STATEMENT FROM CORRECTIONS OFFICIALS REGARDING THE EXECUTION OF CLAYTON LOCKETT

As former correctional officials, we are deeply troubled by the botched execution of Clayton Lockett in Oklahoma last night. Our jobs as officers of the law involved carrying out and enforcing punishment within the confines of state and federal law. What appears to have been a horrific death last night certainly does not seem to have been legal or humane.

Some of the media who witnessed part of the execution appeared to be visibly shaken and disturbed. But the staff whose job it was to administer these drugs and to handle Mr. Lockett's body were surely put through an even more difficult experience. A career in corrections prepares one to see many things, but the terrible memories of witnessing executions remain in one’s psyche forever. Correctional officers should not have to prepare to witness the horror of a botched execution such as that endured by Mr. Lockett and we can only imagine the emotional toll of this event on the professionals involved in the procedure.

No individual should be asked to carry out an execution using experimental drugs and dosages or without proper training and medical expertise. We cannot know how last night’s events happened without a full independent inquiry, not by the Oklahoma Department of Corrections itself, but by a credible third party whose findings should be made public. And no further executions should be carried out in Oklahoma until Mr. Lockett's death is fully investigated and all the facts are known.

Signatories:

Dr. Allen Ault
Former Commissioner, Georgia, Mississippi, Colorado Departments of Corrections.

Robert Brown, Jr.

Jane Browning
Executive Director, Compassion Works for All; Former Executive Director, International Community Corrections Association

Paddy Burwell
Director (Public Member), State Bar of Texas (1997-2000); Member, Legal Services to the Poor and Criminal Matters Committee, State Bar of Texas (2002-2011), Committee Chair (2010); Member, State Bar of Texas Commission for Lawyer Discipline (2002-2005); Member, Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles (1999-2005); Life Member, Association of Former Texas Rangers.

Terry J. Collins
Director, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (2006-2010); Assistant Director, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (1977-2006). Correctional consultant utilizing 36 years of
correctional experience.

Kathy Dennehy  
Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Corrections (2004-2007).

Steve J. Martin  

Dennis O'Neill  
Retired Warden, Florida State Prison.

Rev. Dr. Carroll L. Pickett  
Chaplain, Texas State Penitentiary at Hunstville, Texas Department of Corrections (1980-1995).

Chase Riveland  
Director, Washington Departments of Corrections (12 years); Director, Colorado Department of Corrections (4 years).

Charles Terrell  

Dr. Reginald Wilkinson  
Director (Ret.), Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC), 1991-2006; DRC employee, 1973; President, American Correctional Association; Vice Chair for North America, International Corrections and Prison Association; President, Ohio Correctional and Court Services Association; Founder, Ohio chapter, National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice.

Jeanne Woodford  
Former Warden, San Quentin State Prison, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.