

## What NLG Students Have Done in the Past

**Arizona State University** hosted a staffed table in the law school rotunda from 9 am to 5 pm on March 1st. The table included a display with statistics & facts about the death penalty and profiles of the exonerated. They also had information at the table to hand out to people about the death penalty and NLG. A petition at the table requested ASU law students to sign on in opposition to the death penalty. The petition was sent to the AZ legislature. Finally, they had armbands available at the table so students could show their support all day - *for* or *against* the death penalty - Black, against; Red, for.

**Boalt Hall** screened "Deadline" during lunch hour, set up a display of death row inmates, tabled during lunch with informational sheets on the death penalty highlighting Mumia's case and several CA cases.

**Brooklyn Law** had Colin Starger of the Innocence Project come speak about how innocence projects have affected how the death penalty is perceived by the public and by courts, with lunch. They showed 'Deadline' with PBR and pizza, and later on presented the Mumia documentary and had Jeff Mackler of the Mumia Task Force come speak.

**Case Western University School of Law** honored Student Day Against the Death Penalty with two events and an advertising campaign.

First, International LLM Students will speak on a panel about their home countries' perspectives on the death penalty. Speakers will be representing Israel, EU countries, Saudi Arabia, China and others. This will be a lunchtime event.

Secondly, "Redemption: The Stan 'Tookie' Williams Story" will be shown on the evening of March 1st. Following the film, a speaker will enlighten students about the current status of the death penalty in Ohio and sample letters will be available for students who wish to participate in a letter-writing campaign.

Advertising for these events will consist of several different flyers, each featuring a person recently executed. There will be a picture of the executed person and a short biography of his/her life and the crimes for which s/he was executed. It is the chapter's hope that seeing the faces and reading the stories of executed people will inspire students to humanize people on death row. Information about the events will also be provided on the flyers. The flyers will be placed throughout the school and in student mailboxes.

**Chicago-Kent** held a viewing of *Deadline*. This film chronicles Governor Ryan's decision commute the sentences of all inmates on Illinois death row and sheds light on the issue of the death penalty nationally. The film features interviews

with death row inmates, families, and Ryan. An informal discussion followed. People of all viewpoints were welcome and attendance was not limited to Kent students or NLG members.

**Colorado University, Boulder's** NLG chapter is hosting a movie night to watch *The Exonerated* and tabling to support the bill that is in front of the state legislature to abolish the death penalty. They hope to have a lunch speaker that week, as well.

**CUNY & Pace Law** tabled with a Network For Justice anti-death penalty petition to keep the death penalty out of NY State.

**Golden Gate University** tabled all day, showed a movie, and had anti-death penalty attorney Luke Hiken speak.

**Gonzaga University** screened a film on the death penalty and handed out flyers.

**Lewis and Clark** NLG held a debate/discussion between two professors on the death penalty and also distributed anti-death penalty literature.

**Loyola—Los Angeles** did not participate on March 1st, but co-sponsored speaker Juan Melendez for later in the month.

**Loyola—New Orleans** held a Death Penalty Awareness Week in collaboration with the Loyola Public Interest Law Group and the Black Law Students Association. They screened *Balancing the Scales*, a documentary about issues surrounding the death penalty in Texas, as well as *Dead Man Walking* and *14 Days in May*, a powerful documentary about the fortnight leading up to the execution of a man in Mississippi in the 1980s in the face of overwhelming evidence that he was innocent of the crime for which he was convicted and sentenced to death.. They hosted guest speakers Denny LeBoeuf, a Capital Appeals Attorney; Sister Helen Prejean, one of the most prominent anti-death penalty advocates in the country Monique Matthews, sister of recent death row releasee Ryan Matthews. They also put up fliers around school with different statistics relating to the death penalty and also put up a display in the main lobby of the law school.

**Marquette Law, WI's** NLG chapter held a Student Day Against the Death Penalty social justice movie night. They started with a talk by a local NLG attorney and anti-death penalty advocate and followed by the showing of *The Execution of Wanda Jean*. They also served pizza!

**New York Law School** had a table in the student lobby and had a letter writing campaign.

**Northeastern University's** chapter in Boston planned an event for March 9th, since they wouldn't be in session March 1st. Because Massachusetts doesn't have the death penalty, they focused on capital punishment at the federal level and cases in other states. On Feb. 26th there was an event featuring Pam Africa which highlighted Mumia's case. The program is below:

The Death Penalty is political

Northeastern University School of Law student chapter of the National Lawyers Guild presents a program on the death penalty, focused on the cases of Mumia Abu-Jamal and Zolo Azania.

2:00pm to 3:30pm, Wednesday, March 9th

We will focus on two cases that demonstrate both the political context of the death penalty and the inherent fallibility of its application.

Invited speakers:

- Kazi Toure, American Friends Service Committee Criminal Justice Program and the Jericho Movement Boston Chapter
- Professor Soffiyah Elijah, clinical instructor with Harvard Law School's Criminal Justice Institute
- Professor Margaret Burnham, constitutional law professor at Northeastern University
- Martina Jackson, Executive Director of Massachusetts Citizens Against the Death Penalty (the oldest death penalty abolition organization in the country, founded in 1928 in response to the executions of framed labor organizers Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti)

**Northwestern University, Chicago's** NLG Chapter is hosting a speaker panel and movie-screening to commemorate SDADP. Darby Tillis, the first man exonerated from IL's death row, will speak to students about his experience. Other speakers include clinical professors who work on international death penalty cases, with a focus on death penalty abolition world-wide. This speaker panel is followed by dinner and screening of "Deadline", a film about IL's state moratorium on the death penalty.

**Oklahoma City University, American University, & Georgia State University** all screened "Mumia: A Case for Reasonable Doubt" and offered updates on his case.

**Tulane, New Orleans'** NLG chapter wore black armbands on the day, and started an email/letter to the editor campaign.

**Southern Methodist University** hosted Kerry Cook, who spent 22 years on Texas Death Row for a crime he did not commit (Read more about Kerry Cook

at <http://www.kerrymaxcook.com>). The Guild showed the documentary "Deadline" on campus, and the President of the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty is spoke during the lunch hour.

**St. Mary's** handed out flyers and had an information table about the death penalty. After Spring Break, they had a panel discussion about the death penalty and screened a movie/documentary.

**University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa's** newly formed NLG chapter got excited about the work being done with their capital defense clinic and passed out promotional material.

**University of California, Davis** NLG presented two views on why we should abolish the death penalty. Joy Sojoodi, affiliated with Murder Victims Families for Reconciliation spoke about her experience and stance against the death penalty. Joy's parents and employees were murdered in their Chicago area restaurant several years ago. Greg Wilhoit also spoke. Greg spent four years on Oklahoma's death row after being wrongfully convicted. Even while facing the possibility of execution, Greg supported capital punishment. However, when he lost a friend to an execution he had a change of heart.

**University of Connecticut** organized a film series at the UConn Law campus, beginning with "Dead Man Walking." The intent of the series was to encourage discussion at the law school in light of the scheduled execution of Michael Ross on May 11, 2005.

**University of D.C. David Clark School of Law (UDC)** hosted a speaker panel featuring Rachel King (ACLU State Campaign Coordinator Capital Punishment Project) and William McLain III (Attorney and UDC-DCSL Professor).

**University of Kansas City, MO**, in solidarity with death penalty abolitionists and fellow law school chapters of the NLG, committed their day to tabling, providing educational material about capital punishment.

**University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign** brought the state organizer for Illinois Coalition Against the Death Penalty to talk. They showed clips from "Too Flawed To Fix" about the history behind the moratorium in IL.

**University of Pennsylvania** tabled with fact sheets, had computers set up with an online death penalty quiz, passed out black ribbons in protest of the death penalty, and showed Deadline. Hosted a campus-wide "Live from Death Row" event and held a reception (this involves a collect call to a death row inmate, moderators and a presenter before and after).

**University of Pittsburgh's** NLG chapter dedicated almost a full month to challenging the death penalty with its "Come Stand Against the Death Penalty"

campaign. They are holding events from February 22 to March 15 in an effort to raise awareness about the racially and economically-biased system of Capital Punishment. In 2007 they hosted Robert Bryan, Lead Atty for Mumia Abu-Jamal; Screened the Exonerated; and Hosted Reverend Walter Everett.

**University of San Diego** screened "Deadline," and had a table set up to distribute anti-death penalty literature and also to encourage membership in the Guild.

**University of San Francisco** set up an information/education table at which they encouraged students to sign the petition for a California death penalty moratorium.

**University of Toledo** screened the documentary "Deadline."

**University of Virginia** held their protest on Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>. They had Jim Ellis, the litigator in *Atkins v. Virginia*, come and speak on how he won the case and where the decision sits right now. They planned to have an information table the following Tuesday containing death penalty statistics, particularly focusing on Virginia, as well as a petition.

**University of Washington, Seattle** observed a minute of silence in the law school's hallways during the lunch hour, a thoughtful and poignant demonstration of solidarity.

**University of Wisconsin** hosted a roundtable discussion and strategy session open to students and community members alike. The goal was to discuss the unique challenges of fighting the death penalty in a state that doesn't have one and strategize on ways in which to still contribute to the anti-death penalty movement in this country. To this end, they presented information on recent death penalty developments in other states and at the national level, a history of the death penalty and anti-death penalty activism in Wisconsin.

**Washington and Lee** hosted Matt Engle, a 2001 W&L Alum, of the Virginia Capital Representation Resource Center, to discuss the difficulties of habeas corpus review for Death Row Inmates. Lunch was served. Professor David Bruck, of the VC3 Clinic, will moderate a viewing of the documentary "Deadline," which delves into the topic of the death penalty with an emphasis on the 2002 investigation by Illinois Governor George H. Ryan. Dinner was served.

**Whittier Law School, Costa Mesa** set up a table for general awareness and distributed ribbons for people to wear; it served as a silent protest and a demonstration of solidarity when abolition advocates wore these ribbons.

**William Mitchell, MN's NLG chapter** sponsored two events on campus in March:

"Death Penalty Defense Lawyering - How to become involved and experiences from the trenches." Chuck Lloyd of Livgard & Rabuse will be discussing how a Minnesota licensed lawyer can get involved in death penalty defense cases, and then will speak about his representation of an innocent person, Albert Burrell, who was released from death row in Louisiana on January 2, 2001 after serving 14 years and, at one time, came within 17 days of execution.

"The Death Penalty - Human Rights and International Law Considerations." Laura Young, Wellstone Legal Fellow with the Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, will speak on international law and human rights aspects of the death penalty in addition to her personal experiences working on death penalty cases.