

Biography Elizabeth Zitrin, USA

Speaker, Round Table: The USA & Abolition



Elizabeth Zitrin is *Director of Special Projects and International Outreach* at Death Penalty Focus, the largest membership-based advocacy organization in the USA working exclusively for an end to the death penalty. She is a *Vice President* of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty. A frequent speaker on the death penalty both in the US and internationally, Ms. Zitrin was chosen by her World Coalition colleagues to represent them at the opening session of the 4th World Congress Against the Death Penalty at the UN in Geneva in 2010. She has addressed the International Commission Against the Death Penalty and hosted their first mission to the USA. Her International Outreach work is focused on the building of bridges between the death penalty abolition movement in the US and the international abolition community. In addition, Ms. Zitrin has managed DPF's *Justice Advocates* and *Law Enforcement Outreach* projects, bringing the voices of exonerees and law enforcement professionals to the public debate during California's statewide initiative SAFE Campaign to end the death penalty in 2012. She has pioneered the presentation of international forums on the death penalty held in the USA. She organized and convened the World Coalition's only General Assembly in the United States.

Ms. Zitrin practiced criminal defense law in San Francisco, California, and has continued to work with capital defense teams. She has served for many years on the Board of the Northern California Innocence Project. She holds a B.A. from Oberlin College and a J.D. from Northeastern University School of Law.