

THE PROGRESSIVE FORUM

Great Minds, Great Answers

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Barry Scheck at The Progressive Forum November 18, 2013



Barry Scheck, cofounder of the Innocence Project, will speak at The Progressive Forum on Monday, November 18, 2013, at the Wortham Center, Cullen Theater at 7:30. Scheck will sign books and greet fans at the end of the evening in the grand foyer during a special reception with Houston exonerees, students and staff of the Texas Innocence Network, and our audience.

Tickets range from \$19 to \$79. Tickets are available at ProgressiveForumHouston.org or by calling 832-251-0706. There is no physical box office except at the theater on event night.

The event's associate presenter is the Texas Innocence Network based at the University of Houston Law Center, headed by David R. Dow who will introduce Barry Scheck at the podium.

The exclusive sponsor of this event is law firm Berg & Androphy, Houston, which has sponsored a number of Progressive Forum events.

Texas is a leader in wrongful convictions, and Barry Scheck has said, "For years, Houston has been ground zero in the national epidemic of faulty forensic science." Scheck is the cofounder and codirector of the Innocence Project, a nonprofit organization created to exonerate the wrongly convicted and reform the criminal justice system. Scheck and Peter Neufeld have pioneered the use of DNA evidence in court, and since its founding in 1992, the Innocence Project has been involved in 170 DNA exonerations. The Innocence Project also encourages reforms in many areas of the criminal justice system. These reforms include eyewitness identifications, interrogation methods, and forensic science research.

Scheck is also a partner in the law firm Neufeld, Scheck & Brustin, LLP, specializing in civil rights and constitutional litigation. Scheck has served as president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and as a Commissioner on New York State's Forensic Science Review Board. He is the author of several publications, including *Actual Innocence: When Justice Goes Wrong and How to Make It Right* (2003) written with Peter Neufeld and journalist Jim Dwyer.

Scheck is a Professor of Law at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in New York City, where he has served on the faculty for thirty-four years. Before joining the faculty of Cardozo, he

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worked for three years as a staff attorney at The Legal Aid Society in New York City. He attended Yale University as an undergraduate before earning his law degree from Boalt Hall School of Law, University of California at Berkeley. He lives in New York City with his wife and two children.

David R. Dow founded the Texas Innocence Network in March 2000; it is Texas' oldest innocence network and represents both inmates facing execution as well as those in the general prison population. Its non-capital division works to exonerate inmates who did not commit the crimes for which they were wrongfully convicted. TIN works on cases involving DNA evidence, as well as those involving no physical or biological evidence. TIN receives hundreds of requests for assistance each year, and has participated in the exoneration of some dozen inmates. In TIN's capital division, students assist TIN's lawyers in representing inmates facing execution. In 2013 alone, TIN obtained last minute stays of execution for two of the six death row inmates it represented.

Dow teaches at both the University of Houston and Rice University. He earned a B.A. magna cum laude from Rice University, an M.A. in history and J.D. from Yale where he was an editor on the *Yale Law Journal*. He clerked for Judge Carolyn King of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, and subsequently practiced law at Susman Godfrey, in Houston. He is author of numerous scholarly articles, as well as six books, including *The Autobiography of an Execution* (2010), which was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award and the winner of the 2010 Barnes & Noble Discover Award for nonfiction. His newest book, *Things I've Learned From Dying*, will be published in January 2014.

The Progressive Forum is the only civic speaker organization in America dedicated expressly to progressive values. It's a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization whose purpose is to enrich our democracy and culture by striving to present the greatest minds from all the fields of human endeavor, the sciences and the humanities as well as politics and public affairs, great minds it believes are advancing the success of the individual, our species, and life on earth.

The Progressive Forum originated a new model for civic speaker organizations in Houston by presenting speakers in the city's finest theater, compared to the hotel luncheons of traditional organizations. It was designed to present the world's intellectual stars to large audiences in a high quality, theatrical experience. The Progressive Forum markets region-wide to sell tickets to the public in open events. There is no membership fee and the ticket prices are low starting at \$19.

The Progressive Forum also originated a unique innovation in public media, reaching a worldwide audience by presenting the great minds online. The Progressive Forum is America's only civic speaker group providing website pages with event video on its past speakers. These pages are in-depth and comprehensive and include video, biographical sketches, news updates, related links, and reading lists. Most of the videos are longer than common internet fare; however they're broken down into segments and short clips on interesting topics. The website is intended to serve as a source of inspiration for scholars and seekers, a source of perpetual enrichment long after the curtains have closed on the theatrical event.

Speakers have included Michelle Alexander, Karen Armstrong, Lester Brown, Ken Burns, Gail Collins, Richard Dawkins, Jared Diamond, Sylvia Earle, Elizabeth Edwards, Tim Flannery, Jane Goodall, Al Gore, Brian Greene, James Hansen, Seymour Hersh, Arianna Huffington, Molly Ivins, Garrison Keillor, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., Joe Klein, George Lakoff, Richard Leakey, Rachel Maddow, William McDonough, Bill McKibben, Bill Moyers, Nancy Pelosi, T. Boone Pickens, Michael Pollan, Robert Redford, Frank Rich, Sir Ken Robinson, Eric Schlosser, Anna Deavere Smith, George Soros, Sonia Sotomayor, Gloria Steinem, John Paul Stevens, Alice Waters, Larry Wilmore, and Edward O. Wilson.

Founder and president, Randall R. Morton, operated Randall Morton International, Inc. for over 32 years, an advertising and public relations agency whose clients included leading oil equipment companies in the U.S., Japan, Mexico, and Europe. Morton cocreated and cohosted the Oilfield Breakfast Forum from 1994 to 2003, another speaker series which is still the largest in the oil industry. He earned a B.A. degree in government from Georgetown University, and attained a national ranking of three as a pass receiver in nonscholarship football. While at Georgetown, he served as an issue writer for the Democratic National Committee. Later, he earned a second B.A. in communications from Tulsa University, serving the following year as adjunct professor teaching advertising design and copy. He is married to Suzanne Longley, formerly prima ballerina of the Houston Ballet and now owner of Suzanne Longley Landscapes. They have two children who are in college.

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