

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.

[What Now for the Indigent Defense Crisis? US Supreme Court Denies Weis Petition Without Comment](#)

Posted on October 5, 2010 by [Terry Lenamon](#)

Yesterday, without comment, the [United States Supreme Court denied the petition filed by Georgia Death Row inmate Jamie Ryan Weis.](#)

This is shocking.

[This is very bad news. Weve written about the Weis case before, including links to the amicus brief filed by a stellar list of Georgia legal scholars, fighting for justice in the indigent defense crisis facing Georgia \(and the country\) today - and the spotlight that coverage by the New York Times' Adam Liptak was providing.](#)

A Missed Opportunity or a Dodge?

Bottom line, the Weis petition offered the United States Supreme Court an opportunity to address the basic problem facing states today: **where is justice when there is no money in the coffers to pay for the effective assistance of counsel that is constitutionally required - particularly in a death penalty case?**

For Jamie Weis, not only was his constitutional right to a competent defense denied him, but also his constitutional right to a speedy trial -- all because Georgia didn't have the money to pay for what was legally mandated. Legally mandated by the constitutional precedent established by the United States Supreme Court.

*Georgia's Mr. Weis, Death Row inmates, and defendants facing the possibility of Capital Punishment across the country, are having rights denied them because of budgets without cash flow. We can only wonder why the High Court has denied them **even an explanation** for why the Weis Petition was not considered worthy of review.*