

# Death Penalty Focus Award Recipients

These civil rights activists, artists, and humanitarians  
are recognized for their contribution to  
our effort to abolish the death penalty.

## 1996

Abolition Award: Rubin "Hurricane" Carter  
Abolition Award: Kiefer Sutherland  
Mario Cuomo Act of Courage Award: Gov. Mario Cuomo

## 1997

Aline and Norman Felton Humanitarian Award: Chief Justice Rose Elizabeth Bird  
Abolition Award: Sean Penn  
The Mario Cuomo Act of Courage Award: Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr.

## 1998

Abolition Award: Senator John Burton  
The Mario Cuomo Act of Courage Award: Larry Fox (on behalf of the American Bar Association)  
The Rose Elizabeth Bird Commitment to Justice Award: Steven Allen  
The Aline and Norman Felton Humanitarian Award: Bud Welch

## 1999

The Mario Cuomo Act of Courage Award: David Protess and Lawrence Marshall  
The Aline and Norman Felton Humanitarian Award: Linda and Peter Biehl  
The Rose Elizabeth Bird Commitment to Justice Award: Norman Jewison

## 2000

Abolition Award: Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee  
The Aline and Norman Felton Humanitarian Award: Rabbi Leonard Beerman  
The Mario Cuomo Act of Courage Award: Senator Russ Feingold  
The Rose Elizabeth Bird Commitment to Justice Award: David E. Kelley and Robert Breech and the Cast of  
The Practice

## 2001

The Aline and Norman Felton Humanitarian Award: Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation  
Abolition Award: Cardinal Roger M. Mahony  
The Mario Cuomo Act of Courage Award: Gov. George H. Ryan  
The Rose Elizabeth Bird Commitment to Justice Award: Aaron Sorkin, Thomas Schlamme  
and the Cast of The West Wing

## 2002

The Norman Felton and Denise Aubuchon Humanitarian Award: Rev. James Lawson  
Justice and Media Award: Studs Terkel  
The Mario Cuomo Act of Courage Award: Congresswomen Barbara Lee  
The Rose Elizabeth Bird Commitment to Justice Award: Stanley Sheinbaum  
Abolition Award: Danny Glover

## 2003

The Norman Felton and Denise Aubuchon Humanitarian Award: Patch Adams  
Justice in Media and Arts Award: Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen  
Abolition Award: Ramona Ripston  
The Mario Cuomo Acts of Courage Award: President of Mexico, Vicente Fox Quesada  
The Rose Elizabeth Bird Commitment to Justice Award: Gov. George H. Ryan

## 2004

The Norman Felton and Denise Aubuchon Humanitarian Award: Aqeela Sherrills  
Justice in Media and Arts Award: Robert Wise  
Abolition Award: Bishop Gabino Zavala  
The Mario Cuomo Acts of Courage Award: Harry Belafonte  
The Rose Elizabeth Bird Commitment to Justice Award: First Lady Rosalynn Carter

## 2005

The Norman Felton and Denise Aubuchon Humanitarian Award: Bishop Henry Williamson  
Justice in Media and Arts Award: Bradley Whitford and Jane Kaczmarek  
Abolition Award: Senator Edward Kennedy  
The Mario Cuomo Acts of Courage Award: Sister Helen Prejean  
The Rose Elizabeth Bird Commitment to Justice Award: Andy and Deborah Rappaport

## 2006

Abolition Award: Barry Scheck  
Justice in Media and the Arts Award: Carl Reiner  
The Norman Felton and Denise Aubuchon Humanitarian Award: Rev. George Regas  
The Mario Cuomo Acts of Courage Award: Dorothy Ehrlich  
The Rose Elizabeth Bird Commitment to Justice Award: Vicki Riskin and David W. Rintels  
Lifetime Achievement Award: Assemblyman Mervyn M. Dymally  
Special Award to Activist Exonerees: Gloria Killian, Tom Goldstein and Greg Wilhoit  
The Mike Farrell Human Rights Award: Mike Farrell (Inaugural)

## 2007

The Norman Felton and Denise Aubuchon Humanitarian Award: Robert Greenwald  
The Mike Farrell Human Rights Award: Senator George McGovern  
The Rose Elizabeth Bird Commitment to Justice Award: Max Palevsky and Jodie Evans  
Justice in the Arts: David E. Kelley  
The Mario Cuomo Acts of Courage: Kamala D. Harris  
2007 Abolition Award: Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton

## 2008

The Mike Farrell Human Rights Award: Sid Sheinberg  
The Mario Cuomo Acts of Courage: Julian Bond  
The Rose Elizabeth Bird Commitment to Justice Award: Sarah Timberman and Ed Redlich  
Justice in the Arts: John Grisham  
Special Recognition for Outstanding Achievement on behalf of Social Justice: Melody Ermachild, Henry Weinstein, and Dr. Arthur Zitrin  
The Norman Felton and Denise Aubuchon Humanitarian Award: Azim Khamisa  
2008 Abolition Award: New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine and New Jerseyans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty

## 2009

The Mike Farrell Human Rights Award: New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson  
The Mario Cuomo Acts of Courage Award: Jeanne Woodford  
The Rose Elizabeth Bird Commitment to Justice Award: John Van de Kamp  
Justice in the Arts Award: Nancy Miller  
The Norman Felton and Denise Aubuchon Humanitarian Award: Bryan Stevenson  
Abolition Award: Nick McKeown

## 2010

Justice in the Arts Award: Alec Baldwin  
The Mario Cuomo Acts of Courage Award: Paul Haggis  
The Rose Elizabeth Bird Commitment to Justice Award: Sherry & Leo Frumkin  
The Norman Felton and Denise Aubuchon Humanitarian Award: Sister Suzanne Jabro, CSJ  
Abolition Award: Richard Dieter

## 2011

Justice in the Arts Award: Hilary Swank  
The Mario Cuomo Acts of Courage Award: Lance Lindsey  
The Rose Elizabeth Bird Commitment to Justice Award: Thomas Schlamme  
The Norman Felton and Denise Aubuchon Humanitarian Award: The Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange  
Abolition Award: Death Penalty Clinic at University of California, Berkeley, School of Law  
(Elisabeth Semel & Ty Alper)  
Human Rights Award: Stephen Bright  
Courageous Leadership Award: The Honorable Pat Quinn, Governor of Illinois

## 2012

Justice in the Arts Award: MC Hammer  
The Rose Elizabeth Bird Commitment to Justice Award: Denise Foderaro Quattrone  
The Norman Felton and Denise Abuchon Humanitarian Award: Father Gregory Boyle  
Abolition Award: The West Memphis 3: Jason Baldwin, Damien Echols, Jessie Misskelley  
Abolition Award: The West Memphis 3 Defense Team: Patrick Benca, Stephen Braga, Michael Burt, Blake Hendrix, Donald Horgan, John Phillipsborn, Dennis Riordan, Jeff Rosenzweig, Deborah Sallings, Lonnie Soury and Lorri Davis, leader of the movement to free the West Memphis 3

## 2013

Human Rights Award: Norman Felton (posthumously)  
The Norman Felton and Denise Abuchon Humanitarian Award: Javier Stauring  
Abolition Award: Proposition 34 Leaders, represented by: Natasha Minsker, Obie Anthony, Arnold & Porter, LLP/ Steven L. Mayer, Ron Briggs, California Catholic Conference, Franky Carrillo, Gil Garcetti, Miriam Gerace, Donald Heller, Paula Mitchell, SEIU Local 721, Steve Smith, Bethany Webb  
Justice in the Arts Award: James Cromwell

## 2014

The Mario Cuomo Acts of Courage Award: The Honorable Martin O'Malley, Governor of Maryland  
Human Rights Award: Juan E. Mendez, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture  
Lifetime Achievement Award: Michael Millman, Executive Director of the California Appellate Project  
Justice in the Arts Award: Peter Sarsgaard and Veena Sud, on behalf of The Cast and Crew of "The Killing"

## 2015

Justice in the Media Award: Alex Gibney, Bred Hebert, Laura Michalchyshyn on behalf of Death Row Stories  
Abolition Award: Dale Baich, Assistant Federal Public Defender  
Lifetime Achievement Award: Rabbi Leonard Beerman  
The Rose Elizabeth Bird Commitment to Justice Award: Death row exonerees Kwame Ajamu, Wiley Bridgeman, and Ricky Jackson along with their attorneys Terry Gilbert, Mark Godsey, Brian Howe and David Mills.

## 2016

Abolition Award: Sir Richard Branson  
The Norman Felton and Denise Abuchon Humanitarian Award: Dolores Huerta  
Justice in the Arts and Media: Jackson Browne

## 2017

Abolition Award: Senator Bernie Sanders  
The Mario Cuomo Acts of Courage of Award: Judy Clarke and Speedy Rice  
Justice in the Arts Award: Joan Baez

## 2018

"Fighting for their Lives" Annual Event in Los Angeles  
Lifetime Achievement Award: Reverend James Lawson

## 2019

Lifetime Achievement Award: Tony Amsterdam  
Abolition Award: Hon. Renny Cushing  
Mario Cuomo Acts of Courage Award: Mike Farrell