

CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON THE FAIR ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

January 8, 2008

Commissioners

*John Van De Kamp,
Chair
Jon Streefer,
Vice-Chair*

PRESS RELEASE

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Gerry Chaleff
(representing Chief
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Sheriff Curtis Hill
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Michael P. Judge
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Alejandro Mayorkas
Judge John Moulds
Kathleen Ridolfi
Douglas R. Ring
Janet Gaard
(representing
Jerry Brown)
Gregory D. Totten*

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CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON THE FAIR ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE ANNOUNCES THREE PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE FAIR ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEATH PENALTY IN 2008.

The California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice, created by the California State Senate to examine the causes of wrongful convictions and make recommendations and proposals to further insure that the administration of criminal justice in California is just, fair, and accurate, announced that it will hold three public hearings in January, February, and March of 2008 to address the issues surrounding the fair administration of the death penalty in California.

The **first hearing** will take place in two parts from 9:30a.m. to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 3:00pm on Thursday January 10, 2008 in Hearing Room 4203 of the State Capitol Building in Sacramento, California. The Commission invited members of the Judiciary and academic researchers to help frame its deliberations on this important topic. The following witnesses are scheduled to testify. Following each witness' name is a list of supplementary exhibits relating to their testimony. Those exhibits are posted to the [Expert Testimony](#) page in the [Fair Administration of the Death Penalty](#) section of our website.

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Witness List for Jan. 10, 2008 Public Hearing

1. Hon. Ron George, Chief Justice of California.
See News Release: Supreme Court Proposes Amendments to Constitution in Death Cases.
2. Hon. Arthur L. Alarcon, Senior Circuit Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.
See *Remedies for California's Death Row Deadlock*, 80 Southern California Law Review 697 (2007).
3. Hon. Gerald Kogan, former Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the State of Florida; former Chief Prosecutor, Homicide and Capital Crimes Division, Dade County, Florida; Co-Chair, Death Penalty Initiative, The Constitution Project.
See *Mandatory Justice: The Death Penalty Revisited*, The Constitution Project (2005).
4. Lawrence C. Marshall, Professor of Law, Stanford Law School; Co-Founder, Center for Wrongful Convictions, Northwestern University.
See Excerpts, *Less Is Better: Justice Stevens and the Narrowed Death Penalty*, 74 Fordham Law Review 1608 (2006).
5. Steven Shatz, Professor of Law, University of San Francisco School of Law.
See *The Eighth Amendment, The Death Penalty, And Ordinary Robbery-Burglary Murderers: A California Case Study*, 59 Florida Law Review 719 (2007).
6. Michael Radelet, Professor and Chair, Dept. of Sociology, University of Colorado.
See *The Impact of Legally Inappropriate Factors on Death Sentencing for California Homicides, 1990-1999*, 46 Santa Clara L. Review 1 (2005).
7. Ellen Kreitzberg, Professor of Law, Santa Clara University School of Law; Director, Death Penalty College.
See Report to the Commission, *A Review of Special Circumstances in California Death Penalty Cases* (2007).

There will be approximately one hour reserved for public comment at the end of the hearing. Each public participant will be limited to no more than 3 minutes. The Commission will accept internet sign-ups on Jan. 8 at 10am and on a first-come, first-served basis the day of the hearing.

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This will be the seventh public hearing convened by the Commission. Prior hearings addressed the problems surrounding [eyewitness misidentification](#), [false confessions](#), [testimony by in-custody informants](#), [forensic evidence](#), [professional responsibility of prosecutors and defense lawyers](#), and [remedies for wrongful conviction](#). Interim reports issued by the Commission addressing many of these issues can be viewed at the [Commission's website](#). The Commission expects to issue reports on Funding of Defense Services in California, Compliance with *Brady* obligations, and Remedies for Wrongful Conviction, after January 1, 2008.

The **second hearing** on the Fair Administration of the Death Penalty in California will take place in Los Angeles on Wednesday February 20, 2008. Invited witnesses will include representatives of offices and organizations directly involved in the prosecution and defense of death penalty cases in California. The **third hearing** will take place at Santa Clara University on Friday March 28, 2008. Invited witnesses will include representatives of victims' organizations and advocacy groups concerned with the fairness of California's death penalty law. More information on those hearings, including time, location, and invited witnesses, will be forthcoming.

For the most up-to-date information on the Commission, please visit www.ccfaj.org

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