

RICHARD C. DIETER
(301) 943-1402
e-mail: rdieter004@gmail.com
rdieter@rdietercommunications.com

EDUCATION

Georgetown University Law Center

J.D. 1992, *Cum Laude*
Public Interest Law Scholar

The Ohio State University

M.S., Mathematics, 1971

University of Notre Dame

B.S., Mathematics, 1968, *Magna Cum Laude*

RECENT RECOGNITION

Frederick Douglass Human Rights Award – Southern Center for Human Rights (2016)

Veterans Braintrust Award - Congressional Black Caucus (2016) (for the publication “Battle Scars: Military Veterans and the Death Penalty”)

Death Penalty Abolition Award – Death Penalty Focus (2010)

EMPLOYMENT

April 2016-Present

Principal, RDieter Communications

Communications consultant

1992-2016

Death Penalty Information Center, Washington, D.C.

May, 1992-March 2015

Executive Director

Directed all aspects of this non-profit organization that is supported by the Roderick MacArthur Foundation and other foundations. Worked closely with both attorneys and the media on the issue of capital punishment. Responsible for the principal research and writing of reports on the death penalty, organizing press conferences and briefings of journalists, issuing press releases, fundraising, and acting as spokesperson on this issue. Made presentations at various universities, presented state legislative testimony, and prepared reports for the U.S. House Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights. The work of the Center is cited often by courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court, and in the nation's major newspapers. The Director appeared on such programs as *The Today Show*, *NBC Nightly News*, *CBS Evening News*, *ABC World News Tonight*, *CNN Headline News*, *Fox Morning News*, *C-Span*, *Court-TV*, and *National Public Radio*.

Mar. 2015-April 2016

Senior Program Director

- 1999-2012 **Adjunct Professor, Columbus School of Law, Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.**
Taught seminar on death penalty law for 14 years
- 1984-1989 **Co-Director: The Quixote Center, Hyattsville, MD:** initiated a project focusing on the death penalty both on the state and national levels
- 1976-1984 **Co-Director and founder: Alderson Hospitality House, Alderson, WV:** provided no-cost housing, transportation and support for visitors to the Federal Women's Prison in Alderson, West Virginia. Program continues to this day.
- 1973-1976 **Project Director: Community for Creative Non-violence, Washington, D.C.:** directed program of residential third party custody for criminal defendants; also assisted with homeless shelter and soup kitchen
- 1968-1973 **Teacher of Mathematics: Notre Dame International School, Rome, Italy; Mackin High School, Washington, D.C.**

BAR ADMISSIONS (all current)

Maryland, 1992

District of Columbia, 1994

United States Supreme Court, 1997

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Witness to Innocence – Board Member (Treasurer; Attorney Facilitator), 2016-present

Catholic Mobilizing Network – Board Member (Secretary, Vice-Chair), 2018-present

Capital Punishment Research Initiative (National Death Penalty Archive), State University of N.Y. at Albany, Board Member 2005-present

World Organization for Human Rights, USA, Board Member, 2004-2012 (incl. as vice-president)

Southern Center for Human Rights, Dinner Benefit Committee, 1998-2015

Georgetown University Law Center, Mentor, Office of Public Interest & Community Service, 1997-present

Georgetown University Law Center, Mentor, Public Interest Law Scholars Program-present

Soros Justice Fellowships, Reader for proposals, 2003, 2004

American Bar Association 1992-2003

Section on Individual Rights and Responsibilities

Bar Association of Montgomery County, MD 1993-96

Family Law Section

Attorney participant in the Montgomery County Bar Foundation's Pro Bono Program

Judge, Mock Trial Competition (High School), 1993, 1994, 1997, 1998, 1999

Bar of the District of Columbia

Washington Council of Lawyers, past member

Judge, Eastern Regional Mock Trial Competition (College), 1996, 1997

Evaluating Committee, W.M. Keck Foundation Essay Contest, Georgetown University Law Center, 1996

Alliance for Justice, Annual Luncheon Committee, 1996, 1997, 1998

Mentor, Youth for Justice Summit at Howard University, 1995

Georgetown University Law Center, Mock Interview Program, 1995-97

Georgetown University Law Center, Alumni Admissions Program, 1995-present
Georgetown University Law Center, Class Co-chair, Alumni Reunion Committee, 1997
Columbus School of Law, Catholic University of America, Judge, Moot Court Competition 1997-99; Practice rounds judge, 2000; Judge, 2001
National Association for Public Interest Law, Host Committee for Annual Dinner, 1996
Columbus School of Law, Catholic University of America, Judge, Appellate Advocacy Oral Arguments, 1999

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- *Reflections on a Surprising Universe: Extraordinary Discoveries Through Ordinary Eyes* (John Hunt Publishing, Nov. 2019)

Contributed to Books:

- *Comparative Capital Punishment Law*, edited by Carol Steiker and Jordan Steiker (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2019) (Introductory Chapter)
- *America's Experiment With Capital Punishment*, Third Edition, edited by James Acker, Robert Bohm, and Charles Lanier (Carolina Academic Press 2014) (one chapter)
- *Aller Menschen Wurde: Ein Lesebuch*, edited by R. Englemann & U. Fiechtner (Amnesty International, 2001) (one chapter)
- *Die Zukunft der Menschenrechte: 50 Jahre UN-Erklärung: Bilanz eines Aufbruchs*, edited by Gunnar Kohne (1998) (one chapter)
- *Society's Final Solution: A History and Discussion of the Death Penalty*, edited by Laura E. Randa (Univ. Press of America 1997) (two chapters)
- *The Death Penalty in America: Current Controversies*, edited by Hugo A. Bedau (Oxford Univ. Press 1997) (two chapters)

Author—Journals, periodicals, and reports:

- Battle Scars: Military Veterans and the Death Penalty (2015) (recipient, Congressional Black Caucus's Veterans Braintrust Award, 2016)
- The Future of the Death Penalty in the United States, 49 Univ. of Richmond L. Rev. 921 (2015)
- The Declining Role of the Death Penalty in the U.S., 50 Criminal Law Bulletin 314 (2014)
- The 2% Death Penalty: How a Minority of Counties Produce Most Death Cases at Enormous Costs to All (2013)
- Struck by Lightning: The Continuing Arbitrariness of the Death Penalty Thirty-Five Years After Its Reinstatement in 1976 (2011); also published in Ohio Northern University College of Law, Law Review (2012)
- Smart on Crime: Reconsidering the Death Penalty in a Time of Economic Crisis (2009)
- Methods of Execution and Their Effect on the Use of the Death Penalty in the United States, 35 Fordham Urban Law Journal 789 (2008)
- A Crisis of Confidence: Americans' Doubts About the Death Penalty (2007)
- Blind Justice: Juries Deciding Life and Death With Only Half the Truth (2005)
- Introduction to the Presentations: The Path to an Eighth Amendment Analysis of Mental Illness and Capital Punishment, 55 Catholic University Law Review 1117 (2005)
- Innocence and the Crisis in the American Death Penalty (September 2004)
- International Influence on the Death Penalty in the U.S., Foreign Service Journal (October 2003)
- International Perspectives on the Death Penalty: A Costly Isolation for the U.S. (1999)
- The Death Penalty in Black and White: Who Lives, Who Dies, Who Decides (1998)
- Innocence and the Death Penalty: The Increasing Danger of Executing the Innocent (1997)
- Killing for Votes: The Dangers of Politicizing the Death Penalty Process (1996)
- Twenty Years of Capital Punishment: A Re-evaluation (1996)
- With Justice for Few: The Growing Crisis in Death Penalty Representation (1995)
- On the Front Line: Law Enforcement Views on the Death Penalty (1995)

- Misspent Millions, 24 Index on Censorship 121 (1995)
- The Future of the Death Penalty in the U.S.: A Texas-Sized Crisis (1994)
- Racial Disparities in Federal Death Penalty Prosecutions: 1988-1994 (1994) - prepared for U.S. House of Representatives Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights
- Innocence and the Death Penalty: Assessing the Danger of Mistaken Executions (1993) - prepared for U.S. House of Representatives Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights
- Sentencing For Life: Americans Embrace Alternatives to the Death Penalty (1993)
- Millions Misspent: What Politicians Don't Say About the High Costs of the Death Penalty (1992, Revised 1994)
- The Death Penalty: A Philosophical and Theological Perspective (panel member), 30 John Marshall Law Review 463 (1997)
- Secondary Smoke Surrounds the Capital Punishment Debate, 13 Criminal Justice Ethics 2 (1994)
- Ethical Choices for Attorneys Whose Clients Elect Execution, 3 Georgetown Journal of Legal Ethics 799 (1990)
- Additional articles in Commonweal Magazine, Notre Dame Magazine, New York Newsday

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- Who, How, and Why Do We Execute: Regional Convening on the Death Penalty in South Asia and the Middle East, Kathmandu, Nepal, October 2019 (panel)
- National Summit on Severe Mental Illness and the Death Penalty, American Bar Association (Death Penalty Due Process Review Project), Washington, D.C., December 2016 (workshop on communications)
- Moderator: Forum on Capital Punishment, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Vienna, Austria, September 2016 (sponsored by the U.S. State Dept.)
- Legislative Hearings, Denver, Colorado, invited testimony, February 2016
- First International Conference on Prison Systems in the XXI Century, Salvador, Brazil August 2015 (speaker, addressing U.S. system)
- National Death Penalty Archive Symposium, State University of New York at Albany, April 2015
- University of Richmond Law School, Symposium on Lethal Injection, Politics, and the Future of the Death Penalty, October 2014
- Legislative Hearings, Concord, New Hampshire, invited testimony, April 2014
- Legislative Hearings, Lincoln, Nebraska, invited testimony, March 2013
- Legislative Hearings, Frankfort, Kentucky, invited testimony, February 2012 (by Skype)
- Seattle University Law Review Symposium on Race in Criminal Justice System, February 2012
- Catholic University Law School, February 2012 (panel presentation)
- Legislative Hearings, Columbus, Ohio, invited testimony, February 2012 (written testimony)
- American University Law School, September 2011 (panel presentation)
- Legislative Commission Hearings, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, invited testimony, June 2010
- Legislative Commission Hearings, Concord, New Hampshire, invited testimony, December 2009
- Legislative Hearings, Topeka, Kansas, invited testimony, February 2009
- Legislative Commission Hearings, Annapolis, Maryland, invited testimony, September 2008
- Legislative Commission Hearings, Carson City, Nevada, invited testimony, July 2008 (telephonically)
- Legislative Hearings, Denver, Colorado, invited testimony, February 2007
- Legislative Hearings, Boston, Massachusetts, invited testimony, July 2005
- University of Notre Dame and St. Mary's University, panel presentations, South Bend, Indiana, March 2005
- Washington, DC Bar Program on International Law, panel, February 2005

- Catholic University Law School, Seminar on Mental Illness and the Death Penalty, Introduction to the Presentations, January 2005
- Legislative Hearings, Albany, New York, invited testimony, January 2005
- Charter Oak Center, Hartford, Connecticut, January 2005
- Notre Dame Law School, South Bend, Indiana, November 2004
- Washington Council of Lawyers luncheon panel, July 2004
- Catholic Life Conference, Charleston, West Virginia, June 2004
- Academica Sinica and Fujen University Peace Institute Conference, Taipei, Taiwan, Presentation, May 2004
- University of Westminster, London, Centre for Capital Punishment Studies, 2003 (presentation)
- American Correctional Association Conference, Nashville, TN, 2003 (debate)
- Joint Committee on Criminal Justice, Legislature of Massachusetts, 2003, Testimony on Costs of the Death Penalty
- Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, 2003, Testimony invited by MD Attorney General
- "The Exonerated," New York, 2002 (presentation and discussion after the play)
- Oxford University Round Table, England, 2002 (delivered paper at human rights symposium)
- New Jersey Death Penalty Moratorium, Trenton, 2002 (press conference)
- Nevada Commission on the Death Penalty, 2002 (invited testimony by videoconference)
- Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, 2002 (panel for students' group)
- HBO Premiere of "The Execution of Wanda Jean," New York, 2002 (introductory speaker and panel moderator)
- Catholic Social Justice Ministers Conference, Washington, DC, 2002 (workshop)
- Death Penalty Conference at Rutgers University Law School, NJ, 2002 (panel on international law)
- Fenton Communications seminar on repercussions of September 11, New York City, 2001 (panel)
- University of Colorado-Boulder, 2001 (speech and panel presentation)
- Catholic Committee of Appalachia, Charleston, WV 2001 (workshop)
- Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC - Human Rights Week, 2001 (presentation)
- Criminal Justice Reform Coalition, San Antonio and Houston, TX 2001 (workshops)
- Catholic Committee of Appalachia Conference, Charleston, WV 2001 (workshop)
- CloseUp at the Newseum, Arlington, VA 2001 (C-Span studio forum for high school students)
- Ohio State University College of Law, Symposium: Addressing Capital Punishment Through Statutory Reform, Columbus, Ohio 2001 (presenter)
- Algerian Judicial Study Tour, sponsored by Freedom House, Washington, DC, 2001 (presentation to delegation)
- George Washington University, School of Law, Washington, DC, 2001 (student lunch, speaker)
- Maryland Senate, Judicial Proceedings Committee, Annapolis, MD, 2001 (invited testimony)
- International Law Section of the District of Columbia Bar, Washington, DC, 2000 (panel presentation)
- Center for Policy Alternatives, National Conference, Washington, DC, 2000 (workshop)
- Association of Capitol Reporters and Editors, National Conference, Bloomingdale, IL, 2000 (panel presentation)
- Ford Foundation Symposium on U.S. Compliance with the U.N. Convention on the Elimination of Racism, NY, 2000 (panel presentation)
- Death Penalty Symposium, ACLU of Delaware, Widener University School of Law, Wilmington, DE, 2000 (presenter)
- State University of New York, Washington Semester program, Washington, DC, 2000 (guest speaker)
- Society for the Study of Social Problems, National Conference, Washington, DC, 2000 (panel)

- Federal Habeas Corpus Training Conference, Nashville, TN, 2000, St. Louis, 2004 (faculty)
- National Press Club, McClendon Study Group, Washington, DC, 2000, 2002 (dinner speaker)
- Columbus School of Law, Catholic University of America, Public Policy Forum, Washington, DC, 2000 (invited speaker)
- United States Catholic Conference of Bishops “Faithful Citizenship” Conference, Washington, DC, 2000 (panel)
- Virginia House of Delegates, Committee for Courts of Justice, Richmond, VA, 2000 (invited testimony)
- Columbus School of Law, Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, 1999 (International Law class, guest speaker)
- Illinois House of Representatives Death Penalty Task Force, Chicago, IL, 1999 (invited testimony)
- Religious Organizing Against the Death Penalty Conference, San Antonio, TX, 1999 (workshop presentations)
- Gallaudet University, Washington, DC, 1997, 1999 (debate)
- Law Students Against the Death Penalty Conference, NYU Law School, 1999 (panel presentation)
- National Conference on Wrongful Convictions and the Death Penalty, Chicago, 1998 (panel presentation)
- Ford Foundation Symposium on International Torture and Race Conventions, NY, 1998 (panel presentation)
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, Blacksburg, VA 1998 (campus debate)
- National Legal Aid & Defender Association, Life in the Balance Conference, Philadelphia, 1998; Washington, DC, 2000; Albuquerque, NM, 2001; National Conference, Washington, DC 2000 (workshops)
- Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, Washington, DC, 1997 (political action forum)
- American University, Washington, DC, 1997 (public relations class)
- George Mason University, Virginia, 1997 (panel presentation)
- Public Forum on the Death Penalty, New Haven, CT, 1997 (panel presentation)
- Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, DC, 1997 (seminar presentation)
- Molloy College, New York, 1997 (guest speaker)
- Goucher College, Maryland, 1997 (Amnesty International guest speaker)
- John Marshall Law School, Chicago, 1996, Braun Lecture and Symposium (panel presentation)
- National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, National Conference, Washington, DC 1996, St. Louis, 1998, San Francisco 2000, Raleigh, NC 2001, Nashville, TN 2003, Washington, DC, 2004 (workshops)
- National Convocation of Jail & Prison Ministry Annual Conference, Washington, DC, 1996 (panel presentation)
- National Commission on Capital Punishment, Philadelphia, PA, 1996 (invited testimony)
- People's Procuratorates, People's Republic of China, 1996 (visiting delegation)
- International Commission of Jurists, 1996 (panel on racism and the death penalty)
- Georgetown University, 1995 (panel)
- American University, 1994, 1996, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2002 (Washington Semester, class guest lecturer)
- Human Rights Watch Seminar for international visitors, Washington, DC, 1993 & 1994
- Third Congressional District Annual Constitutional Seminar, Maryland, 1993
- Georgetown University Law Center, many years (class guest lecturer)
- Briefing for U.S. House and Senate staffers on Innocence and the Death Penalty, 1993
- NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund Death Penalty Representation Seminar, Airlie, Virginia (1993, 1995, 1996 (DC), 1997, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2005)
- Governor's Commission on the Death Penalty, Annapolis, Maryland, 1993 (invited testimony)

- University of Houston, Clear Lake, Texas, 1993 (Law Day presentation)
- American Correctional Association, Maryland, 1993

International presentations as an invited speaker at conferences in Kathmandu (Nepal), Salvador (Brazil), Tokyo, London, Paris, Brussels, (European Parliament, committee), Beijing, Taipei, Madrid, and Dublin.