



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The Advocates for Human Rights to Mark Progress toward Abolishing the Death Penalty on October 10, World Day Against the Death Penalty

Minneapolis, MN (10/3/2012) – October 10 is World Day Against the Death Penalty, an annual day when activists around the world rally to oppose the death penalty through educational events, art exhibits, film screenings, conferences, and demonstrations. This year, The Advocates for Human Rights and others around the globe will celebrate progress made over the last decade toward abolishing the death penalty. The Advocates will host a Continuing Legal Education event on October 10 entitled, “2002-2012: Worldwide Progress toward Ending the Death Penalty.”

The Advocates’ Rosalyn Park, director of research, says that, “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.”

Today, 141 countries are abolitionist in law or in practice. Countries that have abolished the death penalty in the past decade include Albania, Argentina, Bhutan, Gabon, Greece, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Mexico, the Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Turkey, and Uzbekistan. 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 event on October 10 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.