



For Immediate Release
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**ANTI-DEATH PENALTY AWARDS IN LOS ANGELES HIGHLIGHT GROWING PUBLIC
AWARENESS ABOUT UNFAIRNESS OF THE DEATH PENALTY**

Honorees include, Activists Max Palevsky and Jodie Evans, Hollywood's David E. Kelley, Senator George McGovern, San Francisco District Attorney Kamala D. Harris, Robert Greenwald, and Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton

LOS ANGELES – Death Penalty Focus, one of the nation's largest membership-based organizations working to abolish capital punishment in America, will hold its 16th Annual Awards Banquet in Los Angeles on Thursday, April 19th, to honor those whose work has helped expose the injustice and inhumanity of capital punishment and advance the cause of abolition.

WHAT: Death Penalty Focus's 16th Annual Awards Dinner
WHEN: Thursday, April 19, 2007; 6:30 reception; 7:30pm dinner
WHERE: The Beverly Hilton Hotel, Beverly Hills Ballroom, 9876 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills, California 90210
WHO: Actress Mimi Kennedy will serve as Master of Ceremonies. Dinner co-chairs include: Mike Farrell, Shelley Fabares, Danny Glover, Ed Asner, James Cromwell, Jane Kaczmarek, and Bradley Whitford.

The 2007 Abolition Award will be given to Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton; The Rose Elizabeth Bird Commitment to Justice Award will be presented to two remarkable people, Max Palevsky and Jodie Evans; David E. Kelley will receive the Justice in the Arts Award; Senator George McGovern will be honored with the prestigious Mike Farrell Human Rights Award; Kamala D. Harris, San Francisco District Attorney will be recognized for all of her hard work with the The Mario Cuomo Acts of Courage Award and finally, the The Norman Felton and Denise Aubuchon Humanitarian Award will be presented in recognition of Robert Greenwald.

A May 2006 Gallup Poll determined that the public now prefers a sentence of life without parole as a punishment for 1st degree murder over the death penalty; only 47% of respondents preferred capital punishment, the lowest percentage in two decades, while forty-eight percent favored life without parole.

"More and more people are recognizing that the death penalty is unfair, unjust, and unnecessary," said actor/producer **Mike Farrell**, president of Death Penalty Focus. "I think that is has been surprising to the general populace that the lethal injection process is flawed and that such a high number of individuals are wrongfully accused and convicted."

Last Year's Award Recipients Included: Barry Scheck, Carl Reiner, Rev. Dr. George Regas, Dorothy Ehrlich, Vicki Riskin and David W. Rintels, Assemblyman Mervyn M. Dymally, Exonerees Gloria Killian, Tom Goldstein and Greg Wilhoit, and Mike Farrell.

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