



Justice... Professionalism... Service... Since 1886

ABOLITION OF DEATH PENALTY

WHEREAS, the King County Bar Association's mission includes promoting a just legal system, advancing excellence in the administration of justice, and speaking out on matters of public policy; and

WHEREAS, since the State of Washington enacted its current death penalty statute in 1981, five executions were carried out and currently eight additional individuals are on death row; and

WHEREAS, the death penalty poses an unacceptable risk of executing the innocent; since the United States reinstated the death penalty in 1976, over 140 men and women have been released from death row nationally; and

WHEREAS, despite the professionalism of attorneys and judges in our criminal justice system, application of the death penalty is frequently arbitrary and discriminatory; and

WHEREAS, despite multiple studies there is no reliable evidence that the death penalty deters serious crime.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the King County Bar Association supports abolition of the death penalty in Washington State.

Adopted by the King County Bar Association Board of Trustees, January 16, 2013.

Richard E. Mitchell, President

Kaustuv M. Das, Secretary