



Name of Panel: Is the End in Sight? The Questionable Future of Capital Punishment in America

Date | Time | Location: November 19, 2020 | 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. ET | Online

Brief Description:

For the first time in our nation's history, half of all states in the country have either outright banned or declared moratoria on capital punishment. Even in states that maintain the death penalty, capital prosecutions and executions have steadily declined in recent years, with just four counties in Texas and one in Missouri accounting for over fifty percent of executions in the past ten years. At the same time, support for capital punishment is at a near half-century low, with sixty percent of Americans supporting life in prison over the death penalty. What do these trends tell us about the future of the death penalty in America? Can we continue to justify its use as we attempt to reckon with the estimated 170 people previously sentenced to death who have been exonerated and the overwhelming evidence of racism in its application? When a penalty is imposed so infrequently and seemingly arbitrarily based on geography, race, and even happenstance, can it survive good-faith constitutional scrutiny?

Panelists' Names and Bios:

- **Terrica Redfield Ganzy**, Deputy Director at the Southern Center for Human Rights
- **Sam Kamin**, Professor of Law at University of Denver, Sturm College of Law
- **Laura Porter**, Executive Director of the 8th Amendment Project
- **Maurice Chammah**, Staff Writer for the Marshall Project; Author of the forthcoming book *Let the Lord Sort Them: The Rise and Fall of the Death Penalty* (moderator).

Agenda of Panel: 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. (1.0 hours of CLE)

- Introductions / Opening Remarks (5 min)
- Panel Discussion (40min)
- Q&A (15 min)

Materials for Panel:

- Sam Kamin & Justin Marceau, *Waking the Furman Giant*, 48 U.C. DAVIS L. REV. 981 (2015).
- *The Death Penalty in America*, AM. CONST. SOC'Y (last visited Nov. 10, 2020).
- SAMUEL GROSS ET AL., NAT'L REGISTRY OF EXONERATIONS, *GOVERNMENT MISCONDUCT AND CONVICTING THE INNOCENT: THE ROLE OF PROSECUTORS, POLICE AND OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT* (2020).
- Brandon Garrett et al., *The American Death Penalty Decline*, 107 J. OF CRIM. L. AND CRIMINOLOGY 561 (2017).
- *Pandemic and Continuing Historic Decline Produce Record-Low Death Penalty Use in First Half of 2020*, DEATH PENALTY INFO. CTR. (July 20, 2020).