

## IADP to honor Marty Ryan with Gov. Hughes Award Nov. 10

Marty Ryan will be honored by Iowans Against the Death Penalty Saturday, November 10 with the Governor Harold E. Hughes Award at the organization's 50th anniversary dinner.



Marty Ryan, recipient of the 2012 IADP Gov. Harold E. Hughes Award

"As a lobbyist and activist Marty has worked vigilantly for more than two decades to prevent reinstatement of the death penalty in Iowa," said IADP president Dennis Barnum of Gowrie, Iowa.

Beginning with his work as the legislative director for the ACLU of Iowa for 18 years, Ryan helped to build the coalition of organizations that comprise Iowans Against the Death Penalty. He kept track of lawmakers' positions on the death penalty and monitored any legislative attempts to bring the death penalty back.

"Marty always kept his vote count close to the vest, knowing which legislators stood against reinstatement. His work at the State Capitol has been vitally important in

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## Award winning legal affairs journalist to keynote IADP's 50th anniversary event

Rob Warden, the executive director of the Center on Wrongful Convictions, Bluhm Legal Clinic, Northwestern University School of Law, will keynote IADP's 50th anniversary dinner.

As editor and publisher of *Chicago Lawyer* magazine during the 1980s, Warden exposed more than a score of wrongful convictions in Illinois, including cases in which



Rob Warden, executive director of the Center on Wrongful Convictions at Northwestern University School of Law

six innocent men had been sentenced to death.

Warden is the author of a new report, "How and Why Illinois Abolished the Death Penalty," published in May 2012 in the University of Minnesota's *Journal of Law and Inequality*.

The report explores the conditions that led to the end of Illinois' death

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## Rev. Tricia Teater to share experiences ministering on Illinois' death row at 50th event

In the mid-1990s, when the Illinois death machine was in full gear, Des Moines native Tricia Teater began going to vigils at Statesville on the night of executions. The more she learned about capital punishment, from the time of the crime until an execution, the more outraged she became not only by the death penalty as public policy but also the specifics regarding the outrageous flaws of the criminal justice system.

Teater soon joined the Illinois Coalition to Abolish the Death Pen-

alty's Pontiac Correctional Center death-row visiting team. At that time there were more than one hundred inmates on death row at the Illinois prison. "This was not an easy assignment. I also began to visit Geraldine Smith who was on the row at Dwight as well as her son living in a neighboring town," said Teater a Zen Buddhist Chaplain and Priest in affiliation with Udumbara Zen Center of Evanston and is Director of Udumbara's National Chaplaincy Training Program. Since the late 1990s Teater

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## 2 The Watch

*"To take a life when life has been lost is revenge, not justice," — Desmond Tutu*

*(Ryan to be honored continued from page 1)*

maintaining Iowa's status as an abolitionist state," said IADP board member Patti Brown.

Ryan has continued to keep a watchful eye on the issue at the Iowa Statehouse through his work with Fawkes-Lee & Ryan, a legislative and public policy advocacy firm founded in 2010 with his wife Stephanie Fawkes-Lee. The firm does contract lobbying legislative monitoring, legal research and writing, and publishes an on-line newsletter that focuses on legislative and public policy issues.

Ryan is a native of west-central Iowa. He was born in Carroll and raised in Vail, a town founded in 1867 by his great-grandfather. Following graduation from Kuemper Catholic High School in Carroll Ryan was drafted and served at Fort Lee in Virginia during the Vietnam War.

In addition to his work with the ACLU of Iowa, Ryan has previously worked as a heavy equipment operator, a land surveyor's assistant, a retail and wholesale meat cutter, a dislocated worker grant administrator, a legal assistant, and a labor negotiator and organizer for UFCW Locals 440 & 271. Ryan has two daughters, a stepdaughter, and two stepsons, all adults.

Previous recipients of the Hughes award include former Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack, University of Iowa law professor David Baldus, Des Moines attorney James Benzoni, the late Sen. John Ely, Chuck Day and Marjorie Parris.

*(Warden continued from page 1)*

penalty in 2011.

Warden says abolition came about because of a series of fortuitous circumstances, but also because of the work of countless attorneys, academics, journalists and activists who took advantage of these developments.

The cavalcade of exonerations from death row, including the high-profile release of Anthony Porter who was freed through the work of journalism students, underscored the flaws in the death penalty.

Police abuse and prosecutorial misconduct caused an erosion of public confidence in the death penalty system. Finally, the report of the *Capital Punishment Reform Study Committee*, finding that the state could have saved \$200 million if it ended the death penalty in 2000, greatly impacted the movement for repeal.

According to Warden what happened in Illinois has carried over to other states, "The future of the movement [to end the death penalty] hinges on how the arguments that carried the day in Illinois, New Jersey, New Mexico, and Connecticut resonate in the thirty-three states where death penalties remain in force but

*(Teater continued from page 1)*

has served as a board member of the ICADP in several capacities and has also been the spiritual director to two inmates who were executed in Indiana, Michael Lambert who was executed in June 2007 for the 1990 murder of Muncie Police Officer Gregg Winters, and Don Wallace who was executed in March of 2005 for the

have fallen increasingly into disuse."

Before founding *Chicago Lawyer* in 1978, Mr. Warden was an investigative reporter, foreign correspondent, and editor at the *Chicago Daily News*. In 1989, Mr. Warden sold *Chicago Lawyer* to the Law Bulletin Publishing Company, which has continued to publish it.

After that, before co-founding the Center on Wrongful Convictions with Professor Lawrence C. Marshall in 1999, he worked as a political issues consultant, executive officer of the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, and consultant to various law firms and the litigation department of General Electric Medical Systems.

Warden has won more than fifty journalism awards, including the Medill School of Journalism's John Bartlow Martin Award for Public Interest Magazine Journalism, two American Civil Liberties Union James McGuire Awards, five Peter Lisagor Awards from the Society of Professional Journalists, and the Norval Morris Award from the Illinois Academy of Criminology. In 2003, he was inducted into the Chicago Journalism Hall of Fame.

1980 murders of Patrick and Theresa and their two children, Gregory and Lisa.

"These relationships and experiences with both men and their families taught me a great deal about the cycle of violence perpetuated by the death penalty, a cycle that doesn't stop at the time of the execution, but continues still today," said Teater.

"I think this country would be much better off if we did not have capital punishment.... We cannot ignore the fact that in recent years a disturbing number of inmates on death row have been exonerated."  
— John Paul Stevens, U.S. Supreme Court Justice

# Support wanes for death penalty

WASHINGTON - We lifelong conservatives and Tea Party supporters recently urged the death sentence for Teresa Lewis in Virginia be commuted to life in prison without parole instead.

We are among a growing number of conservatives who have questions and reservations about the death penalty, believe it is no longer a necessary form of punishment based on either Lockean or biblical principles, or oppose it outright.

Around the country death sentences are dropping, and support for the death penalty is waning. This trend is not limited to bleeding-heart liberals and criminal coddlers.

We urge our fellow conservatives to at least consider some issues when contemplating the death penalty.

The Old Testament required the death penalty for certain sins and a litany of offenses. In John 8 of the New Testament, the Pharisees confronted Jesus about a woman ready to be stoned for adultery. Jesus, sensing a trap they laid on a conflict between the Old Testament and Roman law, said: Let him who is without sin cast the first stone.

We believe John 8 of the New Testament shows that Jesus did not consider the death penalty mandatory punishment for sins, and certainly not unless the process complied with God's law. Deuteronomy 17:6 requires more than one witness to convict.

We also believe conservative Lockean principles do not compel the death penalty.

John Locke's Second Treatise on Government offers a justification of the State's taking the life of someone who is

BY RICHARD VIGUERIE  
AND BRENT BOZELL

guilty of a heinous crime. Locke, on whose principles conservatism is built, believed the death penalty was a justifiable punishment for two reasons: protecting society (self-preservation) and deterrence.

Locke described the social compact of society as much like the notion: Do unto others as you'd have done to you. Some people commit acts so despicable they no longer merit the protections of that social compact. They may be so dangerous that they are a threat to us.

Therefore, like we may kill a wild animal that threatens us, the death penalty was an acceptable form of punishment even under Locke's view of limited government power.

We now, however, have maximum security prisons that were incapable of being built in Locke's time. Society may protect itself without putting a human to death as it would a wild animal. Since we believe each person has a soul, and is capable of achieving salvation, life in prison is now an alternative to the death penalty.

Under Locke's other reason, deterrence, punishment should be severe enough to discourage criminal acts. We certainly agree. However, some data show the

death penalty does not act as deterrence.

In fact, the data seem to indicate murder and other heinous crimes may be lower in jurisdictions that do not have the death penalty. That's not proof, of course, but we believe death penalty proponents bear the burden of proof that the ultimate punishment is in fact a deterrence.

From our conservative perspective, there are other reasons we oppose the death penalty. It is an expensive government program with the power to kill people. Conservatives don't trust the government is always capable, competent, or fair with far lighter tasks.

When it comes to life and death, mistakes are made, or perhaps worse, bad decisions are made. States have wrongly convicted people based on false confessions and inaccurate eyewitness identification. In some of these cases, the real perpetrator was identified decades after the crime occurred. Since DNA evidence is not available in the majority of murder cases, other wrongful convictions based on similar types of evidence may never come to light.

We know our opinion is not held by all conservatives. Surely, however, there are many questions about the death penalty's accuracy, fairness, and financial efficiency that should be addressed.

We urge those who ascribe to the Old Testament to consider

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*"The humblest citizen in all the land, when clad in the armor of a righteous cause is stronger than all the hosts of error."*

— William Jennings Bryan

### **ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE**

**The annual meeting of  
Iowans Against  
the Death Penalty  
will be held prior to the annual  
meeting at 5:30 p.m.  
Saturday, November 10  
Marriott Hotel  
700 Grand Avenue, Des Moines**

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whether the Virginia death penalty system reflects God's law. We also ask Christians to contemplate the meaning of John 8.

*"At dawn Jesus appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."*

Richard A. Viguerie is chairman of ConservativeHQ.com; contact him at [ravata@aol.com](mailto:ravata@aol.com). Brent Bozell is founder and president of the Media Research Center, and may be contacted at [bbozell@mediaresearch.org](mailto:bbozell@mediaresearch.org).

(R. Viguerie and B. Bozell, "Viguerie and Bozell: Support Is Waning for Death Penalty," *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, October 5, 2010)

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**Please join us in marking  
the 50th anniversary of  
Iowans Against the Death Penalty  
and to honor  
Marty Ryan  
for his work and dedication against  
efforts to reinstate the death penalty**

**Saturday, November 10  
6 o'clock p.m.**

**Reception, dinner, award ceremony,  
keynote address and remarks by  
Rob Warden and Rev. Tricia Teater  
Tickets \$30 in advance**

**Marriott Hotel  
Downtown Des Moines**

**RSVP by November 9  
please email: [abolition@iadp.org](mailto:abolition@iadp.org)  
or call 515-229-4578**

**Checks can be sent to Iowans Against the Death Penalty  
P.O. Box 65416 • West Des Moines, Iowa • 50265**