

## A Broken System: Error Rates in Capital Cases

### State Report Card

ALABAMA, 1975-1995

#### History

<b>First Death Sentence</b>	1975
First Direct Appeal	1977
First Consensual Execution	NONE
First Non-Consensual Execution	1983

#### Sentences and Executions

<b>Total Number of Death Sentences</b>	308
Total Number of Executions	12
Percentage of Death Sentences Carried Out	4%

#### Error Rates

##### State Direct Appeal

Number Reviewed on Direct Appeal	264
Number Reversed on Direct Appeal	145
Percentage Reversed on Direct Appeal	55%
Number Awaiting Direct Appeal	44
Percentage Awaiting Direct Appeal	14%
Number Forward to State Post-Conviction	119

##### State Post-Conviction

Number Reviewed on Post-Conviction	Unknown
Number Reversed on Post-Conviction	□11
Percentage Reversed on Post-Conviction	□9%
Number Forward to Federal Habeas Corpus	Unknown

##### State Direct Appeal and State Post-Conviction Combined

Overall Rate of Error Found by State Courts	□59%
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## Federal Habeas Corpus

Number Reviewed on Habeas Corpus	22
Number Reversed on Habeas Corpus	10
Percentage Reversed on Habeas Corpus	45%

## Overall Rates Including [and Excluding] State Post-Conviction

Overall Error Rate	77% [75%]
Overall Success Rate	23% [25%]

## Timing

Time From First Death Sentence to First Non-Consensual Execution	8.00
Average Time from Sentence to Execution	9.44
Average Time from Sentence to Final Federal Relief	8.50

## Sentencing and Execution Rates

<b>Death Sentences per 1000 Homicides</b>	28.93
Death Sentences per 100,000 Population	7.75
Death Sentences per 1000 Prison Population	27.31
Non-Consensual Executions per 1000 Homicides	1.13
Non-Consensual Executions per 100,000 Population	0.30
Non-Consensual Executions per 1000 Prison Population	1.06

## Demographic Information

<b>Average Population</b>	3,938,785
Average Homicides	463
Average Homicides/Average Population	11.75
Average Prison Admissions	4,023
Average Prison Population	11,278
Percentage Population Non-White	27%

## Court Factors

Political Pressure (judicial elections)	8
Party Competition (gubernatorial elections)	0
State Court Criminal Caseload per 1000 Population	30.56
Expenditures per Capita on Courts	30.64

Sources: DRCen; Death Row U.S.A., Winter 2000; DADB; HCDB; Appendix C; USCen; UCRDB; USCen; PrisCen; PolPres; CtCaLd; CtExpen