



THE DEATH PENALTY IN 2018: YEAR END REPORT

Media Coverage Highlights

The Death Penalty Information Center's [2018 Year End Report](#) was released on December 14, 2018 and received extensive coverage in hundreds of print, online, television, and radio news outlets across the United States and around the world.

Coverage highlighted that 2018 marked the fourth consecutive year with fewer than 30 executions and 50 death sentences and that fewer death-row prisoners now faced active death sentences than at any time in more than a quarter century. Many media outlets reported that, for the first time since *Furman v. Georgia*, no county imposed more than two death sentences. The report also emphasized that even as the number of death sentences and executions had dramatically fallen since the 1990s, that decline had not reduced the death penalty's discriminatory and arbitrary nature when it was applied. The report noted that rather than reserving executions and death sentences for the worst of the worst crimes and offenders, capital punishment was instead disproportionately meted out in 2018 in cases involving the most vulnerable defendants and prisoners and the least reliable judicial process.

The overwhelming majority of news stories reported that the developments in 2018 represented a continuation of the long-term decline of capital punishment in the United States.

A *Washington Post* editorial was titled "Death sentences are in decline. It's time to do away with them entirely." A *New York Times* article led off with: "This year, for the first time in the modern history of the death penalty, no single county in the United States imposed more than two death sentences." A *Los Angeles Times* story covering the report was on the front page and accompanied by a strong editorial titled "Capital punishment is a national disgrace. The practice is fading, but not fast enough."

DPIC Executive Director Robert Dunham was featured on NPR's *Here and Now*, Sirius XM's *POTUS*, Hill TV's *Rising*, and CBS News with Gary Nunn. He also offered extensive interviews to reporters working locally.

A selection of coverage follows. Click on the headline to access each source.

* Stories that included an interview with Robert

** Stories that quoted Robert's statement from the press release

PRINT & ONLINE MEDIA COVERAGE

TOP TIER PRINT & ONLINE MEDIA (in alphabetical order)

SOURCE	TITLE	DATE
Associated Press	Death row executions remain near historic lows in 2018 *	Dec. 14
<i>Above story carried by numerous media outlets including the New York Times, Time, and US News & World Report</i>		
Associated Press	Use of death penalty continues to decline in Texas	Dec. 14
Bloomberg Law	Death Row Count at 25-Year-Low as Capital Punishment Erodes *	Dec. 14
Daily Beast	Death Penalty Hit Near-Historic Low in 2018: Report	Dec. 14
The Guardian	Capital punishment in the US continues decline despite slight rise in 2018 *	Dec. 14
Los Angeles Times	Death sentences plummet across California. Riverside County, which led the U.S. in 2017, has had zero this year	Dec. 13
Mother Jones	The Death Penalty May Be on the Decline, But It's Still Really Racist **	Dec. 14
New York Times	After Decades, a Death Sentence Depends (a Little) Less on Where You Live *	Dec. 14
NPR	Florida Executes Inmate As Report Cites 'Continuing Erosion' Of Death Penalty *	Dec. 14
Reuters	Number of U.S. Inmates on Death Row at 25-Year Low: Report *	Dec. 14
<i>Above story carried by numerous media outlets including the New York Times and Yahoo! News, as well as foreign press</i>		
Telemundo	La pena de muerte cada vez se aplica menos: sólo hay ejecuciones en estos ocho estados (The death penalty is increasingly applied less: there are only executions in these eight states)	Dec. 17
USA Today	Death penalty sentences, executions remained at near-record lows in 2018 *	Dec. 14
Vox	2018 was the 4th year in a row with fewer than 30 executions nationwide	Dec. 14

EDITORIALS & OP-EDS

SOURCE	TITLE	DATE
American Press (LA)	Support for death penalty declining	Jan. 3

SOURCE	TITLE	DATE
The Anniston Star (AL)	The slow death of the death penalty in the U.S.	Dec. 15
Los Angeles Times	Capital punishment is a national disgrace. The practice is fading, but not fast enough	Dec. 14
Los Angeles Times	Who does America execute? A lot of people with mental illness and brain traumas	Dec. 14
Washington Post	Death sentences are in decline. It's time to do away with them entirely.	Dec. 31

SPECIALTY COVERAGE

SOURCE	TITLE	DATE
ABA Journal	Death sentences, executions stay low for fourth straight year, report says	Dec. 17
Catholic News Service	Catechism revision adds impetus in death penalty abolition fight *	Dec. 14
Courthouse News Service	Report Finds Waning Support for Death Penalty *	Dec. 14
The Crime Report	Death Penalty Use At 'Historic Lows'	Dec. 14
Crux	Even without a ban, death penalty is fading in the United States	Dec. 17
United Press International	U.S. executed 25 people in 2018, continuing overall decline	Dec. 14
Newser	US Executed 25 people in 2018	Dec. 14

LOCAL COVERAGE

SOURCE	TITLE	DATE
The Advocate (LA)	Death sentences drastically decline; report says there was 'a sea change in public opinion'	Dec. 30
Birmingham News	Research group releases report on death penalty, cites Alabama cases	Dec. 14
Cleburn Times-Review (TX)	Texas carries out the most executions **	Dec. 19
Dallas Morning News	Texas again leads U.S. in executions in 2018, and Dallas was top county, with 4	Dec. 15
Fort Worth Star-Telegram (TX)	Men of color in Tarrant County and Texas account for most executions, per report	Dec. 14
KVUE (ABC Affiliate in TX)	New Report: Texas executed more inmates than any other state in 2018	Dec. 14
Penn Live	Death penalty in decline nationwide, new report shows Friday Morning Coffee **	Dec. 14
Reading Eagle (PA)	Death penalty sentences, executions wane in U.S. *	Dec. 16
Richmond Times-Dispatch	Death sentences and executions continue falling across Virginia and U.S. *	Dec. 14
The Tennessean	Death penalty in US is near historic low even as Tennessee executes 3 this year *	Dec. 13
The Texas Tribune	Texas sees uptick in executions, death sentences in 2018	Dec. 13
Tulsa World (OK)	Oklahoma goes another year without an execution while the U.S. sees continued historic lows in use of the death penalty *	Dec. 30

INTERNATIONAL COVERAGE

SOURCE	TITLE	DATE
20 Minutes	Malgré Trump, la peine de mort décline aux USA	Dec. 14
Agence France-Presse	Lethal injection: The last execution of the year	Dec. 14
Aletia Español	Disminuyen las penas de muerte en Estados Unidos	Jan. 3
Daily Mail (United Kingdom)	The American justice system executed 25 people in 2018 – marking a major overall decline in capital punishment since the late 1990s	Jan. 2
El Financiero	Disminuye aplicación de la pena de muerte en Estados Unidos	Dec. 14
NTR Zacatecas (Mexico)	EUA realizó 25 ejecuciones de reos en 2018	Dec. 14

SOURCE	TITLE	DATE
Repubblica (Italy)	Pena di morte, la risoluzione sulla moratoria delle esecuzioni approvata con un numero record di voti all'ONU	Dec. 22
Times Now News (India)	Despite Donald Trump's appeals, executions declining in the US	Dec. 14

TELEVISION & RADIO

NATIONAL TELEVISION & RADIO OUTLETS

SOURCE	TITLE	DATE
CBS News	Death Row Executions Near Historic Lows , With Gary Nunn *	Dec. 14
<i>Above story carried by numerous CBS radio outlets</i>		
Hill TV	Why death penalty sentences are on the decline , <i>The Hill Rising</i> with Krystal Ball & Buck Sexton *	Dec. 14
NPR	Capital Punishment's Long-Term Decline Continued In 2018, Report Finds , <i>Here & Now</i> with Peter O'Dowd *	Dec. 14
NPR	NPR News , with Dave Mattingly	Dec. 14
<i>Above story carried by numerous NPR radio outlets</i>		
Sirius XM "POTUS"	The Morning Briefing, with Tim Farley *	Dec. 14
WHYY NPR	Prosecutors driving dip in Pa. death sentences, not moratorium , with Bobby Allen *	Dec. 17
<i>Above story carried by NPR outlets across Pennsylvania</i>		

Local Radio Outlets

SOURCE	DATE
KCBX-AM (San Francisco, CA)	Dec. 14
KNX-AM (Los Angeles, CA) *	Dec. 14
News/Talk 92.3 KTAR (Phoenix, AZ)	Dec. 14
WBAP-AM (Dallas, TX)	Dec. 16
WBEZ-FM (Chicago, IL)	Dec. 14

Local Television Outlets

SOURCE	DATE
KVUE-AUS (ABC), KVUE News @ 6 (Austin, TX)	Dec. 14
KVUE-AUS (ABC), KVUE News Nightbeat (Austin, TX)	Dec. 15
KQFX (FOX)/KMIZ (ABC), ABC17 News This Morning (Columbia, MO)	Dec. 14
KUTV-SLC (CBS) (Salt Lake City, UT)	Dec. 14
THE NOW (Bakersfield, CA; Buffalo, NY; Green Bay, WI; Indianapolis, IN; Kansas City, KC; Phoenix, AZ)	Dec. 14
WDSU-NO (NBC), WDSU News This Morning (New Orleans, LA)	Dec. 14

SOURCE	DATE
WFAA-DAL (ABC), News 8 at 6 (Dallas, TX)	Dec. 14
WGXA (FOX), WGXA Morning News (Macon, GA)	Dec. 14
WTSP-TB (CBS), 10 News Brightside (Tampa Bay, FL)	Dec. 14
WTNZ (FOX), FOX 43 News at 6:30 (Knoxville, TN)	Dec. 14

PUBLIC INTEREST WEBSITES

SOURCE	TITLE	DATE
ACLU.blog	The Death Penalty in 2018: A Punishment on the Decline.	Dec. 14
Conservatives Concerned About the Death Penalty	The Death Penalty in 2018: Year End Report	Dec. 27
Death Penalty Focus Blog	Fewer than 30 executions and 50 death sentences for fourth year in a row in U.S.	Dec. 14
Equal Justice Initiative	Long-Term Decline of Death Penalty in the U.S. Continued in 2018	Dec. 26
Marshall Project	The Marshall Project, Opening Statement, Report of the Day	Dec. 14
National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty Blog	NCADP Statement on DPIC 2018 Year-End Report	Dec. 14
Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty	National death penalty developments in 2018	Dec. 21
Witness to Innocence	Death Penalty Information Center Releases 2018 Year End Report	Dec. (undated)