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# Texas Conservatives Concerned About the Death Penalty

A Project of TCADP

Welcome to Texas CCATDP's April 2024 newsletter!

## TEXAS CCATDP IN THE NEWS

Texas CCATDP Director Nan Tolson was featured in a recent story by Ashley McCully of [PJ Media](#) about the role of millennials in the fight to end the death penalty.

*Excerpt: "If capital punishment isn't directly reducing the crime rate, why do we insist on keeping it? According to Tolson, after all of the myths and issues surrounding the death penalty are stripped away, we are left with a procedure driven by emotion. 'As a limited government conservative, I am deeply uncomfortable with the government exacting revenge in my name.' She goes on to say that, as a Christian, she thinks the ability to take a life is not something that should lie with the state in the first place."*



Tolson was also featured in a recent article by Emily Wolf of the [Fort Worth Report](#) about the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty's (TCADP) recent annual conference.



*Excerpt: "The latest proponent of the cause is Texas Conservatives Concerned About the Death Penalty, an organization launched in September 2023 to advocate against the death penalty based on conservative values. The organization's director, Nan Tolson, previously worked in Gov. Greg Abbott's office."*

*"Opposition to capital punishment has always been stereotyped as more of a liberal or progressive issue, but for us that could not be further from the truth," she said. "The truth of the matter is that our values as conservatives, when it really boils down to it, are not aligned with capital punishment."*

## TEXAS CCATDP ON THE MOVE



**COLLEGE OUTREACH** Texas CCATDP Director Nan Tolson presented the "Conservative Case Against Capital Punishment" at the University of North Texas' Eagles for Life meeting last month. Interested in a presentation from Texas CCATDP at your next chapter meeting? [Contact us!](#)



**TCADP ANNUAL CONFERENCE** Last month, Texas CCATDP Director Nan Tolson presented a workshop on engaging conservatives on the death penalty at TCADP's annual conference in Fort Worth. Is your organization interested in hosting a presentation on conservative outreach? [Email us!](#)

## TEXAS CCATDP AT RPT!

Texas CCATDP will be at the Republican Party of Texas' state convention May 23-25 in San Antonio! We are looking for volunteers to help staff our informational booth in the exhibitor hall. If you're interested in helping out, please [contact us](#).



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**MEMORY MYTHS & WRONGFUL CONVICTIONS**  
Featuring the Cases of Texas Death-Row Prisoner Charles Flores and Recent California Exonerée Miguel Solano

**IS TEXAS ABOUT TO EXECUTE ANOTHER INNOCENT MAN BY IGNORING CONTEMPORARY SCIENCE?**

**Speakers:**  
Holly Bowen, Assistant Professor of Psychology, SMU  
John Wixted, Distinguished Professor of Psychology, UC San Diego  
Giakhen Sween, Pro bono post-conviction attorney for Charles Flores  
Ellen Eggers, Pro bono post-conviction attorney for Miguel Solano  
Miguel Solano, Exonerée

**EVENT FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**APRIL 18 | 7:30 PM**  
**Crum Auditorium**  
in the Collins Executive Education Center of Southern Methodist University  
3150 Binkley Ave, Dallas, TX 75205

**AUDITORIUM DIRECTIONS**  
Easiest access from SMU Boulevard heading West from US Highway 75 (Central Expressway). Parking is found in one of the two garages (Binkley or Moody) located near Collins Center.

**Memory Myths and Wrongful Convictions (Dallas):** Join academics, attorneys, and exonerees for a community forum to address concerns that Texas is poised to execute another innocent person.

The public is invited to hear from experts in memory science, who will shed light on a pressing issue: the potential miscarriage of justice affecting Texas death row inmate Charles Don Flores. Flores was convicted and sentenced to death by a Dallas County jury in 1999 and has spent 25 years on death row for a crime he has always maintained he did not commit. Recent advances in the science of eyewitness memory have revealed critical insights probative of his innocence.

Thursday, April 18, 2024, at 7:30 PM CT, Crum Auditorium (Collins Executive Building) at Southern Methodist University, 3150 Binkley Ave, Dallas, TX 75205.



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