

Ohio Update

Ohio has had two executions, Frederick Treesh (3-6) and Steven Smith(5-1), and one commutation, Ronald Post (1-16). Ohio now has 12 men with execution dates: 3 in 2013, 5 in 2014, 4 in 2015.

The Taskforce appointed by Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor continues to meet. The meetings will probably start meeting monthly since they are being asked to complete their task by the end of the year. At a recent meeting the Department of Corrections suggested that legislation be introduced to allow compounding pharmacies to produce pentobarbital since the State's supply runs out in September. They also want legislation that would allow medical persons to be part of executions without any penalties from professional organizations, etc. Neither has moved forward and the AMA is protesting.

OTSE sponsored a Witness To Innocence tour throughout the state. It was well received. Helen was part of that.

Families That Matter raised the funds to purchase copies of the book, *FALSE JUSTICE: 8 Myths That Convict the Innocent*, to be given to members of the Ohio legislature. The books will each be signed by a family member and a letter will be enclosed. Some will be distributed at local offices and the rest will be distributed to their Columbus Office. The book is written by Jim and Nancy Petro. Jim is a former Ohio Attorney General under Gov. Taft and a somewhat conservative Republican. Work on the booklet of family stories continues slowly.

Kevin Werner, director of Ohioans To Stop Executions, was a guest on the Diane Rehm show on May 2. He made some great points.