



Columbia University Center for Bioethics Offers a Landmark Symposium on

The Supreme Court and the Legal, Medical, and Ethical Challenges to Execution by Lethal Injection

On January 7, 2008, the United States Supreme Court heard arguments in *Baze v. Rees*, a pioneering case challenging the constitutionality of judicial execution by lethal injection. This is the first case since *Roe v. Wade* that the Supreme Court has grappled so intimately with the constitutionality of a medical procedure. With nearly four thousand inmates on Death Row in the thirty-seven states that utilize lethal injection in judicial execution, this method has recently drawn close scrutiny. Nearly all states have enacted a *de facto* moratorium, halting executions until the Supreme Court hands down its opinion on whether the three-drug cocktail method currently used in lethal injection administration violates the Eighth Amendment ban on “cruel and unusual punishment.”

Paul Appelbaum, MD:

Elizabeth K. Dollard Professor of Psychiatry, Medicine and Law,
Columbia University

*The Hippocratic Paradox: The Ethical Conflict
Regarding Physician Participation in the
Execution Procedure*

Allen Hyman, MD:

Professor Emeritus of Anesthesiology,
Columbia University

*Anesthetic Goals and Confronting
Intraoperative Awareness*

Mark Heath, MD:

Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology,
Specializing in cardiothoracic anesthesiology,
Columbia University

*Report from the Field: The Realities of
Lethal Injection*

Deborah Denno, JD, PhD:

Arthur A. McGivney Professor of Law,
Fordham University School of Law

*Constitutional (Non)Compliance?: A Legal and
Legislative History of Judicial Execution
by Lethal Injection*

Ginger Anders, JD:

Associate attorney, Litigation Department
Appellate and Supreme Court Practice
Jenner & Block LLP, Washington, DC

*From the Supreme Court: Baze v Rees and the
Future of Execution by Lethal Injection*

The nationally recognized speakers will address a wide range of questions including:

- What are the ethical, moral, and professional reasons why a physician may elect, or decline, to participate in execution by lethal injection?
- How does the three-drug cocktail work? How was it developed? What are the risks of conscious paralysis and intraoperative awareness?
- What happens when the execution procedure is not carried out as ideally planned?
- How did legal and legislative processes lead to the implementation of the three-drug cocktail method of lethal injection?
- What are the future implications for judicial execution by lethal injection, given the January 2008 Supreme Court proceedings? Will future interpretations of the Eighth Amendment change to mitigate risk of cruel and unusual punishment?

Wednesday, January 23, 2008,
Columbia University, The Low Library Faculty Room