

Own hand, Trooper's gun

in news services

man fired upon by a
ring a deadly domes-
son died not from
illet, by a self-inflicted
head, an autopsy
lay.

35, died from his self-
d after he shot and
agland, 25, outside a
day night. The shooting
as a trooper arrived on
domestic dispute call.
ignored Trooper Todd
er to drop his handgun,
ed at him and Baker
nd, state police
t. J. Paul Vance said. He
e scene and the state
mer ruled Thursday
ath was a suicide.

Suspect's past le as evidence

— A Berlin murder
will be admissible in
rior Court, a judge
y.
grove Jr. is accused of
death of Carmen
Hartford. Her body was
rural road in
L, in January 2002, four
er disappearance.
d been placed in a
ag. The level of decom-
it impossible to deter-
e of death.
en Espinosa ruled that
all will be allowed to
Snelgrove wrote. In
grove, 44, wrote that
to kill women since
d grade. In a letter to
ate, he compared
al killer Ted Bundy.
allowed to hear evi-
rove killed one
rsey and tried to kill
led



Associated Press

Attorney Tara L. Knight, president-elect of the Connecticut Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, speaks at a news conference in Hartford Thursday. Behind Knight are William F. Dow III, left, and Hubert Santos.

Defense attorneys call for abolition of death penalty

By Susan Haigh
Associated Press

HARTFORD — Contending that the death penalty is unconstitutional and a waste of taxpayers' money, a statewide association of defense attorneys urged Gov. M. Jodi Rell and the state legislature on Thursday to stop this month's execution of serial killer Michael Ross.

The 300-member Connecticut Criminal Defense Lawyers Association wants the legislature to abolish the death penalty. The group also is asking state residents to contact their lawmakers to act before the scheduled Jan.

26 execution.

"The system is broken. It makes mistakes ... This is what's going to happen when we start killing people," New Haven attorney Hugh Keefe said.

Keefe said defense attorneys know firsthand about the mistakes made in Connecticut's criminal justice system. Nearly every one of the 50 lawyers at the state Capitol news conference raised their hand when Keefe asked whether they've had an innocent client wrongly arrested or convicted.

But Rell is standing by her decision to not grant Ross a reprieve.

By P
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