



DCODP'S NEW FACEBOOK PAGE AND E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION/DISCUSSION LIST

Check out the new Facebook page for DCOOP! The page provides news on the death penalty and the abolition movement in Delaware and around the country. It also provides opportunities for you to take action to abolish the death penalty. The Facebook address is: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/Delaware-Citizens-Opposed-to-the-Death-Penalty/119829101380763?>

If you prefer receiving updates by e-mail or participating in discussions, the new e-mail distribution/discussion list is for you. The web address is: <http://groups.google.com/group/DCODP>. Click on the *Join this group* link on the right side of the web page to join.

Recent news items and discussions include Catholic opposition to the death penalty, why individuals are opposed to the death penalty, Derrick Powell's insanity defense, and death row inmate Shannon Johnson's desire to waive his appeals. Feel free to comment on any of the current discussions or start your own.

Also, the DCOOP newsletters can now be found and downloaded from both the Google groups distribution/discussion list and the DCOOP web page <http://enddeathpenaltyde.org/>. The Google groups list has the newsletters under the *Files* link and the website shows them under the *Download* link.

SUPREME COURT: Arguments Set in Three Death Penalty Cases in the Coming Term

Excerpted from Death Penalty Information Center 9/9/10.
<http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/supreme-court-arguments-set-three-death-penalty-cases-coming-term..>

The U.S. Supreme Court has set oral-argument dates in three death penalty-related cases for the upcoming 2010-2011 term. The Court begins its new term on Monday, October 4. On October 6, the Court will hear *Connick v. Thompson*. This case challenges an award of \$14 million to John Thompson, who had been sentenced to death in New Orleans but was later acquitted of all charges. Lower courts had found that the district attorney's office failed to train its lawyers about so-called *Brady* violations, which led to Thompson's wrongful conviction and death sentence in 1985. The current Orleans Parish District

Attorney appealed the ruling to the Supreme Court, asserting that upholding the award "exposes district attorney's offices to vicarious liability for a wide range of prosecutorial misconduct."

On October 13, the Court will hear *Skinner v. Switzer* to determine whether a Texas death row inmate's (Hank Skinner) request for DNA testing can be considered as a civil rights claim rather than as part of his death penalty appeal. Lower federal courts have been split on this issue. Skinner has always maintained his innocence, but death penalty appeals are tightly restricted in raising new evidence.

Finally, on November 9, the high court will hear *Cullen v. Pinholster*, reviewing a Ninth Circuit decision overturning Pinholster's death sentence because of ineffec-

tiveness of counsel. The appeals court said his lawyer should have presented evidence of Pinholster's mental illness that might have persuaded the jury to opt for a lesser sentence. The Court may choose new death penalty cases for review in the coming weeks.

Events

- 9/19 DCOOP table at Newark Community Day. 10am - 5pm
University of Delaware Green
- 10/13 DCOOP Monthly Meeting
6:30 to 8pm. Pacem in Terris,
1304 N. Rodney St. Wilmington
- 10/19 Death Penalty Cost Forum
7 - 9pm. Vale Moot Courtroom.
Widener School of Law.

Delaware Citizens Opposed to the Death Penalty and Pacem in Terris
present

THE DEATH PENALTY - CAN WE AFFORD IT?

An educational forum examining the financial cost of
capital punishment in the State of Delaware

Tuesday, October 19, 2010, 7 pm - 9 pm

Join us for this free forum at
the Vale Moot Courtroom in the Law School Building
Widener University School of Law
4601 Concord Pike, Wilmington, DE

Featuring:

Richard Dieter, Executive Director of the Death Penalty Information Center and
John Roman, Senior Research Associate at the Justice Policy Center
of the Urban Institute



Richard C. Dieter



John Roman

Richard Dieter authored the report *Smart on Crime: Reconsidering the Death Penalty in a Time of Economic Crisis*, and has testified before state legislatures on this topic.

John Roman was one of the principal authors of *The Cost of the Death Penalty in Maryland*, a report which compared the expense associated with homicide prosecutions in Maryland where death was sought with those where death was not sought.

For further information, call 302-656-2721

New Books about the Death Penalty

Expand your knowledge about the Death Penalty from many different perspectives. A variety of new books both non-fiction and fiction were published recently.

False Justice: Eight Myths that Convict the Innocent by Jim and Nancy Petro (Kaplan Publishing, forthcoming October 2010) offers a comprehensive analysis of how miscarriages of justice result in wrongful convictions. Jim Petro, a former Republican Attorney General of Ohio, advocated along with the Innocence Project to help free a man wrongfully convicted of murder and rape.

Ending the Death Penalty: The European Experience in Global Perspective by Andrew Hammel (Palgrave Macmillan, July 2010) examines three countries that do not have the death penalty (Germany, France and the United Kingdom), and analyzes how capital punishment was ended in those countries. Hammel ultimately believes that the governmental structure, culture, and political traditions in the U.S. make the European model of abolition unlikely to succeed here, though he also states that "important piecemeal victories" in limiting capital punishment are likely to continue in the U.S.

Voices of the Death Penalty Debate; A Citizen's Guide to Capital Punishment by Russell Murphy (Vandeplas Publishing, May 18, 2010) is a new book that explores arguments for and against the death penalty through testimony given at the historic 2004 and 2005 hearings in New York on whether the state's death penalty should be reinstated. Authored by Russell Murphy, a Suffolk University Law School professor, the book walks readers through testimony from experts, ordinary citizens, victims, organizations, religious leaders, and individuals who had been exonerated and freed from death row. New York's legislature has repeatedly refused to reinstate the death penalty.

The Last Gasp: The Rise and Fall of the American Gas Chamber by Scott Christianson (University of California Press, July 2010) details the history and development of the gas chamber as a method of execution in the United States. The book explores connec-

tions between the gas chamber and the eugenics movement, as well as new evidence about Hitler's adoption of gas chamber technology developed in the United States.

Last Words of the Executed by Robert K. Elder (University of Chicago Press, June 2010) is a compilation of the final statements of death row inmates shortly before their execution.

In the Place of Justice: A Story of Punishment and Deliverance by Wilbert Rideau (Reed Elsevier, 2010). Wilbert Rideau, a former death row inmate in Louisiana who has since been released from prison, recently published his memoir. Rideau was sentenced to death at the age of 19 for killing a woman in panic during a botched robbery attempt. While on death row, he underwent a transformation and, after his sentence was commuted to life, he became the editor of *The Angolite*, an award-winning prison magazine that exposed abuses in the correctional system by guards and inmates at Angola Prison.

The Autobiography of an Execution by David Dow (Twelve Publishers, 2010) captures the author's personal and legal experiences in representing over 100 inmates on death row.

Media and Criminal Justice: The CSI Effect by Dennis J. Stevens (Jones and Bartlett Publishers, 2011) illustrates how television programs and media coverage affect public perception of criminal justice. The author maintains that television shows like "CSI" can give the false impression that all crimes are easily solved through advanced forensic science.

I'd Know You Anywhere by Laura Lippman (William Morrow) (Canadian Press, 2010) is a fictional story of survivor guilt, revenge, family relationships and psychological manipulation. The book also explores the morality of the death penalty, examining the question from the perspective of each major character.

Delaware's death row now holds 17 men. By race, it has 8 black, 6 white, and 3 Latino men.

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Please make check payable to DCO DP and send with completed form to Sally Milbury-Steen,
Treasurer, DCO DP, c/o Pacem in Terris, 1304 North Rodney Street, Wilmington, DE 19806.
For more information call (302) 656-2721 or (302) 984-3355.