The American Bar Association and the Florida State University Center for the Advancement of Human Rights invite you to attend a forum on

The Florida Death Penalty:
A Retrospective on the ABA Assessment on Capital Punishment in Florida – What Has Changed and What Remains the Same?
Florida State University, College of Law Rotunda
Sept 16, 2009 - Noon – 3 p.m.
Tallahassee, Florida
Free of Charge and Light Refreshments will be Served

In 2006, the ABA completed one of the most comprehensive studies to date on the fairness and accuracy of the death penalty in Florida. On the three-year anniversary of the release of the report, join us for a lively, dynamic forum on the ABA’s findings and what, if anything, has changed in the administration of capital punishment in the state. We’ll examine a range of problems identified in the ABA report, including ineffective defense counsel, prosecutorial issues, juror confusion and Florida’s majority jury requirements, clemency, and wrongful conviction. Participants will also discuss the cost of pursuing the death penalty, the propriety of alternatives to capital punishment in murder cases, and will answer your questions on Florida’s death penalty.

Report Card on Florida’s Death Penalty
12-1pm*
Findings and Recommendations of the ABA’s Florida Death Penalty Assessment Team & Perspectives from a Former President of The Florida Bar.

Moderator: Chris Slobogin, Assessment Team Chair & Professor, Vanderbilt School of Law
Panelists: Hon. O.H. Eaton, Circuit Judge, 18th Judicial Circuit; Hon. Lynn Tepper, Circuit Judge, 6th Judicial Circuit; Mark Schlakman, Clemency Counsel to Gov. Lawton M. Chiles, Jr.; and Harry K. Singletary, Jr., former Secretary, Florida Department of Corrections who served on Gov. Crist's Commission on Administration of Lethal Injection.

Equal Justice Under Law?
1-2pm
The inadequacy of counsel assigned to represent Florida’s capital defendants and death row inmates and the effect of prosecutorial decision making on capital cases.

Moderator: Mark Olive, Defense Attorney and Petitioner in Olive v. Maas I-III

The Way Forward – Are the Costs of Capital Punishment Justifiable?
2-3pm
The human and financial costs of the death penalty; the benefits and costs of alternatives to capital punishment.

Moderator: Sandy D’Alemberte, Fmr. ABA President & President Emeritus of Florida State University
Panelists: Juan Melendez, Exonerated after spending 17 years on Florida’s death row; Seth Miller, Executive Director, Innocence Project of Florida; David Rasmussen, Dean, Florida State University College of Social Sciences and Public Policy; and Ashley Nellis, Research Analyst, The Sentencing Project

*Times are approximate. Questions may be directed to Mark Schlakman: mschlakman@admin.fsu.edu / (850) 644-4614 or Sarah Turberville: turbervs@staff.abanet.org / (202) 662-1595.
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