

1-1-1991

## Human Rights Week

UB Law Forum

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.law.buffalo.edu/ub\\_law\\_forum](https://digitalcommons.law.buffalo.edu/ub_law_forum)

---

### Recommended Citation

UB Law Forum (1991) "Human Rights Week," *UB Law Forum*: Vol. 5 : No. 2 , Article 14.

Available at: [https://digitalcommons.law.buffalo.edu/ub\\_law\\_forum/vol5/iss2/14](https://digitalcommons.law.buffalo.edu/ub_law_forum/vol5/iss2/14)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Alumni Publications at Digital Commons @ University at Buffalo School of Law. It has been accepted for inclusion in UB Law Forum by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ University at Buffalo School of Law. For more information, please contact [lawscholar@buffalo.edu](mailto:lawscholar@buffalo.edu).

America. How many? I personally don't know. You have guilty people on Death Row that don't need to be executed. And you have guilty people walking the streets who should have been arrested many times over."

Regarding Dale Volker, the state senator pressing for the reinstatement of capital punishment in New York, Adams said, "Volker needs to be scared" by the legal system "the way I was."

Adams asserted that media attention works to keep the legal system honest in capital cases. The problem, he said, is that such attention waxes and wanes. "After the publicity fades," he said, "after executions become routine, that's when you get prosecutors hiding evidence" and other abuses.

Adams said he was skeptical about "The Thin Blue Line" and what it did for him. He has since had a falling-out with director Morris: Adams had to begin legal proceedings against Morris to secure necessary evidence.

"The state today wants you to think this movie is garbage," Adams said.

"People ask me what I thought of 'The Thin Blue Line.' I always say it's fair. It's not accurate, but it's fair. I have my own problems with the film.

"I wasn't going to win my release out of a theater," Adams said. "It took legal work, legal briefs, legal argument. The film helped, but I had to win my release in a courtroom before a judge. Not in a theater. It wasn't gonna happen.

"If the film did anything, it pushed my release up about five years. I would have won my case eventually (without the film)."

Adams now lives in Columbus, Ohio, and travels extensively for speaking engagements. Speaking, he said, is therapeutic for him.

"I have no recourse against Texas except talking bad about them, which I do all day long," he said.

"I fly around and talk. I sit in bars and talk. I sit at home and talk. I talk. I dream about talking about it. I talk and talk. I have to, or else I'll go crazy." ■

## Human Rights Week

The abuse and defense of human rights in South Africa, Argentina, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Colombia, Peru, the Philippines, Cambodia and the United States was at issue in Human Rights Week, celebrated this spring at UB.

Coordinated by the Human Rights Center at UB School of Law, 15 separate events drew people from throughout Western New York as well as the University community. Human Rights Week was co-sponsored by 21 campus and off-campus organizations. Press coverage was substantial.

Among the high points was a screening of the film "The Thin Blue Line" and a talk by Randall Adams, who was exonerated of murder after the film told his story. (See accompanying article.)

Other events included speakers on Puerto Rican self-determination and U.S. foreign policy in the Mideast; and luncheon panels on Native American women and refugees in North America. Some of the highlights:

- A "Free South Africa Rally" to celebrate the release of Nelson Mandela and call for an end to apartheid in South Africa.
- A panel discussion on "Critical Legal Studies and International Human Rights." Panelists were law professors Virginia Leary, Muhammad Kenyatta and Guyora Binder.
- A presentation on discrimination against people with AIDS, given by Dee Cosby of the Niagara Frontier AIDS Alliance.
- An "Observer Report" of the recent elections in Nicaragua by field observers Carol Alt and Roger Cook of VIVE, a Western New York refugee organization.
- A discussion on the plight of refugees seeking asylum in Canada and the United States, featuring Kathleen Rimar, director of UB Law's Immigration and Asylum Clinic, among others.
- A screening of the film "The Killing Fields," followed by discussion with Cambodian refugee Dith Pran and the actor who portrayed him in the film, Haing Ngor.

