



Maryland Citizens Against State Executions

MEDIA ADVISORY

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Film Screening and Panel Discussion to Highlight Race and the Death Penalty

*Nov. 14 Prince George's Event to Feature Carl Snowden, Civil Rights Director,
Maryland Attorney General's Office*

WHAT: Screenings of "Race to Execution," the PBS film that follows the stories of two death row inmates and examines the role that race plays in death sentencing.

WHEN: Wednesday November 14, 7 pm

Prince George's Community College, 301 Largo Rd, Largo, MD

Largo Student Center, Rennie Forum

Guest Speakers:

- **Dr. Charlene Dukes**, President of Prince George's Community College
- **Dr. Johnnie Jones, Esq.**, Professor in the Criminal Justice, Forensic Science, and Legal Studies Department at Prince George's Community College
- **Carl Snowden, Esq.**, Director for Civil Rights, Office of Maryland's Attorney General
- **Christine Intagliata**, Writer, "Race to Execution"

Thursday November 15, 6 pm

C. Burr Artz Public Library, CBA Community Room

110 E. Patrick Street, Frederick, MD

Both events are free and open to the public

"Race to Execution," a pivotal film examining the role race plays at all stages of capital punishment cases, will be screened on Nov. 14 at Prince George's Community College and on Nov. 15 in Frederick. The film follows the cases of two death row inmates, one in Alabama and one in Illinois, and highlights how the race of the victim significantly affected the sentences imposed.

Along with the film at the Nov. 14 Prince George's Community College event, a panel discussion will examine race and the death penalty in Maryland. Panelists will include Carl Snowden, Director for Civil Rights, Office of Maryland's Attorney General; Dr. Charlene Dukes, President of

Prince George's Community College, and Professor Johnnie A. Jones, of the Criminal Justice, Forensic Science, and Legal Studies Department at Prince George's Community College.

Race has been shown to play a large role in death sentencing in Maryland with blacks charged with killing white victims being two and a half times more likely to receive a death sentence than whites who kill whites, and three and a half times more likely than blacks who kill blacks. Every prisoner now on the state's death row was convicted of killing white Marylanders even though it is black Marylanders who fall in at least three quarters of murders in the state every year.

Last session, there was significant movement in the Maryland legislature toward repeal of the death penalty, with Gov. Martin O'Malley supporting legislation to repeal the death penalty and replace it with a sentence of life without parole. Legislation to repeal the death penalty will be introduced again in the 2008 session.

The "Race to Execution" screenings are co-sponsored by Amnesty International, in partnership with DePaul University Center for Justice in Capital Cases, Lioness Media, and Active Voice.

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Maryland Citizens Against State Executions is a coalition of groups and individuals united to end the death penalty in Maryland through education, grassroots action, and public demonstration.