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# Texas Conservatives Concerned About the Death Penalty

A Project of TCADP

Welcome to Texas CCATDP's May 2024 newsletter!

## SCHEDULED EXECUTIONS

There are currently two executions scheduled in the state of Texas.

**Ramiro Gonzales** is scheduled for execution on June 26. He was convicted and sentenced to death for the murder of Bridget Townsend when he was 18 years old. Two years ago, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals granted a stay to Gonzales and remanded his claim about false testimony by the State's trial expert regarding recidivism rates.

**Ruben Gutierrez** is scheduled for execution on July 16. This is the fifth execution date Gutierrez has faced since 2018. Most recently, he came within an hour of being put to death on June 16, 2020, before the U.S. Supreme Court granted a stay. Over the 25 years Gutierrez has spent on death row, he has consistently maintained he did not kill Escolastica Harrison.

## RPT CONVENTION IN SAN ANTONIO: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Texas CCATDP will be at the Republican Party of Texas' 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](#).



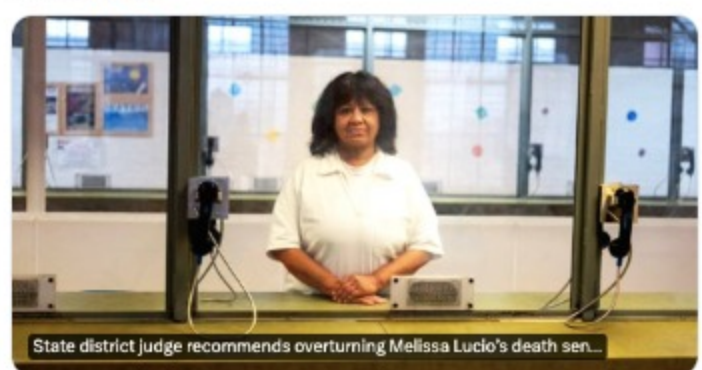
## UPCOMING EVENTS



**Dallas-Fort Worth Social Gathering** Join TCADP and Texas CCATDP for an informal happy hour for DFW-area supporters on Wednesday, May 15, 2024. Come by Vector Brewing (9850 Walnut Hill Ln. Suite 405; Dallas, TX 75238) anytime between 6:30 and 8:30 PM to meet Tiara Cooper, Deputy Director of the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, and Nan Tolson, Director of Texas Conservatives Concerned About the Death Penalty, who recently moved back to the area after living in Austin for several years. Tiara will provide updates on cases and other current initiatives. Email [Nan](#) to RSVP or text her when you get to Vector Brewing at (214) 477-8279.

## MELISSA LUCIO UPDATE

**Jeff Leach** @leachfortexas · Apr 15  
"I'm so glad that we did what we did two years ago to step up and — let's not mince words — to stop the state from murdering Melissa Lucio," Rep. Jeff Leach, a Plano Republican who has advocated for Lucio, told The Texas Tribune. #txlege

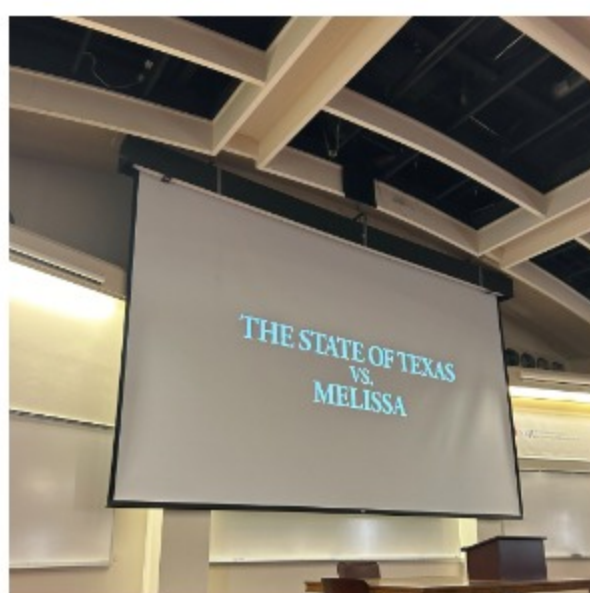


On April 12, 2024, the Honorable Judge Arturo Nelson recommended that the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals (CCA) overturn [Melissa Lucio's](#) conviction and death sentence. Melissa, one of seven women on death row in Texas, was convicted and sentenced to death in Cameron County in 2008 for causing the death of her two-year-old daughter, Mariah. There is compelling evidence that Mariah's death was a tragic accident resulting from a head injury she suffered in a fall — not a homicide.

Judge Nelson originally presided over Melissa's trial back in 2008 and found that critical information was withheld from the defense at the time of trial. The case is now in the hands of the CCA, which has the ultimate power to decide whether the conviction should be set aside.

On April 25, 2022, just two days before her scheduled execution, the CCA granted a stay to Melissa Lucio. This movement came after a groundswell of bipartisan support in Texas and across the country. Among Melissa's most vocal supporters includes State Representative Jeff Leach, a Republican from House District 67 (Plano).

## TEXAS CCATDP ON THE MOVE



Texas CCATDP Director Nan Tolson served as guest speaker before a screening of the documentary *The State of Texas vs. Melissa* at Southern Methodist University this past month. Thank you to the SMU Human Rights Council for hosting!

Later in the month, Turning Point USA at Baylor University hosted us for "Conservatives Against the Death Penalty." Thanks for having us!

Interested in a presentation from Texas CCATDP at your next chapter meeting? [Contact us!](#)



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