

# **THE FAMILY AS A RESOURCE**

Workshop for Prisoner's Family Conference



## **GOALS OF WORKSHOP**

1. Discuss how family and friends have the ability to help humanize the client
2. Understand issues in client's family:
  - a. fear
  - b. marginalization
  - c. secrets
  - d. don't want to hurt case
  - e. lack of understanding
  - f. dysfunction (addiction, abuse, mental illness, etc.)
3. Dialogue about how to combat the reality that death row family members are the least supported and often left hanging in this process
4. Realization of how the client's family can become a resource if educated and empowered---included a discussion
5. Talk about concrete examples of how the legal team can work with the family

## **WORKSHOP COMPONENTS**

1. Introductions
2. Why Claudia does this work
3. Not just a source of Social History but seeing Family as a Resource
4. Family can become educated and become an extension of the Legal Team
5. Getting the family on board:
  - a. Combats marginalization, depression, helplessness
  - b. Seeing the big picture (in the community, political climate)
6. Specific issues to address:
  - a. Pre-trial plea
  - b. Post-trial mitigation
  - c. Understanding judicial procedures

7. Education part of *Capital Defense Handbook for Defendants and their Families*
  - a. Case procedure
  - b. Summarizing case
  - c. Working with lawyer
  - d. Support Groups
  - e. Actual involvement in case
  - f. Supporting your loved-one throughout the case
  
8. Community Resources:
  - a. Religious
  - b. Educational institutions
  - c. Service organizations
  - d. Advocacy
  - e. Media
  
9. Speaking out in general and about cases (with a focus)
  
10. Advantages of coupling activism with representation
  - a. Extends the reach of the team
  - b. Encourages family to be proactive, empowers
  - c. Builds trust and support
  - d. Educates toward change; politicizes
  - e. Fights isolation