Robert Allen Gattis is a Delaware death row inmate scheduled to be executed on January 20, 2012.

His case for clemency is compelling and has inspired the support of politicians, mental health professionals, members of the clergy, judges, and lawyers in the State of Delaware. Click here to see the prominent supporters of clemency.

To show your support for clemency for Robert Gattis, sign the online petition here.

For more information, please contact: Robert.Gattis@gmail.com.
A Childhood of Catastrophic Abuse

Unimaginable sexual and physical abuse were facts of Robert Gattis's childhood and adolescence. As a child, he was raped and otherwise sexually molested by a series of perpetrators beginning at an age so young it is disturbing to consider. The acts were often violent, and many occurred when he was left in the “care” of close family members who had no interest or ability to protect him. Mr. Gattis was also brutalized by the men in his mother’s life. His step-father was a violent drunk with little regard for a child not his own. Mr. Gattis’s natural father abused his son just as severely as the step-father, and repeatedly abandoned Mr. Gattis and his mother for long periods of time. Mr. Gattis was still a small child when he began to show the predictable signs of emotional distress stemming from this abuse, but he was provided no protection or help. His horrifying childhood experiences had a profound psychological impact, influenced the course of his life, and shed critical light on the person Mr. Gattis was when he killed Ms. Slay.

Mr. Gattis’s killing of Ms. Slay, which occurred over twenty-one years ago, was a senseless act, very much informed by his mental illness. At that time, Mr. Gattis had been involved with Ms. Slay in a romantic relationship for almost six years. On the day of her death, inside of her apartment, they had an argument which began when Mr. Gattis accused her of seeing another man. Enraged and jealous, he struck her repeatedly, and then left the apartment. Ms. Slay called the police. While an officer was there, Mr. Gattis phoned, and the officer told him not to return. He did return, however, kicked open Ms. Slay’s door, and shot and killed her.

There is no excuse or justification for Mr. Gattis’s crime. Yet the horrific sexual and physical abuse he suffered provides insight into the impairment of the man who committed that crime. In Delaware we have recently learned, to our shock and sorrow, that undetected childhood sexual and physical abuse is widespread. Our state has begun to provide services to victims and training to those who come into frequent contact with our children. We do so because we now know that without intervention, the effects of prolonged childhood sexual abuse are long-lasting, and profoundly disruptive of its victims’ abilities to function in intimate relationships. Mr. Gattis never received any such intervention. He was at the mercy of his abusers from preschool to adolescence. His many abusers included trusted family members who took advantage of him while no one – not a parent, not a teacher, not a doctor or clergy person – came to his aid. Much of this abuse occurred on our watch, as he passed through our schools virtually unnoticed, without meaningful intervention.

Crucial Life History Never Presented to Jury or Judge
Robert Gattis: A Case for Clemency

This crucial life history information was never presented to Mr. Gattis's sentencing judge or jury. Recently, the governors of Ohio and Oklahoma have exercised grace on behalf of other inmates facing the death penalty. The stories of these cases share a common thread with that of Robert Gattis.

In that deeply troubling information about the tragic lives of these individuals came to light long after their original trials. One governor (Governor John Kasich of Ohio), in language that echoes the terror of Mr. Gattis's life, found that as a child the condemned "was destined for disaster," having "suffered uniquely severe and sustained verbal, physical and sexual abuse from those who should have loved him." Mr. Gattis, too, was destined for disaster considering his background.

Mr. Gattis is Deeply Remorseful

There is another reason Mr. Gattis is deserving of mercy. Despite his horrifying background, during the twenty-one and a half years of his incarceration following his death sentence, he has demonstrated the determination and strength of character to redeem and rehabilitate himself. At forty-nine he is a different person from the man who killed Ms. Slay. He is a beloved and involved father, uncle, friend and mentor. People close to Mr. Gattis, including corrections officials, report that his expressions of remorse and contrition for Ms. Slay's death have been consistent and sincere.

Corrections Officials Attest to Mr. Gattis's Redemption

Several former Delaware state correctional officers have attested to Mr. Gattis's character and the positive influence he has played in the lives of other inmates.

Mr. Gattis Continues to Make a Positive Impact on the Next Generation

His two sons, successful and thoughtful young men, have strong and enduring relationships with him. They and their young families draw strength from his active presence in their lives. Over the years of his incarceration, through letters, visits and telephone calls, Mr. Gattis has counseled them not to repeat the mistakes that he has made. He has provided similar mentoring and guidance to other young people, including inmates, nieces and nephews, who also attest to the positive influence he has had over them.

The act of clemency is recognition that even among the condemned there are those who need not be removed from the human community. Mr. Gattis's commitment to redemption for his act has been demonstrably genuine, and his subsequent contribution to the human community has been positive.

For all of these many reasons and more, we are urges the Board of Pardons to recommend and Governor Markell to grant clemency to Mr. Gattis and commute his sentence to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

http://robertgattisclemency.com/Petition-for-Clemency.html

2/24/2012
Robert A. Gattis
A Case for Clemency

Letters of Support

Letter from Former Judges and Prosecutors

Letter from Members of the Clergy

Letter from Mental Health Professionals

Letter from Delaware State Senators and Representatives

Letter from Sue Osthoff of the National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women


Letter from Judge Edward N. Cahn, Former Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

Letter from Dr. Steven Berkowitz, Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania and Director of the Penn Center for Youth and Family Trauma Response and Recovery

Letter from Christine Azar, Esq., Partner, Labaton Sucharow LLP, Wilmington, DE

Letter from Kathleen MacRae, ACLU of Delaware

Letter from James Lafferty, Mental Health Professional in Delaware

Letter from Sister Maureen Paul Turish SNDdeN, Advocate for Victims & Legislative Reform

Letter from Ruth Lawson Kirk providing written testimony to Board of Pardons

Letter from Ruth Lawson Kirk, Rector of Christ Church Christiana Hundred Greenville, Wilmington, Delaware

Letter from Rabbi Yair D. Robinson Senior Rabbi, Congregation Beth Emeth, Wilmington, DE

Letter from Rabbi Peter Grumbacher, Congregation Beth Emeth, Wilmington, DE

Letter from Brendan O'Neill, Public Defender of Delaware, on behalf of Delaware Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

Some of the prominent letter-signers in support of clemency:

To sign on to one of the above group support letters, please e-mail Jenna_Rosania@fd.org

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Robert Gattis, Criminal, Philadelphia, PA 19106 - support-for-clemency

Helena M. Keeley, State Representative, 3rd District
Karen Peterson, State Senator, 9th District
George Smiley, New Castle County City Council, 7th District
Melanie George Smith, State Representative, 5th District
Leane M. Sorenson, State Senator, 6th District
Sue Osthoff, Director, National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women

Former Judges and Prosecutors

Adam Balick
Balick & Balick, LLC
Deputy Attorney General – Criminal Division, Delaware Department of Justice (1989-1995)
Walter S. Batty, Jr.
Assistant United States Attorney (1971-2003), United States Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania
Edward N. Cahn
Of Counsel, Blank Rome LLP
Daniel J. Carluccio
Partner, Carluccio, Leone, Dimon, Doyle, and Sachs
Prosecutor of Ocean County, New Jersey (1992-1997)
Robert J. Cindrich
Judge (1994-2004), United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania
United States Attorney (1978-1981), Western District of Pennsylvania
Robert Del Tufo
Attorney General of the State of New Jersey (1990-1993)
John J. Gibbons
Director, Gibbons P.C.
James T. Giles
Scott D. Godshall
Of Counsel, Eckell, Sparks, Levy, Auerbach, Monte, Sloane, Matthews & Auslander, P.C.
Assistant United States Attorney (1990-1993), United States Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania
Alan B. Handler
Associate Justice (1977-1996), Supreme Court of New Jersey
Henry E. Hechtmeier, Jr.
Assistant United States Attorney (1995-2000), United States Attorney’s Office for the Western District of Oklahoma
Nathaniel R. Jones
Of Counsel, Blank Rome LLP
Judge (1979-2002), United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
John Kaye
Prosecutor of Monmouth County, New Jersey (1983-2006)
President, National District Attorney’s Association (1996)
Thomas F. Kelaher
Mayor, Toms River, New Jersey
Prosecutor of Ocean County, New Jersey (2002-2007)
Gerald Kogan
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the State of Florida
Chief Prosecutor, Homicide and Capital Crimes Division, Dade County, Florida
Ronald H. Levine
Principal, Post and Schell, P.C.
Former Chief-Criminal Division (1998-2002), United States Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania
Jack McMahon
Assistant District Attorney, (1978-1990), Homicide Unit (1982-1990), Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office
W. Michael Murphy, Jr.
Partner, ImpascoHU, LLC
Prosecutor of Morris County, New Jersey (1990-1995)
Stephen M. Orlofsky

http://robertgattisclemency.com/Support-for-Clemency.html

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Robert Gattis, Criminal, Philadelphia, PA 19106 - support-for-clemency

Partner, Blank Rome LLP
Judge (1996-2003), Magistrate Judge (1976-1990), United States District Court for the District of New Jersey

Deborah Peritz
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of New Jersey (1996-2006)

Stephen G. Raymond
Partner, Raymond, Coleman, Heimold, LLC

Carl Schnee
United States Attorney (1999-2001), District of Delaware

Gary S. Stein
Special Counsel, Freshman Stein, P.C.
Associate Justice (1985-2002), Supreme Court of New Jersey

Mark R. Winston
Assistant United States Attorney (1990-2004), United States Attorney’s Office for the District of New Jersey

Alfred M. Wolin
Judge (1980-1985), Union County District Court

James R. Zazzali
Chief Justice (2006-2007), Associate Justice (2000-2006), Supreme Court of New Jersey

Members of the Clergy

Rev. David J. Archibald
Rector, St. Martin in the Field Episcopal Church
Selbyville, DE

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Baker
Senior Pastor, Epworth United Methodist Church
Rehoboth Beach, DE

Rabbi Michael Beals
Beth Shalom
Wilmington, DE

Rev. James R. Bennett
Honorably retired, New Castle Presbyterian
Newark, DE

Pastor Ronald Bergman
Retired Minister, St. Paul’s Methodist Church
Chaplain Methodist Country House
Wilmington, DE

The Rev. James M. Simbi
St. James Episcopal Church
Wilmington, DE

Rev. Hannah Adair Bonner
Northeast Jurisdiction Regional Staff, Young People’s Ministries, GBOD
The United Methodist Church
Wilmington, DE

The Rev. Rodger C. Broadley
Rector, The Church of St Luke and The Epiphany
Philadelphia, PA

Rev. Msgr. Charles L. Brown III
St. John the Beloved Roman Catholic Church
Wilmington, DE

Rev. Dr. Christopher Bullock
Canaan Baptist Church
New Castle, DE

Sister Regina Burns
St. Elizabeth Parish
Wilmington, DE

Rev. Norman Carroll
St. Elizabeth
Wilmington, DE

The Rev. Canon Lloyd S. Casson  
Rector Emeritus, Episcopal Church of Sts. Andrew & Matthew  
Wilmington, DE

The Rev. Dr. George Clifford  
Retired Priest, Episcopal Church  
Raleigh, NC

Bebe Ross Coker

Elder Charles H. Collier, Ill  
First Presbyterian Church  
Newark, DE

Rev. Dr. Christopher T. Curry  
Senior Pastor, Ezion Fair Baptist Church  
Wilmington, DE

Rev. Thomas C. Davis  
New Castle Presbytery  
Newark, DE

Rev. Beth Doty  
New Castle Presbytery  
Newark, DE

Rev. Dr. Donald E. Dunnigan, Sr.  
Cornerstone Fellowship Baptist Church  
Wilmington, DE

Rev. Dr. David Albert Farmer  
Pastor, Silverside Church  
Wilmington, DE

Jennie Bennett Fleming  
Director of Religious Education  
Parish of St. Ann  
Bethany Beach, DE

Fr. John Frambes, O.F.M.  
St. Joseph Church  
Wilmington, DE

Dr. Linda Gatther  
Chair, National Executive Council, Episcopal Peace Fellowship  
Chicago, IL

Pastor Douglas D. Gerotts  
First & Central Presbyterian Church  
Wilmington, DE

Pastor Bruce Gillette  
Limestone Presbyterian Church  
Wilmington, DE

Pastor Carolyn Gillette  
Limestone Presbyterian Church  
Wilmington, DE

Apostle John T. Graham  
Temple United Church  
Wilmington, DE

Pastor William F. Graney  
Parish of Resurrection  
Wilmington, DE

Mary Ellen Green  
Wilmington Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends  
Wilmington, DE

The Rev. H. Sterling Green  
Retired Pastor, United Methodist Church  
Rehoboth Beach, DE

Rabbi Peter Grumbacher  
Rabbi Emeritus, Congregation Beth Emeth  
Wilmington, DE

The Rev. Canon Mark Harris  
Associate Priest, St. Peter's Episcopal Church  
Lewes, DE

Challier Horine

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Co-Clerk, Newark Friends Meeting
Newark, DE

Rev. William M. Hazzard
St. Matthew's Church (Woodcrest)
Wilmington, DE

Rev. Wilona Holy
New Castle Presbyterian
Newark, DE

The Rev. Andrew W. Jacob
Hanover Presbyterian Church
Wilmington, DE

Bishop Peggy A. Johnson
United Methodist Church
Peninsula-Delaware Conference

Elder Tyrone C. Johnson
Interdenominational Ministers Action Council
Wilmington, DE

Rev. Dr. David C. Kaminsky, H.R.
New Castle Presbyterian
Newark, DE

Ruth Lawson Kirk
Rector, Christ Church Christians Hundred
Wilmington, DE

The Very Rev. William B. Lane
Interim Dean, Episcopal Cathedral Church of Saint John
Wilmington, DE

Rev. Dr. Anne R. Ledbetter
Associate Pastor, Westminster Presbyterian Church
Wilmington, DE

Thomas Ledbetter
Brandywine Pastoral Institute
Wilmington, DE

Rev. Dr. Lawrence Michael Livingston
Mother African Union F.C.M.P. church
Wilmington, DE

Most Reverend W. Francis Malooly
Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of
Wilmington, DE

Pastor Brad Martin
Trinity Presbyterian Church
Wilmington, DE

Sally Milbury-Steen
Co-Clerk, Newark Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Newark, DE

Rev. Aaron Moore
Manna Christian Fellowship Center
Wilmington, DE

Rev. David J. Morris
St. Luke's
Philadelphia, PA

Bishop Aretha E. Morton
Taboracle Full Gospel Baptist Cathedral
Wilmington, DE

Rev. Dr. Donald Morton
Lead Pastor, Perfected Life Church
Wilmington, DE

Rev. James L. Moseley
Executive Presbyter, New Castle Presbytery
Newark, DE

The Rev. Culver L. Mowers
St. Thomas' Episcopal Church
Slaterville Springs, NY

The Rev. Erin R. Melone

Robert Gattis, Criminal, Philadelphia, PA 19106 - support-for-clemency

Retired Episcopal Priest
Diocese of Delaware

Rev. Tom Pasmore
Richardson Park United Methodist Church
Wilmington, DE

Robert E. Paulien
Epworth United Methodist
Rehoboth Beach, DE

Minister Ameerah N. Pearman
Perfected Life Church
Wilmington, DE

Sister Kathleen Pollard
Corpus Christi Church
Esmere, DE

Rev. Christopher Posch, OFM
Director, Office of Hispanic Ministry, Catholic Diocese of Wilmington
Wilmington, DE

Pastor Associate Pastor Barbara Price-Martin
Trinity Presbyterian Church
Wilmington, DE

Rev. Robert C. Prior
New Castle Presbytery
Newark, DE

Rev. Dr. William L. Rhines, Jr.
United Methodist Church
International Peninsula-Delaware Conference

Senior Rabbi Yair Robinson
Congregation Beth Emeth
Wilmington, DE

Pastor Tom Siemers
Hickory Hills United Methodist Church
Dagsboro, DE

Rev. Robert D. Stoddard, Jr.
Honorary Rised, New Castle Presbytery
Newark, DE

Rev. Dr. Thomas R. Stout
Vice Moderator, New Castle Presbytery
Newark, DE

Rev. Jane Day Stover
New Castle Presbytery
Newark, DE

Rev. Jennifer P. Warren
First & Central Presbyterian Church
Wilmington, DE

Rev. Timothy R. Woodall
Wilmington, DE

Rev. Amy D. Yarnall
Senior Pastor, Wesley United Methodist Church
Dover, DE

Rev. Robert T. Yeager
Secretary, Episcopal Peace Fellowship
Oak Park, IL

Eleanor Ziegler
Lewes Presbyterian Church
Lewes, DE

Rev. Jack Shitama
Executive Director, Pocometh Camp & Retreat Ministries
Centreville, MD

Rev. Kathia Poweall
Pastoral Associate
Hanover Presbyterian Church
Wilmington, DE

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A Case for Clemency

For inquiries related to the press, please e-mail: Laura.Burstein@ssd.com

Press Releases
1/5/12. More than Two Dozen Former Judges and Prosecutors, 73 Faith Leaders, and Numerous Mental Health and Legal Professionals Call on Delaware Board of Pardons and Governor Markell to Grant Clemency to Robert Gattis
1/3/12. Robert Gattis Petitions Delaware Board of Pardons for Clemency

In the News
BREAKING NEWS: GOVERNOR MARKELL HAS GRANTED CLEMENCY AND COMMUTED ROBERT GATTIS’S SENTENCE TO LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE

Governor Markell’s Statement Regarding the Commutation of Sentence of Robert Gattis

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http://robertgattisclemency.com/Press.html
Del. convicted killer facing Jan. 20 execution files clemency petition with Board of Pardons, by Randall Chase, Associated Press, 1/3/12


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<tr>
<th>Business Name</th>
<th>Robert Gattis</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Business Profile</th>
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</thead>
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Robert A. Gattis
A Case for Clemency

For general inquiries, please e-mail:
Robert.Gattis@gmail.com

For inquiries related to the press, please e-mail:
Laura.Burstein@ssd.com

To sign-on to a letter of support as a former judge or prosecutor, member of the clergy, or mental health professional, please e-mail:
Jenna_Rosania@fd.org

To sign the online petition in support of clemency for Robert Gattis, click here.

To write a letter in support of clemency to the Governor of Delaware, mail or fax it to:
Governor Jack Markell
Tatnall Building
William Penn Street, 2nd Fl.
Dover, DE 19901
Fax: (302) 739-2775

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