



QUICK REFERENCE BIOS SHEET

LEGAL ISSUES

ELI D. STUTSMAN, JD, co-authored the Oregon Death with Dignity Law. He is DDNC Board President and a practicing attorney in Portland, Oregon.

He served as the lead political and legal strategist during the 1994 campaign to pass the Oregon Death with Dignity law and again during the 1997 campaign to defeat a legislatively inspired repeal effort. Stutsman successfully defended the Death with Dignity law in the first federal court challenge, *Lee v. State of Oregon*, spanning 1994 to 1997 and prevailed against the U.S. Attorney General and the Drug Enforcement Administration in the 2004 case of *Oregon v. Ashcroft*, heard in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Stutsman will represent a physician and pharmacist against the Attorney General in *Gonzales v. Oregon*, which the U.S. Supreme Court will hear October 5, 2005. Stutsman co-founded Oregon Right to Die, the political action committee that passed the Oregon Death with Dignity Act into law. He is also the founding president of the Oregon Death with Dignity Legal Defense and Education Center and the Oregon Death with Dignity Political Action Fund.

ALAN MEISEL, JD, is the Dickey, McCamey & Chilcote Professor of Bioethics and Law at the University of Pittsburgh and has published widely on health law and medical ethics. He is a leading authority on end-of-life decision making and is the principal author of the legal treatise *The Right to Die: The Law of End of Life Decisionmaking* (Aspen Law & Business).

Meisel served on the Ethics Working Group of the White House Task Force on Health Care Reform in 1993 and the President's Commission for the Study of Ethical Problems in Medicine in 1982.

Charles "Buzzy" Baron, is a Professor of Law at Boston College Law School, where he teaches courses in Constitutional Law, Law, Medicine and Public Policy, and Life and Death Decision-making and the Rule of Law. He has lectured and published extensively in the U.S. and Europe on constitutional law and patients' rights. Baron's articles on assisted dying include "A Model State Act to Authorize and Regulate Physician-Assisted Suicide," *Harvard Journal on Legislation*, (1996: Vol. 33), "Pleading for Physician-Assisted Suicide in the Courts," *Western New England Law Review*, (1997: Vol. 19), "Assisted Dying" *Trial*, (July 1999: Vol. 35, No. 7), and "Physician Assisted Suicide Should Be Legalized and Regulated," *Boston Bar Journal*, (November/December 1997: Vol. 41). Baron also authored the chapter entitled "Hastening Death: The Seven Deadly Sins of the Status Quo" in *Physician-Assisted Dying: The Case for Palliative Care and Patient Choice*, (2004: Johns Hopkins University Press, Tim Quill and Peggy Battin, editors). Baron was also the author of the Law Professors' *amicus curiae* brief in the two assisted-dying cases decided by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1997, *Vacco v. Quill* and *Washington v. Glucksberg*.

MEDICAL ISSUES

TIMOTHY E. QUILL, MD is Professor of Medicine, Psychiatry and Medical Humanities at the University of Rochester (New York) where he directs the Center for Palliative Care and Clinical Ethics and is a practicing palliative care physician.

Quill has lectured widely and published numerous articles, including a 1991 New England Journal of Medicine article about "Diane," a dying patient who requested assistance in dying. Quill is the author of four books, *Physician Assisted Dying: The Case for Palliative Care and Patient Choice* (Johns Hopkins University Press, co-edited with Margaret Battin), *Caring for Patients at the End of Life: Facing an Uncertain Future Together* (Oxford University Press), *A Midwife Through the Dying Process, Stories of Healing and Hard Choices at the End of Life* (Johns Hopkins University Press), and *Death and Dignity: Making Choices and Taking Charge* (W.W. Norton). He was the lead physician plaintiff in the New York State legal case challenging the law prohibiting physician aid in dying -- *Quill v. Vacco*.

PETER RASMUSSEN, MD, is a physician with more than 30 years of experience practicing medicine. He received his MD from the University of Illinois in 1971 and completed his medical residency at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center. Dr. Rasmussen was a Fellow in Medical Oncology at the University of Miami, School of Medicine from 1978 to 1980. He has extensive background in internal medicine, medical oncology and hospice and palliative medicine. Dr. Rasmussen has prescribed medication, under the guidelines of the Oregon Death with Dignity Law, to persons with terminal illness. He is a respondent in the Supreme Court case *Gonzales v. Oregon*.

CULTURAL, POLITICAL, BROADER ISSUES

NORA MILLER, Nora and her husband, Rick, formerly lived in Portland, Oregon and had been married 31 years. In April 1999 he was diagnosed with a virulent form of lung cancer. He died in November 1999 and was able to benefit from physician-assisted suicide option and to control the method and circumstances surrounding his death.

BETTY ROLLIN, is a television correspondent -- previously with NBC News and currently with PBS Religion and Ethics Newsweekly -- and a best-selling author of the book, "Last Wish," about assisting her terminally ill mother to die. She serves as a member of the Board of Death with Dignity National Center.

Two of her six books, *First, You Cry* and *Last Wish*, have been made into television movies. *First, You Cry* describes Rollin's experience with breast cancer and mastectomy; *Last Wish*, which has been published in 18 countries, recounts the story of her mother's request for help in dying and began for her what has been a 20-year involvement in the death-with-dignity movement.

PEG SANDEEN, MSW, Executive Director, Death with Dignity National Center, is a native Iowan, with a master's degree in Social Work from the University of Iowa. She is currently working on a doctoral degree in Social Work and Social Research at Portland State University.

Sandeen is an experienced social worker, specializing in issues related to terminal illness and end-of-life processes. Sandeen has been a case manager with the AIDS Project of Iowa and has done volunteer work with Hospice of North Iowa and the Muscular Dystrophy Association. As a result of her extensive exploration of complex ethical, legal and medical issues related to

social work, Sandeen was named 2002 Price Fellow in HIV Prevention Leadership by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In her professional capacities, as well as through personal loss, Sandeen has felt firsthand how legal and medical interaction affects people's lives in both positive and negative ways. As a result, her scholarly and professional efforts have increasingly focused on health-related ethical concerns, particularly end-of-life decisions, privacy issues and mental health. Sandeen joined the DDNC in March 2005.

FOR BACKGROUND ON DDNC AND THE ISSUES

ROBERT C. KENNETH, Communication and Education Manager, is a native of Minneapolis, where he studied Journalism and History at the University of Minnesota. He received a BA in History at the University of Wisconsin – LaCrosse (1988) and an MA in History at the University of Oregon (1990), specializing in 20th-century U.S. foreign policy. As a student activist, Kenneth led a number of organizations devoted to environmental, labor, peace and gay and lesbian issues. He was also a public affairs/policy education intern at the Atlantic Council of the United States in Washington, DC. Kenneth has an extensive background in writing, publishing, graphic design and public relations. He served as art director for *Willamette Week*, a Portland alternative newsweekly, and as publisher of *Metropolis Monthly*, an acclaimed journal for under-represented writers, artists, designers and architects. Kenneth was also art director and production manager for Pry Publishing, which produced six community newspapers throughout Portland. He also has an extensive background in health care, marketing and communications, and he was a senior marketing/communications specialist for Standard Insurance Company between 1995 and 2004. Through personal loss, Kenneth gained first-hand experience in hospice and end-of-life care. Kenneth joined the DDNC in July 2005.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Robert C. Kenneth,
Communication and Education Manager
Phone: 503-228-4415 / Fax: 503-228-7454,
rkenneth@deathwithdignity.org
www.deathwithdignity.org