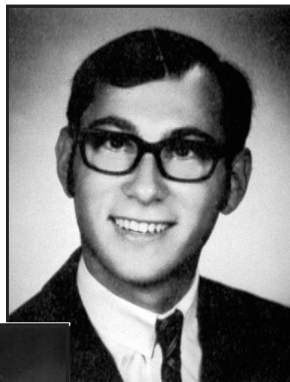
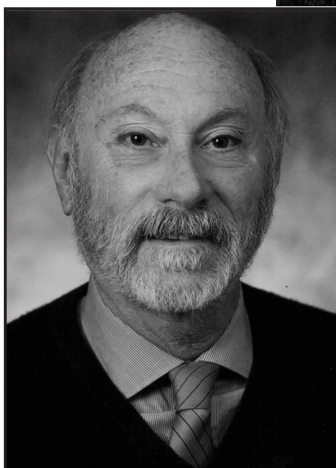


# Richard Stack

After earning a B.A. in psychology from Indiana University, Richard Stack studied for his law degree at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, where he witnessed numerous faults in the criminal justice and legal systems, particularly regarding the poor and the application of the death penalty. He wrote his thesis on the politics and legality issues of hunger. That experience defined him and emboldened him to become not a practicing lawyer, but a supporter of the poor, an activist, a communications specialist and a fierce, nationally known opponent of the death penalty.



His career started remarkably after law school in 1977 when he moved to Washington, D.C., and created the Capital Area Community Food Bank, one of the first of its kind in the nation. Stack served as its executive director for nine years, setting the stage for remarkable growth. By 2021, the food bank had distributed more than 64 million meals. In the early 1980s, Stack joined the School of Communications faculty at American



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*Class of 1970*

University, where he focused on the intersection of media, litigation and the criminal justice system. After leaving the food bank, he worked in public relations and consulting and specialized in nonprofit/advocacy communications.

His communications savvy, along with his ability to market and fundraise for his causes, led him to become a dominant figure in the fight against the death penalty in the United States. He served as a pro bono media advisor for the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty. He authored two books arguing against the death penalty, *Grave Injustice: Unearthing Wrongful Executions* and *Dead Wrong: Violence, Vengeance and the Victims of Capital Punishment*. In 2018, he co-directed the highly regarded documentary “In the Executioner’s Shadow,” which followed the lives of a former state executioner, a Boston Marathon bombing victim and parents of a murder victim who decided to fight for the life of their daughter’s killer. Stack is now an associate professor emeritus at American University, where he was honored with multiple awards for his teaching and scholarship. He continues with his consulting practice.