



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Michael T. Dougherty, District Attorney

For Immediate Release
January 26, 2021

Contact: Shannon Carbone
Phone: 303-441-3804
scarbone@bouldercounty.org

District Attorney Michael Dougherty Joins Nearly 100 Criminal Justice Leaders Urging President Biden to Take Immediate Action to End the Federal Death Penalty

Today, District Attorney Michael Dougherty joined a bipartisan group of nearly 100 criminal justice leaders — including over 50 current elected local prosecutors, seven current Attorneys General, seven current and former Police Chiefs and Sheriffs, twenty former U.S. Attorneys, and judges — in [sending a letter](#) to President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris urging them to take all actions within their power to immediately end the death penalty in the United States.

The letter urges the new administration to take multifaceted and lasting steps including: commuting the sentences of all those on federal death row and withdrawing current death penalty warrants, dismantling the death chamber at Terre Haute, encouraging DOJ leadership to instruct all federal prosecutors to not seek the death penalty in future cases, supporting and incentivizing state efforts to end capital punishment, and supporting legislation to end the federal death penalty.

After the Trump administration rushed to execute 13 people in its last months in office, the letter makes clear that a moratorium is insufficient to end our nation's use of the death penalty: "[A]t a time when racial injustice, trust in law enforcement, and our nation's reputation in the eyes of the world are all in dire need of repair, anything short of these steps would fail to move our nation forward or attend to these pressing crises."

District Attorney Michael Dougherty stated, "The federal government should follow Colorado's lead; the time has come to end the use of the death penalty. The death penalty is not just, it causes decades of delays for the victim's loved ones, runs the risk of wrongful convictions that cannot be reversed, and wastes taxpayer dollars."

Former District Attorney Stan Garnett joined in strong support of the letter, stating "The Boulder DA's Office has long opposed the death penalty, a tradition I was proud to continue during my 3 terms in office. I am especially proud that my successor, Michael Dougherty has continued the fight and I am pleased to join him in signing this letter to President Biden."

In addition to District Attorney Michael Dougherty and former District Attorney Garnett, other criminal justice leaders from Colorado joined in the effort including:

Frank Dubofsky, Former Judge, Colorado Court of Appeals

Jean Dubofsky, Former Justice, Colorado Supreme Court

Beth McCann, District Attorney, Second Judicial District, Colorado

Murray Richtel, Former Judge, Twentieth Judicial District Court, Colorado

Phil Weiser, Attorney General of Colorado

Read the letter and see the full list of signatories [here](#).