

Terry Lenamon on the Death Penalty

Sidebar with a Board Certified Expert Criminal Trial Attorney



Terence M. Lenamon is a Florida Bar certified expert in the area of criminal trial law. With over 17 years experience he has built a reputation as one of Florida's most respected criminal defense lawyers. His defense has been sought by many high-profile clients and has led him through 20 first-degree murder trials and eight death penalty cases. That experience has brought him national recognition as a go-to commentator on death penalty issues. He is the force behind both deathpenaltyblog.com and Florida Capital Resource Center (floridacapitalresourcecenter.org), and can be reached at terry@lenamonlaw.com.

Terry Lenamon Interview Re Miami's Nubia Barahona Murder Case

POSTED ON MARCH 31, 2011 BY **TERRY LENAMON / REBA KENNEDY**

This week, **Terry Lenamon** was interviewed by **Ana M. Valdes of the Palm Beach Post** for his expert opinion as a death-qualified criminal defense attorney regarding the Jorge and Carmen Barahona murder trial, now that the **prosecution has announced that it will be seeking the death penalty.**

In an article entitled, "**Barahonas to face death penalty on charges of murdering adopted daughter; trial set for July,**" Lenamon discussed his views on what the focus of the defense team must be at this juncture, when the case has received such national media coverage and where the investigation has already revealed so much since 10-year-old Nubia's body was discovered, decomposing, in a garbage bag on February 14, 2011.

The defense will have **hard facts to face regarding the guilt phase**, since the child's body was found in the back of Jorge Barahona's pickup truck on IH 95 – among other things revealed during these few short weeks of investigation. As Terry explained to the Palm Beach Post reporter, **it is his opinion that the defense focus will be on mitigation:** fighting against the death penalty itself.

What could those mitigating factors be? For one thing, mental

illness probably will be a mitigating issue. **Jorge Barahona is already being considered as mentally unstable by his jailers**, wearing special garb to identify him as being mentally ill when he appeared in court for the arraignment.

Trial is scheduled to begin in July 2011 before **Miami-Dade Circuit Court Judge Sarah Zabel** of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, who **along with Terry** graduated from the **Nova University School of Law** (Judge Zabel is a 1993 graduate). Judge Zabel has presided as a Florida Circuit Court Judge since 2003.

Expect the defense to ask for that trial date to be extended. Death penalty defense arguably will need much more than a couple of months to get ready for this case.