



KCADP is a 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATION

Newsletter - January 2015

From the Executive Director...



Mary Sloan, KCADP Executive Director

We are going for broke in 2015!

Now is the time. We start now to make repeal a reality in 2015.

As soon as the legislature returns this year, we will start in the House. From there, our legislation will move to the Senate and when we have achieved passage there, the bill will go to the Governor for signing. When the Governor signs the bill, we will have ended an archaic, costly, discriminatory, barbaric practice.

What can we do to win? We will need to stay positive and proactive. We must all speak the same messaging with voices coming loud and strong from all parts of the state and all faiths, groups, locations and constituencies. We must act strategically and we must work with

the media to inform and educate. The session will be fast and demanding, so we will need stamina and determination because those who want to keep the death penalty (and limit appeals) will be active and will try everything they can do to stop repeal and speed up executions.

As we arrive at this time this fall, we have all been through a divisive and bitter political cycle. But as we approach the 2015 session, we must put that aside and focus on the task of moving the bill.

Here is what we know:

- The opposition takes us seriously – we defeated the expedited appeals bill last year.
- Last session, we acted and reacted swiftly. We avoided political “ambushes” and stayed cool under pressure.
- Last session, you mobilized and you were heard and made a difference.

In short, the heat will be hotter, the opposition stronger and better organized and their tactics will be aimed at

keeping the death penalty. Fear and misinformation are two key things we will have to combat.

There is a window of opportunity opening up because of the new people who will come to Topeka in January, and the political currents of this particular time.

Soon you will receive an email or call from KCADP that says **NOW IS THE TIME**. At that point, mobilize!

Use our messaging – survey research show the messages of innocence, cost, and the pain and suffering murder victim families endure because of the death penalty are the strongest and most compelling messages. Use these messages when you contact legislators, the Governor, the Speaker, and the Senate President. Let them know you want repeal in 2015! Educate your friends, coworkers and neighbors about the real facts about the death penalty. Come to come to the Capitol to attend hearings, to testify, and to see legislators face-to-face. Now is the time to advocate and be heard. Let’s give it everything we’ve got. We need you.

Can we count you as “All In”?

Exonerations...

In November and December three death row inmates were exonerated in Ohio. Jackson, Bridgeman and Ajamu all were convicted in 1975

Last year (2014), seven US death sentenced persons have been released due to innocence. That makes 150 exonerations since 1973.

The other releases occurred in Louisiana, Florida and North Carolina. Three were convicted in 1984, and one in 2011.

These latest exonerations are a living reminder that our criminal justice system DOES make mistakes.

Far too often it takes decades to finally admit it and free the innocent!



The Kansas Coalition Against the Death Penalty is a 501(C)(3) with a single mission.

Our only goal, with your help, is to achieve Abolition in the state of Kansas.