



Death  
Penalty

**Death  
Penalty**

**FOCUS**

30<sup>TH</sup> AWARDS EVENT

**MARCH 24, 2022**

# PROGRAM

*Special Guest*

**GAVIN NEWSOM**

Governor of California

*Host*

**TONI TRUCKS**

*Benediction*

**RABBI SHARON BROUS**

*Remarks*

**MIKE FARRELL, PRESIDENT**

*Human Rights Award*

**JOE GIARRATANO**

Presented by **Mike Farrell**

*Abolition Award*

**VIRGINIANS FOR ALTERNATIVES TO THE DEATH PENALTY,**

with Special Recognition of **Michael Stone** and **Dale Brumfield**

**VA INTERFAITH CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY,**

with Special Recognition of **Rev. Dr. LaKeisha Cook**

**8TH AMENDMENT PROJECT,**

with Special Recognition of **Laura Porter**, **Stefanie Faucher** and **Furonda Brasfield**

**VIRGINIA CAPITAL REPRESENTATION RESOURCE CENTER**

**VA DEFENDERS CAPITAL DEFENDER OFFICES**

Presented by **Joe Giarratano**

*Special Guest*

**GEORGE GASCÓN**

District Attorney of Los Angeles County

*The Mario Cuomo Acts of Courage Award*

**GOV. RALPH NORTHAM**

**VA STAT SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL**

**VA DELEGATE MIKE MULLIN**

*Aloe Blacc*

**MUSICAL PERFORMANCE**

*The Mario Cuomo Acts of Courage Award*

**SEN. DICK DURBIN**

**REP. AYANNA PRESSLEY**

Presented by U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE WRONGLY CONVICTED**

*International Abolition Award*

**HON. ROBERT BADINTER**

Presented by French Consul General, Julie Duhaut-Bedos

## *Welcome from the President*

### MIKE FARRELL

**Welcome to Death Penalty Focus' 30th Annual Awards Event.** In 1992, when we held the first of these events, it was a perhaps brash public statement of our intention to abolish capital punishment in America. We did so by honoring public figures who had the courage to declare themselves against state killing despite the fact that public opinion was against them. Thirty-eight states had a death penalty at that time; only twelve did not. I don't think anyone here imagined this would be the first of 30 such events, but we knew it would be a long haul.

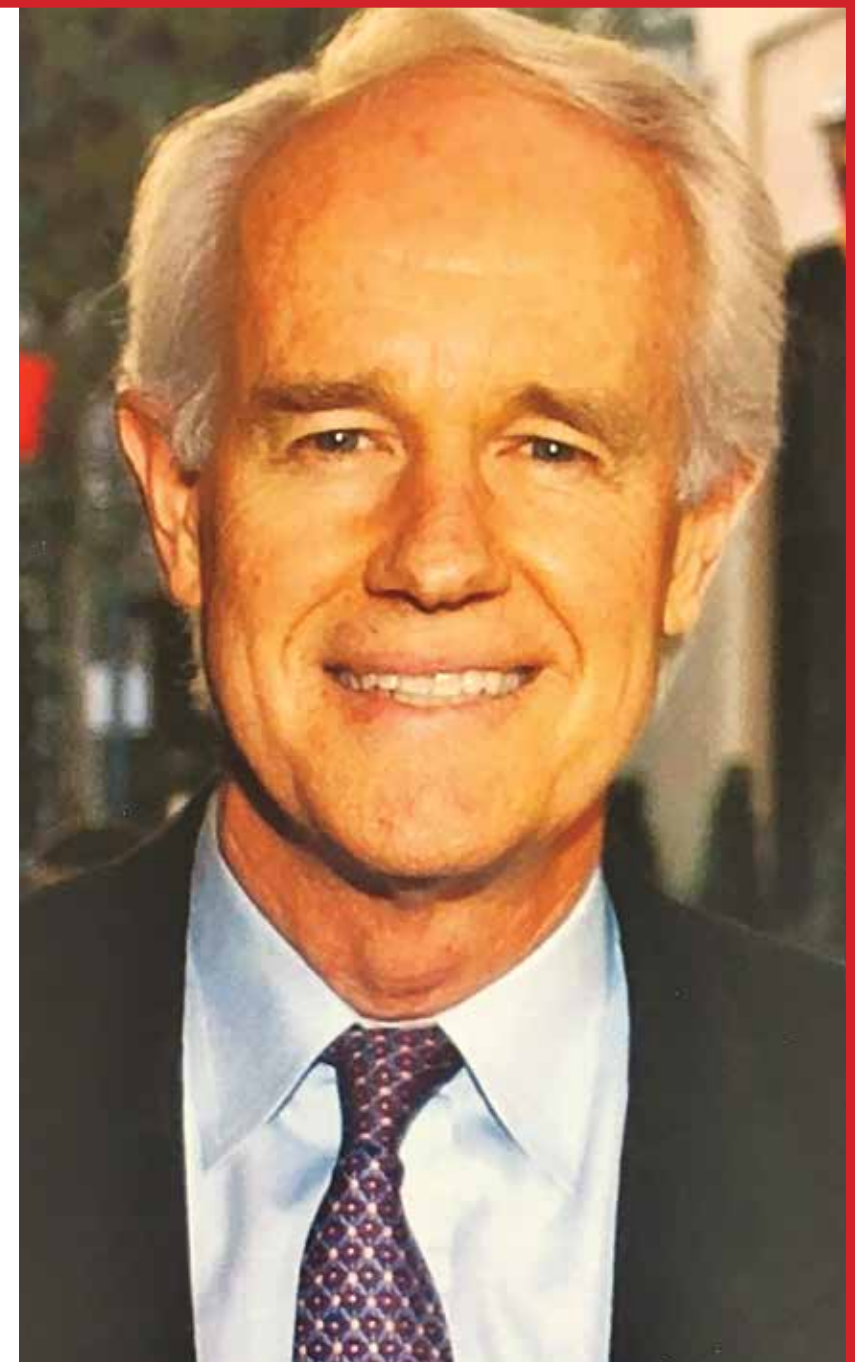
Today, looking back at those 30 years of educating the public and acknowledging heroes, I feel proud. And I feel hopeful. Because even though 27 states and the federal government maintain the right to kill, 23 do not. And since 3 more, including California, have declared moratoria on killing, we are now in the majority. It's been slow, it's true, but it's been steady. We win hearts and minds every day we do this work.

And there's no better example of the way this work is done than Virginia: the first state to execute a human being; the state responsible for more executions than any other in the history of the U.S. Last year Virginia became the first Southern state to abolish capital punishment, an historic achievement for any state, but especially a leader of the once solid South.

A poll released just last month found that a majority of Americans, across the political spectrum, now oppose the death penalty as it is currently practiced. They recognize it is not used on the "worst of the worst," but disproportionately on people of color, those with mental illness, the poor and the poorly defended, victims of extreme trauma, and the otherwise impaired.

We at DPF are bending the arc. We knew it was long to begin with, so we're not discouraged. I think of Kwame Ajamu, whose brother, Wiley Bridgeman, died last June. Both men were sentenced to death for crimes they did not commit. Both were incarcerated for years before being exonerated. After his brother died, free at last, if forever scarred by his experience, Kwame said, "They did not put his fire out, although they dimmed a lot of light."

We continue because too many fires have been put out. Too many lights have been dimmed.



## *A Message from the DPF Board Chair*

Welcome to the 30th Annual Death Penalty Focus Awards. We are at a time in the history of the death penalty in California and the United States at which we are so close, in some respects, and so far, in others, to ending the death penalty.

In California, a moratorium on executing people is still in place. The Committee on Revision of the Penal Code, comprised of legislators, scholars, and jurists, unanimously recommended that California abolish the death penalty. DPF President Mike Farrell and individuals associated with DPF have actively sought justice for Death Row inmate Kevin Cooper. Since our last Awards event, Governor Newsom ordered a further investigation into his innocence. Los Angeles District Attorney George Gascon announced that his office would not seek death in new and pending cases.

However, California's death row remains the largest in the country. At the time of this writing, there are 692 people on death row. Trials have been stalled by the pandemic, but the prosecution of death sentences continues in other counties. The number of people condemned to death will continue to rise as the courts return to more frequent trials. Gavin Newsom, George Gascón, and others in California are under attack for the positions that they have taken.

Nationally, the United States Supreme Court has demonstrated that federal constitutional efforts to end capital punishment are not likely to be successful. In a six to three decision, the Court reinstated the death penalty for Dzhokhar Tsarnaev despite the fact that the Circuit Court of Appeals found reason to set it aside. Lawyers will continue to raise Eighth Amendment challenges but an outright judicial abolition is not likely in the foreseeable future.

That means that abolition of the death penalty is up to the people. While we have a lot to celebrate in California, we also have a lot more to do. DPF has to keep up the fight on a grassroots level and through public education. We are so thankful to have your support in continuing this fight.

Tonight, we will be celebrating individuals who embody this fight towards abolition and justice. Governor Ralph Northam, Virginia State Senator Scott Surovell and Delegate Mike Mullin fought hard to abolish the death penalty in Virginia and succeeded, making it the 23rd state and the first southern state to do so. Abolition in Virginia could not have happened without the tireless work of the organizations being honored tonight: Virginians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty, Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, Virginia Defenders Capital Defender Offices, Virginia Capital Representation Resource Center and the 8th Amendment Project. Joe Giarratano was exonerated in 2017 after enduring decades on Virginia's death row under inhumane and horrific conditions.

We honor Mr. Giarratano's resilience and his continued contributions to the abolition movement. Representative Ayanna Pressley and Senator Dick Durbin of Illinois introduced a bill to end the Federal Death Penalty and have continued to be outspoken about the cruel and racist institution. The Honorable Robert Badinter has dedicated his life towards fighting for justice internationally and, as Minister of Justice of France, successfully abolished the death penalty in France.

Tonight, we also remember and honor the 14 lives taken by capital punishment since January 2021: Lisa Montgomery, Corey Johnson, Dustin Higgs, Quintin Jones, John Hummel, Rick Rhoades, Ernest Johnson, Willie Smith, John Grant, David Cox, Bigler Stouffer, Donald Grant, Matthew Reeves, and Gilbert Postelle.

We also remember fondly the advocates we have lost, including the remarkable Renny Cushing, who was a founder of Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights and who, as a retired school teacher, became a legislator in New Hampshire and who introduced the successful legislation to end the death penalty in that state. He was a long-time friend of DPF. We had the honor of presenting Renny with the 2019 DFP Abolition Award, and he will always be in our thoughts.

Our DPF team has been hard at work to continue to seek abolition in California and to support those efforts on a national level. Thank you to the Board of Directors for their work in committees — including those who worked so hard to put this 30th Annual Death Penalty Focus Awards program together — and for their individual and collective work on abolition. Thank you also to DPF's Interim Executive Director, Maddy deLone, who came to us from the Innocence Project and has provided insights and inspiration to assist us in this fight. In particular, a special thank you to our long-time Director of Administration and Finance, Yoko Otani-Spurlin, and our outstanding Communications Consultant, Mary- Kate DeLucco.

And, again, thank you all for attending and for supporting this cause. Let us all continue to work toward a more just world.



**SARAH SANGER**

## *A Message from the Interim Executive Director*

Dear Friends,

I and the DPF team welcome you to the 30th Annual Awards Event! It has been my privilege to be part of the DPF team and to work with the dedicated staff and board who have been committed to the goal of death penalty abolition consistently and with fervor. Our team draws tremendous energy from the inspiring work and achievements of the people and organizations we honor tonight. We are inspired by the coalition of many that ultimately enacted abolition in Virginia and France. They show us a way. DPF knows well that the road to abolition is not easy nor short, but in strong partnership with the many, the death penalty will be abolished in California.

DPF works in California with other organizations to advocate for legislative and executive measures that will limit the number of additional people sentenced to death. We urge changes to encourage and permit more people to be resentenced to avoid execution. This year, we will continue to support passage of the Racial Justice Act for All (SB256). SB256 will allow people convicted and sentenced to death based upon race, ethnicity, or national origin to challenge their convictions or sentences. We are also working with others to change California law to ensure that those who did not kill nor intend that a person die during a crime cannot be sentenced to death or life without parole (SB300).

In 2021, we resumed regular publication of *The Focus*. Monthly we publish original content covering developments in criminal justice reform in California and around the country. *The Focus* features commentary and analysis by policymakers, academics, and lawyers, and interviews with committed abolitionists, including people of faith, death row exonerees, murder victims' family members, and those sentenced to death or life without parole.

Continuing in its long tradition of disseminating information about abolition, DPF provided a forum for the experts who were instrumental in drafting and adopting the California Committee on Revision of the

Penal Code's recommendation for death penalty abolition. We presented a series of webinars, including a moving discussion about Restorative Justice, featuring persons whose loved ones were killed but who did not seek the death penalty as retribution. We look forward to presenting additional forums and webinars this year.

We continue to mobilize our more than a hundred thousand supporters and followers to support the call for abolition wherever efforts are made, and to speak out on behalf of individuals when public efforts are launched to save their lives. We will continue calling on President Biden to commute the death sentences of the remaining 44 men on federal death row, and work with our national coalition partners to urge Congress to pass the Federal Death Penalty Prohibition Act of 2021. DPF works locally to urge California's district attorneys to not ask for the death penalty and to seek resentencing for those sentenced to death in the past. We are deeply grateful that Gov. Gavin Newsom continues a moratorium on executions, but we must do more, and we will.

Thank you for joining us in our efforts. Our goal is not to fix this system but to abolish it. We are committed to the possible, and we believe we're closer than ever before. It is my privilege to work with all of you toward this righteous goal. Tonight, we honor those who inspire us. Tomorrow, with you, we continue. Stay focused!

**MADDY DELONE**

Interim Executive Director



## GREETINGS.

How pleased we are to welcome you to Death Penalty Focus' 30th Annual Awards Event as we mark the incredible progress being made across the planet in the long struggle to end the death penalty. When we met last year, we were reeling from the Trump administration's bloodthirsty and horrific executions of thirteen men and women, the most consecutive civilian executions by the federal government or any state in the 244-year history of the United States.

We said then that despite these heinous acts carried out in our name, we were confident the tide was turning. Tonight we know that is true. We are closer than ever to a national and international consensus that the death penalty is dead wrong.

Tonight we celebrate an incredibly dedicated and brilliant group of honorees, each of whom has brought the goal of ending state killing closer to a reality.

Just in the last few years, executions in two of the biggest death rows in the country were blocked. California Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a moratorium on executions in March 2019, and tireless abolitionists in Virginia placed legislation on the desk of Governor Ralph Northam, who, in March, 2021, signed into law the historic act that makes Virginia the first Southern state to abolish capital punishment. We honor these remarkable Virginia abolitionists tonight.

We also honor Senator Dick Durbin and Representative Ayanna Pressley for leading the effort to end executions at the federal level. Internationally, we recognize the visionary work of the Honorable Robert Badinter, who as Minister of Justice in 1981 led the effort to eliminate capital punishment in France. Today, President Emmanuel Macron and Minister Badinter have launched a new campaign to convince countries around the globe to abolish the death penalty once and for all.

Thank you for joining us to celebrate our 2022 honorees. We are so happy to have you as partners in this work. We could not do it without you!

Sherry Frumkin and Stephen Rohde, Co-Chairs, 2022 Annual Awards Event Committee.

## SHERRY FRUMKIN AND STEPHEN ROHDE

*Co-Chairs, 2022 Annual Awards Event Committee*



## RABBI SHARON BROUS

### ***Benediction, 2021 Human Rights Award Recipient***

Rabbi Sharon Brous is the senior and founding rabbi of IKAR ([www.ikar-la.org](http://www.ikar-la.org)) which launched in 2004 with the goal of reinvigorating Jewish tradition and practice and inspiring people of faith to reclaim a moral and prophetic voice. IKAR, one of the fastest growing and most influential Jewish congregations in the country, is credited with sparking a rethinking of religious life in a time of unprecedented disaffection and declining affiliation. Brous's TED talk, "Reclaiming Religion," has been viewed by more than one million people and translated into 14 languages. In 2013, she blessed President Obama and Vice President Biden at the Inaugural National Prayer Service, and in 2017, she spoke at the Women's March in Washington, DC. Brous was named #1 on the Newsweek/The Daily Beast list of the most influential Rabbis in America, and has been recognized numerous times by The Forward and the Jerusalem Post as one of the fifty most influential Jews.

Brous, who graduated from Columbia University and was ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary, is an Auburn Senior Fellow, sits on the faculty of the Shalom Hartman Institute-North America and REBOOT, and serves on the International Council of the New Israel Fund.



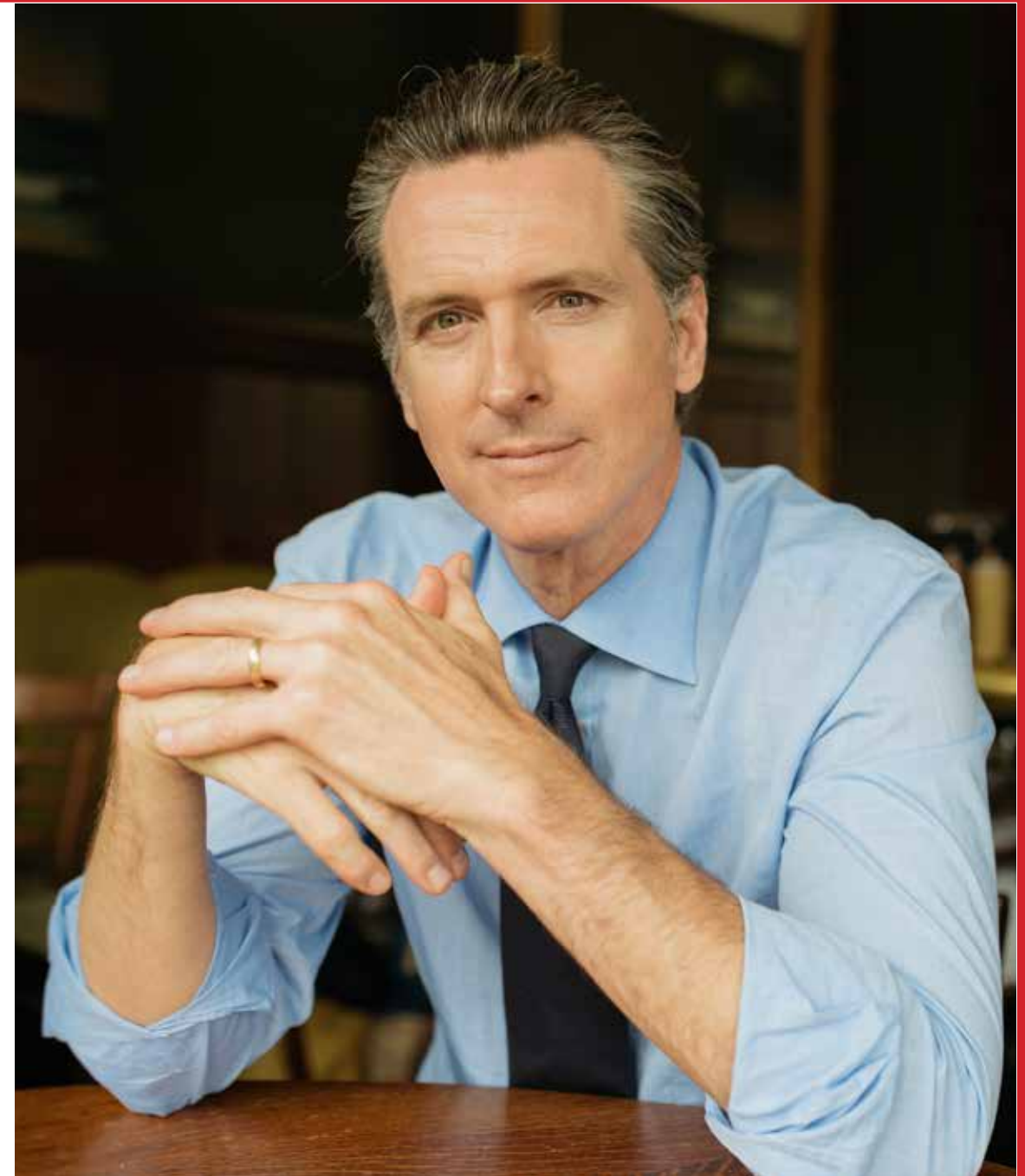
## GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM

***Gavin Newsom is the Governor of California, former Lieutenant Governor of California, and former Mayor of San Francisco.***

Newsom is widely recognized for his willingness to lead – repeatedly developing, advocating, and implementing innovative and groundbreaking solutions to some of our most challenging issues. On a wide range of topics including same-sex marriage, gun safety, marijuana, the death penalty, universal health care, access to preschool, technology, criminal justice reform, and the minimum wage, Newsom stuck his neck out and did the right thing, which often led to sweeping changes when his policies were ultimately accepted, embraced, and replicated across the state and nation.

Newsom's top priorities for his administration are tackling our state's affordability crisis, creating inclusive economic growth and opportunity for every child, and standing up for California values – from civil rights, to immigration, environmental protection, access to quality schools at all levels, and justice.

Governor Newsom is married to Jennifer Siebel Newsom. They have four children: Montana, Hunter, Brooklynn, and Dutch.



# TONI TRUCKS

## ***Host***

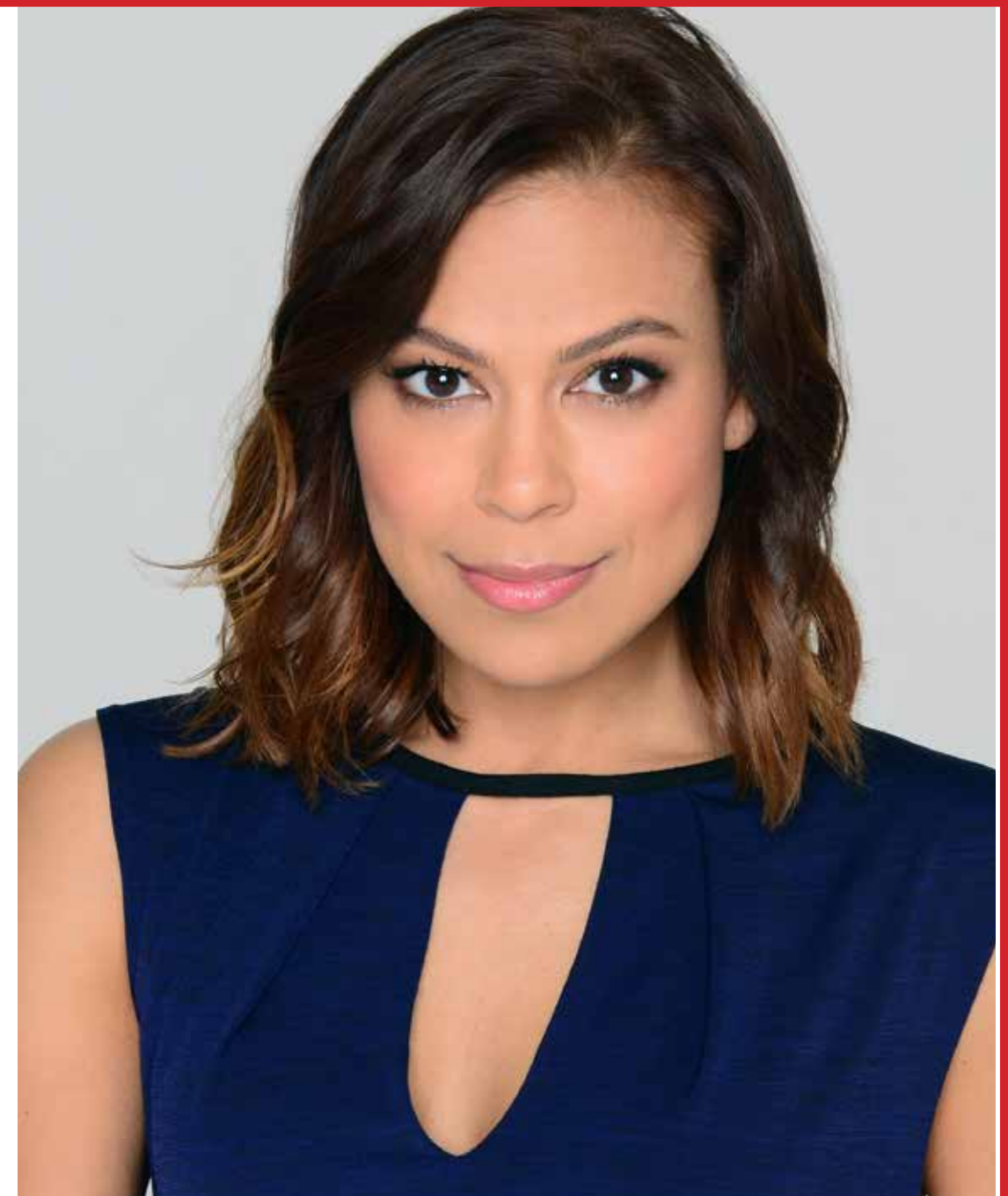
Toni Trucks comes from a strong and varied acting background with roots in the theatre. Toni spent her early career in New York before making her television debut as the female lead on the SHOWTIME series *Barbershop*.

Toni is currently starring on the CBS drama *SEAL Team* as “Ensign Lisa Davis”. Other television credits include *NCIS: New Orleans*, *Corporate*, *Made in Jersey*, *Franklin and Bash*, and *Grimm*.

Her film credits include *Twilight: Breaking Dawn Part 2* and *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*. Trucks also starred in the short films *The Shift*, *Scars*, *Scare Package* and *Good Eggs*.

An alumnus of both Interlochen Arts Academy and the University of Michigan’s Musical Theatre Program, Trucks is a Michigan native with a vigorous family history of social justice activism.

Toni is a member of the Board of Directors of Death Penalty Focus.



# AWARD DESCRIPTIONS

## ABOLITION AWARD

Part of a long and noble tradition of abolitionist movements in the United States, most notably including the successful movement to abolish slavery, is the growing movement to abolish the death penalty. Both these movements have met with entrenched and fierce opposition that has only just been modulated, not overcome, with the passing of generations. The Abolition Award is given each year to an individual or group who inspires us to understand that the struggle to abolish the death penalty, however resisted, is a just and humane pursuit for which we can all take pride and from which humankind will benefit.

## THE MARIO CUOMO ACTS OF COURAGE AWARD

Each year, the Acts of Courage Award are bestowed upon individuals whose courageous leadership in the struggle to end the death penalty demonstrates that one does not have to compromise one's convictions or principles in order to succeed politically. The willingness of an individual to openly maintain a view that has traditionally been deemed politically unsafe is an indication of tremendous integrity and reassures, invigorates, and energizes those of us who too often feel alone in the struggle for human dignity.

## **THE INTERNATIONAL ABOLITION AWARD**

In 1863, Venezuela became the first country to abolish the death penalty. In January 2022, Papua New Guinea became the most recent to do the same. Today a total of 108 countries have completely abolished the death penalty for all crimes, and 28 countries have effectively abolished by not executing anyone over the past 10 years. This award recognizes the centuries long efforts of courageous people across the planet to put an end to capital punishment forever.

## **THE HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD**

The Human Rights Award, established in 2006 by the Board of Directors of Death Penalty Focus in honor of Mike Farrell, honors courageous and inspirational leaders who, in the spirit of Mike's vision and activism, strive for freedom, justice and peace throughout the world. The Human Rights Award will be presented at DPF's annual Awards Dinner in those years when an exceptional individual or organization has been identified whose contributions in advancing respect for human dignity, social justice, abolition of the death penalty and fundamental human rights reflect Mike's extraordinary accomplishments and ideals.

# MIKE FARRELL

## *Presenter*

Best known as an actor, for his eight years on M\*A\*S\*H and five seasons on “Providence,” Mike Farrell is also a writer, director and producer who made a number of TV films as well as the features “Dominick and Eugene” and “Patch Adams.” He continues to act in television, motion pictures and on stage, where he periodically performs “Dr. Keeling’s Curve,” a one-man show.

For three years he served as first vice president of the Screen Actors Guild, and as a member of the Guild’s national board of directors.

Beyond the world of entertainment, Farrell serves as spokesperson for Concern America, a refugee relief and development organization, and has, for the last 40 years, served as part of international human rights and peace delegations to El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, the then U.S.S.R., Paraguay, Chile, Israel, the Occupied Territories, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Czechoslovakia, Somalia, Kenya, Croatia, Bosnia, Cuba, Rwanda, Zaire, Tanzania, Mexico, Costa Rica and Samoa.

During the Salvadoran civil war, after one of many trips to the region, he testified against U.S. policy before the Foreign Affairs Committee of the U. S. House of Representatives.

Involvement in Central America led to his association with what was then Americas Watch, now Human Rights Watch. He subsequently helped establish the California Committee of Human Rights Watch in the late ‘80s and served as its co-chair for 10 years.

In the 90s, Farrell served for three years as a member of the State of California’s Commission on Judicial Performance.

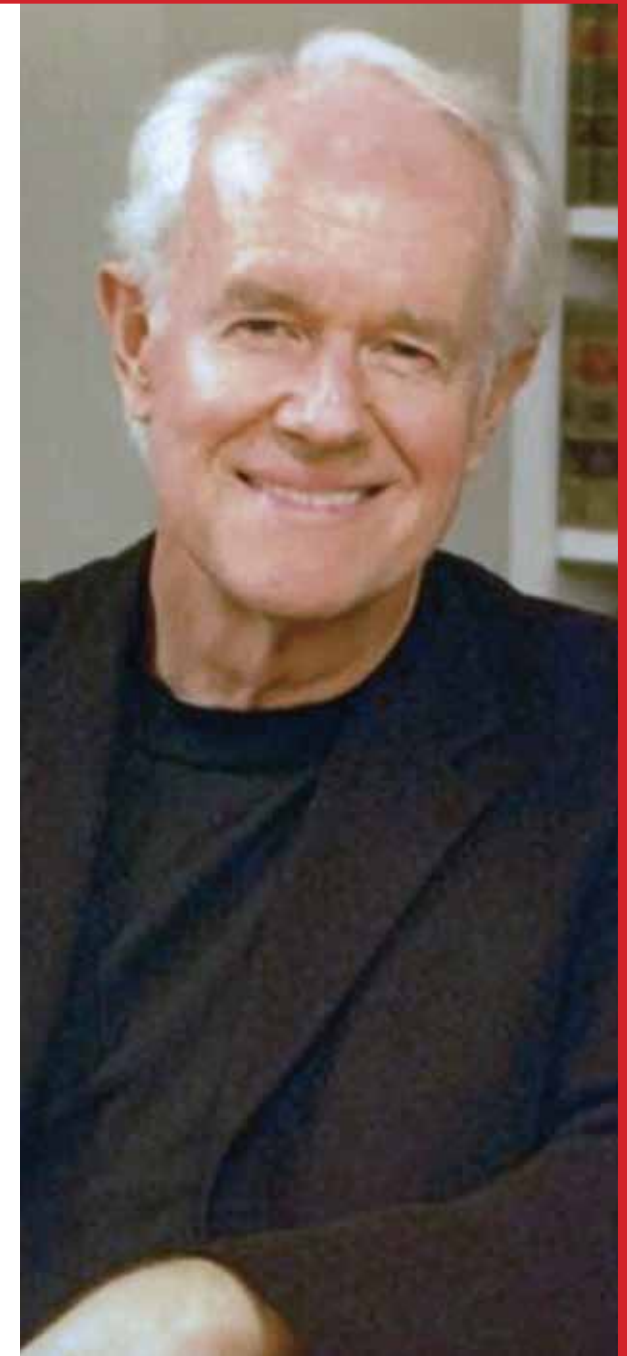
Opposing the war in Iraq led to in his co-founding Artists United to Win Without War and representing the anti-war position across the U.S. and in the media.

A life-long opponent of the death penalty, Farrell has “seen too many death rows.” President of the board of Death Penalty Focus since 1994, he speaks, debates, writes extensively and campaigns across the country in opposition to state killing.

In 2004, he represented Death Penalty Focus before the Inter-American Court on Human Rights in support of the Mexican Government’s claim against the U. S. for violating the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.

Believing that state killing brutalizes the society that practices it, and confident that state, national and worldwide abolition is inevitable, he has been deeply involved in efforts to end the use of capital punishment for decades, most recently meeting with government leaders in Samoa on behalf of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, encouraging them to ratify the 2nd Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.

Farrell is the author of two books: “Just Call Me Mike: A Journey to Actor and Activist,” and “Of Mule and Man.”





# HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

## JOE GIARRATANO

Joe Giarratano spent 38 years in a Virginia prison, 13 of them on Virginia's death row, for a crime he didn't commit. Sentenced to death in 1979, he came within two days of being executed, only to be spared when then-Gov. Douglas Wilder commuted his sentence to life. And, though Wilder also strongly recommended that he be granted a new trial, then-Attorney General Mary Sue Terry announced, "There will be no new trial. Evidence of innocence is irrelevant under Virginia procedural law." He was paroled in December 2017.

While in prison, awaiting execution, Giarratano immersed himself in law books and soon became a death-row lawyer, filing appeals for himself and others, including a challenge to a Virginia law that ended up in the

U.S. Supreme Court. After his release, Giarratano was hired as a paralegal by one of the attorneys who had represented him, and the University of Virginia School of Law Innocence Project.

He also devoted the little spare time he had to lobbying Virginia legislators to abolish the death penalty. His strategy was to "buttonhole" those who supported capital punishment and counter their arguments with what he considered his trump card: the high probability of executing the innocent. He talked with them about his case and the cases of others wrongfully convicted, and in more than a few instances, Giarratano changed hardened hearts and minds.

Still, he was surprised when Virginia became the first Southern state to abolish the death penalty. "I knew it was going to come, but I expected it to be the last, not the first state in the South," he says. "But the momentum was there. I worked on it for years."

Giarratano continues to work as a paralegal, most recently for State Senator Joe D. Morrissey's company, Premier Jury Consulting Services, and as a prisoner advocate for his wife's company, S.D. Management & Consulting.

Giarratano lives with his wife, Denise, in Richmond.





# ABOLITION AWARD



## VIRGINIANS FOR ALTERNATIVES TO THE DEATH PENALTY (VADP)

**is a statewide citizens' organization dedicated to educating the public about alternatives to the death penalty.**

**The bases for our beliefs and actions include the following:**

- The death penalty panders to fear and outrage by attempting to provide a simple solution to complex questions.
- The death penalty is ineffective. Numerous studies show that it does not deter crime.
- The death penalty discriminates against: the poor, people of color, and people from rural areas.
- Our opposition to the death penalty in no way negates or contradicts our sorrow over the loss of life suffered by murder victims and our compassion and sympathy for their families and friends.
- All of humanity's major wisdom traditions call on us to love one another and value human life. The state should not completely devalue human life and execute anyone by repeating a violent act.
- The death penalty saps our economic resources. Because a system with death as the maximum penalty costs much more than a system with life imprisonment as the maximum penalty, the death penalty wastes tax dollars that could be spent to improve crime prevention and outreach to victims of crime.
- Research shows that despite all legal safeguards, innocent people have been wrongly convicted of murder and have been killed by the state. After 140 death row exonerations, common sense tells us that, because humans err, the justice system simply cannot be made foolproof. Some innocent people will die as long as we have a death penalty. These mistakes can never be corrected.

## DALE BRUMFIELD

Dale Brumfield is Executive Director of Virginians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty. As Executive Director, he organizes grassroots support and engages conservative, libertarian, and evangelical groups on key VADP initiatives. In the wake of Virginia's historic victory in becoming the first Southern state to end the death penalty, Brumfield will be leading the effort to ensure that that achievement is not overturned. He will also be instrumental in telling Virginia's abolition story, providing other states with a guide to achieving a similar outcome.

Brumfield's interest in death penalty abolition dates to 2010 with the publication of a guest opinion, "Double Lifers" for Richmond's Style Weekly magazine. Since then, he has authored numerous anti-death penalty pieces for the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, *North of the James* magazine, *Richmond Magazine*, the *Rappahannock Review*, and *Bearingdrift.com*.

He is also the author of ten books, including *The Virginia State Penitentiary: A Notorious History*, published in 2017.

Brumfield received his Bachelor of Fine Arts from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1981, and in 2015 returned to VCU to earn his Master of Fine Arts. He lives with his wife Susan in Doswell.



## MICHAEL STONE

Michael Stone has devoted much of his life to abolishing capital punishment.

He is the Administrator and former Executive Director of Virginians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty, “the sustaining fire that led to Virginia’s repeal of the death penalty,” Sister Helen Prejean said when capital punishment was abolished last year.

Before joining VADP, he was a field organizer for the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, working with abolition organizations in Virginia, Missouri, South Dakota, and Pennsylvania.

Stone also served as the diocesan Respect Life Coordinator for the Office of Justice and Peace for the Catholic Diocese of Richmond from 1984 to 2009. He is a former board member of the Virginia Catholic Conference, the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, and the Richmond Peace Education Center.

Stone has spoken about capital punishment to faith communities and other organizations across the Commonwealth, tirelessly reaching out to “unlikely allies,” including political conservatives and murder victim family members.

He earned B.S. degrees in Economics and Urban Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and an M.A. in Pastoral Ministry from Boston College.

He has been married for 33 years to Ruth Anne Young and has two sons.





# THE VIRGINIA INTERFAITH CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY

The Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy engages people of faith and goodwill in advocating economic, racial and social justice in Virginia's policies and practices through education, prayer and action.

## REV. DR. LAKEISHA COOK

Rev. Dr. LaKeisha Cook served as the Criminal Justice Reform Organizer for the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy and was one of the leaders of a successful campaign to abolish the death penalty in Virginia.

She has over 20 years of experience working in nonprofits, education, and the African American church. As a pastor and preacher, she uses her platform to educate and empower people on social justice and racial inequities, and she is passionate about justice reform.

Cook is a summa cum laude graduate of Richmond's Virginia Union University, where she earned a B.A. in Sociology with a minor concentration in Religious Studies and a Master's of Divinity. She also earned a Master's in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University and a Doctorate of Ministry degree as a Gardner C. Taylor fellow at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio.

Cook is a licensed gospel minister at the Antioch Baptist Church; has served as the Youth Minister at Mount Hope Baptist Church in Fredericksburg, Virginia; Minister of Children, Youth and Young Adults at First Institutional Baptist Church in Phoenix, Arizona; is the founding pastor of the Imani Community Church of Tempe, Arizona, and has served in various capacities for the multi-site campuses of Saint Paul's Baptist Church.

As a program administrator for the Kyrene School District in Tempe, Arizona, Cook coordinated, implemented, and ensured the quality of intervention and prevention programs and activities outlined in the eight-million dollar Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant.

She is currently working as an Equity Transformation Specialist for Pacific Educational Group, Inc. in Oakland, California.





# 8TH AMENDMENT PROJECT

The 8th Amendment Project was founded in 2014 to unite and lead the national movement to end the death penalty. The campaign brings together dozens of national, state, and local partners around a shared strategy to achieve repeal and discourage use of the death penalty by working to change the public discourse about capital punishment in the United States. 8AP also guides funders who want to strategically invest in ending the death penalty.

On January 1, 2018, 8AP became a fiscally sponsored project of the Center for Death Penalty Litigation.

## FURONDA BRASFIELD, ESQ.

Furonda Brasfield is the Director of Leadership Development at the 8th Amendment Project. She is a licensed attorney, and has worked on abolition since 2015. Furonda led the Arkansas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty during their response to the #8in10 executions of April 2017, when Governor Asa Hutchinson set 8 executions to be carried out over 10 days, beginning with the day after Easter. Furonda has worked on a number of social justice issues, including economic equality, reproductive justice, HIV/AIDS awareness, criminal justice reform, and raising the state's minimum wage (2014). In 2021, Furonda served on the City of Little Rock Police Oversight Review Board to review the policies and procedures of the Little Rock Police Department. She has also served as interim-director of "Traveler's Rest Ministries", a non-profit organization formed to assist in community development in disenfranchised communities.

Furonda received a Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, and her Juris Doctor from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock's William H. Bowen Law School. Furonda works in collaboration with the William H. Bowen School of Law's Rural Incubator Program to increase access to justice in rural areas of the state.

In addition to numerous volunteer and civic involvements, Furonda is the President of the Board of Decarcerate Arkansas, a group formed to end mass incarceration.



## LAURA PORTER

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Laura Porter joins the 8th Amendment Project after serving as Director of Campaigns for the Fair Punishment Project and nearly a decade as Director of Campaigns and Strategy with Equal Justice USA. (EJUSA). Over the last 10 years Laura was a chief strategist in the death penalty repeal campaigns in Connecticut, Maryland, and Nebraska and gave strategic advise to policy advocates across the country. She specialized in building relationships with victims, law enforcement, and conservatives and led the groundbreaking national project Conservatives Concerned About the Death Penalty. Currently, she serves as the lead advisor to the Responsible Business Initiative engaging trade and business voices in criminal justice reform advocacy. Prior to campaign work, Laura was a public defender for 12 years in New York and a legal analyst on television.



## STEFANIE FAUCHER

### DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Stefanie began her advocacy against the death penalty in 1999. She has worked for the 8th Amendment Project since 2014, serving first as Communications Director and later as Deputy Director. She also served as the Communications Director for the Fair Punishment Project. In 2016, Stefanie acted as the Communications Director for California's *No on Prop 66* campaign. Prior to this, she worked for the national political organization MoveOn.org, where she served as Communications Manager and as a Manager of Campaign Support. Between 2002 and 2011, Stefanie worked at Death Penalty Focus, where she held the position of Associate Director and worked to lay the groundwork for Prop 34, which sought to repeal the death penalty in California. In 2008, she was awarded the Abolitionist of the Year Award by the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty. Stefanie is a graduate of U.C. Berkeley and is based in Oakland, CA with her husband and daughter.



**Virginia Capital  
Representation  
Resource Center**

# VA DEFENDERS, VA CAPITAL REPRESENTATION RESOURCE CENTER

The Virginia Capital Representation Resource Center is a not-for-profit law firm dedicated to providing high quality representation in death penalty cases and assisting attorneys representing people sentenced to death or facing possible death sentences. Since it was established in 1992, VCRRC has had direct or collaborative involvement with the case of every person sentenced to death in Virginia. During this time, VCRRC staff have used their knowledge, skill, commitment, and compassion to serve those society had condemned, to come to know them, and to celebrate their successes and mourn their defeats.

# ABOLITION AWARD



## VA DEFENDERS CAPITAL DEFENDER OFFICES

**Dedicated to protecting and defending the rights and dignity of our clients through zealous, compassionate, high quality legal advocacy.**

- While the Capital Defender Offices did not have an official mission statement, their unofficial mission statement was “Not on our watch!” Prior to the opening of VA Defender regional offices in 2004, Virginia was second only to Texas in executions and death sentences were being handed down at a terrifying rate. The Capital Offices gave truth to their unofficial mission statement. In the 10 years leading up to the abolition of the death penalty, there was only one death sentence handed down in Virginia.



THE MARIO CUOMO ACTS  
OF COURAGE AWARD

## GOVERNOR RALPH NORTHAM

Before he was inaugurated as the 73rd Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Ralph Northam served as an Army doctor, pediatric neurologist, business owner, state Senator, and Lieutenant Governor.

A native of Virginia's Eastern Shore, Governor Northam was educated at the Virginia Military Institute (VMI), where he graduated with distinction.

After graduation, Governor Northam was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army. He served eight years of active duty and rose to the rank of major.

He attended Eastern Virginia Medical School and then traveled to San Antonio for a pediatric residency, where he met his wife Pamela, a pediatric occupational therapist at the same hospital. Governor Northam did his residencies at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center and served as chief neurological resident at Johns Hopkins Hospital. As an Army doctor, he served in Germany, treating soldiers wounded in Operation Desert Storm.

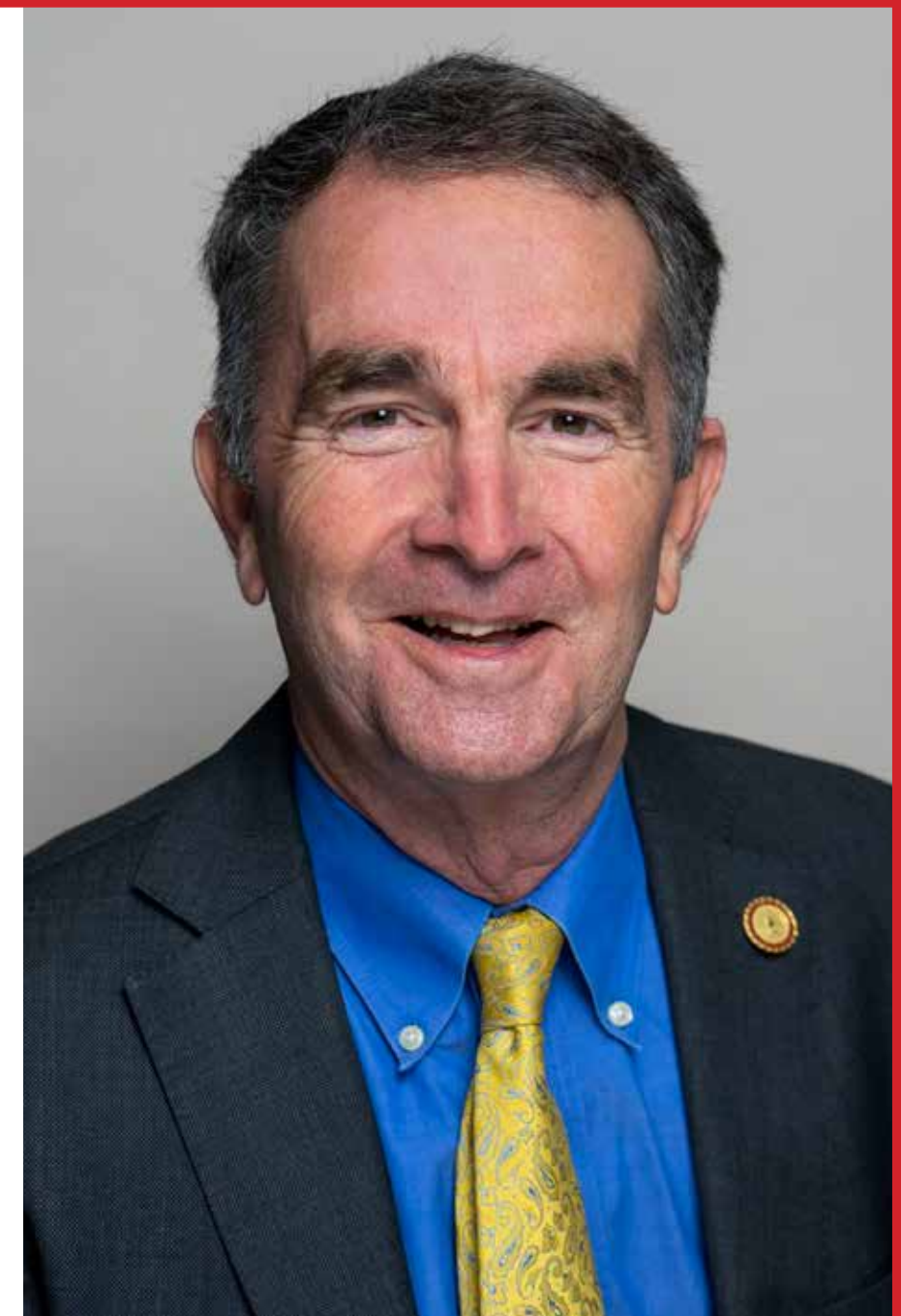
When Governor Northam and Pamela returned home, they chose to build their life in Hampton Roads. He began practicing pediatric neurology at Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters in Norfolk. He established Children's Specialty Group, his current medical practice, to provide expert pediatric care for patients. Governor Northam also served as Assistant Professor of Neurology at Eastern Virginia Medical School, where he taught medicine and ethics.

Governor Northam volunteered as medical director for the Edmarc Hospice for Children in Portsmouth, where he spent 18 years caring for terminally ill children.

Governor Northam approaches public service with the same passion he brought to his military and medical service. He is committed to working with leaders from both parties to build a Virginia that works better for every family, no matter who they are or where they live.

Governor Northam is the first native of the Eastern Shore to serve as Governor since Governor Henry A. Wise took office in 1856. He is also the first VMI Keydet to serve as Governor since Governor Westmoreland Davis took office in 1918.

Governor Northam and First Lady Pamela Northam have two adult children.



## SCOTT SUROVELL

“I cannot think of anything that’s more awful, unspeakable, and wrong for a government to do than to use its power to execute somebody who didn’t commit the crime they’re accused of,” Virginia State Senator Scott Surovell said when his bill abolishing the death penalty was introduced to the Senate last year.

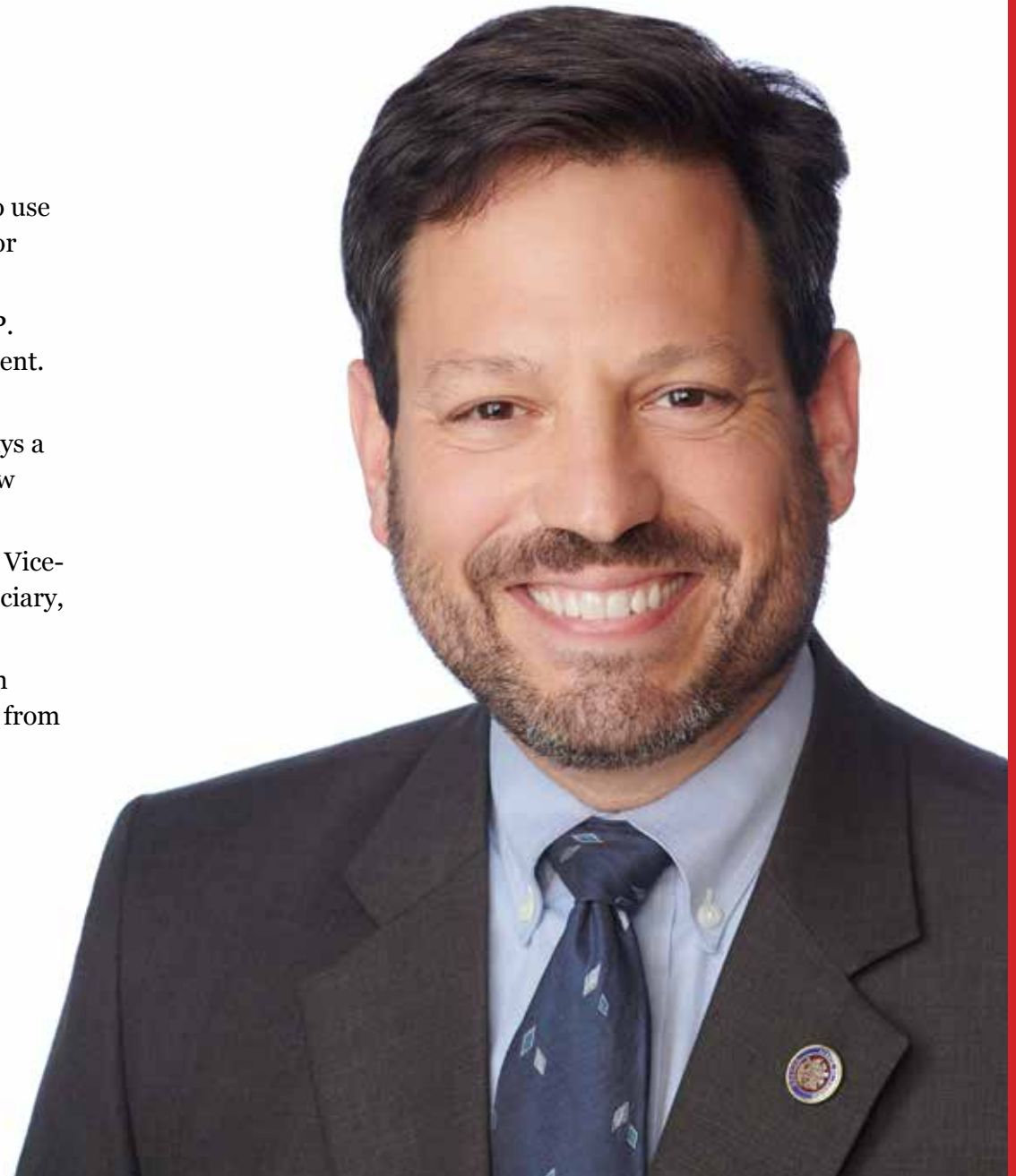
SB 1165, and an identical bill, HB 2263, introduced by Virginia House of Delegates member Michael P. Mullin, passed in February 2021, making Virginia the first Southern state to abolish cap-ital punishment.

After its passage, Surovell noted how people of color and the economically disadvantaged were disproportionately sentenced to death in Virginia. “It says a lot about how we value human life and says a lot about how our commonwealth is going to move past some of our darkest moments, in terms of how this punishment was applied and who it was applied to,” he said.

Surovell was first elected to the Senate in 2015 after serving six years as a state delegate. He is the Vice-Chair of the Senate Democratic Caucus and serves on Transportation, Commerce and Labor, Judiciary, Privileges and Elections, and Rehabilitation and Social Services Committees.

He graduated magna cum laude from James Madison University in 1993, where he received a BA with a major in Political Science and a minor in American Studies. In 1996, Surovell earned his law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law, where he was executive editor of the Virginia Journal of Environmental Law.

Surovell lives in Mt. Vernon with his wife, Erinn M. Madden, and four children.



## MICHAEL P. MULLIN

Virginia State Rep. Michael P. Mullin led the charge in the House of Delegates last year to eliminate the state's death penalty. His bill, coupled with State Sen. Scott Surovell's identical bill in the Senate, ended capital punishment in Virginia, the first Southern state to do so.

"This was long overdue," Mullin said after the bill passed. "The evidence is clear. The use of the death penalty is riddled with wrongful convictions, inadequate representation, racial bias. I'm thankful that we have relegated this inhumane practice to the history books.

"We've executed almost 1,400 people, and the first time that a white man was executed for killing a black man was in 1997. Out of the 1,400, that's only happened four times."

Mullin has carried 33 bills that are now law. He has worked tirelessly on legislation covering a wide range of issues, from expanding Medicare to dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline. He serves on the Courts of Justice, Rules (Vice-Chair), and Labor and Commerce committees.

He has a B.A. from Christopher Newport University and earned a law degree at the Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law, Washington, DC.

Mullin has three sons and lives in Williamsburg with his wife, Rebecca.



# ALOE BLACC

## ***Musical Performance***

In the years since Aloe Blacc's last album, *Lift Your Spirit*, the global superstar spent time working on an even dearer project: his family. *All Love Everything*, his most recent album, is the singer-songwriter's first collection of material written as a father, a journey that's expanded Blacc's already heartfelt artistic palette. "Becoming a father made me want to share those experiences in music," he says, admitting it's a challenge to translate such a powerful thing into lyrics and melody. But the listeners who have followed Blacc over the course of his career know that his facility with language and sound is deep -- if anyone was up to the task, it's him.

Raised by Panamanian immigrants in Southern California, Blacc grew up around the sounds of salsa, merengue, and cumbia. He initially developed his own taste by throwing himself into hip-hop before trying out his soulful voice to other ends. Across three albums, his sound evolved and grew, finding a pocket that reflects the long and beautiful history of American soul with timeless, descriptive songwriting that speaks to the broad range of human experience, from platonic love to love for humanity, from politics to aspiration. Versatile and compassionate, his songwriting is classic in a way that makes categorization irrelevant; indeed, Blacc's lyrics have been paired with dance music and country -- always to stirring effect. Aloe Blacc isn't defined by genre.

"Rather than a genre, my music follows a theme I call A.I.M.: affirmation, inspiration, and motivation," he explains. Beloved hits like "I Need a Dollar," "The Man," and "Wake Me Up," with Avicii, may not fall under the same musical umbrella, but they're united by how they make the listener feel. That's Blacc's wheelhouse, the place where he excels. "After so many opportunities to talk about my music and not feel comfortable saying, 'I'm a pop artist' or 'I'm a folk artist,' I had this realization. My songwriting genre is thematic."

*All Love Everything* is a generous addition to the A.I.M. catalog. It fulfills Blacc's ambition to express the richness of familial love on songs like "Glory Days" and "Family," while also making room for anthems about perseverance and support like "My Way" and "Corner." Working with producers Jonas Jeberg, Jugglerz, Jon Levine, and Matt Prime, Blacc has crafted his most open-hearted album to date. Generous and warm, *All Love Everything* draws on soul, folk, and contemporary pop, reminding listeners that there's no pigeonholing the human experience.



# U.S. SENATOR BERNIE SANDERS

## *Presenter*

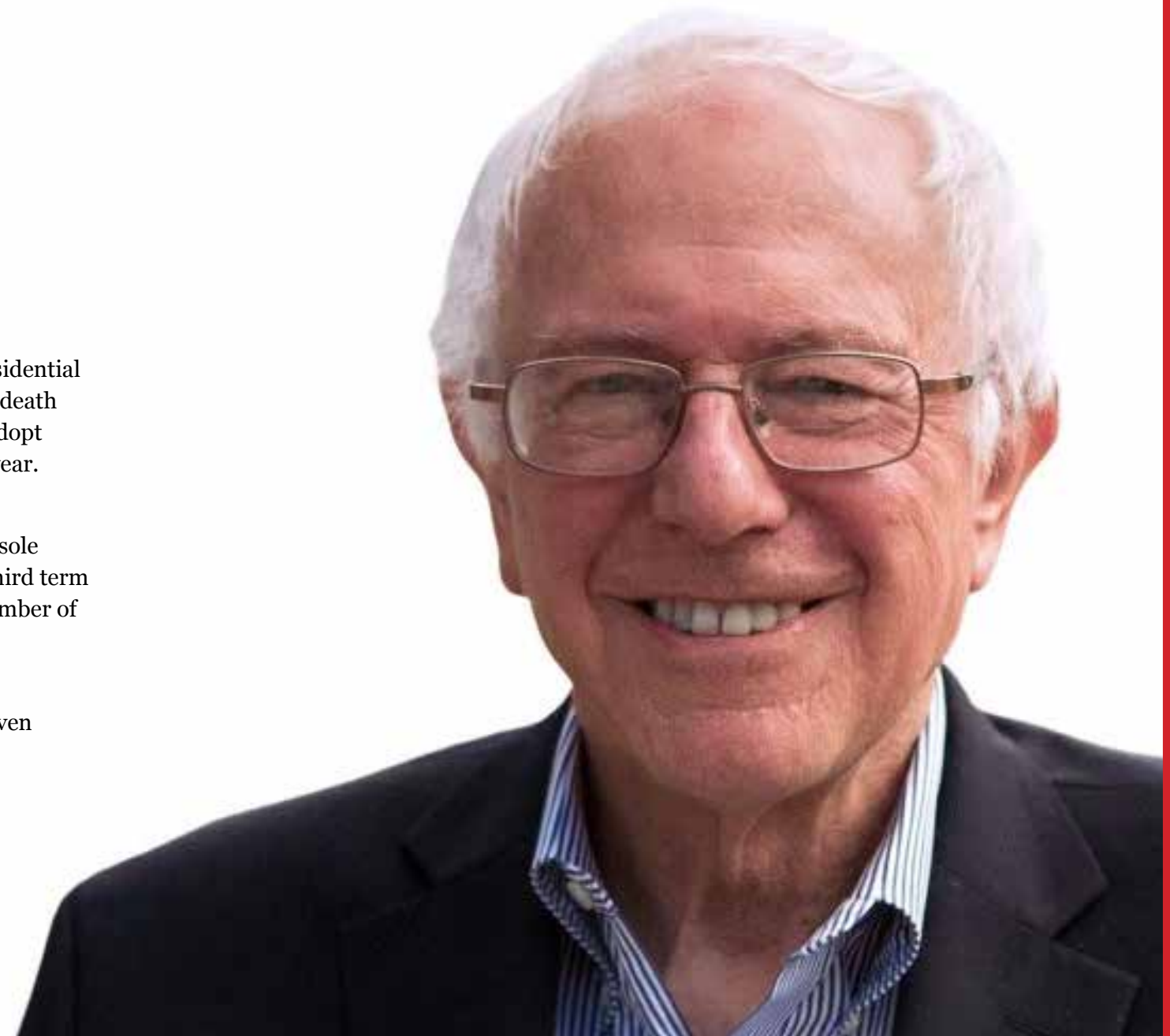
In 2016, U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont became the first presidential candidate in nearly 30 years to forcefully declare his opposition to the death penalty. And he was instrumental in getting the Democratic Party to adopt abolition of capital punishment as a plank in its official platform that year.

In 2017, Death Penalty Focus honored him with its Abolition Award.

Sanders was elected to the Senate in 2006 after 16 years as Vermont's sole congressman in the House of Representatives. He is now serving his third term after winning re-election in 2018, the longest-serving independent member of Congress in American history.

Sanders serves as Chair of the Senate Budget Committee.

He lives in Burlington with his wife, Jane. He has four children and seven grandchildren.



## U.S. SENATOR DICK DURBIN

U.S. Senator Dick Durbin is the senior senator from Illinois, the Senate Majority Whip, Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and a member of the Appropriations and Agriculture Committees.

He is a longtime champion of progressive values, fighting for affordable health care, humane immigration policies, and our environment. He is also a tireless advocate for criminal justice reform, which he has called a “personal priority.” Durbin was a co-sponsor of the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010, which reduced the disparity between crack and powder cocaine sentences. And he was the co-author of the landmark “First Step Act,” which cuts excessively long federal sentences for nonviolent offenses and improves conditions in federal prisons.

In 2021, spurred by his horror at the Trump administration’s resumption of federal executions in the last half of 2020, Durbin joined forces with Rep. Ayanna Pressley to introduce the bicameral Federal Death Penalty Prohibition Act of 2021 to abolish the federal death penalty and require the government to resentence the men and women previously sent to death row.

Senator Durbin is married to Loretta Schaefer Durbin. Their family consists of three children -- Christine (deceased), Paul, and Jennifer -- and six grandchildren.



## U.S. CONGRESSWOMAN AYANNA PRESSLEY

U.S. Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, the first woman of color elected to Congress from Massachusetts, currently serves on the House Committee on Oversight and Reform and the House Committee on Financial Services.

Pressley “has fought to ensure that those closest to the pain are closest to the power,” and that commitment has fueled her policymaking. An advocate for criminal justice reform, she joined with Sen. Dick Durbin last year to introduce the bicameral Federal Death Penalty Prohibition Act of 2021 to abolish the federal death penalty and require the government to resentence the men and women previously sent to death row.

“Our work to end state-sanctioned murder in America is urgent,” Pressley says of the bicameral bill. “We’re not backing down in this fight. . . . A more just world is possible.”

Born in Cincinnati and raised in Chicago, Pressley moved to Boston to attend Boston University in 1992 but withdrew to help support her mother. She worked as a senior aide to former Congressman Joseph P. Kennedy II and in various roles for former Sen. John Kerry. In 2009, she ran for Boston City Council and won, becoming the first woman of color elected to the council in its 100-year history. In 2018, Pressley was elected to represent Massachusetts’ 7th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

She and her husband, Conan Harris, reside in Boston.



# THE WRONGLY CONVICTED



## OBIE ANTHONY

**Convicted in 1995 in California for a crime he did not commit**

**Exonerated in 2011**

**Contributing Factors:** Perjury or False Accusation, Official Misconduct, Inadequate Legal Defense



## URIAH COURTNEY

**Convicted in 2006 in California for a crime he did not commit**

**Exonerated in 2013**

**Contributing Factors:** Mistaken Witness ID



## JANET DIXON

**Convicted in 1981 in California for a crime she did not commit**

**Released in 2020**

**Contributing Factors:** False Testimony, False or Misleading Forensic Evidence, Unlawful Sentencing



## JANE DOROTIK

**Convicted in 2001 in California for a crime she did not commit**

**Released in 2020**

**Contributing Factors:** False or Misleading Forensic Evidence



## TOM GOLDSTEIN

**Convicted in 1980 in California for a crime he did not commit**

**Exonerated in 2004**

**Contributing Factors:** Mistaken Witness ID, Perjury or False Accusation, Official Misconduct

## SUNNY JACOBS & PETER PRINGLE



### SUNNY JACOBS

**Convicted in 1976 in Florida for a crime she did not commit**

**Released in 1992**

**Contributing Factors:** Perjury or False Accusation, Official Misconduct



### PETER PRINGLE

**Convicted in 1980 in Ireland for a crime he did not commit**

**Released in 1995**

**Contributing Factors:** Perjury or False Accusation, Official Misconduct

Sunny and Peter met in Ireland in 1998, and married in 2011.

# THE WRONGLY CONVICTED



## GLORIA KILLIAN

**Convicted in 1986 in California for a crime she did not commit**

**Exonerated in 2002**

**Contributing Factors:** Perjury or False Accusation, Official Misconduct

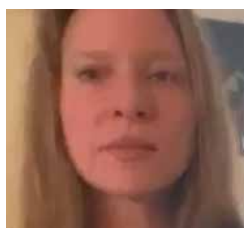


## BRUCE LISKER

**Convicted in 1985 in California for a crime he did not commit**

**Exonerated in 2009**

**Contributing Factors:** False or Misleading Forensic Evidence, Perjury or False Accusation, Official Misconduct, Inadequate Legal Defense



## KIMBERLY LONG

**Convicted in 2005 in California for a crime she did not commit**

**Exonerated in 2021**

**Contributing Factors:** Inadequate legal defense



## EDDIE LOWERY

**Convicted in 1982 in Kansas for a crime he did not commit**

**Exonerated in 2003**

**Contributing Factors:** False Confession, False or Misleading Forensic Evidence, Per-jury or False Accusation, Official Misconduct

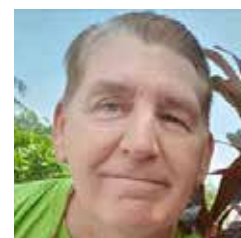


## JERRY MILLER

**Convicted in 1982 in Illinois for a crime he did not commit**

**Exonerated in 2007**

**Contributing Factors:** Mistaken Witness ID, Official Misconduct



## BILL RICHARDS

**Convicted in California in 1997 for a crime he did not commit**

**Exonerated in 2016**

**Contributing Factors:** False or Misleading Forensic Evidence



## GARY TYLER

**Convicted in 1974 in Louisiana for a crime he did not commit**

**Released in 2016**

**Contributing Factors:** Mistaken Witness Identification, Official Misconduct

Gary was just 16 years old when he was charged as an adult for first degree murder and sentenced to death. At the time, he was the youngest person on death row in the United States.



## GREG WILHOIT

**Convicted in Oklahoma in 1987 for a crime he did not commit**

**Exonerated in 1993**

**Contributing Factors:** False or Misleading Forensic Evidence, Inadequate Legal Defense. Greg died in February 2014. He was 59.

*Exoneration Information Courtesy of the National Registry of Exonerations*



INTERNATIONAL  
ABOLITION AWARD

# FRENCH CONSUL GENERAL JULIE DUHAUT-BEDOS

## ***Presenter***

Julie Duhaut-Bedos became the French Consul General in Los Angeles in September 2020.

Mrs Duhaut-Bedos is a career diplomat of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs.

She joined the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2001. Since then, she has served as Desk Officer at the North Africa and Middle East Division, first for Gulf Countries (2001-2003) and then for Tunisia and Libya (2003-2005).

She was appointed as Political and Press Counsellor at the French Embassy in Tunis (2005-2009). She also served as Spokesperson/Press Counsellor at the French Embassy in Ottawa, Canada (2009-2013).

She then served in Paris from 2013 to 2016 at the Department of Human Resources, where she was in charge of high rank diplomats' careers and appointments, "E360" evaluation and feminization of the management in the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Prior to her posting in Los Angeles, she was the Deputy Head of Mission at the French Embassy in Australia.

Julie Duhaut-Bedos is a graduate of Sciences-Po Paris and holds a degree in English.

She was awarded the distinction of Knight in the French National Order of Merit in 2019.



## HON. ROBERT BADINTER

The Honorable Robert Badinter, the former French Minister of Justice, is the architect of France's 1981 abolition of the death penalty. At a commemoration ceremony on the 40th anniversary of that historic achievement last September, with French President Emmanuel Macron at his side, Badinter declared, "I want to share with you my absolute conviction that the death penalty must disappear from the entire world as it is a shame for humanity."

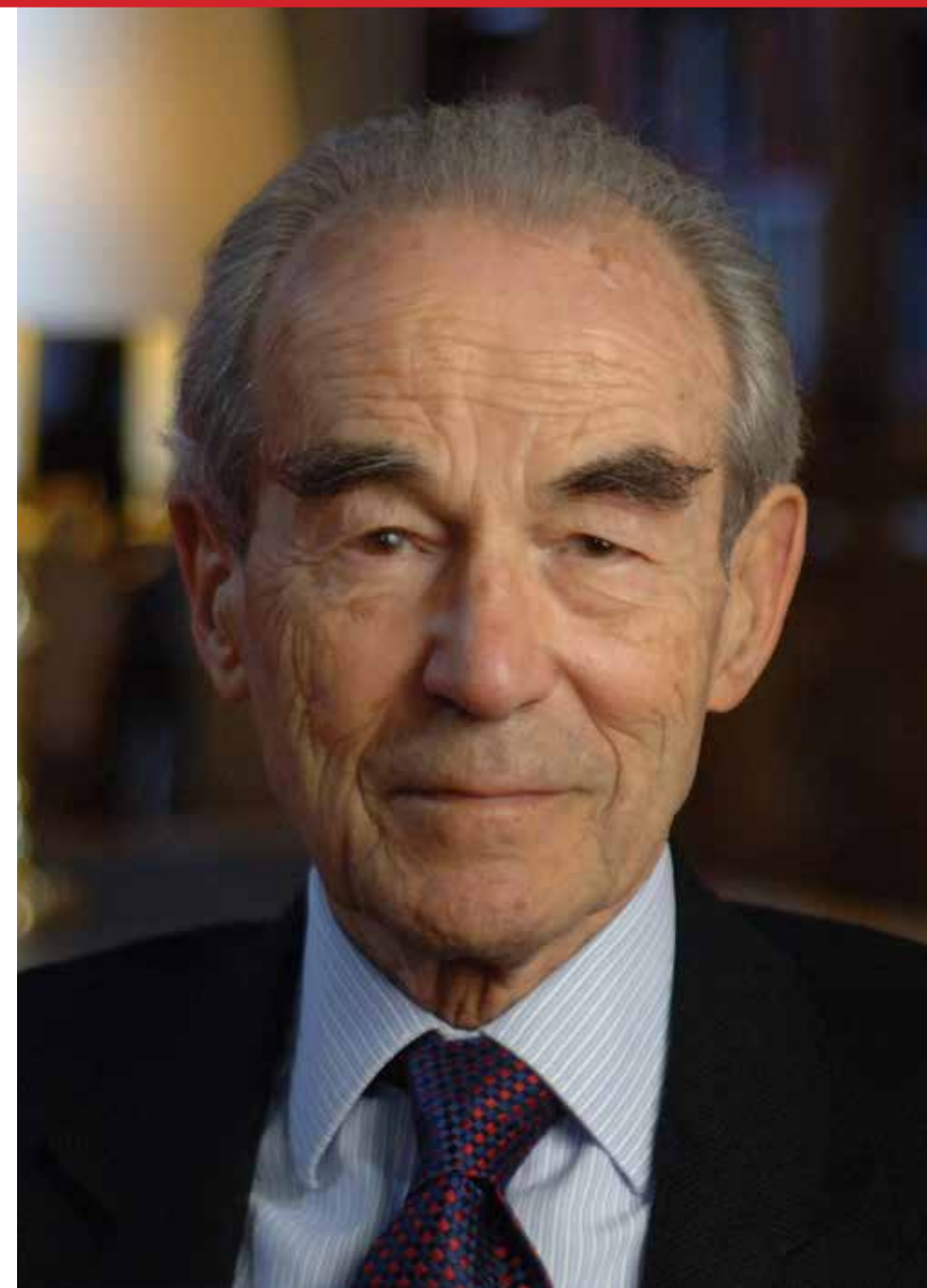
A lawyer and law professor, Badinter has championed many civil-rights reforms, including addressing victims' rights and conditions in France's prisons.

He served as Minister of Justice from 1981-1986, was President of the Constitutional Council of France from 1986-1995, and a member of the Senate from 1995-2011.

He has been a member of the Paris Law Faculty, a professor at Columbia University, and the University of Paris. He is currently a professor emeritus at the Sorbonne Faculty of Law.

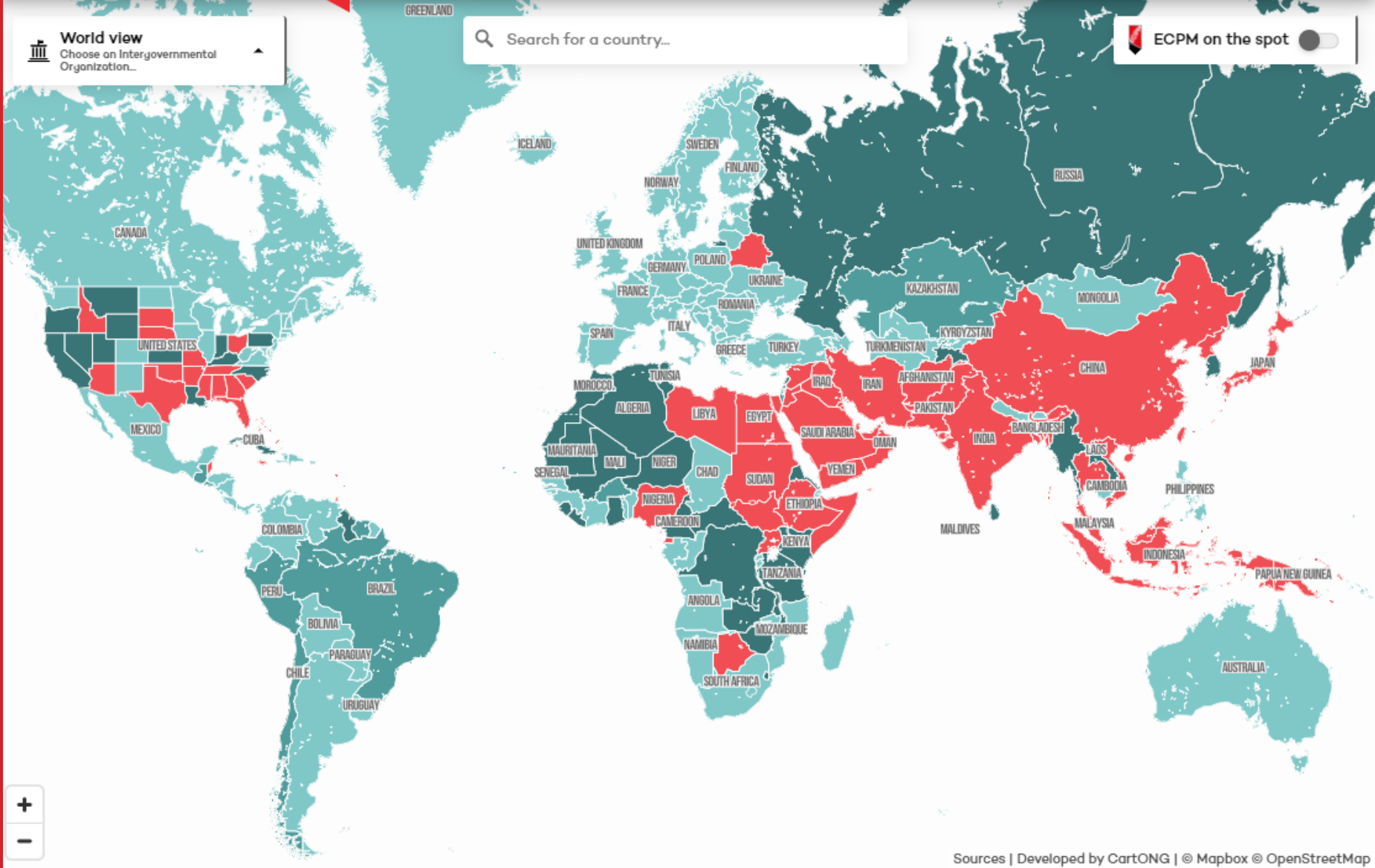
Badinter is the author of several books on the death penalty and co-edited, with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, *Judges in Contemporary Democracy*.

He has three children and lives with his wife, Élisabeth, in Paris.



THE DEATH PENALTY WORLDWIDE

UN INSTRUMENTS



**The State of Virginia, USA (2021), Sierra Leone (2021), and Papua New Guinea (2022) have also abolished the death penalty since December 31, 2020**

## DISTRICT ATTORNEY OF LOS ANGELES GEORGE GASCÓN

### *Special Guest*

On Dec. 7, 2020, George Gascón was sworn in as the 43rd District Attorney of Los Angeles County, delivering his visionary approach to criminal justice reform to the nation's largest local prosecutorial office.

Gascón, who rose through the ranks of the Los Angeles Police Department from patrol officer to Assistant Chief of Police under Bill Bratton, served as Chief of Police in Mesa, Ariz., before being named Chief of Police in San Francisco by then-Mayor Gavin Newsom.

In 2011, Newsom tapped Gascón to fill the District Attorney vacancy created by Kamala Harris' election to the U.S. Senate. The Cuban-born attorney became that city's first Latino police chief and the nation's first police chief to become District Attorney.

During his two terms in office, Gascón decreased San Francisco's jail population by nearly 30% and reduced violent crime to historic lows. He was the nation's first District Attorney to call for an end to cash bail and first to launch an automatic record-clearing program for marijuana convictions following legalization.

Gascón created California's first independent investigation bureau to enhance transparency and limit the conflict of interest that occurs when police agencies investigate themselves. He was the state's only District Attorney to support a law creating stricter standards for police use of force.

Gascón holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from California State University, Long Beach, and a Juris Doctor Degree from Western State University, College of Law.

He is married to Fabiola Kramsky, a three-time Emmy Award-winning journalist.



# IN MEMORIAM

## ED ASNER

*By Liza Asner*

It is a great honor for my father to be recognized by Mike Farrell and Death Penalty Focus — a great honor indeed.

My father was a great supporter of Death Penalty Focus, and because of him, I am too.

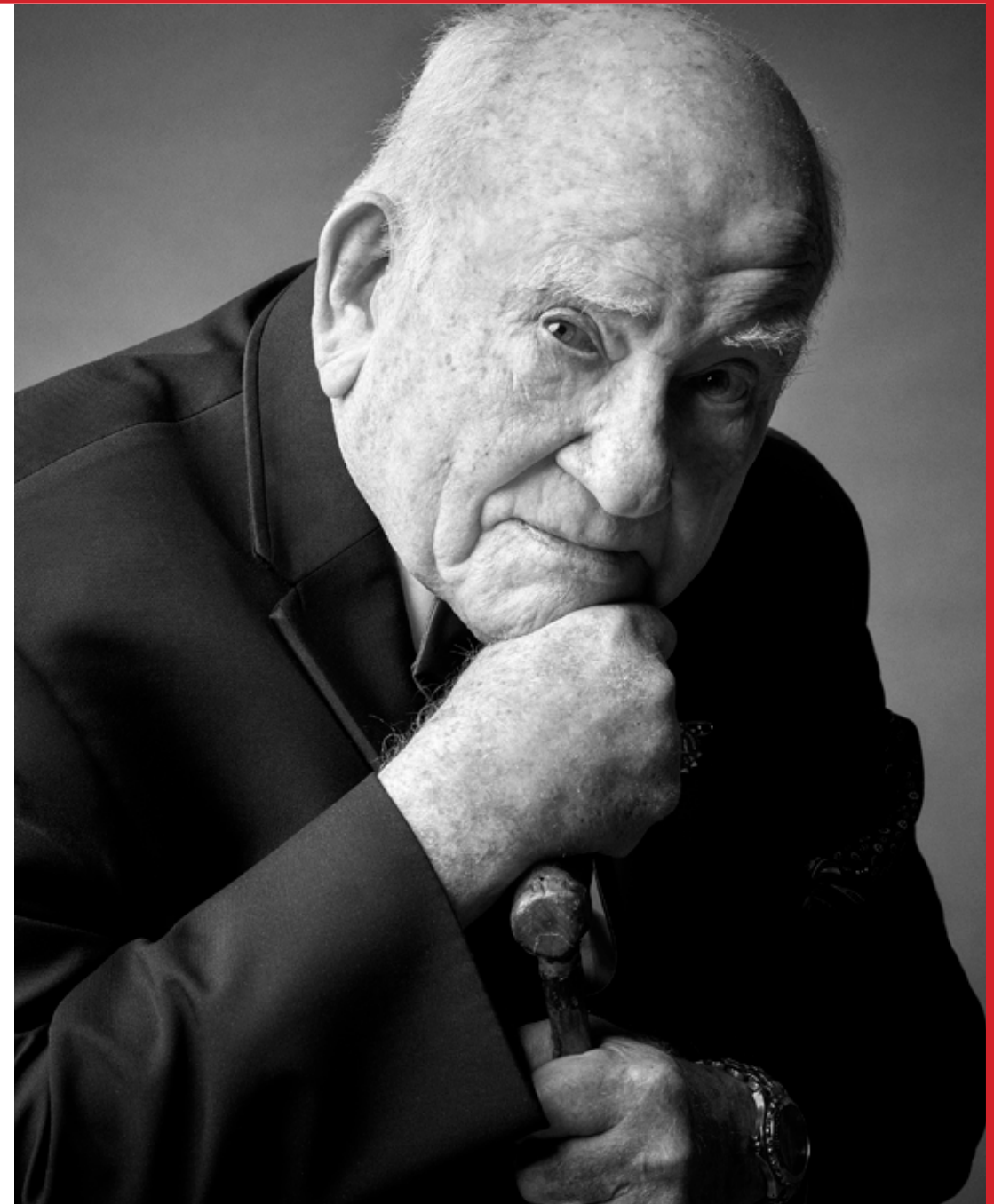
I remember as if it were yesterday how we interviewed Mike for the documentary, “My Friend Ed,” and he told the story about Sister Pat coming to him for help with Central America, and Mike referred her to my father.

I remember how, a few years later, my father and I were at a DPF awards dinner where he made a hefty donation, then turned to me and said, “I will never hear the end of this from my business manager.”

Jackson Browne sang that night, and I remember listening to a mother speak about her child, a murder victim. She spoke of forgiveness and cherishing life. For her, it was not an eye for an eye.

I chose to write a research paper on capital punishment in college, which only strengthened my convictions that we need to end the death penalty. My father and I both agreed that every reason people support it is inaccurate or unjust. Research proves that capital punishment does not deter others from taking a life; it is more expensive than incarceration; it does not right a wrong; it leaves no room for rehabilitation. And so often, innocent people are convicted of crimes they did not commit, and too often, those that are executed are innocent.

My father would be so proud of this because he believes in your mission and all that you accomplish for equality and justice.



## WILEY BRIDGEMAN

Wiley Bridgeman, who spent more than half his life in prison, including two years on Ohio's death row, for a crime he didn't commit, died last June from complications of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. He was 66.

Bridgeman was 20 when he was sentenced to death. He spent 39 years in prison before he was released, years that, not surprisingly, took a terrible toll.

Bridgeman, his brother Kwame Ajamu (formerly Ronnie Bridgeman), and Rickey Jackson were sentenced to death in Cleveland for the 1975 murder of Harold Franks. Their conviction was based on the eyewitness testimony of a 13-year-old boy. All three spent two years on death row before being resentenced to life in 1977, when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Ohio's death penalty was unconstitutional.

The three men, tried separately, were convicted despite their claims of innocence, solid alibis, and lack of any physical or forensic evidence linking them to the killing.

In 2011, *Cleveland Magazine* published an article about the case and its many troubling inconsistencies, especially the testimony of the 13-year-old eyewitness, Eddie Vernon. The Ohio Innocence Project subsequently filed a petition for a new trial for all three men, presenting evidence that Vernon had confessed that he had not seen the crime occur, had been intimidated by police to testify falsely, and had attempted to recant his testimony.

All three men were exonerated in 2014. (Bridgeman was paroled in 2002 but was sent back to prison after three months for a parole violation.)

Ajamu said his brother had mental health issues that were exacerbated by his many years in prison. Still, in 2017, Bridgeman published a book of poetry, *There's a Something I Meant to Tell You*, and found peace in his home set on four acres in Ohio's Summit County.

"He still managed to be a very encouraging, very intellectual, very bright star," Ajamu told *Cleveland.com*. "They did not put his fire out, although they dimmed a lot of light."



## ROBERT “RENNY” CUSHING

The criminal justice community lost a giant and Death Penalty Focus lost a dear friend with Robert “Renny” Cushing’s passing. Cushing died earlier this month from prostate cancer at the age of 69.

The New Hampshire House Democratic leader, Cushing spent decades promoting legislation to abolish the death penalty, finally succeeding in 2019. The legislature overrode the governor’s veto, and on May 30, 2019, Cushing was responsible for New Hampshire becoming the 21st state in the U.S. to abolish the death penalty.

Cushing, a tireless advocate for crime victims and a staunch opponent of capital punishment, was the founder and Executive Director of Murder Victims’ Families for Human Rights. His opposition to the death penalty was unshakeable, surprising to some because his father was murdered in 1988. But for him, his father’s killing was all the more reason to oppose the death penalty.

“If we let those who kill turn us into murderers, evil triumphs, and we are all worse off,” he would say.

In November, Cushing was a panelist on a DPF webinar featuring murder victims’ family members. Asked how he persevered in his efforts to get the death penalty abolished year after year in New Hampshire, despite his own personal pain, Cushing said, “I am honored to be able to work with the most amazing people you could possibly imagine, all of whom have had the most unimaginable pain foisted upon them and somehow struggling to make it through it to work every day to make this world a better place for everybody.”

“He could have been referring to himself when he said that,” DPF President Mike Farrell says. “He channelled his own grief and pain after his father’s murder into supporting those who had lost their loved ones to violence. And knowing first-hand that the death penalty won’t bring victims’ family members peace, he used that knowledge to work tirelessly to get capital punishment abolished in New Hampshire. And even after years of defeat, he never wavered in his conviction and his determination.” Farrell and Cushing had been friends for many years, and over that time, Farrell had traveled to New Hampshire to support Cushing’s efforts. To Farrell, “Renny was a hero.”

Death Penalty Focus honored Cushing in 2019 with its Abolition Award, given each year to an individual or group who inspires us to understand that the struggle to abolish the death penalty, however resisted, is a just and humane pursuit for which we can all take pride and from which humankind will benefit.



## DAMON THIBODEAUX

Less than ten years after he was released from Louisiana's death row for a crime he didn't commit, Damon Thibodeaux died last August of complications from Covid. He was 47.

Thibodeaux was 22 when he was convicted of the 1997 rape and murder of his step-cousin, Crystal Champagne. He had falsely confessed to the murder after a nine-hour interrogation. His confession contained many inaccuracies about the details of the crime, including a sexual assault that never occurred.

After 15 years on death row, 16 years of incarceration, he was released in September 2012 when his conviction was overturned. Thibodeaux's lawyers, including the Innocence Project, the Capital Post-Conviction Project of Louisiana, the ACLU, and the Fredrikson & Byron law firm, had uncovered substantial evidence of his innocence, including the absence of Thibodeaux's DNA at the scene of the crime. As a result, the Jefferson Parish District Attorney's Office agreed to overturn his conviction and death sentence.

In a YouTube video interview with WUNC Radio, Thibodeaux, who had moved to Minnesota to work in the mailroom at Fredrikson & Byron after his release, before becoming a long-haul truck driver in Texas, reflected on the terrible events that robbed him of almost 20 years of his life.

"There's a good chunk that's missing," he said. "I'm thankful I can live the rest of it, but it still would be nice to have that back, but we all know that's not an option." And once he was free, he was determined to appreciate his life.

"No matter what happens during the day — how good the rest of the day is, how bad the rest of the day is — the best part is I wake up, and there's no bars," he said.





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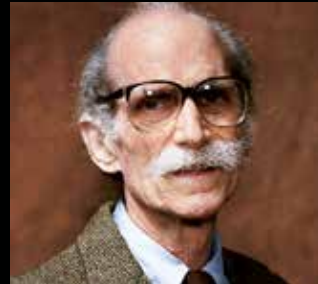
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Maddy deLone, Yoko Otani-Spurlin, Mary Kate DeLucco

# PREVIOUS HONOREES



AARON SORKIN



TONY AMSTERDAM



MIKE FARRELL



SEN. BERNIE SANDERS



DOLORES HUERTA



JOHN GRISHAM



RABBI LEONARD BEERMAN



REV. JAMES LAWSON



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REP. BARBARA LEE



BARRY SCHECK



SEAN PENN



SISTER HELEN PREJEAN



SEN. EDWARD KENNEDY



BRYAN STEVENSON



RENNY CUSHING



# PREVIOUS HONOREES

## 1996 AWARDS DINNER:

1996 Abolition Award: **Rubin “Hurricane” Carter**  
1996 Abolition Award: **Kiefer Sutherland**  
The Mario Cuomo Act of Courage Award: **Gov. Mario Cuomo (Inaugural)**

## 1997 AWARDS DINNER:

The Aline and Norman Felton Humanitarian Award: **Chief Justice Rose Elizabeth Bird**  
1997 Abolition Award: **Sean Penn**  
The Mario Cuomo Act of Courage Award: **Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr.**

## 1998 AWARDS DINNER:

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 AWARDS DINNER:

The Mario Cuomo Act of Courage Award: **David Protes 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 AWARDS DINNER:

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 AWARDS DINNER:

The Aline and Norman Felton Humanitarian Award: **Murder Victims’ Families for Reconciliation**  
2001 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 AWARDS DINNER:

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**  
2002 Abolition Award: **Danny Glover**

## 2003 AWARDS DINNER:

The Norman Felton and Denise Aubuchon Humanitarian Award: **Patch Adams**  
Justice in Media and Arts Award: **Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen**  
2003 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 AWARDS DINNER:

The Norman Felton and Denise Aubuchon Humanitarian Award: **Aqeela Sherrills**  
Justice in Media and Arts Award: **Robert Wise**  
2004 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 AWARDS DINNER:

The Norman Felton and Denise Aubuchon Humanitarian Award: **Bishop Henry Williamson**  
Justice in Media and Arts Award: **Bradley Whitford and Jane Kaczmarek**  
2005 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 AWARDS DINNER:

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)**

# PREVIOUS HONOREES

## 2007 AWARDS DINNER:

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 AWARDS DINNER:

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 AWARDS DINNER:

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**  
2009 Abolition Award: **Nick McKeown**

## 2010 AWARDS DINNER:

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**  
2010 Abolition Award: **Richard Dieter**

## 2011 AWARDS DINNER:

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 AWARDS DINNER:

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**  
The 2012 Abolition Award: **The West Memphis 3: Jason Baldwin, Damien Echols, Jessie Misskelley**  
The 2012 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 AWARDS DINNER:

Human Rights Award: **Norman Felton (posthumously)**  
The Norman Felton and Denise Abuchon Humanitarian Award: **Javier Stauring**  
The 2013 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 AWARDS DINNER:

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"**

# PREVIOUS HONOREES

## 2015 AWARDS DINNER:

Justice in the Media Award: **Alex Gibney, Bred Hebert, Laura Michalchyshyn on behalf of Death Row Stories**  
2015 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 AWARDS DINNER:

2016 Abolition Award: **Sir Richard Branson**  
Norman Felton and Denise Abuchon Humanitarian Award: **Dolores Huerta**  
Justice in the Arts and Media: **Jackson Browne**

## 2017 AWARDS DINNER

2017 Abolition Award: **Senator Bernie Sanders / Presented by: Jane Sanders**  
Mario Cuomo Acts of Courage of Award: **Judy Clarke and Speedy Rice / Presented by: Sr. Helen Prejean**  
Justice in the Arts Award: **Joan Baez / Presented by: Mike Farrell**

## 2018 AWARDS

Lifetime Achievement Award: **Rev. James Lawson**

## 2019 AWARDS

The Mario Cuomo Acts of Courage Award: **Mike Farrell / Presented by Peggy Farrell**  
Abolition Award: **Hon. Renny Cushing / Presented by Beth Webb**  
Lifetime Achievement Award: **Anthony Amsterdam / Presented by: Seth Waxman and Ed Redlich**  
The Rose Elizabeth Bird Commitment to Justice Award: **The late Justice Stevens / Accepted by Larry Marshall**

**2020 – DUE TO PANDEMIC, NO DINNER WAS HELD.**

## 2021 AWARDS

The Rose Elizabeth Bird Commitment to Justice Award: **Bryan Stevenson / Presented by Mike Farrell**  
Human Rights Award: **Rabbi Sharon Brous / Presented by Representative Karen Bass**  
Justice in the Arts Award: **“Clemency” Director/Writer, Producers and Cast / Presented by Toni Trucks**  
Abolition Award: **Michael L. Radelet / Presented by Sister Helen Prejean**

# BENEFACTOR

“It reminds me of another old story. A man is walking along a country road, and he sees a farmer pulled over by a drainage ditch with a wagon. And he’s hitched up to that wagon a tired old horse that’s obviously blind. The farmer has a couple of hired hands with him and in order to clear out the ditch, they’re piling all kinds of things into this wagon, rocks, roots, garbage, tree stumps, boulders...it’s a huge heavy load. Finally, the farmer climbs up on the wagon, snaps the reins once at this pathetic old horse and says, ‘Hey, gidde up, Clyde!’ Horse doesn’t budge, doesn’t move at all. The farmer doesn’t seem to mind. He snaps the whip, pulls the reins again, says, ‘Hey, gidde up, Elba!’ Horse doesn’t move. Third time, ‘Gidde up Sunshine!’ That horse didn’t even look up. The guy’s watching the farmer, watching the blind horse, can’t figure it out. Then he hears the farmer say, ‘Gidde up, Dust!’ And suddenly, the decrepit old horse leans into his traces, digs his hooves into the dirt, puffs and strains and by some miracle he gets that wagon moving. Moving indeed, he moves it about a half mile, gets to the place where the farmer wants him to stop, and he stops. The guy watches all of this, follows the wagon and the farmer, and finally says to the farmer, ‘I can’t believe what I just saw. That was some load. That horse was blind wasn’t he? Why did you call him all those names? Don’t you know the damn horse’s name?’ The farmer looks at him and says, ‘Yeah, you’re right, he’s blind. And yeah I know his name. But do you think that horse would have dragged and pulled that big load if he knew he was alone?’ Tonight you have reassured me that even if I have to wear my glasses a little more often these days, I’m not yet a blind horse. And you have reassured me and all of us that none of us is working alone. Thank God.”

*- Mario Cuomo, 1996 DPF Dinner Honoree*

**To Everyone at Death Penalty Focus - It has been such an honor to work alongside you in this struggle.**

**We love you all.  
Ed and Sarah**

ASSOCIATE

We are proud to support  
**Death Penalty Focus**  
and our dear friends,  
**Ed Redlich & Sarah Timberman.**

**The McGrath Abrams Family Foundation**

With enormous gratitude to the honorees and all who fight to end  
the death penalty ... in California, in Virginia, in the Capital,  
across the USA and around the globe

## Sherry and Leo Frankin

But, what is capital punishment, if not the most premeditated of murders...  
Mais qu'est-ce donc que l'exécution capitale, sinon le plus prémédité des meurtres...

Albert Camus



Impatiently waiting for an  
end to the death penalty!

**Congratulations to  
all honorees!**

Robert M. Myers  
and Linda Sullivan

*We Dedicate This Page to....*  
**All Who Are Dedicated to Elevating  
Our Country's Morality by Ending State Killing.**



*With Special Recognition to the*  
**DPF Board & Staff**  
For Their Tireless Efforts in Advancing This Cause,  
We Hope and Say: One day soon we will prevail.



**Sue & Dick Wollack**

Heartfelt thanks and appreciation to  
Death Penalty Focus for their ongoing  
efforts to end the death penalty.

*-- Robert Greenwald & Heidi Frey*

“... the most deeply human and courageous men and women are those who in life and death dare to submit themselves to the ordeal of walking through the fire of selfhood, of loneliness and tragedy. In their example we can learn... that this life, this world, for all of its cynicism and stupidity and anguish, is also a place where change is possible, where one can take on a host of evils, even death itself. There is no guarantee of victory, but there is a choice: one either collaborates with the enemy... with whatever is miserable or inhumane, or one joins the resistance. To be most deeply human is to be among the resisters, to resist whatever demeans life. And that will lead us to become aware of what one human being owes to another, can mean to another, and to have compassion for all people - all of us - in our terrible fragility.”

**Rabbi Leonard Beerman**

*One of the founders of Death Penalty Focus*

**With Love from Shelley Fabares and Mike Farrell**

WE PROUDLY SALUTE



AND ALL OF TONIGHT'S HONOREES.



# Now more than ever

Eugenie Ross-Leming  
&  
Robert Singer

Thank you Death Penalty Focus  
for all of the work you do.  
Proud to stand side by side with  
you in the fight for abolition.

**Reiss Clauson-Wolf & Dana Levy**

*“Had it not been for slavery, the death penalty would have been abolished in America. Slavery became a haven for the death penalty.”*

- Angela Davis

Thank you to Death Penalty Focus for getting us closer to death penalty abolition.

**Paula & Barry Litt**

# SUPPORTER

Thank you to **Garland Allen**,  
our Dad, for the passion, commitment and  
dedication that you have shown  
to the mission of DPF.

**You inspire us and we love you.**

*Your children and grandchildren*

**Darya, Mike, Maddy, Oliver and Henry  
Shar, Melissa, Connor, Trevor, Bella and Jordan  
Jason, Krista, Leela and Ylo**

SUPPORTER

**To Ed Redlich & Sarah Timberman**

**We admire your passion and generosity for  
your focus on such a great cause.**

**Your friends,  
Michael & Laurie Schur**

## SUPPORTER

*At the end of the day the death penalty is not about those who kill, it is about us. We, as a society, become what we say we abhor, killers. I don't want the state killing in my name.*

– Hon. Renny Cushing (NH)

Rest In Peace, Renny Cushing.

Congratulations to all the honorees, and to Mike Farrell and the DPF board and team for their three decades of work to abolish the death penalty.

**Nancy Cotton & John Given**

# SUPPORTER

*Congratulations to*  
Sen. **Dick Durbin**, Rep. **Ayanna Pressley**, Hon.  
**Robert Badinter**, Governor **Ralph Northam**, State  
Sen. **Scott Surovell** (VA), Delegate **Mike Mullin**  
(VA), Virginians for Alternatives to the Death  
Penalty, Virginia Interfaith Center for Public  
Policy, Virginia Defenders Capital Defender  
Offices, Virginia Capital Representation Resource  
Center, the 8th Amendment Project and **Joe**  
**Giarratano** for their dedication to ending the  
death penalty.

*Our special thoughts* for the family and friends of  
**Renny Cushing**, a true hero.

**SANGER SWYSEN & DUNKLE**



Robert M. Sanger  
Catherine J. Swysen  
Stephen K. Dunkle  
Miguel A. Avila  
Sarah S. Sanger  
Hon. Frank J. Ochoa (Ret.), Of Counsel

# Garland and Farrokh Allen honor

Interim Executive Director **MADDY DE LONE**,  
Director of Administration and Finance **YOKO OTANI-SPURLIN**  
and Communications Consultant **MARY KATE DE LUCCO**  
for their invaluable contributions to DEATH PENALTY FOCUS and its crucial work.

and

**STEVE ROHDE**

Stalwart activist, former DPF Chair and continuing Board Member, as he and Wendy Herzog move to their new home in Sonoma County.

**In the words of Mike Farrell:**

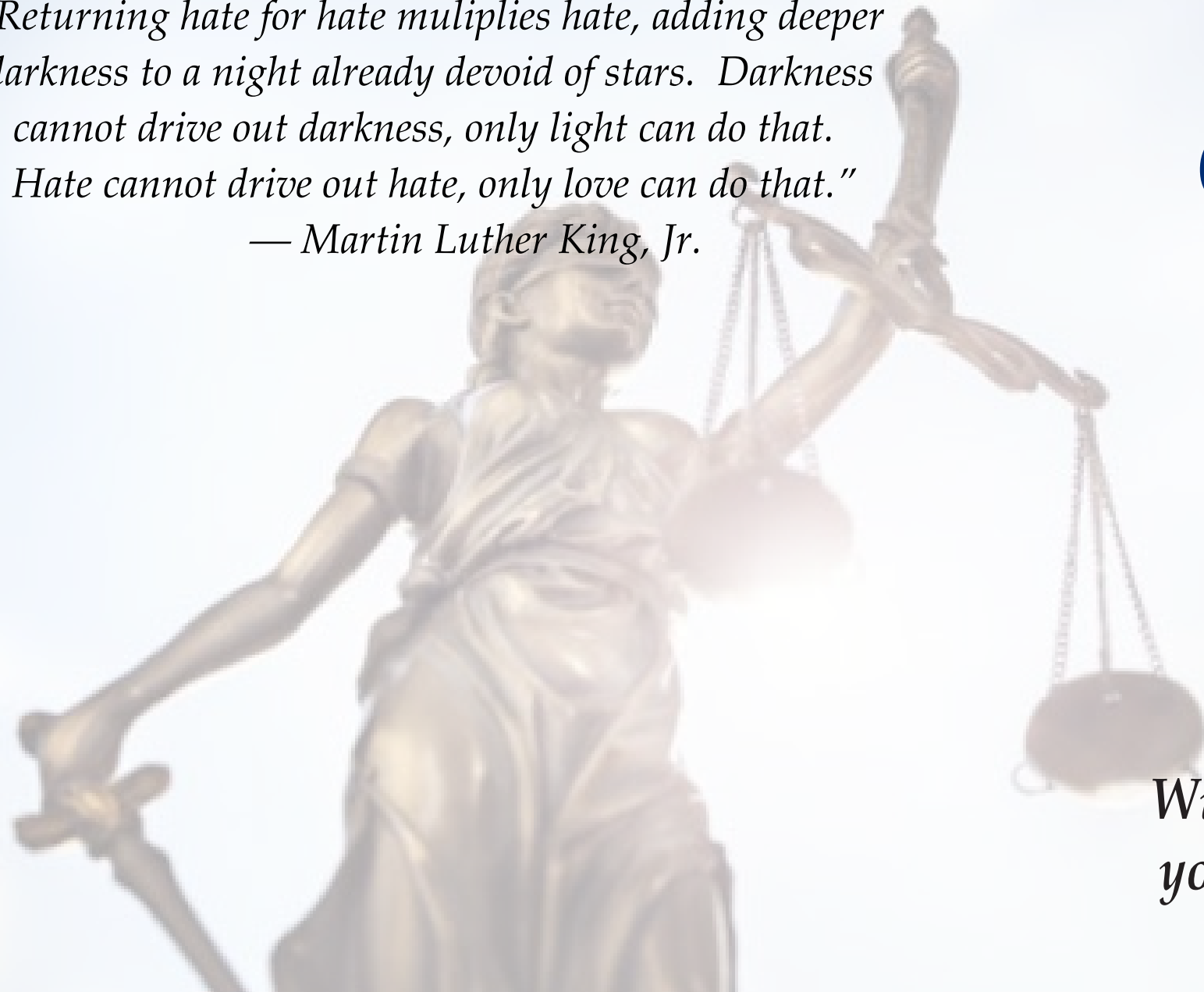
“About 3/4 of the social justice efforts in Southern California are feeling a deep dip in their energy level as you slip away north.”

**THE ACLU SOCAL THANKS  
DEATH PENALTY FOCUS  
AND ALL OF TONIGHT'S HONOREES  
FOR THEIR VITAL WORK TO  
ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY.**

**ACLU**  
SoCal

*“Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.”*

*— Martin Luther King, Jr.*



*We salute  
Death Penalty Focus  
and  
congratulate all of  
tonight's remarkable and  
deserving honorees.*

*With gratitude and admiration,  
your friends at Public Counsel*



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*of* Death Penalty Focus

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“From this day forward, I no longer shall tinker with the machinery of death. I feel morally and intellectually obligated simply to concede that the death penalty experiment has failed. The problem is that the inevitability of factual, legal, and moral error gives us a system that we know must wrongly kill some defendants, a system that fails to deliver the fair, consistent, and reliable sentences of death required by the Constitution.”

- *US Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun (1994)*

**Stephen Rohde & Wendy Herzog**

**We'd like to thank all  
the DPF supporters  
who make our work  
possible!**

**DPF Team**

The Death Penalty  
and the decades of  
additional trauma that  
comes with it, is not done  
For the victims families, it's done  
To the victims families.  
You can't heal us by  
murdering someone else.

In Solidarity  
**Beth Webb**

*In honor of all exonerees*  
who have chosen to put their time and  
energy into ending the death penalty.  
Despite your past experience,  
you have chosen to embark on the  
courageous journey of taking hold  
of the light within you and  
*becoming a living*  
*example of love and forgiveness.*

Colleen Tracy

*In honor of*  
**Robert Badinter--**  
a good friend who makes  
the world a better place

**Donald Spoto**

**CATHOLICS AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY and SAINT CAMILLUS CENTER**  
celebrate **DEATH PENALTY FOCUS** and the 2022 honorees.

*We hold in memory two death penalty abolitionists who died this past year:*  
*JOHN AUGUST SWANSON and FRANK ANTHONY PONNET*



**JOHN AUGUST SWANSON**  
January 11, 1938 - September 23, 2021



**FRANK ANTHONY PONNET**  
November 21, 1953 - July 7, 2021

"Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable...  
Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice,  
suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate  
concern of dedicated individuals."

– Martin Luther King, Jr.

***Congratulations***  
*to all of tonight's honorees.*

With gratitude,

**Tracy K. Rice**

*Congratulations to*  
Former Minister of Justice of France,  
**Robert Badinter**  
on his recognition by  
Death Penalty Focus for  
his years of leadership ending  
the death penalty in France  
and fighting the use of the  
death penalty world-wide.

With Deep Respect,  
**Speedy Rice and Judy Clarke**



Clarke Johnston Thorp & Rice A Partnership of Professional Corporations

Attorneys at Law – 180 Broadway, Suite 1800, San Diego, California 92101

My congratulations to  
all those being honored tonight,  
for their decades of vigilant,  
effective efforts to draw  
attention to the horrors  
and inequities of  
capital punishment.

***Henry Weinstein***



CARLSON FILMS

**Carlson Films**  
*is proud to support*  
**Death Penalty Focus**  
and congratulates  
the courageous  
**2022 Honorees**

**CarlsonFilms.com**

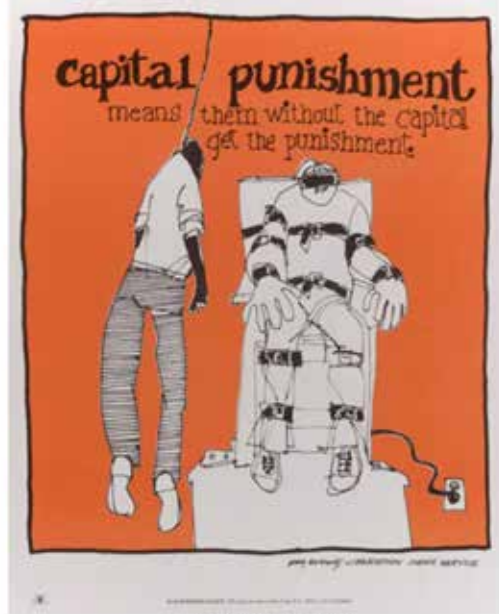
Congratulations and  
thank you to tonight's honorees  
for your work and inspiration.

Thank you to the DPF board  
and staff who have been  
leading the effort for  
death penalty abolition  
for more than 30 years  
with persistence and dedication.

**Bobby Cohen  
and Maddy deLone**



**The 8th Amendment Project**  
would like to congratulate all of champions in  
Virginia who worked tirelessly  
to abolish the death penalty, including  
**Virginians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty**  
(Michael Stone and Dale Brumfield),  
**Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy**  
(LaKeisha Cook and Benjamin Hoyne),  
**VA Capital Representation Resource Center,**  
**VA Defenders Capital Defender Offices,**  
**Joe Giarratano, Sen. Scott Surovell,**  
**Del. Mike Mullin, and Gov. Ralph Northam.**

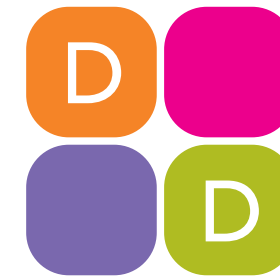


Peg Averill, Offset, 1978

Carol Wells, Ted Hajjar &  
Center for the Study of  
Political Graphics  
Celebrate  
Death Penalty Focus  
& the 2022 Honorees

**Dead Wrong**  
Poster Exhibition Against the Death Penalty  
Opens May 2022

ALWAYS A PLEASURE TO WORK WITH  
**DEATH PENALTY FOCUS**



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Death  
Penalty  
**Death  
penalty**  
**FOCUS**

Death Penalty Focus is committed to the abolition of the death penalty through public education, grassroots and political organizing, media outreach, and domestic and international coalition building.

Death Penalty Focus  
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415-243-0143 | [information@deathpenalty.org](mailto:information@deathpenalty.org)