

Death Penalty Abolition: The Necessary Milestone

IN THE AMERICAN STRUGGLE FOR RACIAL EQUALITY,
CIVIL RIGHTS AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Nov. 14, 2020 • 1-3 p.m.

A Facebook Live-streaming Event

facebook.com/kcadp



You are invited to KCADP's annual meeting and conference on November 14th. We will have a virtual, online format this year.

The 2020 Conference's focus is on the relationship of the death penalty to the struggles for criminal justice reform, racial equity, and civil rights. Our distinguished panelists will discuss how the ongoing use of capital punishment delays progress in each of these arenas.

"The simple matter is that the death penalty has an extensive history of overt bias. As America has been reshaped, thanks in part to the civil rights movement, many laws have since been repealed or reformed that once permitted conspicuous racism within the justice system....While the U.S. has taken great strides, we still have not been able to banish the bias that permeates the justice system."

Arthur Rizer and Marc Hyden of the R Street Institute in November-December 2018 edition of American Conservative

Details:

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- **Open to KCADP members and the general public**
- **No admission charge**

Conference Components Include:

- **KCADP Annual Business Meeting**
- **Panel Presentation**
- **Questions and Answers Session**

Conference Speakers



Beatrice E. Swoopes

Beatrice worked 46 years at the Kansas Catholic Conference, retiring in 2013 as the Associate Director. The Conference originated in 1967 and she was part of its creation. The Kansas Catholic Conference serves as the public policy office for the Catholic bishops of Kansas. Throughout her 46 years she served in various positions, coordinated and built coalitions with other organizations, did research, wrote policy positions on different legislation, and was a registered lobbyist for the organization. She also participated on the

Executive Committee of the National Association of State Catholic Conference Directors.

Following her retirement, she worked part-time three years for the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth as a lobbyist, and as an assistant to the Social Justice Office. She has also continued to serve as a volunteer for the Kansas Coalition Against the Death Penalty and for the past two years she has worked on the Racial Healing Team of the Social Justice Office of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas.



Mark McCormick

Mark is a New York Times best-selling author with 20 years of journalism experience as a reporter, editor and columnist. He has served as a trustee at The University of Kansas' (alma mater) school of journalism and has been a Professional in Residence at the University of Oklahoma. He has won more than 20 industry and community awards including five Gold Medals from the Kansas City Press Club. Most recently he was featured in the documentary on journalist and statesman

William Allen White entitled, "William Allen White: What's the Matter With Kansas?" In 2015, he co-authored "African Americans of Wichita" with Arcadia publishing.

Mark is currently the Director Of Strategic Communications for the ACLU of Kansas. He has served as the executive director of the Kansas African American Museum, Director Of Communications at the Kansas Leadership Center, was a writer/editor/columnist at the Wichita Eagle and religion writer for the Louisville Courier-Journal.



Cheryl Pilate

Since graduating with honors from the University of Kansas School of Law in 1990, Cheryl Pilate has dedicated her law practice to the vindication of individual rights and liberties. Cheryl's diverse practice includes the representation of criminal defendants as well as the representation of civil plaintiffs in lawsuits involving fundamental rights.

Ms. Pilate is well known for her work on a vast array of challenging cases, primarily in federal court. She has been involved in numerous civil rights suits. Ms. Pilate has also represented plaintiffs in a wide variety of other federal

lawsuits, including employees who have suffered unlawful discrimination and a family wrongly targeted in a swat-style police raid. Ms. Pilate also regularly represents criminal defendants at all stages of litigation, in both state and federal courts. She also has extensive experience in capital cases.

Ms. Pilate is perhaps most widely known for representing individuals who are wrongfully convicted, and she has obtained the exoneration and release of several actually innocent individuals. Following their release, she has filed civil lawsuits seeking rightful compensation for years of lost liberty. Ms. Pilate has also served for more than ten years on the board of the Midwest Innocence Project.

Support the work of death penalty abolition in Kansas with a donation to KCADP. Donations can be made online or by sending to the address below.

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