screenings of "48 Hours Mystery: Grave Injustice," in May. The Emmy-award winning episode presents the story of Anthony Graves, who spent 18 years in prison, including 12.5 on Death Row, for a crime he did not commit. He was exonerated in October 2010 and now serves as a motivational speaker and legal consultant.

June

David Atwood, the founder of TCADP and Advisory Board Member, represented the organization at the Pax Christi Texas Annual Conference, held in **Houston** on April 6, 2013.

On June 9, 2013, Juan Melendez spoke with members of Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church in **Huntsville** (pictured). Wrongfully convicted of murder and sentenced to death largely on the basis of informant testimony, Mr. Melendez spent 17 years on death row in Florida. He was released as a free man in 2002. His powerful story inspired a student at Sam Houston State University to write a column about the death penalty for his college newspaper, *The Houstonian*. The pastor at Wesley UMC also reported that six people joined her for the first time for an execution vigil outside the Walls Unit in Huntsville after hearing Juan's testimony about the risk of executing an innocent person.



On June 19, 2013 TCADP Executive Director Kristin Houlé delivered a presentation on the death penalty at the monthly Dems Café in **Schertz**.



TCADP Office and Local Contacts

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Look for TCADP on
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See photos of activities and links to
important news developments.

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TCADP sponsored an information table at the 2013 Texas Black Expo in **Houston** on June 22-23. Board President Angelle Adams and volunteer Tallula Hemingway spoke with many concerned Texans at the event, which gathers together the state's distinguished business leaders. Lumumba Akinwale-Bande with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund joined them at the booth to spread the word about the case of Duane Buck. Around 250 people signed the Change.org petition that weekend in support of a new sentencing hearing for Mr. Buck.



Throughout June, we gathered with TCADP members and new friends in **San**



Antonio and **Austin**, over lunch and happy hour (pictured). At the events, we recapped what happened with death



penalty issues in the 83rd Texas Legislature, brainstormed new venues for outreach, and celebrated our accomplishments. We'll be offering similar gatherings, with presentations from featured speakers, beginning this fall.



July

In early July at University United Methodist Church in **Austin**, TCADP Program Coordinator, Vicki McCuiston participated in a film showing and discussion of "Dead Man Walking", which is based on Sister Helen Prejean's book of the same name. Discussion included the impact of the death penalty on victim family members, progress being made in Texas on repeal and ways to get involved in the issue.

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 - 6:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of Hope - PeaceHouse Dallas Lobby (5910 Cedar Springs Rd). If the door is closed, ring the bell!

El Paso 6:00pm **(Site 1)** Saint Patrick Cathedral, 1118 N Mesa St , **(Site 2)** Our Lady of Mount Carmel, 131 S Zaragosa Rd, **(Site 3)** Our Lady of Guadalupe 2709 Alabama, and **(Site 4)** St. Pius X Hope Chapel, 1050 N Clark. **(Site 5)** St. Luke's Church, 930 E. Redd Rd.

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

Houston Rotating Locations... Houston Rotating Locations... July - September, 1805 W. Alabama by St. Stephen's Episcopal Church from 5:30 to 6:20pm

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 Vigils on hold for the summer.

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

Are you participating in a vigil that isn't listed above? Please email the location and time details to info@tcadp.org to be included!



Thank You for Your Generous Support

TCADP thanks the following individuals and organizations for their generous contributions in the past quarter (April 2 – July 19, 2013). 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 spouse off of this list. We apologize in advance if we missed anyone.

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 Texas State Policy Advocacy
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 Pax Christi Brownsville
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* signifies Partner for Justice, TCADP's
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www.tcadp.org/donate/partners-for-justice/



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SAVE the DATE:

TCADP 2014
Annual
Conference

February 22, 2014
Fort Worth, Texas



The Annual Conference is a full day of speakers, workshops, trainings, networking, great food and "What's Next!"

Don't miss it!

TCADP members receive a discounted registration! www.tcadp.org/what-we-do/annual-conference/