DEATH PENALTY

Death penalty issues flood our world. Nations, governments, and peoples wrestle with the methods of death as a question of law and moral beliefs. Our U.S. Supreme Court currently struggles with the Kentucky case of Ralph Baze and Thomas Clyde Bowling Jr. regarding lethal injection and whether its use violates the Eighth Amendment.

States presently are waiting with de facto moratoriums on lethal injections. The efficacy of the three-drug cocktail containing three ingredients for sleep, paralysis and stopping the heart is under attack. Some activists say it does not stop the pain and that the individual may be aware but helpless.

The Baze/Bowling case may be the most important death penalty case in recent years. While not suspending executions completely, it could force states to change their procedures before there's another execution.

Lethal injection is not the only recent death penalty issue. Current treatises and newspaper articles fill library collections and newspaper stands, exposing wrongful deaths, juror impartiality, racial and disability considerations, juvenile executions and the legitimacy of death penalty issues in general. Death penalty websites abound with the pros and cons, national and state coalitions are formed to abolish it, and whole curriculums are written about it.

ARTICLES/ORGANIZATIONS

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/01/04/AR2008010403689.html

“The Upcoming Supreme Court Lethal Injection Death Penalty Case: How It Will Likely Illustrate the Serious Ideological Divisions That Continue to Separate the Justices”
http://writ.news.findlaw.com/lazarus/20070927.html

The US Courts on the Death Penalty
http://www.uscourts.gov/outreach/topics/deathpenalty_intro.html

Death Penalty Focus
http://www.deathpenalty.org

ACLU
http://www.aclu.org/capital/index.html

Cornell Law School on Death Penalty (Use the FIND feature and put “death penalty” in the box)

Death Penalty Issue and Resources
http://www.soci.niu.edu/~critcrim/dp/dp.html

National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty
http://www.ncadp.org

Amnesty International – Abolish the Death Penalty

ANCIENT TEXTS /CODES ON THE DEATH PENALTY:

The earliest and most famous example is the Code of Hammurabi which set the different punishment and compensation according to the different class/group of victims and perpetrators. The Torah (Jewish Law), also known as the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Christian Old Testament, lays down the death penalty for murder, kidnapping, magic, Shabbat [Sabbath Day], blasphemy, and a wide range of sexual crimes, although evidence suggests that actual executions were rare. A further example comes from Ancient Greece, where the Athenian legal system was first written down by Draco in about 621 BC: the death penalty was applied for a particularly wide range of crimes. The word draconian derives from Draco's laws.


RECENT DEATH PENALTY TREATISES


Delfino, Michelangelo and Day, Mary E., Death Penalty USA 2005-2006, MoBeta Publ., 2008

Edelman, Bryan C., Racial Prejudice, Juror Empathy and sentencing in Death Penalty Cases, LFB Scholarly Pub., 2006

Heilbrun, Alfred B., Death Penalty: Beyond Smoke and Mirrors, University Press of America, 2006

Kakathas, Uma, Death Penalty, Greenhaven Press, 2008

Miller, Karen S., Wrongful capital convictions and the Legitimacy of the Death Penalty, LFB Scholarly Pub., 2006


OTHER NEWS:

WASHINGTON LAWYER’S PRACTICE MANUAL
The 2008 update to Washington Lawyer’s Practice Manual includes a new Chapter 25, Construction Law.

NEW WASHINGTON PRACTICE VOLUMES

WASHINGTON CODES
Most Washington codes may be reviewed at the MRSC website online at: http://www.legalwa.org

FEDERAL RULE CHANGES
The West’s Librarian Relations website has added documentation regarding upcoming Rules changes at: http://west.thomson.com/librarian

Also look for a chart comparing the features of Federal Civil Judicial Procedure and Rules, 2007 Revised ed., with those of the Federal Civil Rules Handbook, 2008, plus a FAQ about the rules amendment process. You may also want to access in-depth information about the Handbook at this site.

BOOKS RECENTLY CATALOGED SELECTION
Announcing the much anticipated treatise by former Supreme Court Justice Philip Talmadge:


To review other selections of the most recent BOOKS RECENTLY CATALOGED see: http://lawlib.courts.wa.gov/screens/brc.html

DEATH PENALTY TIDBIT
The first person killed in the New World was Captain George Kendall. He was shot by a firing squad in Jamestown in December 1607 (other sources say sometime in 1608), accused of sowing discord and mutiny (some sources say he was also accused of spying against the British for Spain).

http://www.studysphere.com/Site/Sphere_3805.html