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Founded in 1984, WCADP is a statewide 501(c)(3) non-profit organization comprised of individuals and organizations. WCADP is dedicated to public education and activism to abolish the death penalty.

Introducing Our New Field Organizer

WCADP is excited to announce the hiring of **Brynn Smith**, who will act as a Field Organizer in support of WCADP's work with Safe and Just Alternatives Campaign (SJA). (See below). Thanks to our generous supporters and a grant from the Tides Foundation, WCADP has expanded its capacity to bring Brynn on board.

She has been able to hit the ground running because she has already done extensive work with SJA. She comes to us from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and, among other things, worked with **Mishi Faruqee**, (the SJA Campaign Manager), on the SJA lobby day in Janu-

ary. Brynn brings a wonderful sense of fun to the job as well and a wide range of experience. In addition to working for criminal justice in various ways, she has worked and studied in Hungary and Japan. She plans to go to law school. Please join the Board of Directors in welcoming Brynn, who began her new job on April 30. Read her note on page 5.



Brynn Smith,
WCADP Field
Organizer

Safe & Just Alternatives Campaign

Mishi Faruqee, SJA Campaign Manager

Although legislation to repeal the death penalty did not move out of committee in the 2012 session, *Safe and Just Alternatives* (SJA) organized a highly successful lobby day, press conference, and public hearing on January 25, 2012 that helped educate legislators and the general public about the issue and built mo-

mentum towards victory in Washington State.

In preparation for Lobby Day, SJA conducted workshops across the state, including Seattle, Bellevue, Tacoma, Bellingham, Spokane and Olympia. The interactive training helped participants learn effective

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Safe and Just Alternatives Campaign

(Continued from page 1)

messaging on the death penalty as well as acquire concrete lobbying skills through role-playing of legislative meetings.

Over 60 people participated in the SJA Lobby Day, and more than 25 meetings were scheduled with legislators. Among the organizations represented were

- Washington Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty
- League of Women Voters
- NAACP of King County
- Amnesty International
- Fellowship of Reconciliation
- Faith Action Network
- Latino Equity Initiative
- Sisters of Saint Joseph's
- ACLU of Washington
- Reforming Capital Punishment (ReCAP), University of Washington Law School

SJA held a press conference as part of the lobby day, which was covered by ten different news

*not one person
had signed in
opposing SB 6283*

outlets, including five television stations. **Senator Debbie Regala**, the sponsor of the death penalty repeal bill and herself a family member of a murder victim, spoke at the press conference, as did **Senator Adam**

Kline, the Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Other speakers included civil rights leaders, a family member of murder victim and a human service advocate.

At the public hearing for the death penalty repeal bill, SB 6283, SJA orchestrated a great turn-out, with over 75 supporters attending the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing. The Committee Chair remarked that according to the sign-in sheet, only supporters of the bill were in attendance and not one person had signed in opposing SB 6283.

SJA helped organize two panels of strong witnesses in support of the bill. **Mark Larranaga**, an attorney and author of Washington State Bar Association

study on the costs of the death penalty case, **Karil Klingbeil**, a sister of a murder victim, **Father Mark Ryan** from the Washington State Catholic Conference, **Judge David Nichols**, a retired Superior Court judge, **Farrell Adrian**, from the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, and **Tim Ford**, a prominent litigator of death

penalty cases all testified. SJA also helped several other advocates prepare written testimony in support of SB 6283 including two former police chiefs, a mother of a man on death row, two other family members of murder victims, and the head of Human Life of Washington, a pro-life advocacy group.

The success of the January event is best summed in an e-mail sent by Senator Regala, saying "I am so honored to have been a

**SAFE
AND JUST
ALTERNATIVES**



Citizens from across the state gathered in Olympia to attend a public hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on proposed legislation to replace the death penalty with life without parole. Many wore white as a sign of opposition to the death penalty.

part of this effort. I do believe we helped move the ball forward in the court of public opinion."

Since the close of the legislative session, SJA has focused on public education in key legislative districts and continues to build support to advance the repeal legislation in the 2013 session.

EVENTS—Recent, Upcoming, Yours?

The WCADP and SJA is focused on facilitating events with the goal of educating and encouraging public participation in abolition work across the state of Washington. Our summer schedule follows this article.

In March, **Jen Marlowe** - Seattle author, filmmaker, playwright, human rights advocate, and WCADP board member – gave three heartfelt presentations, entitled “**Troy Davis: The Human Face of the Death Penalty**”, in Seattle and Chelan. She covered the wide range of issues that cast doubt on Davis’s guilt, and brought home the tremendous consequences of death penalty laws in the United States. During the fight for Troy’s life, Marlowe grew close to the Davis family, who had to bury 3 family members this past year. The presentations were an extension of her advocacy for the Davis family, offering attendees

the opportunity to donate money to the family. Other WCADP board members were on hand to discuss the formation of the Safe and Just Alternatives Campaign (SJA) and its efforts to abolish the death penalty in Washington State. To learn more: Jen Marlowe, Donkeysaddle.org



North Carolina’s execution gurney, October 2004. Photo by Scott Langley

Later in the spring, WCADP and SJA coordinated three events around Puget Sound entitled “**A Photographic Journey into the U.S. Death Penalty, with Human Rights Photojournalist Scott Langley**”

Langley’s chilling death penalty
(Continued on page 8)

Starvin’ for Justice, 6/29–7/2, D.C.

Dave Avolio, WCADP Board Vice-President

The Starvin’ for Justice Fast and Vigil is an annual event in Washington, DC. This event takes place on the sidewalk in front of the U.S. Supreme Court from June 29 to July 2 each year. These dates are particularly significant because the Supreme Court handed down the *Furman v. Georgia* decision on

June 28, 1972, which made the death penalty unusable. Then, on July 2, 1976, the court ruled in *Gregg v. Georgia* that executions could resume. This year also marks the 35th anniversary of the first execution of the post Gregg decision.

Dozens of anti-death penalty

Death Row Update

On May 10, **Darold Stenson’s** death sentence and his murder conviction were overturned by an 8-1 vote of the Washington State Supreme Court. The Court ruled that the Clallam County Attorney’s office had withheld evidence from Stenson’s attorneys during his initial trial. Clallam County must now retry Stenson, almost 20 years after the crime took place.

Less than a week after the ruling in Stenson’s case that effectively removed him from death row, a Pierce County jury re-sentenced **Allen Eugene Gregory** to death. Gregory had been removed from death row in 2006 when his sentence was overturned because of error on the part of the judge and the prosecutor.

The case of **Dwayne Woods** seemed to be moving towards the setting of an execution date when the US Supreme Court ruled in late March in a case that related to one of Woods’ appeals. That appeal will now be heard again in state court.

activists come regularly from across the U.S. and Canada to join together for public education and outreach at the steps of the Supreme Court. “This is a great experience and training ground for people who want to

(Continued on page 5)

Abolition Momentum Growing Across the Country

Sarah Craft, Equal Justice USA

It's always nice to know we're not alone in the fight for justice. Just like WCADP, state death penalty abolition organizations around the country are hard at work. And with every success, we all get closer to victory.

In late April, Governor Dannel Malloy signed a bill that abolished the death penalty in **Connecticut**. In a statement, Malloy reminded us that debates about the death penalty are inherently difficult, because just having the debate means a horrible crime has occurred. He reiterated, though, that the death penalty does nothing to increase public safety, that it diverts resources from real crime-fighting tools and puts the focus on the offender, rather than the victim.

The **Connecticut Network to Abolish the Death Penalty (CNADP)** was preparing for this moment for over a decade, waiting for the right moment to seize victory. CNADP built an amazing network of allies from diverse communities around the state, including those who have lost a loved one to murder, and left no stone unturned in activating that network for the legislative push this year.

In **California**, death penalty repeal advocates are busy with the **SAFE Campaign – Savings, Accountability, Full Enforcement**. SAFE collected almost 800,000 signatures to get a measure on the statewide



Actor Mike Farrell shows his support for the SAFE California Act at a press conference to announce the death penalty measure had qualified for the November ballot.

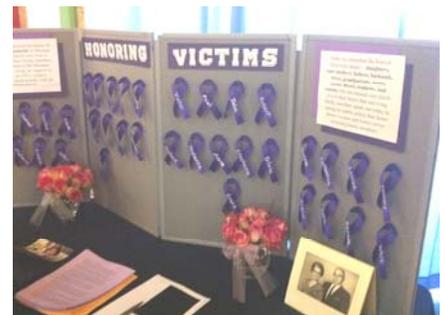
ballot that would abolish the death penalty and use the cost savings to help law enforcement address cold cases of rape and homicide. In November, California voters will have the opportunity to get rid of the death penalty and change the sentences of the over 700 inmates sitting on California's death row to life without parole.

North Carolina advocates from several anti-death penalty organizations celebrated earlier this year when a judge overturned the death sentence of an inmate based on the 2009-enacted Racial Justice Act (RJA). The RJA allows death row inmates to challenge their death sentences if they can

prove that race was a factor in their sentencing. This was the first challenge by a death row inmate using RJA, and it will likely not be the last.

Late 2011 brought great news for our neighbor to the south, when **Oregon** Governor Kitzhaber instituted a moratorium on executions. As with California, Oregon voters must decide to abolish the death penalty, and advocates from **Oregonians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (OADP)** are using the opportunity to educate and activate citizens and build support for full repeal.

Even the conservative state of **Montana** is on the verge of abolition. The **Montana Abolition Coalition** has led a groundbreaking campaign that has passed an abolition bill



Display in the Montana Capitol honors the victims of murder whose family members signed a letter in support of abolition.

through Republican-controlled chambers in both 2009 and 2011. Because of the amazing

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outreach work done by the Coalition, even conservative Republicans and Tea Party legislators are standing up in support of abolition. The grassroots wave of support for abolition flooded even the most vehement opponents. Over 10,000 constituent communications went into the Capitol (unprecedented in this state with a population of less than 1 million), more than 220 clergy and religious leaders signed on to a letter supporting abolition, and over 50 family members of homicide victims publically supported abolition.

And that's not all! Abolitionists from **Ohio** to **Texas**, **Virginia** to **Nevada**, and right here in **Washington** are building support and momentum. As states continue to reevaluate the death penalty, more and more people are realizing it cannot be fixed, and it needs to go.

A Note From Brynn

(Continued from page 1)

Hello. I'm very excited to be the Field Organizer for WCADP, which is helping to spearhead Safe and Just Alternatives (SJA), a campaign to end the death penalty in Washington State. I will be working closely with **Mishi Faruqee**, SJA's Campaign Manager. While Mishi focuses on grassroots advocacy in the

form of mobilizing organizational allies, I will travel to communities around Washington to promote SJA on the grassroots level. We're planning death penalty education and outreach events around the state, so watch for upcoming events in your neighborhood—I'd love to meet you there!

Part of our campaign strategy is to let our lawmakers know that Washingtonians who support death penalty repeal come from a variety of backgrounds, communities, and professions. To convey this important message, SJA will deliver letters from religious leaders and clergy members, current and former law enforcement officials, and victims' family members to our legislators. If you are a member of one of these important stakeholders in the effort to end the death penalty, please consider adding your name to the growing list of supporters. You can download the letters from the website:

www.abolishdeathpenalty.org/signon/. And, please print copies for your family, friends, neighbors, or others interested in signing. The more signatures we gather, the more powerful the message!

I look forward to connecting with you around the state. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at brynn@sjawa.org.

Starvin' for Justice

(Continued from page 3)

practice, or become very adept, at talking about the death penalty" says WCADP Board Vice-President **Dave Avolio**, who attends this vigil every year as well as takes a leadership role in organizing the event. Tens of thousands of tourists, from all over the U.S. and the world, pass by our vigil and table, so the opportunity for public witness and dialogue at a real grassroots level is invaluable to the movement. And, this is an excellent opportunity to meet other abolitionists and to "recharge your batteries".

The vigil starts with a "last supper" on July 28 and a walk to the Supreme Court at midnight for a brief opening ceremony. Attendees gather each morning for a day of greeting the public, followed by an evening "teach in" (fasting is not mandatory, but most do in some form). There are several hotels in the area, but many take advantage of dormitory accommodations at a local homeless shelter with a nominal, optional cost.

For more information and application forms go to: www.abolition.org/. **Please be sure to register and let us know you are coming.**

We're looking forward to Starvin' with ya!

FOR ROBERT, SOON TO BE EXECUTED

By Craig Oare

Chirping chatter around the pond
in the warm rain at McLane--worlds
away from the scandal and shame
of death row in Texas.

I want to send the usual letter,
stained with Otto's coffee
like our seven years of letters,
bashing Bush and the damn Yankees
and all the bullshit banter,
and poems to answer your poems
and your many brilliant drawings.
How can I write that letter, Robert,
when you're in the countdown now,
forty days and forty nights.
What can I say, that anything can
happen?

Or that everything is meant to be?
I'm right in the middle of that
contradiction,
still quoting dear old Whitman:
"Very well, I contradict myself,
I am large, I contain multitudes."

Here's another pile of books,
what else can I do?
Come there, watch them kill you?
Do you really want me to?
Our rowboats are all leaking
and we're all going down.
But to know the day and hour of
death
and every cruel detail,
the last meal, last walk, last words,
the tight straps and the cold needle,
the eyes of parents, both yours and
hers.

Strange audience, all injected,
no clemency for any in the room.
I'm sending all the love I have,
I wish that I had more.
I don't know how to end this poem.
Your friend, Craig Oare

*Craig Oare writes poetry in Olympia,
Washington. Reprinted by permission.*

2012 Board of Directors

Stefanie Anderson (*President*) came to WCADP through her involvement with the local Amnesty group and has been on the board for several years. She works in the natural products industry and is the violist in a local band, Vanya.

Dave Avolio (*Vice President*) has been involved with WCADP for over a decade. His interest in abolition comes from his work in prison ministry and the Episcopal Peace Fellowship. Dave also helps organize the Annual Fast & Vigil Against the Death Penalty in Washington, D.C.

Ken Blucker (*Secretary*) is a post-conviction criminal attorney who recently moved to the Seattle area from Kansas City, Missouri, where he was the senior staff attorney at the Midwestern Innocence Project. He is currently a contract attorney for the Garden City Group.

Yvonne Wilhelmsen (*Treasurer*) has been active with the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation's (FOR) Committee for Alternatives to the Death Penalty for about 10 years. She is interested in mobilizing Washington faith communities in support of abolition. She works as the Office Manager for a small non-profit in Olympia.

Brenda Collier was born in the UK, and she was horrified to find out the Washington State still had the death penalty. She has been a member of the Coalition for many years, on the board for more than ten years, and the treasurer for much of that time.

Andrea Crabtree has been working in the criminal justice system as a paralegal to criminal defense attorneys in Seattle for 22 years. She currently works at Schroeter, Goldmark & Bender. She was the WCADP board president for several years and is now returning to the board after a brief hiatus.

Emily Hammargren is the Chair of Olympia FOR's Committee for Alternatives to the Death Penalty. She is the former WCADP office assistant and was also involved with California People of Faith Working Against the Death. Her passion to end the death penalty comes from her Catholic faith and a belief that a civilized society has no place for capital punishment.

Judith Kay teaches ethics at the University of Puget Sound. Her course on crime and punishment examines the death penalty, revenge, retribution, and restorative justice. She is a past president of WCADP and coordinates support for the men on death row.

Jim Lobsenz is Adjunct Professor at Seattle University School of Law and a shareholder at the firm Carney Bradley Spellman. He has represented death row inmates and is a cooperating attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union. Jim received WCADP's Abolition Day award in 1995.

Ellen Maccarone is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Gonzaga University and specializes in applied ethics. She is involved in various activist causes including death penalty abolition and food justice. She regularly speaks to groups on these issues and how they relate to one's faith life.

Jen Marlowe is a human rights activist who uses film and writing as tools to expose human rights issues. Most of her work had been international in focus (Sudan, Palestine) until a few years ago when, through her friendship with Troy Davis, she became more involved in anti-death penalty activism.

Steve Moen is a retired attorney. He was the King County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney and in private practice in Seattle from until 2007. He handled all types of criminal cases, including pre-1972 death penalty issues. He is involved with prison ministries and is a life member of the American Federation of Musicians.

Jim Robles is a retired Boeing Senior Technical Fellow and a novice student of philosophy with a particular interest in Western thought on the value of human life. He currently works with the Walla Walla School District to get high school teams involved in WSU's Imagine Tomorrow Competition.

Sarah Craft (*Honorary*) is a State Campaign Organizer for Equal Justice USA, a recognized leader in the national movement to end the death penalty. Sarah joined EJUSA in 2005 and in 2009 opened EJUSA's Western Field Office in Seattle. Her 11-month old son Mason takes up most of her time, but she also enjoys singing, rowing, and cheering for the Seattle Sounders.

Donor Acknowledgements 2011 and 2012

We gratefully thank our supporters, donors, and volunteers!

Become a supporting member of WCADP at www.abolishdeathpenalty.org/donate or /volunteer

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Puget Sound
Bellingham Friends Meeting
Combined Fund Drive
Equal Justice USA
Fellowship of Reconciliation
MacDonald, Hoague
& Bayless
Microsoft Matching Gift
Program
Olympia Fellowship of
Reconciliation
Oregonians for Alternatives
to the Death Penalty
Shalom Church
Tides Foundation
Fellowship of Reconciliation,
Western Washington
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Five states in five years have abolished the death penalty. YOU TOO can help organize an event to help Washington State be next!

- Request a speaker for your group
- Invite friends to your home for a movie and popcorn, followed by discussion
- Have a poetry reading
- Set up an information table at your local fair or market
- Let us know your event ideas!

WCADP and SJA can offer resources and suggestions to help you plan. We look forward to hearing from you.

Events *(Continued from page 3)*

documentary photography project is the most comprehensive collection of original death penalty photographs available from one source.

The documentary includes execution vigils, inside an execution chamber, portraits of exonerated death row prisoners, celebrities opposed to the death penalty, demonstrations and candid emotional and prayerful moments in the context of the death penalty in the United States.

Learn more about Scott Langley at www.deathpenaltyphoto.org/

More information on events is available on our website.

Summer Tabling Schedule

Stop by and show your support. And we need your help! If you are interested in volunteering, e-mail Brynn at brynn@sjawa.org

JUNE

9 Rainbow Festival, Spokane
Peace & Justice Action League of Spokane

16-17 Fremont Fair, Seattle
Amnesty International Group 4

18-19 Lobby Training, Spokane
6:30-8pm, Community Building

23 Capitol Hill Pride Festival, Seattle

JULY

14 Ellensburg Farmer's Market
Kittitas Co. Human Rights Coalition

21 Mid-Columbia Pride Celebration, Richland

28-29 Ethnic Fest, Tacoma
Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation