Attorneys: Repeal capital punishn

Lawyers claim law is discriminatory acomino sunidar, become and issue a stay that would in the By KEN DIXON Bridgeport attorney Michael A peralty process disconnection buring a morning news condition of the disconnection of the disconnectio

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ed Ross from 1992 until 2004, sion that for the Legislature to the death penalty to believe he is not competent that she will come to the conclusion states most controlled that the representation the legislature to the legislature of the states most controlled that the will grant a reprieve to Connecticut does not want to highest-profile legal talent in "I do not think the execution and shall fitz. Brookfield this week recover, There capital punish. The control of the highest-profile legal talent in "I do not think the execution and pen," said fitz. Brookfield this week recover, There capital punish the execution patrick, president of the Connecticut also asked Gov. M. As going to happen," said fitz. Brookfield this week recover, There capital punish necticut. Criminal Defense so a sound and the covery control of the Connecticut. Lawyers Associated During a morning news con-ference in the Legislative Of-



are attorneys Jon Schoenhom, William F Dow III an Speaking out: Attorney Tara L'Knight, president-el Criminal Defense Lawyers Association; speaks abo penalty at a news conference in Hartford on Thursd

Halt Ross execution

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er penalties. client's ability to pay, have a lot up on death row or receive lessto do with whether inmates end

out the chance of release. oner behind bars for life withtimes more than keeping a prismate to death costs three to five they claimed that putting an in-Fitzpatrick said that the 300-And on a financial basis,

natory and applied haphazard-ly in the state's 13 judicial districts. because it's arbitrary, discrimiacceptable form of punishment that the death penalty is not an member association believes

roulette than a rational sys-tem of review," said Hubert Santos, a Hartford defense lawyer "In Connecticut you're death penalty if you reside in necticut is more like a game of more apt to be subject to the "The death penalty in Con-

sociation's campaign is not cen-tered on saving Ross, because he doubts the General Assem-Waterbury or Hartford."
Hugh Keefe, a New Haven
defense specialist, said the asto death. death penalty before Ross is put bly has the will to repeal the

gers in the air and see what the public wants and they the won't do anything until it changes," he said.

I. Robert Gulash, another well-known lawyer, said after I the news conference that described the seems conference that described well-known lawyer, said after I the news conference that described well-known lawyer, said after I the news conference that described well-known lawyer, said after I the news conference that described when the said after I the news conference that described when the said after I the news conference that described when the said after I the news conference that the said after I the news conference the news the n "I, for one, think that our

and that the death penalty, as an issue, has nothing to do with individual defendants. fense attorneys are often pas-sionate about their profession

necticut and Rell for finalizing European Union criticized Con-Bridgeport, said that the state's image is at stake. Recently, the Gulash, who has offices in

the details for Ross' execution

certainty about the guilt there will always remain un-certainty about the guilt of said that even as the emerging science of DNA evidence helps later this month.
Gulash and other lawyers some capital felons. convict and exonerate suspects,

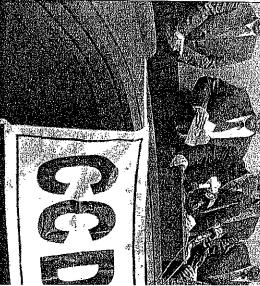
Gavin, another Bridgeport attorney, "What's the rush?" in 13 days?" said Edward J. Rich "Why do we have to do this Harris, a Capitol

said that Rell stands by her Dec. 7 decision to not order a stay of execution for Ross. "She has said that she bespokesman for the governor,

lieves the death penalty is appropriate in the most-heinous cases and the Michael Ross case certainly fits that description," Harris said.

promise to veto any repeal of the death penalty statute that reaches her desk He restated Rell's Decémber





Group effort: Connecticut Criminal Defense Lawyers Association Pres podium, conducts a news conference at the Legislative Office Building association called for the state's death penalty law to be abolished.