


Local

Local UN chapter awards state lawyer for work in human rights

 The Southern

 12.10.15

In honor of Human Rights Day, which is Thursday, the Southern Illinois Chapter of the United Nations Association of the United States of America awarded the 2015 Human Rights Day Award to James Chapman for his work securing civil rights for prisoners.

Chapman, a graduate of Harvard Law School, is a trial lawyer who founded the Illinois Institute of Community Law and Affairs in 1998 to concentrate on research into the issues of recidivism. The Institute works with other organizations, prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families on these matters.

He also teaches communication skills to prisoners at Stateville Correctional Center, and is engaged in the Changing Minds Campaign to change public attitudes about persons in prison and released from prison from a negative to a positive view. He has devoted a great deal of his time to raising awareness about the Illinois Prison System being one of the worst in the country and what can be done about it.

Dec. 10 is Human Rights Day 2015. This day commemorates the 1948 adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations General Assembly.

This year's Human Rights Day is devoted to the launch of a yearlong campaign for the 50th anniversary of the two International Covenants on Human Rights: the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which were adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on Dec. 16, 1966.

The presentation of the award was Sunday, Dec. 6, at a Human Rights Dinner at the Epiphany Lutheran Church of All Saints in Carbondale.



Provided photos

James Chapman looks over his award he received from the United Nations Association Southern Illinois Chapter on Sunday at a Human Rights Dinner at the Epiphany Lutheran Church in Carbondale. The award was presented to him by Olga Weidner (center), president of the chapter.



Provided

James Chapman (from right), President of the UN Association Southern Illinois Chapter Olga Weidner and SIU Law Professor Cindy Buys pose for picture after Chapman was awarded the 2015 Human Rights Day Award by the Southern Illinois Chapter of the United Nations Association of the United States.