

US DEATH PENALTY TRAINING

Autumn 2020

Things are a bit different this training ...

All sessions will be online via zoom

You will be given access to pre-recorded sessions; these are paired with short live sessions - please attend both.

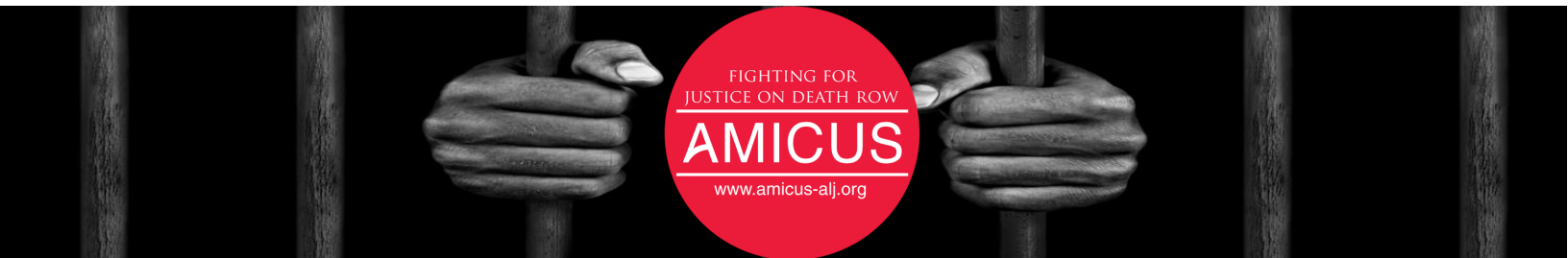
Please note that pre-recorded sessions will be released 42 hours in advance so you can watch in your own time(zone), these will expire after the associated scheduled live session or small group

PLEASE ENSURE YOU HAVE VIEWED THE PRE-RECORDED SESSION PRIOR TO THE ASSOCIATED LIVE SESSION

Introductory and Keynote Speakers: Friday 23rd October

Theory: Saturday 24th, Sunday 25th October

Practical: Friday 6th, Saturday 7th, Sunday 8th November



A message from Amicus

Welcome to the US Death Penalty Training course. This course provides insight into, and practical and theoretical skills for defending those facing the death penalty in the US.

Amicus is a small legal charity that helps to provide representation for those facing execution in the US. Amicus was founded in 1992 in memory of Andrew Lee Jones, who was executed in Louisiana in 1991.

We believe the death penalty is disproportionately imposed on the most vulnerable in society, violating their right to due process and the concept of equal justice before the law. We work to provide better access to justice for those who could not otherwise afford it.

"The death penalty remains fraught with arbitrariness, discrimination, caprice, and mistake."

US Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun, 1994

The quality of representation in a capital trial is literally a matter of life and death. Unfortunately, capital defence lawyers in the US are generally overworked and underpaid. Some are also woefully inexperienced and a significant number of US defendants have gone to their deaths because of poor legal representation.

"The Constitution says that everyone's entitled to the attorney of their choice... The Constitution doesn't say that the lawyer has to be awake."

District Judge Doug Shaver, *McFarland v. State of Texas* (1992)

The US has executed over 800 people since 2000. 34.6% of defendants executed by the US since 1976 were black, although the US census bureau estimates that as of 2014 only 13.2% of the general population is black.

A recent Louisiana study concluded that, even after taking other variables into consideration, "the odds of a death sentence are still 97% higher for those who kill whites than for those who kill blacks". Are all equal before the law?

90% of death row inmates are classed as indigent and cannot afford their own lawyer.

"All are equal before the law and are entitled, without any discrimination, to equal protection of the law."

Article 7, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Since 1973, more than 163 people in 26 states have been released from death row with evidence of their innocence.

Amicus helps save lives – but we need your support.
Join us now at www.amicus-alj.org/how-help/membership.

Friday 23rd October 2020

TIMES ARE UK BST (for GMT +1, EST-5, CT-6 and PST-8)

(15mins)	Introduction and Important session information
PRERECORD	<i>This session will remain available online for the duration of training, please view this prior to viewing any training</i>
	Margot Ravenscroft and Diana Rescaldani

(30mins)	About Amicus
PRERECORD	Margot Ravenscroft and Diana Rescaldani

(30mins)	Life as an Amicus US volunteer
PRERECORD	Amicus Alumni

6.30 pm	Keynote Speakers LIVE
LIVE	Sunny Jacobs & Peter Pringle

7.30 pm	Q&A Live session (30mins)
LIVE	Sunny and Peter & Amicus Alumni

Saturday 24th October 2020

TIMES ARE UK BST (for GMT+1, EST-5, CT-6 and PST-8)

(1hour 15mins) PRERECORD	Introduction to the US Legal System: US Constitution & Supreme Court Dr Bea Myers
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(1hour 30mins) PRERECORD	Trial Procedure (Part 1) Mark George QC & Maddie Steele
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(1hour 30mins) PRERECORD	Trial Procedure (Part 2) Mark George QC & Maddie Steele
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1:00 pm LIVE PANEL	Supreme Court & Trial Procedure Panel (40mins) Mark George QC, Maddie Steel & Margot Ravenscroft
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(1hour 15mins) PRERECORD	Juries Niall Carlin & Hannah Gorman
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(1hour 15mins) PRERECORD	Slavery, Race and the Death Penalty Dr Bharat Malkani
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5:00pm LIVE PANEL	Juries and Race Panel (40mins) Niall Carlin, Hannah Gorman, Bharat Malkani & Margot Ravenscroft
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Sunday 25th October 2020

TIMES ARE UK GMT (for EST-4, CT-5 and PST-7)

(1hour) PRERECORD	Appeals (Part 1) Mark George QC & Georgia Richardson
(1hour) PRERECORD	Appeals (Part 2) Mark George QC & Peter Wilson
(1hour 15mins) PRERECORD	International Perspective Prof Jon Yorke & Dr Alice Storey
1:00pm LIVE PANEL	Appeals and International Perspective (40mins) Mark George QC, Prof Jon Yorke & Margot Ravenscroft
2:00 pm LIVE WORKSHOP	Krone Workshop (Part 1, see materials) Dr Sarah Cooper (with Amicus Alumni support for workshops) <i>You will be allocated a "room" in this session, please promptly move to the room and back at the end of the session.</i>
3:00 pm LIVE WORKSHOP	Krone Workshop (Part 2, materials provided live in session) Dr Sarah Cooper (with Amicus Alumni support for workshops) <i>You will be allocated a "room" in this session, please promptly move to the room and back at the end of the session.</i>
4:00 pm LIVE PANEL	Krone Workshop & Amicus Alumni Dr Sarah Cooper, Amicus Alumni & Margot Ravenscroft

Friday 6th November 2020

TIMES ARE UK GMT (EST-5, CT-6 and PST-8)

(15mins) PRERECORD	Introduction Margot Ravenscroft
(1 hour 15mins) PRERECORD	Report from the Field: Current State of the US Death Penalty... Georgia Jerilyn Bell & Christina Rudy
(1 hour 15mins) PRERECORD	Mitigation 101: Constructing a case narrative Christy Dickerson
(1 hour 15mins) PRERECORD	Records Review and Meeting Clients Christy Dickerson & Jerilyn Bell
5.00pm LIVE	Client Management - Essential Christy Dickerson and Christian Lamar
6:15pm LIVE	The Power of a Story (1hour 15min) Doug Passon
7.45pm LIVE PANEL	Atlanta Specialists (40mins) The Metro Center Defenders, Doug Passon & Margot Ravenscroft

Saturday 7th November 2020
TIMES ARE UK GMT (EST-5, CT-6 and PST-8)

(1 hour 15mins) PRERECORD	Investigation and Litigation of Ineffective Assistance of Counsel and Prosecutorial Misconduct in Capital Cases Jerilyn Bell & Nathaniel Studelska
1:00pm LIVE	Investigation and Litigation of Mental Health and Trauma Issues in Capital Cases (1hour 30mins) Christina Rudy & Nathaniel Studelska
3:00pm LIVE	Investigation and Litigation of Jury Issues and the “Morgan Method” in Capital Cases (1hour 30mins) Shayla Galloway & Nathaniel Studelska
5:00 pm LIVE PANEL	Atlanta Specialists (40mins) The Metro Center Defenders & Margot Ravenscroft

Sunday 8th November 2020

TIMES ARE UK GMT (EST-5, CT-6 and PST-8)

(1hour 15mins) PRERECORD	Getting in the Door: Investigation and Interviewing Skills Christy Dickerson and Nathaniel Studelska
12:00pm LIVE	Investigation and Litigation of Race Issues in Capital Cases (1hour 30mins) Christian Lamar & Shayla Galloway
2.00 pm LIVE WORKSHOP	Musical interlude Investigation Workshops (part 1, please see materials provided in advance) Margot Ravenscroft, Metro Defenders & Amicus Alumni <i>You will be allocated a "room" in this session, please promptly move to the room and back at the end of the session.</i>
3.15 pm LIVE WORKSHOP	Investigation Workshops (part 2 please see materials provided in advance) Margot Ravenscroft, Metro Defenders & Amicus Alumni <i>You will be allocated a "room" in this session, please promptly move to the room and back at the end of the session.</i>
4.15 pm LIVE PANEL	Special Panel and conclusions Margot Ravenscroft, Metro Defenders & Amicus Alumni

About our work – How members can get involved

Placements: Every year we train and place approximately 30 volunteers with capital defence organisations in the US. Capital defence attorneys are generally overworked and under-resourced; our volunteers provide vital support and carry out work that would not be done without them. This can make all the difference to a case:

"[Our Amicus volunteer] shared his work with the Texas office and another Amicus volunteer over there [Texas]. They used it and this guy didn't die last night. I can't think of a way to overstate the importance of this work. The guy didn't die. Kind of says it all. Everyone...ought to know about this. It makes it all worthwhile. Thank you."

Casework: Members on occasion can work on individual cases and play a direct role in helping save a person from execution. The work includes research, summarising trial transcripts and drafting motions and briefs.

Fundraising: Amicus events range from concerts and film screenings to conferences and yoga nights. There's something for everyone.

Journal and newsletter: We need regular contributions for our journal and our monthly newsletter.

Membership fees and donations: As a small charity we are dependent upon our members for the funds that keep us going. Your support will help us expand and improve our work, ensuring better access to justice for those facing execution. Join us at www.amicus-alj.org/how-help/membership.

The story of Andrew Lee Jones

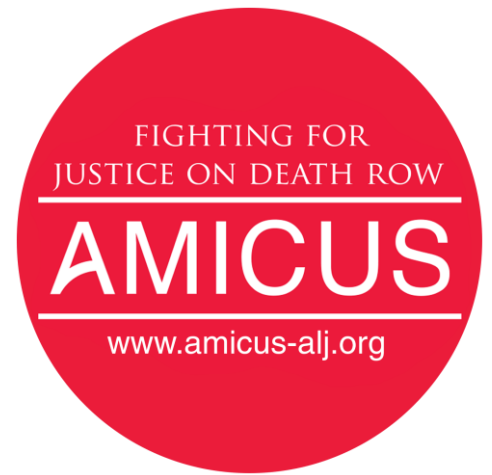
Andrew was born the seventh child out of 14 to a black share-cropping family. His life changed after his father's death, when the family was evicted. Andrew soon fell into petty crime.

In 1984, Andrew was charged with the murder of his ex's daughter. Not only did the prosecutor strike all black jurors, she never informed Andrew's defence – despite her legal obligation to do so – that a state psychiatrist diagnosed Andrew with psychosis. The all-white jury found Andrew guilty.

During sentencing, Andrew's court-appointed defence failed to inform the jury of the following mitigating factors: Andrew had an IQ of 77 and had never progressed beyond the second grade in school; Andrew suffered from organic brain damage; and Andrew had become addicted to drugs as a teenager and experienced psychotic episodes throughout his adult life. Little funding was available to conduct a mental health evaluation of Andrew. In any case, his lawyer did not even request funding. The jury duly sentenced Andrew to death.

In 1991, the Board of Pardons met to hear final pleas for clemency. Andrew's family begged for his life and mental health experts testified. Finally, the defence lawyer from Andrew's 1984 trial apologised for not giving Andrew a fair defence. Less than five years out of law school, he had not been qualified to conduct capital trials. He had received the papers only a short time prior to the trial and saw Andrew only occasionally beforehand. However, clemency was denied.

On 22 July 1991, Andrew was executed. He was the last person in Louisiana to be executed by the electric chair. If our volunteers and caseworkers had been on hand to help, Andrew might still be alive today.



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Amicus is the trading name of the Andrew Lee Jones Fund Ltd
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