

Innocent on Death Row: A Conversation with Kevin Coope

Wed, October 26, 5:00pm – 6:30pm

USF School of Law, Room KN102, 2130 Fulton St., San Francisco

Presented by the University of San Francisco School of Law Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild, Criminal Justice Society, and Keta Taylor Colby Death Penalty Project “

The State of California may be about to execute an innocent man.” *Cooper v. Brown*, 565 F.3d 581, 582 (9th Cir. 2009) (W. Fletcher, dissenting opn.)

In 1985, Mr. Cooper was convicted and sentenced to death for the murders of a family of four in Chino Hills, San Bernardino County, California. He has maintained his innocence ever since while litigating his case in state and federal court. In 2004, Mr. Cooper was granted a stay of execution, but his federal habeas corpus petition was denied in 2009.

Today, Mr. Cooper awaits a ruling on his pending petition for executive clemency from the Honorable Governor for the State of California, Jerry Brown. Mr. Cooper does so while the People of California consider competing initiatives, Propositions 62 and 66, to terminate or expedite the death penalty, respectively, and the State of California works on creating and implementing a functional lethal injection protocol.

Mr. Cooper will provide insight into these and other issues while fielding questions from attendees following a panel discussion about his case. It is Mr. Cooper’s hope that the program will help all attendees better understand what he means when he says: “If anyone honestly opens their eyes, hearts, minds and ears and truly sees, feels, learns and hears exactly what’s going on in this country today, they will get involved to make this country a much better place for everyone!” The event will be recorded and streamed/broadcast by KUSF at a later date so please be on time!

PANELISTS

KEVIN COOPER. Mr. Cooper will participate from San Quentin via a telephone call to his attorney, Mr. Hile.

NORMAN C. HILE, Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe. Mr. Hile is Senior Counsel at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP. He has represented Mr. Cooper since 2004.

THOMAS PARKER, The Sentinel Group. Mr. Parker spent 45 years with the FBI as an agent, national investigator of violent crimes, and Deputy Chief of the Los Angeles Regional Office. In 2011, Mr. Parker led the latest investigation of Mr. Cooper’s case. Mr. Parker is “absolutely convinced Kevin Cooper is innocent.”

CAROLE SELIGMAN, Kevin Cooper Defense Committee. Ms. Seligman is a retired elementary school teacher, member of the Labor Action Committee to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal, and the former office manager at Prison Radio