

DEATH PENALTY ACTION

For Immediate Release
January 9, 2023

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Scott Eizember & Rev. Dr. Jeff Hood Sue OK Department of Corrections for Violation of Religious Freedom

McAlester, Oklahoma - Upon learning that the Oklahoma Department of Corrections plans to deny Scott Eizember's right to have his chosen Clergy of Record in the death chamber with him as he is being executed at 10am on Thursday, January 12, 2023, attorneys for Eizember will file a complaint on his behalf today with the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma.

Rev. Dr. Jeff Hood, Clergy of Record for Scott Eizember, is also a party to the complaint. Hood, along with Attorney Greg Gardner, Attorney Randall Coyne and Death Penalty Action Director Abraham Bonowitz will provide background, discuss next steps, and take questions at a press conference via Zoom at 10am CT today, Monday, January 9, 2023.

Register for the press conference

here: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_m1loiX4OTlq1evhq18aP6w

See the Complaint here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1d8ovmGCRhxVLwz90JLfXRD4x1-MLkGIR/edit?usp=sharing&oid=115319243557892703764&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Background:

Scott Eizember is scheduled to be executed on January 12, 2023. Like every other prisoner on death row in the United States, Eizember was given the opportunity to choose a minister to accompany him during his execution. He chose his trusted friend and mentor, Rev. Dr. Jeff Hood, who has now visited Mr. Eizember in the Oklahoma State Penitentiary at McAlester without incident for several months. In the 2022 US Supreme Court decision in Ramirez v. Collier, the US Supreme Court voted 8-1 to safeguard the right of a condemned prisoner to have his chosen minister inside the death chamber, touching the prisoner and praying out loud.

PARTICIPANTS:

Greg Gardner: Eizember Appellate Attorney & Religious Liberty Expert , Boulder, Colorado 202-553-1651

Randall Coyne: Eizember Appellate Attorney & Capital Punishment Expert, Norman, Oklahoma 405-834-9317

The Rev. Dr. Jeff Hood, Eizember Spiritual Advisor & Public Theology Expert, Little Rock, Arkansas 404-210-6760

Abraham Bonowitz, Executive Director of Death Penalty Action, Columbus, Ohio 561-371-5204

Rev. Dr. Jeff Hood, Scott Eizember's Clergy of Record, was Clergy of Record for Benjamin Cole, who was executed in October, and is also serving in that role for several others, including Anthony Sacher, who is scheduled to be killed on April 6, 2023.

This event will take place by Zoom at this

link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_m1loiX4OTIq1evhq18aP6w

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