

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.

Death Sentences Are Given Less, Fewer Executions in 2010: DPIC Report

POSTED ON DECEMBER 23, 2010 BY **TERRY LENAMON**

The **Death Penalty Information Center** has issued its annual report on the state of capital punishment in this country. According to the DPIC, the forty-six (46) executions that were conducted this year constitute a twelve percent (12%) decrease in the death penalty. (In 2009, there were 52 executions in the United States; in 2000, there were 85.)

Capital punishment therefore declined in the first decade of the 21st Century. However, there are 3261 people still living on American Death Rows today and each of them still faces a sentence of death.

While the decrease in the executions may be good news, it's got to be considered in tandem with the marketplace.

The reality is that due to the scarcity of sodium thiopental many states simply reset execution dates to 2011, since Hospira (the only manufacturer of the drug) promises that supplies will be available for the lethal injection drug early next year. After all, rather than find artful ways of circumventing the standard three-drug lethal injection cocktail (which includes sodium thiopental) like Ohio, Arizona, and Oklahoma ([see Tuesday's post](#)), some states just rescheduled their calendars (e.g., Arkansas, California,

Kentucky, Tennessee).

Bottom line: if Hospira starts meeting demand for the execution drug, then 2011 may see a rise in the number of executions.

For more on the DPIC annual report, go to the DPIC site where it is available for download.