

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.

Cheshire Connecticut Home Invasion Trial – Is Death Too Good for Steven Hayes?

POSTED ON NOVEMBER 5, 2010 BY **TERRY LENAMON**

Whether or not **Steven Hayes** will be sentenced to death will be decided soon – the case has gone to the jury. Of particular interest, **the closing arguments of defense counsel reported in the New York Times as suggesting to the jury that the worst punishment they could give the defendant would be life in prison, not death.**

Some might scoff at this – a defense lawyer's trick, just so much balderdash. What could be worse than the death sentence? Lots of folk want Hayes to die for the Petit killings. Death seems the optimal sentence for them.

However, **consider what the defense attorney said with knowledge** of the realities of living decades behind bars in a maximum security facility (where Hayes would likely reside) perhaps the death sentence does gain a different perspective.

Being confined to a small cell with a severely limited life -- many go mad. Life without parole isn't a reprieve. It is a serious, severe, harsh punishment.