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Welcome to Texas CCATDP's inaugural monthly newsletter!

Dear reader,

We are thrilled to have your support as we launch Texas Conservatives Concerned About the Death Penalty! Despite once being known as the Death Penalty Capital of the World, the tide in Texas is changing — more and more Texans, especially conservatives, are sounding the alarm on the death penalty. There has never been a better time to build a robust coalition of Texas conservatives to educate and advocate around this issue.

If we haven't met yet, my name is Nan Tolson and I am honored to serve as your Texas State Director. I am a native Texan and lifelong conservative. Previously, I worked for Governor Greg Abbott for over five years and have spent time working for Senator Rand Paul, Senator Ted Cruz, and Fair Chance Waco — a second-chance hiring advocacy organization based in Waco, Texas. I firmly believe that conservatives have an important role to play in ending the death penalty not only in Texas, but across the country.

We are excited for what's to come with Texas CCATDP — but we can't do it without you! You can support Texas CCATDP's efforts by following us on [Twitter \(X\)](#) and [Facebook](#). You can also refer your friends and family to our [newsletter sign up form](#). Stay tuned for upcoming events, action items, and other opportunities to get involved and help us end the death penalty in Texas.

I'd love to hear from you — [please reach out to me](#) if you'd like to learn more about Texas CCATDP or if you know other Texas conservatives interested in getting involved!

Together, we will ensure a safer, more just future for the Lone Star State.

Sincerely,

**Nan Tolson**  
Texas Director  
Conservatives Concerned About the Death Penalty  
[ConservativesConcernedTexas@gmail.com](mailto:ConservativesConcernedTexas@gmail.com)

**SCHEDULED EXECUTIONS**

Four men are [scheduled to be executed](#) in the state of Texas this fall. The first of these executions is scheduled for Tuesday, October 10, 2023, when **Jedidiah Murphy** is set to be put to death for Bertie Cunningham's 2000 murder in Dallas. October 10 is also observed annually as World Day Against the Death Penalty. Be on the lookout for more information in the coming weeks on how you can take action around these upcoming executions.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**



**Friday, Sept. 1: "First Friday Virtual Prayer Vigil"** On the first Friday of each month, Catholic Mobilizing Network holds a Virtual Prayer Vigil to lament upcoming executions and bear witness to the inviolable dignity of all human life. This includes time for guided prayer, petitions, Scripture reflections, and contemplative silence. 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM CT. Virtual. [RSVP here.](#)



**Thursday, Sept. 7: "The Promise vs. The Reality: Marking 10 Years of Texas' Groundbreaking 'Junk Science' Law"** Join the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, Innocence Project of Texas, and Texas Defender Service for a webinar to mark the 10th anniversary of when Article 11.073—known as the "junk science writ"—went into effect. This law created a pathway for relief for individuals who have been convicted based on "junk science" or false or misleading scientific testimony. It has led to some exonerations but issues remain. Expert speakers will address the history of the law and how it has been interpreted by the courts, often with devastating outcomes. 6:30 to 7:30 PM CT. Virtual. [RSVP here.](#)



**Tuesday, Oct. 10: "United to End the Death Penalty" in San Antonio** The University of the Incarnate Word, Catholic Mobilizing Network, TCADP, and Pax Christi will host a panel on World Day Against the Death Penalty with three powerful witnesses sharing their stories related to capital punishment: Monique Coleman, sister of a death row exonernee; Millesh Patel, a San Antonio resident who advocated against the execution of the man who murdered his father; and Dr. Doshie Piper, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice at the University of the Incarnate Word. 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM CT. San Antonio. [RSVP here.](#)



**National Christian Prayer Call to End the Death Penalty**  
Tuesday, October 10, 2023 9:30 PM - 7:30 PM ET  
Join us in observing World Day Against the Death Penalty with a special prayer service. 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm ET. In the hour, and 7 pm - 9 pm of other all-unity observances.

**Tuesday, Oct. 10: "National Christian Prayer Call to End the Death Penalty"** Join E.JUSA's Evangelical Network, CCATDP, Live Free, Faith Leaders of Color Coalition, and Justice for Julius on World Day Against the Death Penalty to spend time praying with other Christians about the state and federal death penalty. This will be a space of power, peace, and prayer. 5:30 to 6:30 PM CT. Virtual. [RSVP here.](#)

**IN CASE YOU MISSED IT**

**Virtual Meet and Greet:** Texas CCATDP kicked off our efforts in Texas with a virtual meet and greet in late July! Supporters from across the state gathered over Zoom to discuss the death penalty in Texas and the ways in which conservatives can help end capital punishment in the Lone Star State.

**Legislative Outreach:** Earlier this summer, Texas CCATDP hand-delivered letters to the offices of every Republican state legislator in Texas. The letter included a copy of the [op-ed](#) by Adam Luck, former Chairman of the Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board, about the issue of innocence and the death penalty. A special thanks to our partners at the [Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty](#) for their support on this project.

**Conservative Messaging:** Over the past few months, Texas CCATDP State Director Nan Tolson led presentations for Amnesty International and the Arkansas Peace and Justice Memorial Movement on the importance of conservative voices in ending the death penalty. Nan shared insight into conservative values and messaging strategies related to engaging conservatives on capital punishment. If you are part of a group that might be interested in hosting a presentation on conservative concerns about the death penalty, please contact us at [ConservativesConcernedTexas@gmail.com](mailto:ConservativesConcernedTexas@gmail.com).



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