



Death Penalty Information Center

MEDIA ADVISORY FOR
Noon, Monday, June 26, 2006

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**AUTHOR MICHAEL MELTSNER TO JOIN DPIC IN BESTOWING
10th ANNUAL THURGOOD MARSHALL JOURNALISM AWARDS TO
JACQUI LOFARO & VICTOR TEICH OF JUSTICE PRODUCTIONS,
ROBERT NELSON OF *PHOENIX NEW TIMES***

Awards honor excellence in coverage of capital punishment

WASHINGTON, DC – Acclaimed author and civil rights attorney Michael Meltsner will offer keynote remarks during the Death Penalty Information Center's 10th Annual Thurgood Marshall Journalism Awards at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. He will join DPIC in honoring journalists who have made exceptional contributions to the understanding of problems associated with capital punishment. This year's award recipients are Jacqui Lofaro and Victor Teich of Justice Productions for their documentary "The Empty Chair," as well as reporter Robert Nelson of the *Phoenix New Times* for his coverage of death row exoneree Ray Krone.

Meltsner is a law professor at Northeastern Law School in Boston and worked with the late Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. His latest book, "The Making of a Civil Rights Lawyer," includes an examination of death penalty developments since the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Gregg v. Georgia*, an historic ruling that upheld newly crafted death penalty statutes and signaled the beginning of the modern era of capital punishment. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the *Gregg* decision.

Lofaro and Teich will receive this year's Award for excellence in the television broadcast category. Their documentary, "The Empty Chair," aired last year on the Hallmark Channel's World of Faith and Values television network. This documentary tells the story of murder victims' families confronting the loss of their loved ones and explores whether the death penalty can address their pain.

Robert Nelson of the *Phoenix New Times* will receive this year's Award for excellence in print journalism. Nelson's article "About Face" profiles the case of Ray Krone, who was wrongly convicted and sentenced to death in Arizona before he was freed based on DNA evidence. The piece explores the state's efforts to keep Krone behind bars, as well as Krone's life after his exoneration. Krone and Renny Cushing of Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights will present this year's Thurgood Marshall Journalism Awards.

- WHAT: 10th Annual Thurgood Marshall Journalism Awards**
- WHO: Michael Meltsner, author and civil rights attorney**
2006 Thurgood Marshall Journalism Award Winners
Special guest introduction speakers
- WHEN: Monday, June 26, 2006 at Noon**
- WHERE: National Press Club, 13th Floor, Holeman Lounge**
529 14th Street NW, Washington, DC

Members of the media are welcome to attend this event at no charge. Please contact Brenda Bowser Soder (202/289-2275, bbsoder@deathpenaltyinfo.org) to register or for more information.

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