



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

New: The Advocates for Human Rights' World Day Against the Death Penalty program to include Damon Thibodeaux, recently exonerated after 15 years on Louisiana's death row.

Minneapolis, MN (10/10/2012) – Today is World Day Against the Death Penalty, an annual day when activists around the world rally to oppose the death penalty. This year, The Advocates for Human Rights will host a Continuing Legal Education event entitled, “2002-2012: Worldwide Progress toward Ending the Death Penalty.” The program will be lead by Medtronic lawyer and human rights activist John Getsinger and will include Fredrikson & Byron lawyer Steven Kaplan, who will present the story of his recently exonerated Louisiana client, Damon Thibodeaux. Mr. Thibodeaux will also join us for an interactive discussion about the case, his experience of spending over 15 years on death row while wrongly convicted, and his release after the presentation of overwhelming evidence of his innocence.

Today, 141 countries are abolitionist in law or in practice. In the United States, Connecticut became the 17th State to abolish the death penalty in April 2012, closely following Illinois in 2011, New Mexico in 2009, and New Jersey in 2007. In California, the death penalty will be up for referendum in November 2012.

The Advocates' Rosalyn Park, director of research, notes, “While we still face dire problems with capital punishment here in the United States and elsewhere, the world overall is shifting toward abolition. It's a positive sign and one that we can truly celebrate.”

The event today will be held at Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi, LLP in Minneapolis:

Date: October 10, 2012

Time: 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

Location: Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi, LLP

800 LaSalle Avenue, 2800 LaSalle Plaza, Minneapolis, MN 55402

Since 1991, The Advocates has opposed the use of the death penalty in the United States and around the world. The Advocates currently works with volunteers to educate and advocate against the death penalty. The Advocates is a member of the Steering Committee for the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (www.worldcoalition.org), the 140-member international coalition that spearheads the World Day Against the Death Penalty.

For more information about the death penalty, please see The Advocates' Death Penalty Toolkit at www.discoverhumanrights.org/Death_Penalty.html. A blog post on the World Day can be found on The Advocates' blog, www.theadvocatespost.org. For more information please contact:

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The Advocates for Human Rights, a nonprofit organization headquartered in Minneapolis, is dedicated to the promotion of internationally-recognized human rights. To learn more visit theadvocatesforhumanrights.org.