



AMERICAN  
CONSTITUTION  
SOCIETY



FAIR AND JUST  
PROSECUTION

**NAME OF EVENT:** Ending State-Sanctioned Killings: Prosecutors and the Death Penalty

**DATE | TIME | LOCATION:** February 23, 2022 | 3:00 PM-4:00 PM | Online

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:**

When the Supreme Court revived the death penalty in 1976, it did so on the promise that only the so-called "worst of the worst" would be executed. Yet nearly 50 years and countless reform efforts later, the death penalty is often used against the most marginalized and vulnerable. With 23 states prohibiting capital punishment altogether, decades of Supreme Court precedent limiting its use, and capital prosecutions declining significantly in death penalty states, criminal justice leaders and communities across the country are asking whether the death penalty can ever be sufficiently reformed or repaired.

In response, reform-minded state and local elected prosecutors across the country are redoubling their efforts to curtail and ultimately eliminate our nation's failed death penalty system, demonstrating that public safety is not contingent on the justice system's ability to kill. These efforts are supported by new polling from the Justice Research Group, which shows that when people learn who is subjected to our harshest punishment, overwhelming bipartisan majorities of voters oppose the use of the death penalty.

Join the American Constitution Society and Fair and Just Prosecution for a discussion with current and former prosecutors about the growing bipartisan opposition to the death penalty in prosecutor offices and communities across the country. This conversation will be moderated by journalist Elizabeth Bruenig, who has written extensively on capital punishment for The Atlantic and New York Times.

**WELCOME REMARKS**

**Russ Feingold**, President, American Constitution Society

**SPEAKERS' NAMES AND BIOS:**

- **Elizabeth Bruenig**, Staff Writer, The Atlantic, *Moderator*
- **Parisa Dehghani-Tafti**, Commonwealth's Attorney, Arlington County and the City of Falls Church, Virginia
- **Robert Dunham**, Executive Director, Death Penalty Information Center
- **Miriam Krinsky**, Executive Director, Fair and Just Prosecution
- **Dan Satterberg**, Prosecuting Attorney, King County, Washington



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#### AGENDA OF PROGRAM:

- Introduction (5 mins)
- Speaker Presentations and Moderated Conversation (45 mins)
- Q&A (10 min)

#### READING MATERIALS:

Marilyn Armour & Mark Umbeit, *Assessing the Impact of the Ultimate Penal Sanction on Homicide Survivors: A Two State Comparison*, 96 MARQ. L. REV. 1 (2012).

*Broken Law: Episode 3 – In Pursuit of Death Penalty Abolition*, AM. CONST. SOC. (June 22, 2021).

*Broken Law: Episode 23 – How the World Views the Death Penalty*, AM. CONST. SOC. (Nov. 9, 2021).

Elizabeth Breunig, *The Man I Saw Them Kill*, Opinion, N.Y. TIMES (Dec. 17, 2020).

Elizabeth Breunig, *Not That Innocent*, ATLANTIC (June 9, 2021).

DEATH PENALTY INFO. CTR., *DPIC SPECIAL REPORT: THE INNOCENCE EPIDEMIC* (2021).

DEATH PENALTY INFO. CTR., *ENDURING INJUSTICE: THE PERSISTENCE OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN THE U.S. DEATH PENALTY* (2020).

DEATH PENALTY INFO. CTR., *DPIC ANALYSIS: USE OR THREAT OF DEATH PENALTY IMPLICATED IN 19 EXONERATION CASES IN 2019* (2020).

DEATH PENALTY INFO. CTR., *CAPITAL PUNISHMENT AND POLICE SAFETY* (2018).

Death Penalty Info. Ctr., *Supporting Data for 2017 DPIC Study of Murder Rates and Killings of Police*, (June 13, 2017).

Parisa Dehgahni-Tafti, Miriam Krinsky & Karl A. Racine, *Mr. President, Keep Your Promise on the Death Penalty*, WASH. POST (June 30, 2021).

Dan Satterberg, *King's County Prosecuting Attorney: 'We Don't Need the Death Penalty'*, Opinion, SEATTLE TIMES (Jan. 19, 2018).