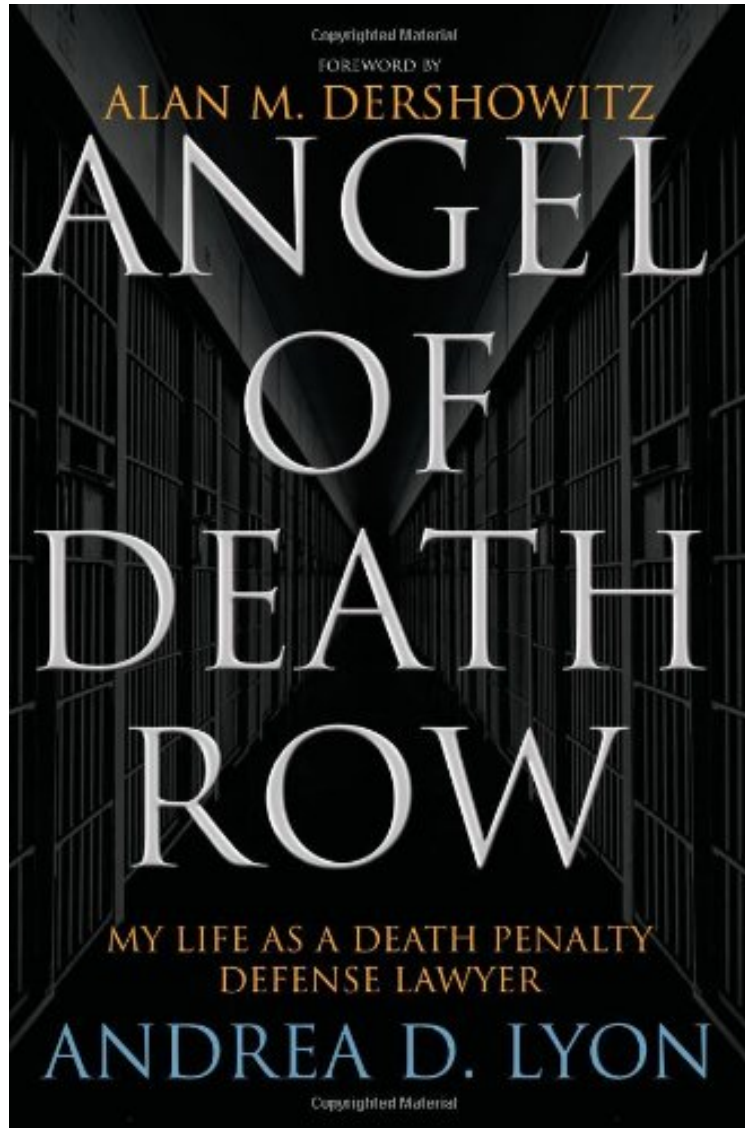


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Angel of Death Row: My Life as a Death Penalty Defense Lawyer

Andrea D Lyon

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Andrea D Lyon : Angel of Death Row: My Life as a Death Penalty Defense Lawyer before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Angel of Death Row: My Life as a Death Penalty Defense Lawyer:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Nothing short of an inspiration. By Hoomie This book is written by Andrea Lyon, one of America's most famous criminal defense attorneys. I first read about her in "Defending the Damned: Inside Chicago's Cook County's Public Defender's Office" by Kevin Davis. It was what made me want to be a criminal defense attorney in the first place. When I interviewed with my boss, he mentioned Andrea Lyon in our first

interview, and my face must have lit up because he asked if I knew her. I responded that I hadn't, but I wanted to. And he mentioned that she was one of his best friends and they occasionally tried cases together. (At that point, I died and was dead.) Later, after he'd introduced me to her, I mentioned to Professor Lyon that I first read about her in *Defending the Damned*, to which she replied, "Oh. You should read MY book!" And I replied, "I DID! IT WAS GREAT!" And it really is. It's a gripping, compelling, deeply personal account of Prof. Lyon's time as a criminal defense attorney in Chicago. (She still is, but she's also the Dean of DePaul University's law school's clinical programs, and next year will be the Dean of Valparaiso Law. She wears many hats.) This isn't for the faint of hearts, and it isn't for those people who want to ask, "But how can you defend someone like THAT?" Well, I take that back. It might be for the latter, if they're willing to learn rather than just pass judgment. This book is nothing short of an inspiration for young criminal defense attorneys, like me, and law students, like I used to be. It's a collection of stories from Prof. Lyon's time in the trenches, when she became the first female to lead the Murder Task Force, an elite group of public defenders who only handled death penalty cases. Illinois abolished the death penalty at the state level in 2010, so that group is now defunct. However, the death penalty is still available in Illinois on the federal level, and Prof. Lyon continues to work cases like that, protecting federal criminal defendant's from federally-sanctioned murder. This is a wonderful book. I cannot recommend it highly enough - to the right audience. To an audience that is willing to learn about defense attorneys, about the criminal justice system, and willing to move beyond the narrow boundaries of "but how can you defend people like THAT?"

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. *Angel of Death Row - A True Legal Hero Tells Her Life Story* By Sam I Am With a title like "Angel of Death Row," I was expecting to read an ego-filled, self-congratulatory autobiography, written by a veteran criminal defense attorney, but Andrea Lyon does an excellent job of writing about her experiences in the courtroom and with her impoverished clients. When lawyers write their autobiographies, they usually make the mistake of believing that readers are heavily interested in their personal lives. We're not. To her credit, Lyon keeps the majority of her story inside the courtroom and the legal system, telling readers only the things they really need to know about her personal life, and her experiences as a woman in an almost entirely male world - today, most people take for granted the presence of women lawyers in every part of society, but when Lyon started her career in 1979, it wasn't as common to see females in the legal profession, unless they were somebody's secretary. I enjoyed reading this book, and I recommend it for anyone who is interested in becoming a lawyer. Someone in law school may read "Angel of Death Row" and decide they aren't really cut out for this line of work. Or maybe they will get caught up in Lyon's idealism and decide to go into criminal law. Either choice is a good one.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An excellent read on how often the justice system CAN and ... By KEJ5460 An absolutely riveting objective view of how the death penalty and our justice system can be seriously flawed, There are probably tens-of-thousands of criminals who deserve the death penalty (Charles Manson; Ted Bundy to name a few); however, when the death penalty is applied, there should be millions of Andrea D. Lyon's working to insure that if it is applied, it is applied in a just manner. An excellent read on how often the justice system CAN and DOES get it wrong; It is comforting to know that Andrea D. Dyon and organizations such as hers work to free the innocent. Still the best legal system on the face of the earth as Ms. Dyon proves in her work in representing the unrepresented. Well done!

Nineteen times, death penalty defense lawyer Andrea D. Lyon has represented a client found guilty of capital murder. Nineteen times, she has argued for that individual's life to be spared. Nineteen times, she has succeeded. Dubbed the "Angel of Death Row" by the Chicago Tribune, Lyon was the first woman to serve as lead attorney in a death penalty case. Throughout her career, she has defended those accused of heinous acts and argued that, no matter their guilt or innocence, they deserved a chance at redemption. Now, for the first time, Lyon shares her story, from her early work as a Legal Aid attorney to her founding of the Center for Justice in Capital Cases. Full of courtroom drama, tragedy, and redemption, *Angel of Death Row* is a remarkable inside look at what drives Lyon to defend those who seem indefensible and to win. There was Annette who was suspected of murdering her own daughter. There was Patrick, the convicted murderer who thirsted for knowledge and shared his love of books with Lyon when she visited him in jail. There was Lonnie, whose mental illness made him nearly impossible to save until the daughter who remembered his better self spoke on his behalf. There was Deirdre, who shared Lyon's cautious optimism that her wrongful conviction would finally be overturned, allowing her to see her grandchildren born while she was in prison. And there was Madison Hobley, the man whose name made international headlines when he was wrongfully charged with the murder of his family and sentenced to death. These clients trusted Lyon with their stories and their lives. Driven by an overwhelming sense of justice, fairness, and morality, she fought for them in the courtroom and in the raucous streets, staying by their sides as they struggled through real tragedy and triumphed in startling ways. *Angel of Death Row* is the compelling memoir of Lyon's unusual journey and groundbreaking career.

About the Author Andrea D. Lyon is Director of the Center for Justice in Capital Cases and Clinical Professor of Law, Associate Dean for Clinical Programs, at DePaul University College of Law. She began her career at the Cook County Public Defenders' Office, working her way up to Chief of the Homicide Task Force, a 22-lawyer unit that represents

people accused of homicide. Lyon has tried more than 130 homicide cases, both within the public defender's office and elsewhere. She has defended more than 30 potential capital cases at the trial level. Of these, she has taken 19 through the penalty phase, and won them all. She lives in Chicago, Illinois.