

Jan 21, 2025

Among Flurry of First-Day Executive Orders, President Trump Issues Order on the Death Penalty

On January 20, 2025, President Donald Trump signed more than two dozen Executive Orders, including a call to “restore” the federal death penalty. The Order, while lacking many important details, instructs the Department of Justice’s Attorney General to “pursue the death penalty for all crimes of a severity demanding its use,” including the killing of a law enforcement officer or “a capital crime committed by an illegal alien present in this country” and to encourage...

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Jan 16, 2025

Department of Justice Withdraws Federal Execution Protocol and Keeps Moratorium on Executions in Place

Three and a half years after announcing its investigation into the federal death penalty protocol, Attorney General Merrick Garland announced on January 15, 2025 that the Department of Justice (DOJ) is rescinding the federal government’s single-drug pentobarbital lethal injection protocol. The DOJ’s decision was based on what AG Garland called “significant uncertainty” about whether executions by pentobarbital caused unnecessary pain and suffering. The...

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Dec 09, 2024

Religious Groups, Former Corrections Officials, Pro-life Voices, and Many Others Urge

President Biden to Commute Federal Death Sentences

In letters released on December 9, 2024, hundreds of stakeholders urged President Joe Biden (pictured) to commute all federal death sentences before his term ends, citing racial bias, systemic arbitrariness, and the failure of the federal death penalty to enhance public safety. This collective request reflects broad, bipartisan acknowledgement of the flaws in the capital punishment system and aligns with the national downward trend of support for the death penalty, now at historic lows. 40...

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Nov 27, 2024

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