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Contact Info:

Anna Gavin
agavin@law.upenn.edu

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- [Quattrone Center for the Fair Administration of Justice](#)

Quattrone Center Lunch Talk: Improving the Process for Commutations in PA

Time: 12:00pm - 1:00pm

Location: Silverman 270

[Kathleen Brown](#), Practice Associate Professor of Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania will discuss her work on improving the process for commutations in Pennsylvania. Thurmond Berry, one of the first people to be released because of her work, will join Professor Brown.

This talk is open to Faculty, Staff and Students.
Lunch will be served, please RSVP.

Thurmond Berry, age 67, was incarcerated at the age of 29. He and his co-defendants were convicted of murder. Mr. Berry was armed with a shotgun during the commission of the crime, but did not use it. However, one of his co-defendants shot and killed a patron in the bar they were robbing. Mr. Berry was sentenced to life in prison. In his own words: "Throughout my 38+ years of imprisonment I have taken advantage of all opportunities to rebuild my sense of self and demonstrate my true potential. I entered prison in 1976 a high school dropout. Much of my rehabilitation efforts surrounded academic improvements and personal wellbeing. There are many who believe that imprisonment doesn't lead to rehabilitation, that being in prison with criminal-minded people only fosters inmate's criminal side. But that is not the case with me. I have participated in education and betterment programs that have allowed me to improve myself. I will take what I have learned to the world, proving that I am an honest man worthy of clemency."

Mr. Berry's application for clemency was enhanced via an effort put forth by Penn undergraduate students. At Mr. Berry's recent public hearing two Penn faculty members spoke for him. The result of a combined effort between the Department of Corrections, Penn faculty and students, Mr. Berry and his family, Thurmond Berry's sentence was commuted to one year in a community corrections center followed by life on parole. He currently resides in a community correction center here in Philadelphia and spends most of time, every day, with his loving and supportive family.

Kathleen Brown, NP, PhD is a Practice Associate Professor of Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania. She is a Nurse Practitioner in women's health, and received her Master's and PhD from the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Brown's research interests are related to victimization. In the 1990s, she introduced a sexual assault nurse examiner program to every county in Pennsylvania that has a hospital. These programs forged new relationships between nursing, law enforcement, and crime laboratories, bringing compassionate, efficient and effective care to adult and child victims of hands-on sex crimes. More recently, Dr. Brown brought sexual assault nurse examiner programs to the entire State of New Jersey, creating an excellent nurse-based response to sexual victimization throughout the state. In 2013, she introduced a first-of-its-kind sexual assault nurse examiner program to the Philadelphia jail system. Outcome studies are being conducted by Dr. Brown and nurses employed by this large urban jail system.