

THE DEATH PENALTY AND RACE AND HOW THE ULTIMATE PUNISHMENT HIGHLIGHTS THE FLAWS IN OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

I. INTRODUCTION

II. DISPROPORTIONATE APPLICATION BASED ON RACE

This section will discuss both the disproportionate application of the death penalty both historically but also presently.

III. SUBSTANDARD LEGAL REPRESENTATION

This section will discuss the problem of ineffective assistance of counsel in capital cases.

IV. WRONGFUL CONVICTIONS

This section will discuss the problem of wrongful convictions in capital cases.

V. LACK OF DIVERSITY

This section will highlight the lack of diversity among prosecutors and jurors and how that impacts the decision whether to seek death.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

DEATH PENALTY AND RACE BY THE NUMBERS:

U.S. EXECUTIONS SINCE 1976

TOTAL - 1532

WHITE - 854 55%

BLACK - 523 34%

LATINO - 129

EXECUTIONS BY RACE OF VICTIM

WHITE - 1152 75%

BLACK - 204 13%

LATINO - 100 6%

CURRENT U.S. DEATH ROW POPULATION BY RACE

WHITE - 1076 42%

BLACK - 1062 42%

LATINO - 343 13%